

16 June 2022

TRP Press Contact: Chris Baker, [chris.baker@theatreroyal.com](mailto:chris.baker@theatreroyal.com)

**For Immediate Release**

## **TRP's Lab Company prepare to present their show *SHIFT*, after year-long training programme**

Theatre Royal Plymouth's Lab Company are gearing up for their show *SHIFT* this summer (13–17 July).

Over the past nine months, the group have been provided with training, advice and mentoring and have formed their own production company 'Bottled Antics'.

Last September, 12 aspiring theatre makers joined the scheme, and they have been working towards presenting this new piece of theatre, *SHIFT*:

*You can't choose the people you work with, but you can choose to make it work. Vastly different people drawn together by the joy of serving coffee must work together in the face of unusual circumstances.*

Lab Company is a year-long training programme for people aged 18-30 from the Plymouth area, who are looking to work in the theatre industry professionally.

Lab Company participant and director of *SHIFT*, Fynn Roberts said: *"I've absolutely loved it. You're pushed together to work with loads of other creatives who all have very different ideas of what theatre-making looks like, and you find ways to work together as a group."*

Ben Lyon-Ross, Talent Development Producer at Theatre Royal Plymouth, said: *"I couldn't be more excited for Bottled Antics to share their new show SHIFT with our audiences here in Plymouth."*

*"It's been a particularly special year for the Lab Company as they formed just as the industry was emerging from the COVID pandemic. They've shown so much bravery and creativity in how they've approached the challenge of meeting, forming a theatre company, and making a debut show in the space of a year."*

*"SHIFT promises to feel fresh, dynamic and super relevant to the experiences of people in their 20s in 2022. I can't wait for the show to land in The Lab next month!"*

Lab Company participant Pip Gunning said: *“The theatre has offered me so much throughout the training programme. I am now an assistant practitioner whilst also working as a Front of House supervisor. I am so grateful to be continuing to develop my connections and strengths at the theatre.”*

Tickets for *SHIFT* are currently on-sale on the [Theatre Royal Plymouth website](https://www.theatreroyal.com).

## ENDS

A video with the Lab Company can be found here: <https://youtu.be/6YnOnjcVDsQ>

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on [public.relations@theatreroyal.com](mailto: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.