

HOME announces new season of inspiring, insightful and joyous, stories from Manchester and beyond for Theatre 2 this autumn



Image: 'Toxic' by Dibby Theatre & HOME, Credit: Lee Baxter

- Theatre 2's exciting new season will run from Wed 20 Sep – Sat 6 Dec 2023
- A season of stories from Manchester and beyond exploring themes of nationality, identity, belonging, new beginnings, home and sanctuary
- Featuring work from: award winning theatre company *Rhum & Clay*, acclaimed writer and director *Peyvand Sadeghian*, contemporary performance company *Two Destination Language*, Theatre Company of Sanctuary *Curious Monkey*, Manchester-based award-winning playwright *Nathaniel Hall* (for *Dibby Theatre*), comedian *Mark Thomas*, Young Identity Alumni *Reece Williams* and inspiring children's theatre company *Theatre Porto*

[Images can be downloaded here.](#) Additional images are available on request.

HOME has today announced its inspiring and joyous new season for Theatre 2 this autumn. Sharing stories and experiences from Manchester and beyond, this is a season that explores themes of nationality, identity, belonging, new beginnings, home and sanctuary. The programme includes several HOME co-commissions, new work from acclaimed Manchester-based artists, writers and performers, returning artists and those new to the stages of HOME and Manchester.

Rhum & Clay return to HOME following *War of the Worlds* and *64 Squares* to explore the role of art and entertainment under oppressive regimes in **Project Dictator**. This beautiful and bonkers clown show premiered to great acclaim at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival and we are delighted to present this inspiring production ahead of a national tour.

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Peyvand Sadeghian, a regular collaborator with HOME Associate Artist Javaad Alipoor, returns to HOME with her own show **Dual** □□□□□□ . Co-commissioned by HOME, this exciting new work is based on Peyvand's personal experience as a UK-Iran dual national, and the events as a child of going to Iran for the first time with her father. Featuring animation and puppetry, *Dual* دوگانه is a multilingual, multidisciplinary, multi-form work with a live theatre show at its core.

We welcome back acclaimed contemporary performance company Two Destination Language with their latest show **40/40** that presents an inspiring and insightful celebration of Katherina Radeva's (Two Destination Language's lead artist) 40 years as a woman, a migrant and an artist, and which received significant praise during its run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2022. Claiming space on a dance floor for one, Katherina writes stories of her past, present and future, in speech, in electrical tape and in movement.

Theatre Company of Sanctuary, Curious Monkey come to HOME for the first time, bringing an extraordinary story of migration to the stage. Full of humour and beauty, **Penguin** takes you on a tour of Hamzeh's village in Syria, Za'atari camp in Jordan and Gateshead. This important and joyous story evokes a place full of music, dancing, fantasies and marbles. Hamzeh invites the audience to be his childhood friends, to hold up the moon to light his way, into his dreams, brushing the dust from his clothes...and taking to the stage.

Manchester based award-winning playwright, actor and HIV activist Nathaniel Hall (*It's A Sin, First Time*) will premiere his new show **Toxic** at HOME this autumn. Blending movement, stunning visuals and a pumping soundtrack, *Toxic* documents the fallout when two damaged queer hearts collide in a passionate play inspired by true events. Pulling back the glittery curtain of pride *Toxic* exposes the impact of generational homophobia, racism and HIV stigma, whilst celebrating survival and queer resilience. *Toxic* is presented by Dibby Theatre and has been co-commissioned by HOME.

One man show, **England & Son** lands on the stages of HOME in November. This one-man play has been specifically written for the award-winning political comedian **Mark Thomas** by award-winning, Manchester based playwright Ed Edwards (*The Political History of Smack and Crack*, Paines Plough's Roundabout, Soho and UK tour). This is the first play Mark has ever performed in that he has not written himself. Prepare for Mark to take you on a kaleidoscopic odyssey where disaster capitalism, empire, stolen youth and stolen wealth merge into the simple tale of a working-class boy who just wants his dad to smile at him.

Young Identity alumni and Manchester based poet and musician Reece Williams premieres his new work **This Kind of Black**, which adapts his admired poetry collection for the stage. Commissioned by HOME and directed by Matt Fenton (previously Artistic Director & Chief Executive of Contact Theatre Manchester), this powerful new stage show explores Reece's upbringing in Moss Side Manchester, and celebrates a community held together by prayers, warmth and humour, whilst also mourning the tragic loss of young life and examining the impact of trauma on the mental health of young Black boys across generations.

