

PRESS RELEASE

28 July 2021

HOME announces return of live theatre with Autumn Winter 2021/22 season



- Live theatre to return in September 2021 after a gap of 10 months
- Over 120 regional, national and international artists appear across more than 30 shows
 - Digital commissions to be delivered on a new online platform
- Several shows will have a mix of socially distanced and full capacity performances

HOME

Images can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3f50zpP>. Additional images are available on request.

HOME have today announced the return of live theatre to their building for the first time in 10 months with an Autumn Winter season featuring over 30 shows including Rhum and Clay's **The War of the Worlds**, **The Lemon Table**, starring Ian McDiarmid, and a new adaptation of Christie Watson's NHS memoir, **The Language of Kindness**.

The season also includes festivals of new work and digital commissions delivered on a specially commissioned online platform, Homescreeen.

As well as shows that missed their chance to appear at HOME due to Covid, the season includes new commissions from North West, national and international artists and the return of some HOME favourites, including Bourgeois and Maurice, Le Gateau Chocolat and Hofesh Shechter.

Priority ticket booking will be available for HOME Friends from Friday, 30 July, and members from Monday, 2 August with tickets on sale to the general public from Tuesday, 3 August. Several shows will have a mix of socially distanced and full capacity performances, to provide as many options as possible for audiences post-Covid.

Dave Moutrey, Director and CEO of HOME, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to announce the return of live theatre to our building, following a very long 10 months during which our theatres have been closed to the public due to coronavirus. We were absolutely determined to give artists whose work had been cancelled or postponed at the start of the pandemic the chance to bring their shows to the stage, and I'm pleased to say that many of the works appearing this season are among those we were planning to host last year. As well as honouring our commitments to those artists, our programming team have also found great new work, which I know HOME audiences will love.

"I'm also really pleased that festivals are back, and that with Push and Orbit we will have the opportunity to showcase some of the most exciting new works from artists in the North West and from across the world.

"This is a season full of joy, compassion and excitement, that I'm proud to say represents the best of HOME at this exciting moment when – finally – all three of our artforms are live again in our building."

Some coronavirus safety measures, including additional cleaning, hand sanitiser stations and queue management, will stretch into the Autumn, and while it is planned that most shows will go ahead at full capacity, certain performances are to be designated as social distanced for audiences who feel more comfortable keeping more space around them.



Drama, dance, and emotion in Theatre 1

The season opens on 10 September with the world premiere of Clara Casian and Robin Richards' **The Earth Asleep**, a film and live score performance exploring grief, memory, and a pathway by which the human soul might navigate unseen astral dimensions. Then from 22 September Rhum and Clay's **The War of the Worlds** is a radical adaptation inspired by Orson Welles' radio play and reimagined for the era of disinformation and 'fake news' (until 2 Oct), followed by another world premiere of a new work by transgender artist Cassils, **Human Measure** (7 October). From 27 to 30 October fans of Hofesh Shechter will be able to enjoy the return of Shechter II with **POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED**, followed by Antler Theatre's **Civilisation**, a sideways look at the reality of loss, featuring music by ABBA and Bach. Then from 16 to 20 November, Ian McDiarmid will appear in **The Lemon Table**, a new adaptation of Julian Barnes' collection of short stories, directed by Michael Grandage. Celebrating the work of NHS nurses, Wayward Productions' **The Language of Kindness** (24 November – 27 November) is a stage adaptation of Christie Watson's best-selling nursing memoir – an ensemble celebration of a workforce who until recently have been the unsung heroes of the health service.

Into 2022, we can announce that Motionhouse will return to HOME to take audiences young and old on a fantastical and spellbinding journey using their renowned dance-circus style in **Nobody** (10 – 12 February 2022).

Online theatre will also return, with a new show from Complicite whose *everything that rises must dance* was a highlight of the Homemakers series launched by HOME with companies from across the country during the first lockdown. In **Can I Live?**, Fehinti Balogun uses original hip-hop and spoken word to explore the place where the climate emergency and social justice meet.

