

5 September 2022

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

**For Immediate Release**

## **Theatre Royal Plymouth celebrates the success of its five co-productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival**

Watch a video: <https://youtu.be/SaC6hXbvzSE>

As the largest arts festival in the world is over for another year, Theatre Royal Plymouth is celebrating the success of its five co-productions that were presented there last month.

TRP has collaborated with local artists as well as internationally renowned theatre companies this year, to showcase *Today I Killed My Very First Bird*, *Breathless*, *Every Word Was Once An Animal*, *Happy Meal* and *Still Floating*. All five productions showing at Theatre Royal Plymouth either before or after their Edinburgh run.

*Breathless* and *Happy Meal* won The Scotsman Fringe Firsts Awards at the end of the first week. The writers of both shows, Laura Horton and Tabby Lamb, were finalists in the Popcorn Award for New Writing, and *Today I Killed My Very First Bird* made the shortlist for the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence.

James Mackenzie-Blackman, Chief Executive of Theatre Royal Plymouth said: *“I’ve really loved being back at the Fringe this year. That sense of the industry coming back together to deliver a fantastic festival this year, has been brilliant.*

*“It’s been a monumental effort to bring five co-productions to Edinburgh but we’ve done so because we really believe passionately in the creativity in the South West and there’s been really fantastic feedback from audiences.”*

Laura Horton, writer of *Breathless* and also Plymouth Laureate of Words 2021/22, said: *“We won a Fringe First Award really quickly. It’s the award you want in Edinburgh. The show had some really lovely reviews, incredible audiences. It’s been lovely to stand outside the door afterwards and talk to people afterwards. They’ve been really verbal.”*

### ***Today I Killed My Very First Bird***

Voodoo Monkeys & Theatre Royal Plymouth

★★★★ The Scotsman    ★★★★★ Broadway World Scotland    ★★★★★ Three Weeks Edinburgh

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.

### **Breathless**

Laura Horton & Theatre Royal Plymouth

★★★★★ Voicemag

★★★★ The Scotsman

★★★★ The List

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?

Returning to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 31 October – 2 November.

### **Every Word Was Once An Animal**

Ontroerend Goed, Perpodium, Kunstencentrum Vooruit, Richard Jordan Productions & Theatre Royal Plymouth

★★★★ The Guardian

★★★★ Edinburgh Guide

★★★★ Everything Theatre

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.

### **HAPPY MEAL**

Roots & Theatre Royal Plymouth with ETT & Oxford Playhouse

★★★★★ North West End

★★★★★ Fest Mag

★★★★ The Guardian

*"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.

Coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 7 – 10 September.

### ***Still Floating***

SDJ Productions with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Pontio, Bangor & Cairde Festival, Sligo

★★★★ The Scotsman

★★★ The Guardian

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 forewords.

Coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 14 – 17 September.

### **ENDS**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/SaC6hXbvzSE>

**IMAGES:** <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzXE8C>

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.