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For Immediate Release

Theatre Royal Plymouth is taking five productions to Edinburgh Fringe 2022

VIDEO: TRP at Fringe – <https://youtu.be/omY8ltqwbgc>

Theatre Royal Plymouth is proud to be taking five co-productions to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.

TRP is preparing to present *Today I Killed My Very First Bird*, *Breathless*, *Every Word Was Once An Animal*, *Happy Meal* and *Still Floating* at the festival from 3–28 August. In addition, all of the productions are showing at Theatre Royal Plymouth either before or after their Edinburgh run.

James Mackenzie-Blackman, Chief Executive of Theatre Royal Plymouth said: *“I am really delighted that Theatre Royal Plymouth is co-producing five productions at the Edinburgh Fringe this year. It is the biggest and the most important arts festival in the world.*

“For the last few years, because of COVID, the festival hasn’t taken place in its normal format. This year will be a little bit different, but it’ll be amazing for us to get back to that city to promote the creativity in the South West and introduce audiences, theatre producers and promoters to these five extraordinary plays.”

Today I Killed My Very First Bird and *Breathless*, have been crafted by Plymouth-based theatre-makers Jason Brownlee and Laura Horton, and both are part-biographical.

The two productions have been closely developed with Theatre Royal Plymouth.

Ben Lyon-Ross, Talent Development Producer at TRP, said: *“We’re putting our homegrown work alongside internationally recognised theatre work and artists. It feels like a landmark moment for us at TRP because Today I Killed My Very First Bird and Breathless are so authentically, organically homegrown. If anybody wants to get a true sense of the artistic community here in Plymouth, come and see these shows.”*

James Mackenzie-Blackman added: *“I have really enjoyed getting to know these companies and shows since I arrived at TRP seven months ago. I’m really pleased is that there’s real diversity in the work that we’re co-producing in Edinburgh this year.*

“I’m really excited to get back to the Fringe after a number of years away from it because of COVID. Seeing all the work, connecting with international industry colleagues, being inspired by new ideas and getting excited about seeing work that will resonate and be meaningful for people here in the South West.”

Today I Killed My Very First Bird

Voodoo Monkeys & Theatre Royal Plymouth
3–9, 11–16, 18–29 August, 2.10pm. Pleasance Courtyard – Beside
28–30 July, 7.45pm. The Drum – Theatre Royal Plymouth

A Southeast London gangster starts to lose his grip on reality when he’s forced to look back at the traumatic childhood that made him who he is. The more he remembers, the more brutal he becomes. But just when he’s offered a second chance, it might all be too late. This pacey, powerful, and heartbreakingly authentic exploration of hope and despair combines immersive sound and bold storytelling to create a vivid and visceral theatrical experience. Theatre Royal Plymouth co-produce an unflinching, relentless and stomach-churning new play based on lived experience.

Breathless

Laura Horton & Theatre Royal Plymouth
3–9, 11–16, 18–29 August, 3pm. Pleasance Courtyard – Bunker Two
20–23 July, 7pm. The Lab – Theatre Royal Plymouth

What happens when the things we covet hide us from ourselves? Opening up to new experiences in her late-thirties, Sophie is exploring long repressed sides of herself. When a secret she’s keeping from those she loves, and even from herself, threatens to unravel it all, she has to make a choice. Who or what will she decide to give up? *Breathless* is a funny, honest and stylish exploration of the knife-edge of hoarding, from the joy to the addiction and suffocating shame. From Laura Horton, Plymouth Laureate of Words’ own experience of clothes hoarding.

Every Word Was Once An Animal

Ontroerend Goed, Perpodium, Kunstencentrum Vooruit, Richard Jordan Productions & Theatre Royal Plymouth
5–9, 11–14, 16–21, 23–28 August, 2.15pm. ZOO Southside – Main House
14–27 July, 7.45pm. The Drum – Theatre Royal Plymouth

The show starts when a person comes on stage, walks casually to the microphone, adjusts it and starts talking. The person who is going to do all of this is good at opening scenes. Everyone would have liked to play that part but fate has appointed just one of us. It’s not easy to open a show. It’s a big responsibility, because if the first lines are well done, if they land well, then it’s magic. If you open the show, you set the tone of the whole show. And that’s really, yeah... The beginning can’t go on forever. The rest of the show has to happen, and no, we can’t spoil it. But trust us, we’re telling you stories. In *Every Word Was Once An Animal*, Ontroerend Goed dances on the thin line between truth and another truth. Forget what you just read. Just remember that half a truth is often a great lie.

HAPPY MEAL

Roots & Theatre Royal Plymouth with ETT & Oxford Playhouse
4–7, 9–14, 16–21, 23–28 August, times vary. Traverse Theatre – Traverse 2
7–10 September, 7.45pm. The Drum – Theatre Royal Plymouth

“Gender is life tbh. It’s like time too I guess. It kinda doesn’t exist, but our world revolves around the expectations we put on it.” Join us for an online show irl. Travel back to the quaint days of dial up and MSN, where you’ll follow two strangers on 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. The world-premiere of Tabby Lamb’s *HAPPY MEAL* is a joyful queer rom-com where Millennial meets Gen Z and change is all around.

Still Floating

SDJ Productions with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Pontio, Bangor & Cairde Festival, Sligo
3–14, 16–21, 23–28 August, 7.15pm. Summerhall – Old Lab
14–17 September, 7.45pm. Theatre Royal Plymouth

Still Floating is a brand news piece of warm-hearted comic storytelling by BBC award-winning writer and performer Shôn Dale-Jones.

A story about love, resilience and laughing at the things that should make us cry. When someone suggests that Shôn should remount his 2006 Total Theatre award-winning hit show *Floating* (Barbican, Sydney Opera House) about the Isle of Anglesey floating away from mainland Britain, he is sure it isn’t what the world needs right now. 2006 is not 2022. As Shôn explains why he shouldn’t present the show we find out that sometimes going backwards helps us move forwards. Told by two-time Fringe First winner, this is a funny, uplifting and moving story, making the real and unreal fit together in one surprising whole.

ENDS

VIDEO: TRP at Fringe – <https://youtu.be/omY8ltqwbgc>

IMAGES: Can be downloaded here – <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzXE8C>

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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