



house tours five contemporary productions across the South East in spring 2016

house, the touring and audience engagement initiative delivered by Farnham Maltings and supported by Arts Council England to improve the range, quality and scale of contemporary theatre presented across South East England, has now announced the schedules of the five productions it will be touring across the region in spring 2016.

The five shows that **house** will be taking to venues across the South East are:

- *The Boy Who Bit Picasso* by Untied Artists
- *Hiraeth* by Buddug James Jones Collective
- *Standby for Tape Back-Up* by Ross Sutherland
- *Backstage in Biscuit Land* by Touretteshero
- *Swing* by Fishamble: The New Play Company

This selection of critically acclaimed and award-winning shows has been curated by the **house** team and chosen by **house**'s steering group, comprising Brighton Dome, Colchester Arts Centre, Farnham Maltings, Harlow Playhouse, Newbury Corn Exchange, New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich, Oxford Playhouse, South Street Reading, and The Point Eastleigh.

Mark Makin, Touring associate for house, noted: "Touring to arts centres, village halls and regional NPOs, house continues to build demand from regional audiences for excellent contemporary theatre in the programmes of the network venues. Each of these shows delivers its message from the heart and our hope is that they will delight audiences across the network."

The tours and key dates are as follows (in chronological order):

- Birmingham based company Untied Artists bring **The Boy Who Bit Picasso** to 12 house venues.

Opening date: Thursday 28 January, Redbridge Drama Centre, London.

Closing date: Sunday 28 February, Arts Depot, London

Venues include: Quay Arts, Isle of Wight; Mercury Theatre, Colchester; The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon

- Winner of the Best Production in the English Language at the Wales Theatre Awards 2015, **Hiraeth** will visit 11 venues.

Opening date: Tuesday 23 February, Theatre Royal, Margate

Closing date: Sunday 6 March, Thursley Village Hall

Venues include: Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre; Groundlings Theatre, Portsmouth; Cranleigh Arts Centre

- The 2014 Edinburgh Festival Fringe hit **Standby for Tape Back-Up** from poet and theatre-maker Ross Sutherland also visits 11 venues.

Opening date: Tuesday 23 February, Arts at the Old Firestation, Oxford

Closing date: Saturday 12 March, Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham

Venues include: The Secombe, Sutton; Norwich Arts Centre; Shelley Theatre, Bournemouth.

- **Backstage in Biscuit Land** from Touretteshero is this season's largest tour, visiting 20 venues in the network.

Opening date: Tuesday 15 March, Farnham Maltings

Closing date: Tuesday 19 April, Harlow Playhouse

Venues include: Cambridge Junction; The Marlowe Studio, Canterbury; South Street Arts Centre, Reading



- Multi-award winning Fishamble: The New Play Company bring **Swing** from Ireland to 14 venues.

Opening date: Tuesday 5 April, Theatre Royal, Margate

Closing date: Saturday 23 April, Bridport Arts Centre

Venues include: The Point, Eastleigh; The Hat Factory, Luton; Fisher Theatre, Bungay

Full press release:

The Boy Who Bit Picasso is inspired by a true story, recounted in Antony Penrose's book of the same title. Brought to life by award-winning Birmingham based company Untied Artists, it is the story of a boy called Tony and the friendship he develops with world famous artist Pablo Picasso. Developed with Oxford Playhouse, this show is an interactive and hands-on exploration of art for children with audiences invited to take part in a variety of art and craft activities.

Press quotes:

'What makes the show are the regular pauses in which to let the kids get on with mask-making, collages, and drawing – all of which pertain brilliantly to the story.' The Guardian

'The childlike joy of Picasso's painting is brilliantly conveyed.' Stewart Lee

Having recently toured New Zealand, the award-winning **Hiraeth** explores the decline of Welsh tradition and identity through one woman's struggle to let go of her family farm. With live music, and a post-show Twmpath (Welsh ceilidh) happening at almost every venue, this warm-hearted show was a hit at the 2014 Edinburgh Festival Fringe before having a run at Soho Theatre in London and then touring Welsh theatres and village halls.

