

PRESS RELEASE 1 November 2019



BRYONY KIMMINGS' *I'M A PHOENIX, BITCH*, HER NEW SOLO SHOW ABOUT MOTHERHOOD, HEARTBREAK AND FINDING INNER STRENGTH, COMES TO HOME MANCHESTER

Following an extended run at Battersea Arts Centre which garnered a series of five-star reviews ("An exhilarating ride" - [The Guardian](#); "The best thing she's ever done" - [The Scotsman](#)), a sell-out run at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, an Offies 2019 Award win, and a hugely successful run of performances in Australia last month, Bryony Kimmings' [*I'm A Phoenix, Bitch*](#) comes to HOME Manchester, Tue 26 - Sat 30 November 2019.

Well known to TV viewers as the Artist-in-Residence on Channel 4's *The Sex Clinic* in 2018, Bryony Kimmings' one-woman show was also part of the British Council's Edinburgh Showcase 2019.

Bryony has spent the last few years on collaborative projects, including co-writing the screenplay for *Last Christmas* with Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson, directed by Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*) and starring Emilia Clarke (*Games*

HOME

of *Thrones*), scheduled for release on 15 November 2019; and developing the musical [*A Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer*](#), which played at HOME in September 2016, in collaboration with theatre company Complicité.

However, after years of telling other people's stories, recent personal cataclysmic life events have led Bryony back to her original solo practice. *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* combines personal stories with epic film, soundscapes and ethereal music to create a powerful, dark and joyful work about motherhood, heartbreak and finding inner strength.

In 2016, Bryony nearly drowned. Post-natal breakdowns, an imploding relationship, and an extremely sick child left her sitting beneath the waves hoping she could slowly turn to shell.

Two years later, and she is able to deal with life again, but wears the scars of that year like a dark and heavy cloak. Who do we become after trauma? How do we turn pain into power? How do we fly instead of drown? We will need new myths to survive the end of existence as we know it.

"My shows are usually born out of me going: 'We don't talk about this enough, this is problematic in terms of a political or feminist narrative'," she says. "My hope with this show is to give the almost unspeakable traumas associated with post-natal depression and an ill child a voice. I wanted to create a show that cuts to the heart of these things, but does it in a way that people can relate to."

Join Bryony on an incredible journey as *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* creates a new legend; that of the invincible and fearless woman; a tale Bryony wishes she had known from birth.

I'm a Phoenix, Bitch is financially supported by Arts Council England, commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne, and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, supported by Latitude Festival, and made in association with leading arts promoters and producers Avalon.

I'm A Phoenix, Bitch is not suitable for people under 16.



PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Tue 26 November 2019, 20:00

Wed 27 November 2019, 20:00 (press night performance)

Thu 28 November 2019, 20:00 (Caption sub-titled performance)

Fri 29 November 2019, 20:00 (Audio-described performance)

Sat 30 November 2019, 14:00 (British Sign Language-interpreted performance)

Sat 30 November 2019, 20:00

TICKETS

£20 (£18 concessions)

<https://homemcr.org/production/im-a-phoenix-bitch>

@home_mcr

#ImAPhoenixBitch

For further information, images or interviews and to request press night tickets (press night Wed 27 Nov), please contact: Mike Barnett, HOME Media and Communications Manager, +44 (0) 161 212 3462, or mike.barnett@HOMEmcr.org

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NOTES TO EDITORS

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in May 2015, HOME has welcomed over two million visitors to its two theatres, five cinemas, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary theatrical experiences, producing an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance and festivals, with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development. After *I'm A Phoenix, Bitch*, the next HOME shows are [Plant Fetish](#) presented by Chanje Kunda (27 - 30 Nov 2019); [The Manchester Project at Christmas](#) presented by HOME in association with Monkeywood Theatre (5 - 21 Dec 2019); [The Slightly Annoying Elephant](#) presented by Little Angel Theatre (5 - 29 Dec 2019); and [Roots](#) presented by 1927, Edinburgh International Festival, HOME, Spoleto Venue USA, and Theatre de la Ville (11 - 21 Dec 2019). HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art

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with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, 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. www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook
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BRYONY KIMMINGS is renowned for her outlandish 'social experiments' with previous works seeing her retrace an STI to its source, spending seven days in a controlled environment in a constant state of intoxication and becoming a pop star invented by a nine-year-old girl. *A Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer* was commissioned by Complicité and presented at The Royal National Theatre and HOME, Manchester. The touring version of this show was performed at venues across England and in Melbourne and Sydney. Bryony's award-winning work has toured internationally including: Antifest (Finland), Culturgest (Portugal), Fusebox Festival (Texas), Southbank Centre (London), Seymour Centre, Melbourne International Comedy Festival (Australia) and Lisinski Operahouse (Croatia). www.bryonykimmings.com | @BryonyKimmings

AVALON is a multi-award winning talent management, live promotion and television production group with offices in the UK and the USA. The talent management arm has discovered and represents many artists which are household names, both in the UK, the USA, and around the world. Through Avalon Promotions the group produced *Newman and Baddiel: Live at Wembley*, the UK's first arena comedy show; *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, the first West End show to win all four UK Best New Musical awards; and has continued to produce live shows globally, as well as promoting more winners and nominees of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award than any other company. In 2017 Avalon was named the top true independent television production company in the UK and has produced numerous ground-breaking television shows including: Emmy and Peabody award winner *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (HBO), multi-award winning and Emmy-nominated *Catastrophe* (Channel 4/Amazon Prime), RTS and Rose d'Or winning *Not Going Out* (BBC1's longest running sitcom currently on air), BAFTA and RTS-nominated *Taskmaster* (Dave), multi-BAFTA award winning TV *Burp* (ITV1), *Russell Howard's Good News* (BBC2), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC/ITV) and *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA). Avalon Television, Liberty Bell Productions, Flame Television and Topical Television form the television arm of the company and other shows currently in production include: *The Button* (BBC One), *Not Going Out* (BBC One) *Taskmaster USA* (Comedy Central), *Man Down* (C4), *The Chris Ramsey Show* (Comedy Central), *Russell Howard & Mum: Road Trip* (Comedy Central), *Unspun with Matt Forde* (Dave) and *Stand Up Central with Chris Ramsey* (Comedy Central); whilst the catalogue is sold worldwide by Avalon Distribution. www.avalonuk.com | @Avalon_Press

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

