

PRESS RELEASE

13 March 2018



PHOTO BY TRISTRAM KENTON

Six veterans from the 1982 Falklands War reunite in *Minfield*, directed by documentary theatre trailblazer Lola Arias Thu 12 - Sat 14 April 2018

Six real-life Falklands/Malvinas war veterans, who once faced each other across a battlefield, now face each other across a stage in Argentinean director Lola Arias' enthralling [Minfield](#). The show comes to [HOME](#) as part of the venue's 24th annual [¡VIVA! Festival](#), celebrating theatre, film, and contemporary visual art from Spain and Latin America. *Minfield* plays for three performances only, on Thu 12 - Sat 14 April 2018.

Presented by the London International Festival of Theatre ([LIFT](#)), the six one-time combatants share memories, films, songs and photos as they recall their

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collective war and embody the political figures that led them into it. Soldier, veteran, human - these men have stories to share as they take us from the horrors of war to today's uncertainties, with brutal honesty and startling humour.

Digging deep into the personal impact of war, *Minefield*, is a collaboratively created work that merges documentary, theatre and film to explore the minefield of memory, where truth and fiction collide. The production features **Gabriel Sagastume**, a soldier who never wanted to shoot a gun and who is now a criminal lawyer; **Marcelo Vallejo**, a mortar direction controller who today is a triathlon champion; **Ruben Otero**, who survived the sinking of the ARA General Belgrano and who now plays in a Beatles tribute band; **David Jackson**, who spent the war listening and transcribing radio codes and who now listens to other veterans in his role as a counsellor; **Sukrim Rai**, a Gurkha and knife-expert who now works as a security guard; and **Lou Armour**, who was on the front page of every UK newspaper when the Argentinians took him prisoner on 2 April 1982. Today, he is a teacher for children with learning difficulties.

In 2014, LIFT commissioned Lola Arias to produce *Veterans*, a project commemorating the centenary of the First World War. The resulting work was a video series of Argentinian veterans recollecting their involvement in war. In 2016 a partnership between LIFT, the Royal Court Theatre and the Brighton Festival enabled *Veterans* to develop into *Minefield*, with a hugely successful sell-out run at the Royal Court followed by an enormously acclaimed international tour.

"War isn't what interests me," explains Lola Arias. "It's what comes *after* the war that interests me. What matters to me is what happens to a person who went through that experience. What matters to me is what memory has done, what it has erased, what it has transformed."

@home_mcr
@LIFTfestival
#Minefield



PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Thu 12 Apr 2018 - 19.30 (press night performance)

Fri 13 Apr 2018 - 19.30 (post-show discussion with the cast)

Sat 14 Apr 2018 - 19.30

TICKETS

£10-£24 (concessions available).

For further information - to request review tickets (press night performance , Thu 12 April), images or interviews, please contact: Mike Barnett, HOME Media and Communications Manager, +44 (0)161 212 3462, or mike.barnett@HOMEmcr.org

LIFT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

HOME, Manchester's centre for international contemporary art, theatre, film and books, officially opened its doors over the 2015 May Bank Holiday weekend. Designed by Dutch architects Mecanoo and featuring a 500-seat theatre; a 150-seat flexible theatre; a 500m², 4m high gallery space; five cinema screens; digital production and broadcast facilities; a café bar and restaurant. HOME's theatres are a platform for questioning and ambitious artistic projects that involve audiences with new and extraordinary theatrical experiences. The international contemporary visual art programme is dedicated to presenting new commissions by emerging and established artists of regional, national and international significance, with a bold, proactive policy of visual, innovative storytelling with the ability to experiment and explore, probe and provoke, creating a distinct experience for both artists and audiences. HOME's five cinemas

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showcase the very best in contemporary and classic cinema, screening works by artists and filmmakers both established and new. HOME is a centre for co-production, talent development and artistic creation, dedicated to learning, for people of all ages. A place for new work and playful ideas; of festivals and commissions; of artists and of audience engagement. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, former National Theatre Artistic Director Nicholas Hytner, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. After *Minefield*, HOME's theatres stage, [The Tiger Lillies: Corrido De La Sangre](#) (20 Apr - 5 May 2018), [Things Easily Forgotten](#) (25 - 28 Apr 2018), [Dollywould](#) (3 - 5 May 2018), [Long Day's Journey Into Night](#) (10 - 26 May 2018), [Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train](#) (16 - 19 May 2018), [Scottee: Fat Blokes](#) (22 - 24 May 2018), [The Duke](#) (6/7 June 2018), [Me & Robin Hood: Change the Story](#) (8/9 June 2018), [Diamond](#) (11 - 13 June 2018), [The Drill](#) (14 - 16 June 2018), [The Fishermen](#) (20 - 28 July 2018), [o t h e l l o m a c b e t h](#) (14 - 29 Sept 2018), [Släpstick](#) (13 - 22 Dec 2018), and [White](#) (13 - 23 Dec 2018). www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE (LIFT) travels the world to bring global stories to the UK, creating spectacular performances and moments of magic in major arts venues, theatres and galleries, but also in countless unexpected spaces and places. For over 37 years, LIFT has commissioned a biennial London-wide festival running through the month of June, engaging with the big ideas of our time, and revealing the stories and communities of the UK's incredibly diverse capital. The recently announced programme for 2018's festival works with world-class artists, whose radical imaginations create exceptional work questioning the nature of theatre. Beyond the festival, LIFT produces year-round activity including large scale projects, artist residencies, national touring and a programme of ground-breaking participatory work. www.liftfestival.com | @LIFTfestival

LOLA ARIAS is a writer, theatre director, and performer. She collaborates with artists from different disciplines in theatre, literature, music, film and art projects, and her productions play with the overlap zones between reality and fiction. Lola Arias' works for theatre have been performed at festivals including Lift Festival, Festival d'Avignon, Theater Spektakel, Zurich, Wiener Festwochen, Festival Theaterformen, Spielart Festival, Munich, Alkantara Festival, Lisbon, Under the radar, NY, and in venues including Theatre de la Ville, Red Cat LA, Walker Art Centre, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and the Royal Court London. www.lolaarias.com | @lolaariasworks

Did you know that HOME is a charity? We need your support to bring the best film, theatre and art to Manchester and inspire the next generation. Get involved at www.homemcr.org/support

