

PRESS RELEASE

Manchester theatre expands international reach during lockdown



WHILE their usual Manchester audience have been in lockdown, multi-arts centre HOME have expanded their online audience internationally through the *Homemakers* series of commissions, which invited artists to make work from their own homes that could be experienced online.

Audiences from 34 countries including Brazil, Hong Kong and Nepal have enjoyed work by artists such as Bryony Kimmings, Ad Infinitum and Ugly Bucket, among others.

Other countries where the works have found an audience include Canada, Afghanistan, Luxembourg, Estonia and South Korea.

There have been 26 Homemakers works so far, including live events on Zoom, short films, games, handwritten stories delivered by post, and venues from across the country have been involved, commissioning their own new works to be hosted on the HOME website. The series goes from strength to strength, with three more works to be released this week from Hafsah Aneela Bashir

HOME

(commissioned by Oldham Colisem Theatre), Hester Ulliyart and Leaphia Darko (both commissioned by the RADA Festival).

Homemakers has also allowed commissioning venues to work with artists in other countries without the financial and environmental cost of travel – for example, Tin Can's livestream performance, *A Manual of Fantastical Zoology*, commissioned by RADA Festival, which involved five different creatives based across India joining together to do a loose adaptation of Jorge Luis Borges' *The Book of Imaginary Beings*. Another RADA Festival commission, *I Am All The Rooms of the House*, written and performed by Hester Ulliyart and released this week, was recorded at the British Hotel, in New Zealand, where Hester is currently in lockdown.

HOME have confirmed that the online series will continue even after their building reopens on 4 September, providing a digital complement to the physical programme for those who do not yet wish to venture out to the theatre, or who simply want to enjoy art at home as well as their live experiences. Upcoming works include two new pieces from Ad Infinitum, whose four-star *Guardian* reviewed *A Small Gathering* was one of the first Homemakers to be released, as well as works from Hot Brown Honey and Stacey Makishi.

Kevin Jamieson, Head of Programme at HOME, said: "Homemakers has allowed a worldwide audience to experience the work of these fantastic artists, with people 'attending' from Argentina to Nepal to South Korea. This has opened up a whole new audience for their work and the work HOME does, allowing a connection to people all over the globe at a time when the world has been in lockdown and isolation."

To find out more about Homemakers, visit www.homemcr.org/homemakers

Notes to editors

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

The full list of countries (in alphabetical order):

Afghanistan
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil

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Canada
China
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hong Kong
India
Ireland
Israel
Japan
Latvia
Luxembourg
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Singapore
Slovakia
South Korea
Spain
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States

The data was collected via box office booking information, Google Analytics and Zoom.

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 HOME mcr



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