Music, drag and fairytales for Christmas

The Christmas season will start on 3 and 4 December with **A Queeriosity Family Christmas** as Merry Matriarchs Donna Trump and Narcissa Nightshade welcome audiences for a very camp Christmas party. Then from 15 December there's festive family theatre with **Duckie**, a charming take on the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale The Ugly Duckling, exploring the beauty of difference (until 23 December).

Also on 15 December – but for one night only – Mr Wilson's Second Liners will premiere their new stage show, a live performance of Leftfield's iconic **Leftism**, performed as only they can – a live progressive-brass-house experience. Finally, on 17 and 18 December, Bourgeois & Maurice return to HOME's Theatre 1 following the success of their intergalactic musical Insane Animals with some special guests for **That's Snowbiz!**

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Theatre festivals are back!

Film festivals have already returned to the HOME building, with the Viva Spanish and Latin American Festival opening on 6 August, plus the brand-new **Ripples of Hope** festival celebrating human right, and now live theatre festivals are back too with Push kicking off on 30 September. The event is a combination of live and digital works, celebrating the very best artists in the North West.

Emmanuel Bajiji's **Candy Floss** (30 September – 2 October) is a charming storytelling piece charting one man's journey as he reflects on life in Oldham, his new town, in a new country, on a new continent. In Jenni Jackson's multidisciplinary **Endurance** (7 – 9 October), the artist explores how we can observe a woman wilfully push herself to the limit, how complicit the audience is with that experience, and how this destruction of the female body echoes through time. Both works are new commissions by HOME.

On 27 October, Kani Kamil and Sherko Abbas' **Brouhaha** uses chaotic noise to reflect on social agitation, displacement and the experience of being an Iraqi artist living in the diaspora, and on 29 October, join storyteller and musician Emmanuela Yogolelo for an afternoon exploring the traditions of songs, harmonies, and storytelling of the people living in the Congo basin in *Tales from the Congo Basin*.

On 6 November, **First Dibs: The Assembly** is the culmination of award-winning LGBTQ+ led theatre company Dibby Theatre's first ever First Dibs course, a radical new play-making school led by LGBTQ+ artists, for LGBTQ+ artists. Then on 9 and 10 November, Remi Adefeyisan's **You, Us and Them** is a physical theatre and rap production that journeys through the lives of two people whose emotions, personalities, and their relationship are constantly being moulded and shaped by the world around them.

Ugly Bucket return to HOME following their incredibly popular Homemakers commissions *ABC (Anything But Covid)* with **Good Grief** (11 – 13 November), a high energy maelstrom of clowning, movement, verbatim and thumping techno tracks – that is also a show about death. Then on 16 and 17 November, Susanna Amato's **Landfill of Memories** is an autobiographical production, about our relationship with holding onto things and the subsequent place it takes up in our heads, our hearts and our houses.

And on 20 November, Box of Tricks return to HOME with the **PlayMakers Takeover**, bringing together Northern playwrights and theatremakers to connect, collaborate and create. The day will culminate with a cinema screening of Box of Tricks' acclaimed stage production *SparkPlug* (filmed at HOME in 2019) followed by a Q&A with playwright/performer David Judge, last seen in Manchester as Lysander in HOME and Filter Theatre's outdoor production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

This year's **Orbit Festival** will also combine live and digital work, with online performances of Figs in Wigs' **Astrology Bingo** and Rachel Young's **PLOUGH** – co-commissioned by HOME - joined live from the theatre by Two Destination Language's beautiful, flower-

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filled storm of emotion **Near Gone** (23 - 25 November), Xavier De Sousa's durational performance **Regnant** (27 November) and Sleepwalk Collective and Christopher Brett Bailey's **Psychodrama** (3 and 4 December), a nightmare vision of freedom through spiralling episodes of intense sensuality and phantasmagoric violence.

