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TRP Press Contact: Savanna Myszka, savanna.myszka@theatreroyal.com

For Immediate Release

Some Call It Home coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth

Some Call It Home, a thought-provoking contemporary classical music drama, premieres at Theatre Royal Plymouth on Friday 04 and Saturday 05 June.

Dramatising our relationship with our home - Planet Earth - from 1620 to the present day, *Some Call It Home* is created, produced and directed by Robert Taub with an original musical score composed by Jonathan Dawe and Jane O'Leary (a direct descendant of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren). Musicians from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra with conductor Mark Forkgen, along with NYC Metropolitan Opera Young Artist award-winning soprano [Erika Baikoff](#) and the highly acclaimed baritone [Timothy Nelson](#) will bring this scintillating musical drama to life.

Robert Taub, creator and director of *Some Call it Home* and music director at The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth, said *"This combination of spectacular music, extraordinary visuals, and compelling performances is unique. The drama is thoughtful, intense, beautiful, and uplifting."*

The musical score includes a libretto comprised of famous quotations along with a narrative. The cinematic visuals feature a recent video shot by a human smuggler in the Sahara Desert that has never before been publicly seen in a theatre.

Some Call it Home responds to the arrival of the Mayflower passengers in Modern-day Massachusetts in 1620.

Robert Taub revealed that *"when building this work, I asked myself what elements from 1620 that would have immediacy and relevance today, what would reach far beyond the clichéd top hats and buckled shoes?"*

Some Call it Home brings our universal drama – our relationship to our home – to life in ways that vividly affect us all.



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Robert Taub said: *“I hope that the audience is moved and entertained, and that they leave with hopefulness of how we can all better look after planet Earth - our home - together.”*

Jane O’Leary, co-composer of *Some Call it Home* said: *“Working on the music for Some Call it Home has had special resonance for me as a direct descendant of Richard Warren, a Mayflower passenger in 1620. I am very excited to visit Plymouth for the first time in March to see the place where the boat sailed from.”*

“It’s been a fascinating experience to collaborate with Robert and Jonathan on this project, bringing to life various scenes from the past 400 years as man continued to search for new homes – across the sea, across deserts, into space. Each scene brings a new perspective to the idea of ‘home’, with its own special musical atmosphere.”

Tickets are priced from £10.00 and can be booked online at www.theatreroyal.com .
These performances will be socially distanced in line with Government guidance.

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For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Some Call It Home, part of the *Musica Viva* concert series, is a collaboration between The Arts Institute at the University of Plymouth and Theatre Royal Plymouth as part of the Mayflower 400 commemorations. The Golsoncott Foundation, US Embassy and Arts Council Ireland have provided funding.

Robert Taub is an acclaimed concert pianist and recording artist and the Music Director for The Arts Institute at University of Plymouth. At The Arts Institute, he has built and is leading *Musica Viva*, a new collaborative programme of concerts and associated workshops involving performing artists that brings top tier concert performances and music education events to communities of all ages in Devon and the South West.

As a concert pianist, Taub has performed as guest soloist with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the MET Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony. He has recorded the complete Sonatas of Beethoven, Scriabin and Liszt, and premiered piano concertos by Milton Babbitt and Mel Powell. Taub has served as Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University, US Davis and Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study and led music forums at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and The Juilliard School.

Jane O'Leary is an American-Irish composer living in Galway, Ireland. A founding member of Aosdána, she is a graduate of Vassar College, holds a PhD in composition from Princeton University and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music Degree by the National University of Ireland in 2007. As artistic director and pianist of Concorde ensemble, she has been nurturing the development of new music in Ireland and promoting its performance worldwide since 1976.

O'Leary's music has been performed at prestigious international festivals and venues, including the Kennedy Center, Washington DC; the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, NY; Chicago Cultural Center; Spitalfields Festival, London. A portrait concert featuring her music for clarinet and piano was presented at Tenre Cultural Institute in New York in 2019, and she was featured composer with Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble in Belfast throughout their 2018-19 season.

Jonathan Dawe is an American composer and member of the Graduate Studies/Doctoral Faculty at The Juilliard School, having studied at the Oberlin Conservatory with Richard Hoffmann and The Juilliard School with Milton Babbitt. His original compositions involve recasting sounds of the past into decisively new expressions and have been described as 'quirky, fascinating modernist variations on earlier styles,' (Time Out). His recent operatic productions include *Nero* and *The Fall of Lehman Brothers* with BOP.

Dawe has received many major awards, including BMI awards, ASCAP prizes, a Fromm Foundation Grant from Harvard University, and recording grants from The Copland Fund for New Music.

The Arts Institute is the wide-ranging public arts programme of the University of Plymouth. It plays a pivotal role in building culture and art in the city and South West region, supporting established, new and emerging artists from around the world.

The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally leading education, research and innovation. With a mission to Advance Knowledge and Transform Lives, Plymouth is a *top 50 research university with clusters of world-class research across a wide range of disciplines including marine science and engineering, medicine, robotics and psychology. A three-time winner of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the University of Plymouth continues to grow in stature and reputation.

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.