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For Immediate Release

THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH ANNOUNCE

THE BRAND-NEW PRODUCTION OF *NHS THE MUSICAL*

On the 73rd birthday of the NHS, **Theatre Royal Plymouth** today announce the brand-new production of ***NHS The Musical*** by **Nick Stimson** and **Jimmy Jewell**, directed by **Stephen Fletcher**, will run 17 - 25 September in The Lyric at Theatre Royal Plymouth. Tickets are on public sale now, with discounted tickets available across the run for NHS staff.

Informed by first-hand accounts from NHS staff, *NHS The Musical* gets under its skin, and celebrates the people who make its heart beat. Sharper than a scalpel, this fast-paced comedy show takes you from the surgical theatre to musical theatre, pumping with songs, satire, sass – and gas and air. But beware! This beloved institution may be the perfect tonic, but it can also be the bitterest pill. The UK's largest employer and government's biggest spender has its own ailments, that just never seem to be cured.

With a combined company of 7 cast and 7 band members live on stage, ***NHS The Musical*** will be a rousing celebration of the people who have looked after us and our families for more than 70 years.

Adrian Vinken, CEO of Theatre Royal Plymouth and Executive Producer of *NHS The Musical*, said today, *"We commissioned the original show to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the health service. Although essentially a love song to the NHS, audiences really loved its hard-hitting satire. A couple of years ago, with the NHS under siege on many levels, we decided the time was right to update the show to reflect current circumstances but then Covid hit and the NHS was placed front and centre in the life of the whole nation. The show is a timely celebration of what the NHS means to all of us."*

Philippa Charles, Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation, commented, *"The Weston Culture Fund honours the UK's creative and cultural organisations which, while battling huge challenges of their own, endeavour to make life better for the rest of us. We're therefore especially pleased to support this new production of NHS The Musical at the Theatre Royal Plymouth, as it pays tribute to the heroes seeing us all through the pandemic."*

NHS The Musical is made possible thanks to a grant from the Weston Culture Fund.

Nick Stimson is a freelance playwright and theatre director. His theatre credits as a writer and director include *A Winter's Tale* (Rose Theatre/UK tour – Offie Award for Best Off West End Musical), *Sailors and Sweethearts* (Theatre Royal Plymouth/The



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Venue), *Korczak* (Theatre Royal Plymouth/Rose Theatre Kingston/International tour) and *The Day We Played Brazil* (Exeter Northcott Theatre). His writing credits include *Hello Mister Capello* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Promised Land* (Red Ladder Theatre/The Carriage Works), *Who Ate All The Pies?* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *This Land* (Theatre Royal Plymouth).

Jimmy Jewell is a composer and songwriter. His credits as composer include *The Amazing Tour is Not On Fire* (UK tour/international tour), *The Tempest* (Exeter Northcott Theatre), *Peter Pan* (UK tour), *Walk With The Angels* (Institute of Contemporary Arts/Soho Theatre), Theatre), *Frankenstein* (Cochrane Theatre), *Who Ate All The Pies?* (Theatre Royal Plymouth, Tristan Bates Theatre), and *Solitary Confinement* (King's Head Theatre); and as a conductor, *Evita* (European tour), *The Prince and the Pauper*, *Strike Up The Band!*, *Jesus Christ Super Star* (US tour), *All You Need is Love!* (Queen's Theatre) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Exeter Northcott Theatre).

Stephen Fletcher directs. His directing credits include *A Life in the Theatre* (The Actor's Studio, Liverpool – also writer) and *Mam! I'm 'ere!* (Royal Court Liverpool – also writer). He is Director and Producer of Life in Theatre Productions, producing, *The Sunshine Boys* and *The Last 5 Years*. As an actor his credits include *The Perfect Murder* (UK tour), *Special Measures*, *Noises Off!* (Royal Court Liverpool), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Dead Heavy Fantastic* (Liverpool Everyman) and *Mary Stuart* (Donmar Warehouse/Apollo Theatre).

NHS THE MUSICAL

LISTINGS

Theatre Royal Plymouth - The Lyric Theatre
Royal Parade, Plymouth PL1 2TR

17 – 25 September 2021

Press Night: Friday 17 September

Box Office

www.theatreroyal.com / 01752 267222

Tickets

General: From £18

NHS discount: £15 (Bands A, B and C)

ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on

mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

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



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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.



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