

10 May 2022

TRP Press Contact: Chris Baker, chris.baker@theatreroyal.com

For Immediate Release

***Solo Voices*, a season of bold and distinctive new work starts
at Theatre Royal Plymouth next week**



Solo Voices is a micro-festival over two weeks, featuring brilliant new shows and celebrating the power of one person performance. *Solo Voices* will include four shows in The Drum theatre and five showcase performances made by students from the Plymouth Conservatoire in The Lab.

Solo Voices runs from 17 May and runs until 21 May 2022.

Solo Voices: FACIAL, The Drum. 17 – 19 May

Written and performed by Chris White

Music by Hal Kelly

Rob is a New York cop with a dark past. Debbie is a woman troubled by strange visions about the future. Neither of them are in this show.

It's just Chris. Chris is a poet. His poems once got described as "pulling at the loose threads of life to see how quickly it can all unravel."

He likes that.

He's doing some poems. He's hoping to pull. There's no structure. No sense. No strings attached.

He's slicing off his own façade bit by wobbly bit, beginning with his nose, and asking some important questions, like 'Do you think you could live without a face?'

Solo Voices: DESTINY, The Drum. 20 – 21 May

Written and performed by Florence Espeut-Nickless

Directed by Jesse Jones

"They're sayin I brought it on myself.

Oh yeah, they've heard about me. Basically it must've been my fault cause I'm me, Destiny"

Destiny dreams big. She dreams glamour. She's gonna be an MTV Base backing dancer, you watch. If J-Lo can make it outta the Bronx then Destiny can make it off the Hill Rise estate in Chippenham. She's fearless, ferocious and up for the fight (she's had to be). Born below the breadline, she's desperate to see beyond the neighbourhood and find hope in hopelessness.

This monologue follows the story of a teenage girl growing up on a rural Wiltshire council estate. After a big night out takes a turn for the worst, Destiny's life spirals out of control as she desperately tries to learn how to love and be loved.

DESTINY is a recipient of The Pleasance's 2021 National Partnerships Award with Bristol Old Vic FERMENT and was shortlisted for Theatre West's Write On Women Award.

Solo Voices: SWIM, The Drum. 24 – 26 May

SWIM follows the true story of three sisters from a village in the Peak District. One sister lost her baby girl, another sister lost her young son. The remaining older sister (Lisa) is grieving for both.

The show is about Liz's friendship with Lisa, the community they live in, the highs and the lows whilst they try to keep afloat through outdoor swimming. A tale with humour and heart.

Written and performed by Liz Richardson (*Gutted*) and featuring live music and video projection, *SWIM* is premiering at Theatre by the Lake in Spring 2022 ahead of a rural and UK theatre tour.

Solo Voices: PUSH, The Drum. 27 – 28 May

Created by Popelei

Writer-Performer: Tamsin Hurtado Clarke

Writer-Director: Scarlett Plouviez

Producer: Penelope Seward

A hell of a lot can happen in the time you await the results of a pregnancy test. This is the story of a woman staring down the barrel of motherhood, torn between her own ambivalence... and an uncontrollable urge to push.

Created by award-winning Popelei, *PUSH* is a high-octane solo performance interlacing darkly comic text, exhilarating choreography and original music by acclaimed Chilean composer Santiago Jara Astaburuaga.

'An engaging, expressive performance...as dynamic as its title suggests.' Guardian

"A searingly honest feminist perspective...I'd go out of my way to catch Popelei's next show" Lyn Gardner

'Clarke is bloody wonderful... an enchanting raconteur. It's an exceptional piece of new writing.' The Play's The Thing

ENDS

IMAGES can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3KQ9Mza>

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@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 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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