There will also be building-wide events for Black History Month, and HOME will play host to Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester Folk Festival.

Theatre 2 reopens after a year and a half

Live shows will also return to HOME's Theatre 2, which has been closed to the public since the very start of the pandemic and has been being used as a socially-distanced R&D space for artists during that time. As well as Push and Orbit festivals, Phosphorus Theatre will present **All the beds I have slept in** (12 October), a brand new play by this dynamic company of lived experience refugee performers which acknowledges all the people who have helped them, revealing the seam of kindness and care that lies within their experience of being forced to leave their homes to seek asylum.

Then on 13 October, Avital Raz's **My Jerusalem** is a politically charged tale of a drunken one night stand, infused with stories of growing up in 80s Israel. A nuanced exploration of the politics of division, from internal checkpoints and separation walls to gender norms.

And on 14 October, we play host to **Where To Belong**, by Victor Esses. Victor Esses is Jewish-Lebanese, Brazilian, and gay. In 1975, Victor's mother fled Lebanon as a refugee of the Civil War. In 2018, amidst the elections that will see Brazil choose a far-right president, he travels from London to São Paulo to show his partner the city of his childhood.

HOME and Cog launch Homescreen

Following the success of Homemakers, HOME's series of digital commissions for artists working from their homes during the pandemic, and made for audiences who couldn't leave their homes to experience live art, HOME have worked with web developers Cog to create a new platform for digital work, Homescreen. The new platform will provide a home for online theatre, film and exhibitions on HOME's website, and provide audiences with a rich and in-depth online experience.

Hosting both recorded work and livestreams, the new platform will launch this Summer with a selection of free and pay-what-you-can works.

Michael Smith, Founding Director of Cog, said: "We are lucky to work with many wonderful arts organisations but it is rare to work with an organisation as progressive and pioneering as HOME.



"They've been truly collaborative partners as together we've created this user-focused digital platform.

"On the surface the site is an efficient, engaging and intuitive way to democratise the huge, varied portfolio of digital content, produced, commissioned or available through HOME.

"Behind the scenes, the platform is using integrations and innovations not seen anywhere else, utilising the ticketing platform (Spektrix) to provide the smoothest experience to both audiences and to the marketing, fundraising and artistic teams at HOME.

"We've loved working on this project and look forward to continuing to work with the HOME team to innovate and evolve the platform."

Full details of the season can be found online at <https://homemcr.org/event/our-autumn-winter-2021-theatre-season/>

Season highlights

The War of the Worlds

Thu 23 Sep 2021 – Sat 2 Oct 2021

Inspired by H.G. Wells' novel and Orson Welles' classic radio play, this legendary science fiction thriller is playfully reimagined for our era of Fake News and 'alternative facts'.

Tickets £20/concessions available

Cassils: Human Measure Live

Thu 7 Oct 2021

The World Premiere of Cassils' first piece of contemporary dance, presented against the backdrop of toxic online abuse by those purporting to champion women's rights and the rise of far-right forums that have contributed to a trebling in anti-trans hate crimes since 2014, with Great Britain placed 10th across Europe in terms of LGBTQI+ liberties.

Tickets £10-£15

Can I Live?

Online Mon 11 - Sun 17 Oct 2021

A filmed performance produced by Complicité in association with the Barbican, London, supported by Oxford Playhouse.



Join Fehinti Balogun on a journey into the world of environmental activism, as he tells the story of how, as a young Black British man, his path has been forever changed by what he's learnt about our planet. Using original hip-hop and spoken word, *Can I Live?* is an energising and uplifting exploration of the place where the climate emergency and social justice meet, and a call-to-arms to anyone curious about what we can do to help.

Pay what you decide

All the beds I have slept in

Tue 12 Oct 2021

A brand new play by Phosphoros Theatre, a dynamic, emerging company of lived experience refugee performers, exploring the seam of kindness and care that lies within their experience of leaving their homelands to seek asylum. From a flat in North London to the exercise yard of a Greek detention centre, beds anchor us to the various points of the journey. Supposed spaces of safety become transient; shelters are taken away without notice; and the route from one place to the next is fraught with obstacles.