This Christmas we are delighted to present Theatre Porto's acclaimed family theatre production **Little Red** – offering a playful twist on a classic tale. Featuring talking sheep, dancing trees and a jazz-singing, banjo-playing Mr Wolfie, *Little Red* presents irresistible adventure, superb visual storytelling and songs that you'll be humming all winter long – this is the perfect festive treat for all the family.

Dave Moutrey, Director and CEO of HOME, said: *I am delighted to announce our latest*

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season for Theatre 2. It is a season of work that platforms and celebrates crucial stories and themes of nationality, identity and belonging, that feel particularly relevant today. I am also thrilled to be working with so many talented artists, writers and companies in the North West and beyond. The opportunity to expand our co-commissioning relationships is a true joy and allows us to bring new stories and voices to our stage.

Priority ticket booking will be available for HOME Friends from Wed 7 Jun, and HOME Members from Thu 8 Jun with tickets on general sale from Fri 9 Jun.

Full details of the season can be found online here:

<https://homemcr.org/event/home-theatre-2-autumn-2023-season>

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For interviews and additional information, please contact Julia White, Head of Communications at HOME, on 0161 212 3463 or email julia.white@homemcr.org

Season event listings:

Rhum & Clay **Project Dictator** **Wed 27 – Sat 30 Sep**

Their choice? To die onstage - or off it.

Beautiful and bonkers - it's the clown show about totalitarianism we never knew we needed. Informed and inspired by conversations with international artists living under authoritarian regimes.

Rhum & Clay return after 2019's smash hit *The War of the Worlds* and 2018's The Stage Award-winning *Mistero Buffo*.

A Rhum & Clay Production.

Originally commissioned and premiered at New Diorama Theatre.

دوگانه Dual **HOME and Peyvand Sadeghian** **Wed 4 & Thu 5 Oct**

One woman, two passports, and two names: Peyvand is British. Parisa is Iranian. As a child Peyvand visited Iran with her father. They're held by the Iranian government, unable to return to the UK...Peyvand eventually returns and makes a show about it. But what of Parisa? An award-winning work featuring drag, animation, puppetry, and the voice of Pedar. Peyvand and Parisa fracture and multiply to an Anglo-Persian pop soundtrack as they ask how they can be advocates for themselves and allies to each other.

Dual دوگانه is a multilingual, multidisciplinary, multi-form work with a live theatre show at its core devised and performed by Peyvand Sadeghian in collaboration with a female-led, multi-ethnic and multinational artistic team. Drawing on Sadeghian's personal experience as a dual citizen

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of the UK and Iran, the piece seeks to elucidate the complexities which private individuals face as they attempt to navigate the ramifications of public policies rooted in decades of widely underreported and misunderstood historic injustice. How can you take and assert control in your own life when it can feel like your path will always be determined by the seemingly never-ending fallout from global geopolitical machinations? What is actually in your power to change? How do you take power in the first place?

Two Destination Language

40/40

Sat 7 Oct

On a dance floor for one, she claims the space to write stories of her past, present and future, using speech, electrical tape and movement.

Supported by three brilliant choreographers — Liz Aggiss, Rachel Krishche and Lucy Suggate — this show celebrates the sheer joy of doing what you want despite what people say. And for Kat, that's dancing her way through the laughter and tears of 40 years.

Content warning: nudity, heavy breathing, middle aged woman dancing with much joy.

Curious Monkey

Penguin

Tue 10 – Thu 12 Oct

Be Proud.

Be Who You Are.

Be More Penguin.

Here's what you need to know...

I am Hamzeh.

My favourite shisha flavour is double apple. I love dancing.

Here's what's going to happen...

There will be loud music.

A wedding. My first time on a plane. A lot of moonlight.

This is the story of my life (so far).

People have a lot of questions. The answer is:

"Yes.

I can do anything."

Full of humour and beauty, Hamzeh Al Hussien's extraordinary story takes you on a personal tour of the places he knows best: his village in the Syrian mountains; Za'atari camp in Jordan, Gateshead and inside his mind. A place full of music, dancing, fantasies and marbles. Hamzeh invites the audience to be his childhood friends, to hold up the moon to light his way, into his dreams, brushing the dust from his clothes...and taking the stage.

