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For Immediate Release

Theatre Royal Plymouth to co-produce *Happy Meal*, a joyful queer rom-com, premiering at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe before heading out on UK tour



Theatre Royal Plymouth and Roots are to co-produce *Happy Meal*, a new production that will premiere at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, before embarking on a UK tour.

Happy Meal is by **Tabby Lamb** (They/she) and directed by **Jamie Fletcher** (She/her) fresh from her acclaimed production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Leeds Playhouse/HOME).

Performed by **Sam Crerar** (They/them) and **Allie Daniel** (She/her), this joyful queer rom-com is led by a trans creative team and is presented by the queer touring company Roots in five venues this autumn.

Join us for an online show IRL. Travel back to the quaint days of dial up and MSN, where you'll follow two strangers their journeys to become who they always were.

A funny, moving and nostalgic story of transition.

From teen to adult,

From MySpace to TikTok,

From cis to trans.

Following its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe **Traverse Theatre** (August 4-28), *Happy Meal* tours to **York Theatre Royal** (August 31-September 3), **Theatre Royal Plymouth** (September 7-10), **Oxford Playhouse** (September 13-17) and **Belgrade Theatre Coventry** (September 21-24).

Tabby Lamb (She/her), writer, said: *"I started writing Happy Meal during lockdown, when trans people were more often than not isolating alone or in unsupportive environments. This is a play about trans people by trans people and for trans people - a celebration of everything that makes us powerful!"*

Steven Atkinson (He/him), Producer for Roots, said: *"As the Edinburgh Fringe and theatre is returning to live performance, we think it's the perfect time to celebrate trans lives with Tabby's hopeful new play about how the internet and the real world can be a joyful queer space that accepts the rights and freedoms for all people to be who they are. For Roots to be staging our first show in co-production with Theatre Royal Plymouth, in association with ETT and Oxford Playhouse, shows such positive action from leaders within the theatre industry to platform trans artists and promote inclusive queer stories."*

James Mackenzie-Blackman (He/him), Chief Executive of Theatre Royal Plymouth, said: *"I'm delighted that Happy Meal will be made with TRP. We're at an important moment of change. I'm committed to opening our programme to include more voices, more perspectives and more theatre that connects to more people in our city and region. Tabby is an extraordinary artist and we're delighted to be producing her play with Roots in Edinburgh, on tour and here in Plymouth."*

Tickets for *Happy Meal* at Theatre Royal Plymouth will go on sale soon.

ENDS

[Images can be downloaded by clicking here.](#)

Age guidance 12+

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Roots is a queer Yorkshire touring theatre company that creates new productions through ambitious collaborations between citizens and artists. Based in Tadcaster and resident at York Theatre Royal, **Happy Meal** is Roots' first production from its slate of projects in development with queer artists.

About Theatre Royal Plymouth

Theatre Royal Plymouth is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement throughout Plymouth and the wider region. We engage and inspire many communities through performing arts and we aim to touch the lives and interests of people from all backgrounds. We do this by creating and presenting a breadth of shows on a range of scales, with our extensive creative engagement programmes, by embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists, and by collaborating with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.

Recent productions and co-productions include *Today I Killed My Very First Bird* (with Voodoo Monkeys), *Sorry, You're Not A Winner* by Samuel Bailey (with Paines Plough), *MUM* by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm (with Francesca Moody Productions and Soho Theatre, in association with Popcorn Group), *NHS The Musical* by Nick Stimson and Jimmy Jewell, *Amsterdam* by Maya Arad Yasur (with Actors Touring Company and Orange Tree Theatre), *I Think We Are Alone* by Sally Abbott (with Frantic Assembly), *The Strange Tale of Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel* (with Told By An Idiot), *One Under* by Winsome Pinnock (with Graeae), *The Unreturning* by Anna Jordan (with Frantic Assembly) and *You Stupid Darkness!* by Sam Steiner (with Paines Plough).

Theatre Royal Plymouth specialises in the production of new plays alongside the presentation of a broad range of theatre - including classic and contemporary drama, musicals, opera, ballet and dance. They have three performance spaces – The Lyric, The Drum and The Lab. TRP has a strong track record of presenting and producing international work from companies and artists including Ontroerend Goed, Big In Belgium at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Robert Lepage and the late Yukio Ninagawa. In March 2019 TRP unveiled Messenger, the UK's largest lost wax bronze sculpture created by the artist Joseph Hillier.

Team biographies

Tabby Lamb, they/she (Writer)

Tabby Lamb is a non-binary writer and performer. Their debut solo show ***SINCE U BEEN GONE***, which Tabby wrote and performed, premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019, after previewing at the Gate Theatre. The show was spectacularly received by audiences and garnered a glowing 4* write up from the Guardian who called the play “*bold, honest and swollen with love*”. Tabby is a BFI Flare x BAFTA Crew member 2021, an artistic associate for the Sky Arts Bursary at Stratford East, an associate writer with Middle Child and she’s on attachment at the Oxford Playhouse via their Playhouse Playmaker scheme 2021.

Jamie Fletcher, she/her (Director)

Jamie is a trans director and musician, and is Artistic Director of Jamie Fletcher & Company, specialising in multi-disciplinary performance, musical theatre and work with socio-political themes. Fresh from her acclaimed production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (★★★★★ The Stage), her directing highlights include queer musical *Dancing Bear* (Leeds Playhouse, Contact and Palace Theatre) and *We Will Have Guns* by Jo Clifford (part of Five Plays at Young Vic).

Ben Stones, he/him (Set and Costume Designer)

Ben trained in stage design at Central Saint Martin’s College of Art and went on to receive a Linbury Prize commission to design *Paradise Lost* for Rupert Goold. His designs now span theatre, ballet, comedy, fashion and Hip Hop. Ben’s current work includes *She Loves Me* (Sheffield Crucible), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Leeds Playhouse / Manchester HOME), *Rock* (Sheffield Crucible), *ZooNation 20th Anniversary* (Sadler Wells), and *Standing at the Sky’s Edge* (National Theatre).

Jennifer Bakst, she/her (Dramaturg)

Jennifer is a director and dramaturg. She is currently Creative Associate at ETT and was formerly New Work Associate at Kiln Theatre.

Steven Atkinson, he/him (Producer)

Steven is an award-winning freelance producer working in film, television and theatre. His recent theatre work includes *Human Nurture* (Sheffield Theatres and tour) and *Into The Night* (Original Theatre), and the short film *Three* (Underwire Festival 2022). Steven co-founded HighTide, producing over sixty new plays in theatres including the National Theatre, The Old Vic, Royal Court Theatre, Young Vic, in the West End, throughout the UK, and Off-Broadway.