Tickets £12.50/£10.50

My Jerusalem

Wed 13 Oct 2021

A work about ethnicity and gender, racism, and the underlying fear that perpetuates it. Can we surmount divisions imposed by occupation? Go beyond the blame game, really see each other's vulnerable humanity?

Tickets £12.50/£10.50

Where To Belong

Victor Esses is Jewish-Lebanese, Brazilian, and gay. In 1975, Victor's mother fled Lebanon as a refugee of the Civil War. In 2017, Victor visited Lebanon for the first time. In 2018, amidst the elections that will see Brazil choose a far-right president, he travels from London to São Paulo to show his partner the city of his childhood.

Where to Belong is the tender, moving autobiographical story of Victor's journeys – an exploration of how to find your place in a rich and complex world of identities.

Tickets £12.50/£10.50

POLITICAL MOTHER UNPLUGGED

Wed 27 Oct 2021 – Sat 30 Oct 2021

Choreography & Music by Hofesh Shechter

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Performed by Shechter II

Hofesh Shechter is celebrating the 10th anniversary of his iconic masterpiece *Political Mother* with a powerful new version for Shechter II.

Political Mother Unplugged will invoke the ferocity and spirit of the original in a new era and for a new generation of dancers, selected from the most inspiring young artists across the globe.

Political Mother Unplugged will draw you into a world of raw emotion and intense sensations, driven by Shechter's contagious tribal movement, a new landscape of digital, animated projections and the dancers' extraordinary skill and honesty.

Tickets £18.50/concessions available

Civilisation

Wed 3 Nov 2021 – Sat 6 Nov 2021

It's about a hairdryer, an over, a letter opener. It's about the local church, fiscal policy and Marie Kondo's folding technique. *Civilisation* is about the things we've lost, the things we've never had and the things we've built. *Civilisation* is a day in the life of a woman following a tragic event.

An experiment in theatrical realism and contemporary dance.

Jaz Woodcock-Stewart from award winning company Antler collaborates with choreographer Morgann Runacre-Temple. From the creator behind critically acclaimed *Lands*, *Civilisation* is a sideways look at the un-theatrical reality of loss. Music by ABBA and Bach.

Tickets £12.50/concessions available

The Lemon Table

Tue 16 Nov 2021 – Sat 20 Nov 2021

Olivier and Tony Award-winning Ian McDiarmid and Michael Grandage have collaborated to bring *The Lemon Table* to the stage for the first time. In McDiarmid's one man performance we encounter a spectrum of bitter-sweet pleasures, wild eccentricity and dark secrets.

Tickets £16.50/concessions available

The Language of Kindness

Wed 24 Nov 2021 – Sat 27 Nov 2021



The Language of Kindness is a stage adaptation of Christie Watson's best-selling nursing memoir – an ensemble celebration of a workforce who until recently have been the unsung heroes of the health service.

Directed by Sasha Milavic Davies (The Antipodes, NT; everything that rises must dance, Dance Umbrella) and James Yeatman (There is a Light that Never Goes Out, Royal Exchange; The Kid Stays in the Picture, Royal Court), the show opened in May 2021 at Warwick Arts Centre, before playing at Shoreditch Town Hall and the Assembly Hall Theatre Tunbridge Wells.

Tickets £18.50/concessions available. £10 tickets available for NHS workers.

Nobody

Thu 10 Feb 2022 – Sat 12 Feb 2022

Fast-moving and highly physical, Nobody explores the tension between our inner lives and how we make sense of the world around us.

Motionhouse's renowned dance-circus style combines with mesmerising choreography to tell this emotional and ultimately uplifting story, full of twists and turns.

