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HOME CELEBRATES ITS 1st BIRTHDAY

Looking back on a memorable first year of new experiences,
new voices and new stories

- Celebratory weekend to take place Fri 20 - Sun 22 May with a host of activity across art, theatre and film, presenting installation, performance, theatre productions, film previews, live musical performances, workshops and family-friendly events
- Over **1 million visits** since the venue opened in May 2015
- More than **211,000 tickets** sold
- HOME has generated an estimated £30 million GVA for the Greater Manchester economy and supported the equivalent of 125 full-time jobs in the region

HOME

"Culture runs through all of us. We all require creativity and aestheticism in our lives, to learn, to grow, and to challenge. It's been an enormous pleasure to see HOME grow into the magnificent space it has become today, over the course of just one year. Its programme is incredibly ambitious and diverse, and it is fantastic to see that so many people have already been to enjoy events across theatre, art and film. Here's to year two - it will be exciting to see what HOME will achieve in this next year."

Danny Boyle, HOME Patron

"It's quite extraordinary to see in the space of a single year how quickly HOME has become the heart and soul of culture and talent in the North West. There's a buzz and an energy in the building. When at HOME it seems everyone feels secure enough and safe enough to take real risks. It's an energising and exciting place to be wherever you find yourself in the building. It's a great place to be alone or with friends, in any of the cafes or at a show, you always feel as if you have the magic key that opens the door to HOME."

Jackie Kay MBE, HOME Patron

HOME, Manchester's international centre for contemporary visual art, theatre and film, will mark its first birthday with a celebratory weekend from Fri 20 to Sun 22 May 2016.

Since opening its doors in May last year with an exceptionally **successful HOMEwarming weekend attracting 28,000 visitors**, the organisation has now welcomed over **1 million visits**, presenting exciting new theatre productions, exhibitions, film seasons, commissions and artistic collaborations with outstanding companies, artists, writers, directors and producers from the North West, the UK and across the world.

HOME's opening season of state-of-the-art exhibitions attracted over **57,000 visitors** (critically acclaimed group shows ***The heart is deceitful above all things*** and ***Safe***, **Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige's *I must first apologise...***, and **AL and AL's *Incidents of Travel in the Multiverse***). HOME's exciting and international theatre programme has produced its own work (***The Funfair***, ***The Oresteia***, ***Inkheart***) and, in collaboration with the world's most renowned theatre companies (**Young Vic**, **1927**, **Hofesh Shechter**, **Nanterre-Amandiers**, **Citizens Theatre**, **Glasgow**, and **Complicite**), brought the best of UK and global theatre to Manchester.

The film programme has been widely praised for its breadth and diversity, with specially curated film seasons (**James Benning**, **Jim Allen**) and one-off events with some of the industry's most exciting and inspiring talent including **GoGo Penguin**, **Josephina Onimaya**, and the **Dutch Uncles' Robin Richards**. Showcasing the best in contemporary and classic cinema, over **530 different**



films have been screened at HOME since its opening last year from more than **40 different countries**. In total, HOME has sold **211,000 tickets** in its first year for theatre productions, film screenings and events.

The organisation's positive social impact stretches beyond programme activity. To date, HOME has recruited over **280 volunteers**, from a wide range of backgrounds, providing them with opportunities to develop, gain new skills, share expertise and give something back to the community. More than **32,000 visitors**, including **3,800 young people**, have taken part in **745 talks, workshops, tours and engagement events**.

The **Oglesby Inspire Scheme** has enabled HOME to provide low cost tickets to specific community groups and those who might not normally have the opportunity to visit the venue or take part in cultural events. With the help of the Inspire Scheme, it has been possible to offer access to cinema and theatre tickets for as little as £1, supported by Transport For Greater Manchester and First Bus, for over 600 people.

HOME's strong emphasis on talent development is reflected widely throughout its programme. Over **230 local creatives** have showcased their work, and **more than 1,800 hours' worth of free rehearsal space** has been provided to theatre companies across the country.

HOME Young Creatives, aimed at young people aged 15 - 25, is dedicated to support, develop and platform local creative and creative industry practitioners. Led by industry professionals, the initiative features regular workshops, talks, showcase events and networking opportunities to help develop skills and encourage innovative thinking in Manchester and beyond. During the past year, HOME has also issued **over 19,000 £5 student tickets**, and **160 schools** have engaged with the venue to take advantage of its diverse programme.

HOME has won two prestigious architectural awards, the **2016 RIBA North West Awards**, shortlisting HOME as one of 17 new and exciting projects, and the **2016 RICS Awards**, Tourism and Leisure category, showcasing achievements of the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment.

Dave Moutrey, HOME's Director and Chief Executive, commented: "It is with huge pride that we look back at our first year as HOME. Communities in Manchester and from further afield have enjoyed various aspects of our



programme, and come to love this creative space where what's new is what matters, and what matters is that you're always made to think, question and feel...at home. We've had the pleasure of working with a huge number of extremely talented people from all over the world, and have been blown away by the level of support helping us to present audiences with an extraordinary, ambitious and yet accessible programme. We're excited to see what the next year holds in store for us."

Jonty Claypole, Chair of the Board, HOME said: "It's amazing to think HOME is only a year old. This is an organisation finding its voice fast, with a range of productions and events that even the most established venue would be proud of. As we approach year two, we want HOME to be increasingly associated by artists and audiences alike as a place of discovery and innovation - the home for new experiences, new voices and new forms of storytelling."

Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, said: "HOME has fast proved itself to be fantastic addition to Manchester's renowned cultural scene and is one we're very proud of. It functions superbly as a venue and the record number of visits both from the city and beyond during its first year of opening is testament to the creative programming and energy of the whole team there."

Alison Clark, Director North, Arts Council England said: "At only a year old, HOME has already made a huge impact on the cultural life of Manchester and the North West, making the city an even more compelling place for audiences and artists. The wonderfully buzzy atmosphere that's always in the building backs this up on a daily basis. It's quickly built a national and international reputation for quality and innovation, and we look forward to seeing this build in future years."

HOME's celebratory weekend will mark its first anniversary with activity across art, theatre and film, presenting installation, performance, theatre productions, film previews, live musical performances, workshops and family-friendly events.

Highlights include:

- Major new art exhibition ***Imitation of Life***, a group show exploring racial politics in an evolving world, with oral histories and verbatim storytelling drawn from theatre and cinema, painting and sculpture which all confront the fluid, changing politics of representation and race. With new work from critically acclaimed artist Sophia Al-Maria



- The book launch of ***Fear Eats The Soul***, accompanying ***Imitation of Life***, a collection of new poetry fiction and essays by contributors including **Sophia Al-Maria, Zach Blas, Zachary Cahill, Pamela Dlungwana, Jackie Kay MBE, Omar Kholeif, Monica B Pearl, Sarah Perks, Jacolby Satterwhite** and **Martine Syms**
- Live performance by celebrated artists **Larry Achiampong** and **David Blandy** with a spoken-word lecture, remixing sound and lyrics to research the post-colonial and its relationship to today's globalised media and technologies
- *What Would Billie Do?*, new work for HOME Projects by musician and artist **Najia Bagi**, who uses raw, brutally honest love songs as inspiration extending beyond gallery walls in the first of a series of project-led commissions. Exploring questions related to love and relationships, Bagi will stage a series of performances, installations and interventions
- A double bill of theatre with *Gutted* by **The Conker Group**, created by **Liz Richardson** and **Tara Robinson**, bringing to life a shameless tale of love, laughter and lavatories based on Richardson's real life experience of living with Ulcerative Colitis; and *Late Night Love*, presented by Manchester-based **Eggs Collective**, inspired by the confessional radio show of the same name and an unflinching attempt to unpick the truth from the fiction of chocolate boxes and untangle expectations of adulthood from the promise of power ballads (created in collaboration with Olivier award-winning director **Mark Whitelaw**)
- A Saturday **Rooftop Festival** featuring music, entertainment and great food, plus a specially curated programme of live music performance, DJ appearances and party atmosphere by renowned events promoter **Greg Thorpe**, the mind behind the incredibly successful line-up for the HOMEwarming weekend
- Artist **Nicola Dale** invites you to help her to create a **sculpture for HOME** that will cascade down the feature staircase at the heart of the building. Join her on Saturday 21 May for a free sculpture workshop to learn about the techniques she'll use.
- **Queer as York: Redux**, celebrating **Richard DeDomenici**'s popular Redux Project, attempting to make shot-for-shot remakes of scenes from famous film and TV on a shoestring budget with amateur local crews, in the same locations where the originals were filmed. DeDomenici has now applied his unique set of skills to the ground-breaking Mancunian classic *Queer As Folk*, in collaboration with performance trio **Eggs Collective**



- The preview of **Studio Ghibli's *When Marnie Was There*** (2015), the final release from the legendary Japanese animation house before its hiatus, by the director of critically acclaimed *Arrietty*, **Hiromasa Yonebayashi**. A suitably nostalgic and overwhelmingly moving story, as well as another superb artistic achievement, with all the gentle, highly imaginative, narrative complexity and visual grace that's made the studio's reputation.
- A series of fantastic family events with a screening of **Steven Spielberg's *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*** (1982), theatre production ***At the End of Everything Else***, full of puppetry, animation and music, a **puppet workshop** by Joseph Richardson (puppeteer of the Goose on the War Horse UK Tour), and ***The Butterfly's Adventure***, a thrilling adventure behind the scenes at HOME, presented by Scally Wags Theatre Company.

For full details on HOME's 1st birthday weekend programme visit homemcr.org.

Figures quoted are based on research up to and including 31 March 2016.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

HOME, Manchester's centre for international contemporary art, theatre, film and books, opened its doors over the 2015 May Bank Holiday weekend. Designed by Dutch architects Mecanoo and featuring a 500-seat theatre, a 150-seat flexible theatre, a 500m², 4m high gallery space, five cinema screens, digital production and broadcast facilities, a café bar and restaurant, HOME's theatres are a platform for questioning and ambitious artistic projects that involve audiences with new and extraordinary theatrical experiences. The international contemporary visual art programme is dedicated to presenting new commissions by emerging and established artists of regional, national and international significance, with a bold, proactive policy of visual, innovative storytelling with the ability to experiment and explore, probe and provoke, creating a distinct experience for both artists and audiences. HOME's five cinemas showcase the very best in contemporary and classic cinema, screening works by artists and filmmakers both established and new. HOME is a centre for co-production, talent development and artistic creation, dedicated to learning, for people of all ages. A place for new work and playful ideas; of festivals and commissions; of artists and of audience engagement. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, National Theatre Artistic Director Nicholas Hytner, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE.
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