

PRESS RELEASE

8 April 2021

HOME launch purpose-built Manchester outdoor theatre for the Summer

- HOME announces Homeground – a brand-new temporary outdoor venue on First Street offering the best in live entertainment across two stages.
- Featuring a 400-seat socially distanced outdoor theatre, and second stage with free live performance.
- Productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Alice in Wonderland* with tickets just £10 for adults and £5 for children.



The site on First Street where HOME's new outdoor venue, Homeground, will be built. Pic credit: Drew Forsyth.

Hi-res images can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/39Qlgli>

HOME, Manchester's largest multi-arts venue, are launching a massive temporary outdoor arts space this Summer. The new space, named [Homeground](#) will be located on an 80,000ft² future development site on First Street, just next to HOME. It will feature a 400-seat socially distanced theatre space: the specially designed and purpose built, Covid-safe outdoor theatre. At the heart will be two magical, musical productions of

HOME

classics: Filter Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a brand-new version of *Alice in Wonderland*.

The new venue opens on Friday, 28 May, and runs throughout the summer.

It will also host work by partners including Frog & Bucket, Contact and Trans Creative, as well as music, cabaret, and comedy.



The site near HOME where Homeground will be built

The project will create 450 new employment opportunities for freelance artists and creative practitioners, supporting the freelance economy which has been so badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks to generous support from partners, tickets for the two HOME productions will be just £10 for adults and £5 for children. HOME will also be offering free performances for school groups.

Dave Moutrey, HOME's Director and CEO, said: "As we start to emerge from the strangest year many of us have ever experienced, arts and culture play a vital role in the recovery of the country. We all want to bring a sense of hope and joy back to our communities, and to provide more opportunities for an artistic freelance sector decimated by the pandemic. And we want accessibility for all to be at the heart of this project, which is why there is a low-cost or free programme, as well as free performances for schools. People in our city, especially young people, have been deprived of live theatre for the past year – we want this to be a celebration of Manchester's creativity and resilience.

"I'm delighted to announce Homeground, which will be a safe and enjoyable space for the people of Manchester to have fun, reconnect and celebrate the city's artistic talent in all its forms."



A Midsummer Night's Dream will open on Thursday, 3 June and run until Saturday, 26 June. The show is the third successful collaboration between Filter and Sean Holmes, following the success of *Three Sisters* and *Twelfth Night*.

Featuring original music from members of The London Snorkeling Team, this remixed and reworked version of Shakespeare's tale of young lovers and warring fairies is given a unique and irreverent twist.

Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday 20 April, with early booking available for HOME Friends and members.

Then later this summer, HOME presents a brand-new version of *Alice in Wonderland* – written by Stockroom and directed by Lekan Lawal. It will be presented in association with Stockroom Productions.

An up-to-date take on the family favourite, the show features new and contemporary Manchester songs, it opens on Thursday, 15 July and runs until Saturday, 7 August.

Alongside the main performance programme, there will be a free stage in the food and drink terrace. The Manchester Stage will have a different curator from the city every week, including Manchester Folk Festival, Contact, and DJ slots curated by DJ Paulette.

There will also be food and drink from stallholders including Black Market Espresso, Brazilico pizza, Wolf to the Door cocktails and Tibetan Kitchen.

The site has been designed by Cordelia Ashwell, of Decordia Events.

She said: "The idea behind the overall site design grew from a collaboration with HOME's Curator, Bren O'Callaghan. From the outset, we felt that rather than try to disguise the brownfield nature of the site, we would lean into the detritus that accumulates in pockets of the urban fabric. Influenced by scrapyards, the neon graveyard of Las Vegas and remnants of stories that attach themselves to architectural salvage, we settled upon a method of display popularised by the Victorians and in municipal museums - the Wunderkammer, or Cabinet of Curiosities. In this way, seemingly random and otherwise ordinary objects become extra-ordinary.

"Bren and I have been hunting down key iconic artefacts, some of which we think the public will recognise, and others may come as a bit of a surprise."

More shows and events will be announced over the coming months.

The project has been made possible thanks to support from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, Arts Council England, Ask Real Estate, CBRE, the Garfield Weston Foundation, B&M Retail and Savannah Wisdom, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Granada Foundation.

For more information, visit www.homemcr.org/homeground



Notes to editors

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

Thursday, 3 June until Saturday, 26 June

A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Lyric Hammersmith and Filter Theatre Production

By William Shakespeare

Created by Filter

Directed by Sean Holmes & Ferdy Roberts

Design by Hyemi Shin, winner of the Linbury Prize

Sound design and original music by Tom Haines and Chris Branch

Running time: 90mins (approx.) – no interval

Suitable 12yrs+

Thursday, 15 July until Saturday, 7 August

HOME presents

Lewis Carroll's

Alice in Wonderland

A new adaptation by the Stockroom

Directed by Lekan Lawal

In association Stockroom Productions

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 HOME_mcr

About First Street

First Street is a vibrant new neighbourhood in the heart of Manchester, which is being delivered by Ask Real Estate and The Richardson Family.

First Street is anchored by cultural arts venue HOME, and is joined by the INNSIDE hotel and an array of restaurants and bars including Indian Tiffin Room, WOOD, Junkyard Golf Club, The Gasworks Brewbar and Ribeye Steakhouse. First Street also comprises two Grade A commercial office buildings - N01 and N08 - and a multi storey car park operated by Q-Park.



Extending the estate will be the next phase of office development as well as the growth of the residential neighbourhood with a large co-living scheme, both scheduled to be on site in 2021.

In dedication to Manchester's cultural history, First Street has named several streets in the area after famous Mancunians, including film and screenplay writer Jack Rosenthal and Mancunian culture ambassador and broadcaster Tony Wilson.

About Stockroom

Stockroom creates and produces new work for the stage. Our salaried writers room and expertise in the creation of new plays is the cornerstone of our commitment to audiences. We partner theatres around the country to create shows that celebrate story and live experience. We work with artists from all backgrounds to bring the best work to the most people, sharing quality theatre productions around the country and the world.

About Filter

"One of Britain's best and boldest devising companies"

Metro

Filter is a theatre company led by actors Oliver Dimsdale and Ferdy Roberts, and musician Tim Phillips. For each project since 2003, Filter draws on an ensemble of inter-disciplinary collaborators from a range of creative fields to make original new work and contemporary incarnations of existing texts. Filter's work tours the UK, Europe and beyond, reaching a wide and diverse audience, young and old.

Filter's original pieces include: *FASTER* (BAC, Tour, New York 2003); *WATER* (Lyric Hammersmith 2007-2013, revived for the Tricycle (2011), the Sydney Theatre Company (2013) and New York's Next Wave Festival, BAM (2013); *SILENCE*, commissioned and produced by the RSC, 2011 at Hampstead Theatre.

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Filter's interpretations of existing texts: Brecht's *CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE* (National Theatre 2006); Shakespeare's *TWELFTH NIGHT* for the RSC and The Tricycle Theatre, UK & International Tours (2007-2017); Chekhov's *THREE SISTERS* (Lyric Hammersmith 2010); and Shakespeare's *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (UK Tour, Lyric Hammersmith/Manchester Royal Exchange (2012-2017); *MACBETH* (The Tobacco Factory Theatre, 2015);

Filter are currently creating a *WESTERN* for the stage, directed by Michael Boyd.

