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HOME
2 TONY WILSON PLACE
FIRST STREET
MANCHESTER M15 4FN

+44(0) 161 200 1500
INFO@HOMEMCR.ORG

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a company limited by guarantee,
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No: 1681278

Registered office 2 Tony Wilson Place
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PRESS RELEASE

Javaad Alipoor's critically-acclaimed *The Believers Are But Brothers* returns to Manchester to explore online radicalisation by ISIS and the alt-right



The Javaad Alipoor Company presents
The Believers Are But Brothers
Tue 3 Nov 2020 – Thu 5 Nov 2020

Javaad Alipoor will return to HOME with the critically-acclaimed ***The Believers Are But Brothers***, from Tuesday, 3 November to Thursday, 5 November.

Co-directed by Kirsty Housley, the show is a timely look at how ISIS and the alt-right radicalise young men online, turning a crisis of masculinity among those burning with resentment about the money, power and sex they think they deserve into an electronic maze of fantasy, violence, and meme culture.

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Javaad Alipoor is a writer and director, and sometimes performer whose work comes from discussions and workshops with communities that don't usually engage with mainstream theatre.

His show *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*, a co-production with HOME, looked at how social media feeds and accelerates the ever-widening divide between rich and poor. The show is the second part in a trilogy of plays which begins with *The Believers Are But Brothers*, about how digital technology, resentment and fracturing identity is changing the world.

Javaad said the show is more timely than ever: "We live in a time where old orders are collapsing, from the post-colonial nation states of the Middle East to the EU and the American election."

The show is performed by Javaad and Ross McCaffrey and co-directed by Kirsty Housley. The Associate Director is Natalie Diadems, the Dramaturg is Chris Thorpe and the Assistant Director is Heather Knudeston. Lighting and set design is by Ben Pacey, with sound design by Simon McCrory and video design from Limbic Cinema. Additional video content is by Adam Radolinski, and production management by Louise Gregory.

During lockdown, Javaad created *A Series of Metaphors About a Plague* for HOME's *Homemakers* series, an online experience made with Natalie Diddams about artists' fascination with plagues and the interpretation of what they mean to society and art in today's world.

Javaad's poetry has been published by Art in Unusual Places and a number of poetry journals and his fiction and writing about politics and theology has appeared in *Critical Muslim* and books published by UnKant and Continuum.

HOME's 500-seat Theatre 1 has been reduced to a capacity of just 120 to allow space for social distancing, but despite this tickets will be priced at just £10 to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to return to the theatre.

700 seats are currently being held off sale to allow for social distancing, and so the arts centre has also launched a new campaign, [Empty Seats](#), to highlight the £130-per-week cost of each unfilled seat and the effect that the ongoing coronavirus pandemic is having on arts venues.

For more information about HOME's upcoming programme, and the Empty Seats campaign, visit homemcr.org.

The Believers Are But Brothers is co-commissioned by HOME, Ovalhouse and Transform. Supported by funding from Arts Council England.

Notes to editors



For more information, images or interview requests, please contact Kat Harrison-Dibbits, Head of Communications at HOME, on 0161 212 3463 or email Kat.Harrison-Dibbits@homemcr.org.

Reviews:

★★★★ "Full of dark poetry and sheer analytical power" - The Scotsman

★★★★ "A window into the frightening virtual world" - Time Out

★★★★ "There's a matter-of-fact humour to much of what [Javaad] Alipoor tells us, but also a cold horror – this [is a] show for our times" – The Independent

★★★★ "For many [...] the things touched on in Believers will be a revelation. Much of it feels vital to understand in a world where the internet is fast becoming the most powerful thing on the planet. – What's On Stage

★★★★ "Boldly conceived and gut-twistingly immediate... Shines a light on a festering corner of the internet – a 21st-century crucible of hate – then observes how fetid tendrils are snaking out into the mainstream. It is, in a way, terrifying." – The Stage

About HOME

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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