

Thursday 13 May 2021

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

For Immediate Release

Theatre Royal Plymouth announces new Creative Programme and recruitment drive as part of a year of recovery

Theatre Royal Plymouth has announced its creative programme for 2021.

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's *MUM*, a co-production between Theatre Royal Plymouth, Francesca Moody Productions and Soho Theatre, in association with Popcorn Group, will premiere in The Drum, opening on the 30 September 2021. This thought-provoking, funny and honest new play will shine a light on early motherhood, anxiety and mental health. Tickets go on general release in June.

Additionally, thanks to a recent award from the Weston Culture Fund, Theatre Royal Plymouth will create a new production of *NHS THE MUSICAL* by Nick Stimson and Jimmy Jewell for The Lyric that will open on 17 September 2021. Directed by Stephen Fletcher, this fast-paced musical comedy lifts the lid on the NHS and is planned to tour the UK in 2022. Tickets go on general release in June.

Mandy Precious, Director of Engagement & Learning at Theatre Royal Plymouth said:
"As we begin to build back after an incredibly difficult year for everyone it is great to focus on creating new work in Plymouth again to reconnect with our audiences. Integral to both MUM and NHS THE MUSICAL will be an engagement programme for the people of Plymouth and beyond to get involved with. TRP's mission to be special for everyone has never been stronger or more important as we reopen and recover. At the heart of both our new productions are stories that are relevant to so many of us. Bringing people together to experience these stories that touch us all, either by seeing the show or taking part in the associated engagement programmes, is vital to our communities, our artists, our freelance workforce and our audiences."

As TRP reopens and reignites its Creative Programme they're looking to expand their network of theatre creatives for productions now and in the future and are particularly

keen to hear from people from diverse cultural backgrounds who haven't worked with TRP before. Interested freelance creatives are asked to express their interest via email to production@theatreroyal.com in the first instance.

Theatre Royal Plymouth will welcome back audiences from 27 May 2021 with the live stage premiere of long-standing partner Rambert's *Drawn From Within* created by Wim Vandekeybus. This moment marks the start of the recovery for the south-west's principal home for performing arts.

Stuff & Nonsense will also present a revival of *The Gingerbread Man* for May half-term family audiences live in The Drum. Plus Le Navet Bete presents a season of silliness in a month-long residency across The Lyric and The Drum from 9 June with three productions including the Mayflower400 commission *400: A Comedy*.

The packed programme of live theatre in The Lyric is set to enthral audiences through to 2022. It includes the opening of *Hairspray* on 24 June prior to a UK tour, the welcome return of longstanding partners Birmingham Royal Ballet, Welsh National Opera and Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures*.

From 29 – 30 October Funky Llama, Theatre Royal Plymouth's creative platform for disabled adults, will present a festival in a big-top tent in Plymouth's Central Park.

Also in the pipeline are new commissions from writers Bea Roberts, Laura Horton, Marietta Kirkbride and Luke Barnes, and in a new partnership with leading family theatre makers Stuff & Nonsense, year-round engagement activity for Plymouth audiences and a co-produced Christmas show for families that will premiere in The Drum in 2022. Nessah Muthy is also co-commissioned by ATC and Theatre Royal Plymouth, for a new work that exams right wing grooming and radicalisation in the online gaming community.

Theatre Royal Plymouth's year of recovery and transition includes major new leadership appointments including the recruitment of a new Chief Executive following Adrian Vinken's announcement that he is to stand-down. Amongst other roles Theatre Royal Plymouth is also seeking to recruit a Head of Advocacy and a Cultural Communities Manager, all of which will support the organisation connect more deeply

with its communities and stakeholders. Full details of all roles are available [here](#).

ENDS

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

MUM - <https://theatroyal.com/whats-on/mum/>

NHS The Musical - <https://theatroyal.com/whats-on/nhs-the-musical/>

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.