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PRESS RELEASE

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HOME presents festive family show Duckie online and on demand



Cabaret superstar Le Gateau Chocolat embraces being a bit different in a reworking of *The Ugly Duckling* for all the family

Written and performed by Le Gateau Chocolat | Co-written and directed by Tommy Bradson

“Le Gateau Chocolat is transcendently fabulous” ★★★★★ *Time Out* (on Le Gateau Chocolat as Feste in *Twelfth Night*)

Internationally renowned cabaret star Le Gateau Chocolat returns with a celebration of what makes us different in his reimagining of childhood favourite Hans Christian Anderson’s *The Ugly Duckling*. Family-friendly glamour and glitz takes centre stage as Le Gateau Chocolat breaks out of his shell in his first work for children as he puts his own twist on the classic tale of identity and belonging.

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Set in an animal circus, join Le Gateau Chocolat on an adventure of self-discovery, asking questions of the 'happy ever after' in a celebration of difference. Walking a little differently? Sounding a bit strange? Watch Duckie triumph by realising these are his strengths. Part homage to the music of Disney with fabulous cabaret flourishes, *Duckie* emphasises the importance of self-acceptance and tolerance to ask how we find our place in the world.

Le Gateau Chocolat said: "Drawing on my own experiences of being severely bullied at school, I wanted to make this show to help my niece. I wanted to help her find her own sense of self, embrace her differences and recognise the importance of being kind to each other and to ourselves. *Duckie* isn't just about standing up your bullies, it's also about making sure that you don't become a bully yourself."

The show will be available via the HOME website on-demand until 3 Jan.

Le Gateau Chocolat said: "I'm really sad not to be bringing *Duckie* HOME this Christmas because it was something I was looking forward to, but hopefully in the not-too-distant future I'll be bringing it to Manchester. In the meantime, for the first time ever, *Duckie* is going to be shown virtually thanks to the wonder of people at HOME."

Voted by Time Out London as one of its Top 10 Cabaret Stars, Le Gateau Chocolat is a one-man musical phenomenon renowned for his drag shows, his contemporary opera performance and his baritone. He began working as a solo artist in 2011 with a self-titled show that toured the UK, Poland and Australia (including the Sydney Opera House) for three years and was nominated for the 2011 Helpmann Awards (Best Cabaret Performer), 2013 Perth Fringe World Cabaret Award and Best Cabaret 2016 & 2018 at Adelaide Fringe. He's toured the globe with Olivier award-winning *La Clique* and *La Soirée*, has performed with Glyndebourne Opera, *Threepenny Opera* at the National Theatre, appeared on *The Paul O'Grady Show*, sang for the Queen as part of the Jubilee Flotilla, and with *Basement Jaxx* at the Barbican. Gateau also recently appeared as Feste in Emma Rice's *Twelfth Night* at the Globe, and a specially created drag role in Wagner's *Tannhäuser* at Bayreuth Festival.

@LeGateauChocolat | #Duckie | legateauchocolat.com

Running Time: 40 minutes | **Suitable for ages 3+**

Company Information

Written and Performed by Le Gateau Chocolat

Co-written & Directed by Tommy Bradson



Promotional Photo by Manuel Vason

Production manager: Tom Wilson

Supported by Arts Council England. Seed Commissioners New Wolsey Theatre, Colchester Arts Centre & Norwich Arts Centre.

Notes to editors

For interviews, additional images or review tickets/links, please contact Kat Harrison-Dibbits, Head of Communications at HOME, on 07833523295 or email kat.harrison-dibbits@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.

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 HOMEcr

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