



## Six contemporary theatre productions to tour the house network in autumn 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 six productions it will be touring across the region in autumn 2016.

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

- *Nine Lives* by Zodwa Nyoni
- *Operation Crucible* by Kieran Knowles
- *Albee Vector the Sound Collector* from Greenlight Theatre
- *Harrogate* by Al Smith
- *Jess and Joe Forever* by Zoe Cooper
- *Key Change* from Open Clasp Theatre

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.

Heather Rose, house programmer, stated: "This is a season of high quality work, with a strong focus on new writing and national partnerships. Covering a whole range of issues from domestic violence and women's prisons to migration, homophobia and gender identity, we are delighted to be partnering with the Royal Court Theatre, HighTide and the Orange Tree Theatre to bring the best new work to our network."

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

- **Nine Lives**, written by Zodwa Nyoni (West Yorkshire Playhouse / Channel 4 Writer in Residence 2014).

Opening date: Tuesday 27 September, Stratford Circus, London

Closing date: Friday 2 December, Bridport Arts Centre

14 Venues, including: Key Theatre, Peterborough; Norden Farm Centre for the Arts; Maidenhead, The Hat Factory, Luton

- Our Young Imaginations show for autumn is **Albee Vector the Sound Collector** from Greenlight Theatre.

Opening date: Saturday 1 October, Bridport Arts Centre

Closing date: Sunday 30 October, Folkestone Quarterhouse

16 Venues, including: West End Centre, Aldershot; Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead; Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

- The multi-award nominated **Operation Crucible** will tour following a three week run at Sheffield Theatres.

Opening date: Wednesday 5 October, Oxford Playhouse

Closing date: Thursday 27 October, Theatre Royal, Margate

15 Venues, including: Norwich Playhouse; The Library Theatre, Leighton Buzzard; The Bay Theatre, Weymouth.

- The Farnham Maltings and Orange Tree Theatre co-production **Jess and Joe Forever** by Zoe Cooper.

Opening date: Thursday 13 October, Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, Havant

Closing date: Friday 4 November, The Petersfield Studio

10 Venues, including: The Marlowe Studio, Canterbury; The Garage, Norwich; Harlow Playhouse



- The Royal Court, house and HighTide present the HighTide production of Al Smith's **Harrogate**.

Opening date: Tuesday 1 November, Farnham Maltings

Closing date: Wed 16 November, Cambridge Junction

9 Venues including: artsdepot, London; The North Wall, Oxford; Didcot Cornerstone

- The New York Times Critic's Pick and 2015 Carol Tambor 'Best of Edinburgh' Award-winning **Key Change** from Open Clasp.

Opening date: Monday 31 October, Weymouth College Theatre

Closing date: Saturday 19 November, artsdepot, London

11 Venues including: Colchester Lakeside; The Quarry Theatre at St Luke's Bedford; Gulbenkian, Canterbury

## Full press release:

Zodwa Nyoni's **Nine Lives** threads together humour and humanity to tell the real personal story behind asylum headlines.

Fleeing from his home in Zimbabwe where a fresh wave of homophobia threatens his life, Ishmael has sought sanctuary in the UK. Dispersed to Leeds, he waits to hear his fate; he waits for a new life to begin amongst strangers. Strangers who don't trust him and don't want him there. But not everyone is bad... can he find a place to call home again?

Press quotes:

*'A playwright well worth watching.'* The Guardian

*'The state of the nation as seen through fresh eyes.'* WhatsOnStage

**Albee Vector the Sound Collector** from Greenlight Theatre is an epic tale of love, adventure and a sound-hoover called Mustard.

An interactive piece for children, Albee is on a quest to find the most beautiful sound in the world. Audiences are encouraged to make popping, fizzing, hissing and whooshing sounds, plus probably a fart a noise or two!

Press Quotes:

*'A real gem.'* ★★★★★ The Scotsman

Set against the backdrop of the Sheffield Blitz, **Operation Crucible**, from first-time playwright Kieran Knowles, is the tale of four ordinary men in extraordinary times.

On the 12 December 1940, more than six hundred people lost their lives at the hands of Germany's Luftwaffe. On the night of the raid, a single bomb flattened the Marples Hotel in Sheffield. Trapped within the cellar, underneath the rubble, were four men. This is their story, from beginning to end.

Press Quotes:

*'Outstanding performances.'* ★★★★★ The Guardian



*'Electrifying, personal and raw.'* The Stage

Spanning several summer holidays, **Jess and Joe Forever** is an unusual coming of age tale that explores rural life and what it means to belong somewhere, if you can really belong anywhere. It is a layered and thoughtful play about finding your place in the world when you only know a small corner of it.

Written by Zoe Cooper (*Nativities*; *Live, Man on the Moon*; *New Writing North/Sage*) and Directed by Derek Bond (*Little Shop of Horrors*; *Royal Exchange Theatre* and *Many Moons*; *Theatre503*).

Press Quotes:

*'A debut full of sparky intelligence that promises good things to come.'* The Guardian on *Nativities*

Al Smith's seminal play **Harrogate** will tour the house network fresh from a run at the Royal Court and a sell-out run at the HighTide Festival in 2015.

