

PRESS RELEASE

First Homemakers works by Bryony Kimmings, Plaster Cast Theatre and Chris Thorpe & Yusra Warsama to go live on May 1

Thursday, April 24 2020

Details of brand-new online works by **Bryony Kimmings**, **Ad Infinitum**, **Plaster Cast Theatre** and **Chris Thorpe & Yusra Warsama**, commissioned in response to the coronavirus outbreak, have been announced.

The works were all commissioned by HOME as part of their *Homemakers* series, where artists create new works in isolation for an audience also isolated by the coronavirus lockdown. They will go on sale via the HOME website on Friday, May 1, and most will be available to experience from the same day.

Bryony Kimmings', *I'm falling in love with you and it's making me do stupid things*, looks at being single and lonely in lockdown. The audience will follow Bryony through one long, lonely night after she finds the email address of a potential lover in a pile of belongings she has been sorting and decides to make an approach. Stifled creativity and memories of a simpler, freer time collide with white wine and boredom as Kimmings unravels from cute cutie to hard-drinking party girl through a range of familiar female stereotypes, none of which are getting the desired response.

Ad Infinitum, whose *Extraordinary Wall Of Silence* was a hit when it appeared at HOME in February, have created a triptych of video shorts titled *A Small Gathering*. With non-verbal delivery, the surreal shorts have a black humour that's surprising and thought-provoking. This is the first time the company have worked with film, and the works were created using mobile phones, home cameras, and torches. Ad Infinitum's co-artistic director, Nir Paldi, said: "Seeing as we have never used video in our 12+ years of theatre making this has been a big leap of faith in a complicated period of time."

Chris Thorpe and **Yusra Warsama** have created *Tell Me*, a game from HOME to play at home. Designed to be played by two friends, *Tell Me* is about how much we know about each other, and how much we make up. Chris Thorpe's work includes *Status*, *The Mysteries*, *Victory Condition* and *Confirmation*, and he was a contributing writer to *The*

HOME

Manchester Project at Christmas at HOME, while Yusra Warsama appeared in *Future Bodies* in 2018. On film and TV she has been seen in *Our Girl*, *Call The Midwife*, *Cold Feet* and recently filmed *Castle Rock* for Hulu.

Plaster Cast Theatre's new work, *Homelands* explores what happens when everything you know has been turned upside down. In a limited series of 50 hand-written short stories, sent by post to ticket-holders, participants are thrown into the centre of an imagined world and asked to creatively respond to the upheaval they find themselves in. The stories are set in a variety of imagined worlds and audience members will be able to choose which world they wish to experience based on their mood. Plaster Cast Theatre were recently seen at HOME with *Sound Cistem* as part of the PUSH Festival.

Further works yet to be announced include a piece by **Javaad Alipoor**, plus the results of three open-call commissions and details of additional national commissioning partners.

Kevin Jamieson, Head of Programme at HOME, said: "In these very challenging times performing art venues can't operate as business as usual. Our *Homemakers* project allows us to commission new work from a diverse array of live art makers from all over the country to explore new ways of making art that continues to push boundaries. These projects will range from playful to thoughtful, interactive to personal, and we are looking forward to finding out how theatre can continue to connect people, artists and audiences in these isolating times."

The works will be available on the HOME website from Friday, May 1, on a 'pay-what-you-can' basis, with ticket prices available at levels from free to £100. Any contributions through the pay-what-you-can model will be divided equally, with half paid to the commissioned artist and half reinvested into the HOME Response Fund. It will be made accessible to the widest possible audience through captioning, audio description, and providing relaxed versions where appropriate.

This project has been made possible thanks to HOME's Response Fund, set up in the wake of the announcement that arts venues across the country would close due to the coronavirus, and designed to protect HOME's financial stability and allow them to support artists and colleagues from across the industry.

The incredible reaction to the Response Fund allowed *Homemakers* to be announced less than a week after HOME confirmed it would have to temporarily close its doors to the public.

Notes to editors:

- Bryony Kimmings - *I'm falling in love with you and it's making me do stupid things* – available from Thursday, April 30

This is a video work – a private link can be provided for review



- Ad Infinitum – *A Small Gathering* – available from Thursday, April 30

This is a video work – a private link can be provided for review

- Chris Thorpe and Yusra Warsama – *Tell Me* – available from Wednesday, April 29

This work takes the form of a game, which can be emailed as a PDF. Reviewers will need a second person with whom to play the game – either virtually or in-person.

- Plaster Cast Theatre – *Homelands Me* – available from Wednesday, April 29

This work takes the form of an individual, handwritten short story, posted to the ticketholder with an invitation to make a creative response. In order to make all 50 stories available to the general public, 'letters' can be made available to reviewers via email, however these will be copies of stories that will also be sent to a ticketholder. All 50 stories are different, which we appreciate may make reviewing difficult.

For further information or interviews, contact Kat Harrison-Dibbits, Head of Communications at HOME, on 07833 523295 or email kat.harrison-dibbits@homemcr.org.

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. HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOMEemcr

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