Press quotes:

'It's a show of real charm on a universal theme.' The Guardian

Poet, theatre-maker and Time Out award-winner Ross Sutherland's **Standby for Tape Back-Up** is the true story of one man's journey into synchronicity and madness. Following sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, at London's Soho Theatre, in New York and on tour across the UK in 2015, Sutherland's VHS-inspired elegy heads back out on tour in Spring 2016 for a repeat viewing.

Press quotes:

'Simply note down the booking number because this is a must-see show... Extraordinary' The Observer

'Consuming, compelling, hypnotic... One of the stand-out shows of the Fringe' ★★★★★ The Stage

Jess Thom has Tourette's Syndrome, a neurological condition that makes her say 'biscuit' 16,000 times a day. Frank, funny and fearless, **Backstage in Biscuit Land** is her first ever live show, which premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014 to huge critical acclaim, winning the Total Theatre 'Emergent Company' Award. Combining storytelling, comedy and puppetry – with the promise that no two shows are ever the same – it offers an intimate, life-enhancing glimpse into Jess's unique perspective on life, love and laughs.

Press quotes:

'Makes you look at the world in a different way' The Independent

'Funny, frank, intelligent and enchantingly entertaining' Stephen Fry

An international hit, from New York to Paris, Edinburgh to New Zealand, Irish theatre company Fishamble's **Swing** is a comedy about dancing, music and love. Joe, a divorced father whose career has gone awry and May, a graphic artist stuck with a boring boyfriend, meet at a Dublin dance class where they are able to grab a second chance at life with both hands. With rock and roll music, it'll make you want to dance.

Press quotes:

'Funny, touching and beautifully performed' ★★★★★ The Times

'Charming... you want to join them on the floor' ★★★★★ New York Times

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Notes to Editors:

house:

house supports venues across South East England by improving the range, quality and scale of theatre presented, and exists to build the audience for contemporary theatre throughout the region. **house** is developing the theatre ecology of the South East by hosting training and networking opportunities, brokering conversations between companies and venues, and developing the **house** website as a digital resource for the professional theatre sector. It is funded by Arts Council England and is delivered by Farnham Maltings. housetheatre.org.uk

Farnham Maltings also delivers greenhouse, caravan and tour-finder.org

Further Information:

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Full tour schedules

The Boy Who Bit Picasso by Untied Artists

Month	Date	Town	Venue	Time	Box Office no.
January	Thu 28	London	Redbridge Drama Centre	1.30pm & 5pm	0208 708 8803
	Fri 29 & Sat 30	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre	Fri: 10.30am & 1pm Sat: 11.30am & 2.30pm	02392 472 700
	Sun 31	Winchester	Discovery Centre	11.30am & 1.30pm	01962 873603
February	Mon 01 & Tue 02	Isle of Wight	Quay Arts	2.30pm	01962 873603
	Thu 04	Norwich	The Garage	11am & 1pm	01603 283382
	Sat 06	London	Mycenae House	3pm	01962 873603
	Sat 13	Reading	St Bart's Theatre	2.30pm	0118 979 0098
	Thu 18 & Fri 19	Colchester	Mercury Theatre (studio)	3pm	01962 873603
	Sat 20	Diss	Corn Hall	11.30am & 2pm	01379 652241
	Wed 24	Carshalton	The Cryer	4pm	0203 771 9055
	Sat 27	Bordon	The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre	2pm	01420 472 664
	Sun 28	London	artsdepot	11am & 2pm	020 8369 5454

Hiraeth by Buddug James Jones Collective

Month	Date	Town	Venue	Time	Box Office no.
February	Tue 23	Margate	Theatre Royal Margate	7.30pm	01843 292795
	Wed 24	New Milton	Forest Arts Centre	7.30pm	01425 612 393
	Thu 25	Bridport	Bridport Lyric	7.30pm	01308 424204
	Fri 26	Cranleigh	Cranleigh Arts Centre	7.30pm	01483 278000
	Sat 27	Lyme Regis	Marine Theatre	2pm	01297 442 138
	Sun 28	Lingfield	Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre	7.30pm	01324 833893
March	Tue 01	Hemel Hempstead	The Old Town Hall	7.30pm	01442 228091
	Thu 03	Portsmouth	Groundlings Theatre	7.30pm	023 9273 7370
	Fri 04	Didcot	Cornerstone	7.30pm	01235 515 144
	Sat 05	Swallowfield	Swallowfield Parish Hall	7.30pm	01189 885989
	Sun 06	Thursley	Thursley Village Hall	6pm	01252 703913