Dibby Theatre and HOME

Toxic

Wed 18 – Sat 28 Oct

~~Not another play about gay pride-shame~~

This is the story of how we met, fell in love, and f*cked it up. But it's not just our story. It's his, and his and theirs. Maybe it's yours... Maybe.

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Manchester 2016. In the middle of a hot and sweaty queer warehouse party, two damaged hearts collide. He is white, HIV+ and drowning in shame. They are mixed, queer and one microaggression away from a full-on breakdown. Born at the height of the Aids epidemic and growing up in the shadow of Section 28, the pair form a trauma bond so tight they might just survive it all. But sometimes survival means knowing when to leave.

This beautiful and explosive semi-autobiographical show written by Nathaniel J Hall (*First Time, It's A Sin*) and performed by Nathaniel with Joshua-Susan Enright blends storytelling (dir. by Scott Le Crass), movement (*Plaster Cast*), stunning design (Lu Herbert), visual projections (*dede././*), and an original pumping soundtrack by SHAR.

Pulling back the glittery curtain of pride to reveal a place where many still suffer the devastating impact of generational HIV stigma, racism, homophobia and toxic gender norms, this powerful and passionate play inspired by true events celebrates survival and the resilience of the queer spirit.

HOME and Tin Cat Entertainment
Mark Thomas in *England & Son*
Tue 31 Oct – Sat 4 Nov

"A nation that devours another will one day devour itself".

Set when *The Great Devouring* comes home, *England & Son* is a one-man play written specifically for the award-winning political comedian Mark Thomas by award-winning playwright Ed Edwards (*The Political History of Smack and Crack*, Paines Plough's Roundabout, Soho and UK tour). This is the first play Mark has ever performed in that he has not written himself.

With some deep, dark laughs - and some deep, dark love - along the way, *England & Son* emerges from characters Mark knew in his childhood and Ed's lived experience in jail. Prepare for Mark to take you on a kaleidoscopic odyssey where disaster capitalism, empire, stolen youth and stolen wealth merge into the simple tale of a working-class boy who just wants his dad to smile at him.

Reece Williams and HOME
This Kind of Black
Wed 15 – Sat 18 Nov

This Kind of Black (Requiem for Black Boys) is the powerful new stage show from poet and musician Reece Williams.

A coming-of-age tale set in 1990s Moss Side, a stone's throw from conflict and violence. *This Kind of Black* celebrates a community held together by prayers, warmth and humour, whilst also mourning the tragic loss of young life. Taking place at the intersection of race and class, when the media only portrays you through the lens of 'Gunchester,' gangs and poverty, it explores the relationship between a father and a son, and the impact of trauma on the mental health of young Black boys across generations.

Commissioned by HOME with support from STUN, Jerwood Foundation and Apples & Snakes. Funded by Arts Council England.

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Theatre Porto in association with HOME Manchester, Eastern Angles and MLCP

Little Red

Wed 29 Nov – Wed 6 Dec

Join our feisty heroine Little Red, as she follows the path to Grandma's house, meeting talking sheep, dancing trees and a jazz-singing, banjo-playing Mr Wolfie along the way.

Can she resist his musical stylings and get safely to Grandma's house?

In world where the woodcutter is chopping down all the trees, is Mr Wolfie the big, baddie we think he is? And, is Grandma the 'trophy-hunter' really sick?

With irresistible adventure, superb visual storytelling and songs that you'll be humming all winter, Little Red is the perfect festive treat for all the family.

Theatre Porto's (formerly Action Transport Theatre) acclaimed production returns to the North West, originally commissioned by Unity Theatre.

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture.

Since opening in May 2015, HOME has welcomed over four million visitors to its two theatres, five cinemas, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary theatrical experiences, producing an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance and festivals, with a strong focus on new commissions and talent development. Since opening, HOME has co-produced and co-commissioned work with: Complicité, National Theatre, National Theatre Scotland, Javaad Alipoor, Boy Blue, Hofesh Shechter, Rhum and Clay, Kneehigh, MIF and many more.

HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE.

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Did you know that HOME is a charity? We need your support to bring the best film, theatre and art to Manchester and inspire the next generation. Get involved at www.homemcr.org/support