Tickets £16 - £22/concessions available

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

homemcr.org/christmas2021

A Queeriosity Family Christmas

Fri 3 Dec 2021 – Sat 4 Dec 2021

It's that time of year again! The tree is up, the stars are shining brightly and someone's chestnuts are roasting on an open fire. Yes, it's Christmas in the Queeriosity household.

The Merry Matriarchs Donna Trump and Narcissa Nightshade welcome you into their northern home for a very camp Christmas party with their chosen family and some very special friends.

Tickets £20/concessions available

Duckie

Wed 15 Dec 2021 – Thu 23 Dec 2021

Duckie is a reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's The Ugly Duckling with a message of tolerance and self acceptance at its core.



Family-friendly glamour and glitz takes centre stage as critically acclaimed cabaret star Le Gateau Chocolat breaks out of his shell to create his first work for children, a classic tale of identity and belonging, featuring a special guest star in the title role.

Tickets £12.50/concessions available

Leftism

Wed 15 Dec 2021

Leftfield's iconic debut album – Leftism – gets a signature dose of live brass treatment by Manchester's favourite raving street band, with special guests.

Mr Wilson's Second Liners are pulling out all the bells, whistles and beats to interpret this electronic classic. Note for note, their embellished 12-piece line-up will navigate audiences on a progressive house trip back to 1995. Celebrating Leftfield's original vision; Mr Wilsons hope to channel the album's distinct and relevant voice and its great collaborative spirit.

Tickets £17.50/concessions available

Bourgeois & Maurice: That's Snowbiz!

Fri 17 Dec 2021 – Sat 18 Dec 2021

Critically acclaimed musical monsters Bourgeois & Maurice return to HOME to present a Christmas show like no other!

Joined by different special guests each night, handpicked by Bouregois & Maurice from their little black book of showbiz contacts, this is a guaranteed night of freaky, festive joy.

Tickets £20/concessions available

FESTIVALS AT HOME

PUSH 2021

Push is HOME's annual celebration of the North West's creative talents, and this year has been reimagined to become a strand across the whole year, allowing work to be seen both live and digitally, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Ticket prices vary, visit homemcr.org/push2021 for full details

Ripples of Hope Festival

Wed 15 Sep 2021 – Sun 19 Sep 2021



Marcus Rashford and Hillary Clinton are among the names confirmed to appear live or digitally at the first Ripples of Hope Festival, a celebration of the importance of global human rights.

Ticket prices vary, visit homemcr.org/ripplesofhope for full details

Black History Month

October 2021

Throughout the year and throughout all our spaces at HOME, Black artists continue to be celebrated for their artistic brilliance and talent, bringing a diversity of artistic craft to the building. This October we're back with our annual programme of work, highlighting Black artists across our Film, Theatre and Visual Art Programme and we're excited to be celebrating Black History Month with the return of our specially curated programme - a series of special events, performances, talks, screenings and more!

Full details to be announced. Visit homemcr.org/bhm2021 for updates.

Orbit Festival

Thu 25 Nov 2021 – Sat 4 Dec 2021

Orbit is HOME's annual festival of extraordinary, award-winning, international artists.

This year's Orbit Festival will combine live and digital work, with online performances of Figs in Wigs' Astrology Bingo and Rachel Young's Plough – co-commissioned by HOME - joined live from the theatre by Two Destination Language's beautiful, flower-filled storm of emotion Near Gone, Xavier De Sousa's durational performance Regnant and Louise Orwin's radical exploration of horror movies, queerness and what it means to be othered, Cry Cry Kill Kill. Rounding off the festival will be Sleepwalk Collective and Christopher Brett Bailey's Psychodrama, a nightmare vision of freedom through spiralling episodes of intense sensuality and phantasmagoric violence.

Ticket prices vary, visit homemcr.org/orbit2021 for full details.

[Ends]

Notes to editors

For further information, please contact Kat Harrison-Dibbits, Head of Communications at HOME, on 07833523295 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 three 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
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