Standby for Tape Back-Up by Ross Sutherland

Month	Date	Town	Venue	Time	Box Office no.
February	Tue 23	Oxford	Arts at The Old Fire Station	7.30pm	01865 305305
	Thu 25	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre	8pm	02392 472 700
	Fri 26	Farnham	Farnham Maltings	7.30pm	01252 745 444
March	Wed 02	Colchester	Colchester Arts Centre	8pm	01206 500 900
	Thu 03	Sutton	Back Door @ The Secombe	8pm	0203 771 9055
	Fri 04	Hemel Hempstead	The Old Town Hall	8pm	01442 228091
	Sat 05	Reading	St Bart's Theatre	8pm	0118 979 0098
	Wed 09	Norwich	Norwich Arts Centre	8pm	01603 660352
	Thu 10	Worthing	Connaught Studio	8pm	01903 206 206
	Fri 11	Bournemouth	Shelley Theatre	8pm	01202 413 600
	Sat 12	Fareham	Ashcroft Arts Centre	7.30pm	01329 223 100

Backstage in Biscuit Land by Touretteshero

Month	Date	Town	Venue	Time	Box Office no.
March	Tue 15	Farnham	Farnham Maltings	7.30pm	01252 745 444
	Wed 16 & Thu 17	Canterbury	The Marlowe Studio	8pm	01227 787787
	Tue 22	Bedford	Quarry Theatre at St. Luke's	7.30pm	01234 362335
	Wed 23	Banbury	The Mill Arts Centre	7.30pm	01295 279002
	Thu 24	Chipping Norton	The Theatre	7.45pm	01608 642350
	Sat 26	Ipswich	New Wolsey Theatre	7.45pm	01473 295900
	Wed 30	Hertford	Hertford Theatre	7.45pm	01992 531500
	Thu 31	Grays	Thameside Theatre	7.30pm	0845 300 5264
April	Fri 01	Colchester	Colchester Arts Centre	8pm	01206 500 900
	Sat 02	Norwich	Norwich Playhouse	7.30pm	01603 598598
	Tue 05	Oxford	Arts at the Old Fire Station	7.30pm	01865 305305
	Wed 06	Fareham	Ashcroft Arts Centre	8pm	01329 223 100
	Thu 07	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre	8pm	02392 472 700
	Fri 08	Didcot	Cornerstone		01235 515 144

	Sat 09	Reading	South Street Arts Centre	8pm	0118 960 6060
	Tue 12	Cambridge	Cambridge Junction	7.30pm	01223 511 511
	Wed 13	Dorchester	Corn Exchange	7.30pm	01305 266926
	Thu 14	Eastleigh	The Point	7.30pm	023 8065 2333
	Fri 15 & Sat 16	London	artsdepot	7.30pm	020 8369 5454
	Tue 19	Harlow	Harlow Playhouse	8pm	01279 431945

Swing by Fishamble: The New Play Company

Month	Date	Town	Venue	Time	Box Office no.
April	Tue 05	Margate	Theatre Royal Margate	7.30pm	01843 292795
	Wed 06	Stowe	Roxburgh Theatre	8pm	01280 818012
	Thu 07	Bungay	Fisher Theatre	7.30pm	01986 897130
	Fri 08	Farnham	Farnham Maltings	7.30pm	01252 745 444
	Sat 09	Bordon	The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre	7.30pm	01420 472 664
	Tue 12	Leighton Buzzard	Leighton Buzzard Theatre	8pm	0300 300 8125
	Wed 13	Reading	South Street Arts Centre	8pm	0118 960 6060
	Thu 14	Luton	The Hat Factory	7.30pm	01582 878 100
	Fri 15	Bedford	The Place	7.30pm	01234 354321
	Mon 18	Chipping Norton	The Theatre	7.45pm	01608 642350
	Wed 20	Portsmouth	Wedgewood Rooms	7.30pm	023 9282 8282
	Thu 21	Eastleigh	The Point	7.30pm	023 8065 2333
	Fri 22	Lyme Regis	Marine Theatre	2pm	01297 442 138
	Sat 23	Bridport	Bridport Arts Centre	7.30pm	01308 427183