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

For Immediate Release

Theatre Royal Plymouth to co-produce new circus show *Delicate, with Extraordinary Bodies and Figurteatret i Nordland*

Touring nationally in autumn 2022, *Delicate* is a new circus show in three acts: chaos, acceptance, and renewal.

Conceived by Jamie Beddard and brought to life for the stage by Co-Director Eilis Bevan-Davis and Circus Director, Lydia Harper. Presented by Extraordinary Bodies and co-produced with Figurteatret i Nordland (Nordland Visual Theatre) and Theatre Royal Plymouth. *Delicate* is BSL interpreted, audio described and captioned.

Extraordinary Bodies is a collaboration between Cirque Bijou and Diverse City, who have worked together for the last decade creating multi-disciplinary circus shows with disabled and non-disabled artists.

Delicate revolves around four different characters united in their frustration at their bodies changing, ageing, breaking and no longer obeying. They delicately climb, hang, balance, slide, collapse and hug through the three acts of 'chaos, acceptance and renewal'. As they examine the marks that life has left on their bodies, fragments of film and audio mirror this in the damage now inflicted on our planet.

Delicate combines acrobatics, group dance, and ballet from an ex-professional dancer who hasn't performed professionally for the past fifty years.

Delicate comes to The Drum at Theatre Royal Plymouth from 30 September – 15 October 2022. Rehearsals begin this month in Norway.

Lydia Harper, circus director of *Delicate* said: "*Circus is a unique way to communicate with audiences: it can articulate pain, joy, and many different emotions with every part of your body in a way that goes beyond language. This show encourages audiences to feel the delicacy of someone else and recognise it in themselves. We hope that they will leave the venue thinking about what delicacy and go out into the world recognising where it can be found.*"



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The show opens up the question of what it means to be delicate, exploring different interpretations and inviting people to consider their own delicacy and what it means to them. The idea for *Delicate* came from a conversation between Jamie Beddard and another performer, Aislinn Mulligan when they were working together on another Extraordinary Bodies show.

Jamie Beddard, writer and co-director of *Delicate* said: “*Delicate was inspired by what happens when the body becomes unruly or no longer does what it once did. Circus is delicate and about risk-taking, experimenting, and putting your body out there. Our new show opens up the question of what it means to be delicate, explores different interpretations of it and we hope to inspire people to consider their own delicacy and what it means to them.*”

“*Working together with Theatre Royal Plymouth is a fantastic opportunity for Extraordinary Bodies to reach Plymouth's audiences and communities with our work.*”

Delicate does not follow traditional, expected circus techniques and is developed as a collective. The co-directors combine the performers' individual talents to create a new kind of circus. The cast is made up of people with different circus skills, ages, ethnic backgrounds, and disabled and non-disabled bodies, coming together to explore their delicacy.

Hugh Borthwick, Head of Production at Theatre Royal Plymouth, said: “*It's a real honour and joy to be working with this wonderful company of creatives and cast on this exciting new production. The piece is simply charming and graceful.*”

Tickets for *Delicate* will be available to purchase from Theatre Royal Plymouth's website soon.

ENDS

Images can be downloaded here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzSqPp>

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Creative team: ([bios Google doc link](#))

Written by **Jamie Beddard**

Co-directed by **Eilís Bevan-Davis, Lydia Harper and Jamie Beddard**

Circus & Movement Direction by **Lydia Harper**

Performed by **Kathryn Ball (Beth), Pat Garrett (Gillian), Sophia McLean (Beth), Jordan Morton-Trowers (Sam), Edward Muir (Andy)** (The role of Beth is played by two different performers)

Sound Design by **Damien Coldwell**

Lighting Design by **Marianne Thallaug Wedset**



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Video Design & Audio Description by **Michael Achtman**
Set Design by **Will Datson**

About Extraordinary Bodies

Extraordinary Bodies create powerful performances that celebrate our vast potential as humans. Exploring a vibrant mix of circus, dance, theatre, and music, the eclectic company tells meaningful stories that question the value of our bodies and give a voice to those who are often silenced. Extraordinary Bodies is a vital collaboration between show-makers, Cirque Bijou, and Diverse City, a charity that champions diversity and equity in the performing arts. Together, they create a unique and magical space where diverse bodies are embraced, boundaries are broken, and inclusivity is championed.

Combining the skill and talent of D/deaf, disabled, and non-disabled artists, the company's work is testament to how diverse, extraordinary people can work equally together on and off stage. Extraordinary Bodies Young Artists is the company's flagship performing arts training company for disabled and non-disabled 16- to 30-year-olds. On a mission to empower the next generation of performers, they make experimental and thought-provoking work which is performed across the UK.

Powered by passion and purpose, Extraordinary Bodies rely on the support of public funding, charitable giving* and trusts, and foundations. Every show is made possible by people who share their belief in inspiring a fairer and more inclusive world.

Extraordinary Bodies. Circus for Every Body.

Access Statement for press and media

Extraordinary Bodies is an inclusive company that works with D/deaf and disabled people. For access purposes, we may request sensitivity around timings and the provision of access support such as captioning or different interview options. The language we use is aligned with the Social Model of Disability. There may be a cost involved in covering access support, such as personal assistance, speech to text translation, captions, British Sign Language interpretation or specialist travel which we would be open to discussing as required to ensure our PR activity is inclusive to all.

About Nordland Visual Theatre

Nordland Visual Theatre (NVT) is a production house for international professional visual and puppet theatre. NVT plays a key role in developing and promoting visual theatre in Norway. The theatre offers co-production, pre-projects and residence. In collaboration with puppeteers, actors, directors, stage designers, composers and artists from all over the world NVT creates productions ranging from traditional puppet theatre to cross-over productions merging elements from the visual arts, theatre, mime, dance and multi-media.



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NVT is located in Stamsund, in the Lofoten islands. The theatre was founded in 1991 and is funded by Nordland County, the municipality of Vestvågøy and Arts Council Norway.

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.



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