Time passes. Roles change. People become different versions of themselves. From lover, to father, to husband, one man craves the past but knows his desire for it will destroy his family.

Press Quotes:

*'Smith's writing is punchy, sometimes bruising, and the performances are compelling.'*

★★★★ Financial Times

*'Compelling.'* ★★★★★ The Guardian

What do women in prison say to a captured audience of men? Devised with women in Her Majesty's Prison Low Newton to tour to male prisons, **Key Change** carries the stories of some of the UK's most marginalised women over the razor wire through an intense, raw and illuminating portrayal of women in prison.

Press Quotes:

*'A touching, empowering work that hits the hat-trick of great script, direction and performance.'*

★★★★★ The Stage

*'Exquisite... singing with an everyday poetry as if the devising process had unlocked a waterfall of creativity.'*

★★★★★ The Guardian

*'A tale told with kinetic honesty and tightly controlled tenderness.'* ★★★★★ The Scotsman

**ENDS**

**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](http://housetheatre.org.uk)

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

**Further Information:**

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**Full tour schedules*****Nine Lives by Zodwa Nyoni***

| Month            | Date   | Town         | Venue                               |
|------------------|--------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>September</b> | Tue 27 | LONDON       | Stratford Circus Arts Centre        |
|                  | Wed 28 | BEDFORD      | The Place                           |
|                  | Thu 29 | OXFORD       | Arts at the Old Fire Station        |
|                  | Fri 30 | PETERBOROUGH | Key Theatre                         |
| <b>October</b>   | Sun 2  | BRIGHTON     | Marlborough Theatre                 |
| <b>November</b>  | Mon 21 | SHERINGHAM   | Sheringham Little Theatre           |
|                  | Tue 22 | DISS         | Diss Corn Hall                      |
|                  | Thu 24 | MAIDENHEAD   | Norden Farm Centre for the Arts     |
|                  | Fri 25 | LUTON        | The Hat Factory (Studio)            |
|                  | Wed 30 | BORDON       | The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre |

***Operation Crucible by Kieran Knowles***

| Month          | Date          | Town             | Venue                           |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>October</b> | Wed 5 - Sat 8 | OXFORD           | Burton Taylor Studio            |
|                | Tue 11        | FARNHAM          | Farnham Maltings                |
|                | Wed 12        | WEYMOUTH         | The Bay Theatre                 |
|                | Thu 13        | BORDON           | Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre |
|                | Fri 14        | LEIGHTON BUZZARD | The Library Theatre             |
|                | Sat 15        | HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  | Old Town Hall Arts Centre       |
|                | Tue 18        | BEDFORD          | Quarry Theatre                  |
|                | Wed 19        | DIDCOT           | Cornerstone                     |
|                | Thu 20        | LONDON           | artsdepot                       |
|                | Fri 21        | LUTON            | The Hat Factory                 |
|                | Sat 22        | NORWICH          | Playhouse                       |
|                | Tue 25        | GRAVESEND        | The Woodville                   |
|                | Wed 26        | HOUNSLOW         | Hounslow Arts Centre            |
|                | Thu 27        | MARGATE          | Theatre Royal                   |

***Albee Vector the Sound Collector by Greenlight Theatre***

| Month          | Date   | Town            | Venue                               |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>October</b> | Sat 01 | BRIDPORT        | Bridport Arts Centre                |
|                | Sun 02 | DIDCOT          | Cornerstone                         |
|                | Sat 08 | HAVANT          | The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre |
|                | Sun 09 | RAYLEIGH        | Windmill                            |
|                | Sat 15 | HEMEL HEMPSTEAD | Old Town Hall                       |
|                | Sun 16 | DISS            | Diss Corn Hall                      |

|  |        |                 |                                      |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | Thu 20 | BORDON          | Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre      |
|  | Sat 22 | WORTHING        | Worthing Theatres (Connaught Studio) |
|  | Sun 23 | MARGATE         | Theatre Royal                        |
|  | Mon 24 | GRAVESEND       | The Woodville                        |
|  | Tue 25 | FARNHAM         | Farnham Maltings                     |
|  | Wed 26 | ALDERSHOT       | West End Centre                      |
|  | Thu 27 | BURY ST EDMUNDS | Theatre Royal                        |
|  | Fri 28 | SHERINGHAM      | Sheringham Little Theatre            |
|  | Sat 29 | BEDFORD         | Quarry Theatre                       |
|  | Sun 30 | FOLKESTONE      | Quarterhouse                         |

**Harrogate by Al Smith, a Royal Court, house and HighTide co-production**

| Month           | Date   | Town            | Venue              |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>November</b> | Tue 01 | FARNHAM         | Farnham Maltings   |
|                 | Wed 02 | LONDON          | artsdepot          |
|                 | Thu 03 | HARLOW          | Harlow Playhouse   |
|                 | Fri 04 | OXFORD          | The North Wall     |
|                 | Sun 06 | CANTERBURY      | Marlowe Studio     |
|                 | Thu 10 | NORWICH         | The Garage         |
|                 | Fri 11 | DIDCOT          | Cornerstone        |
|                 | Mon 14 | BURY ST EDMUNDS | Theatre Royal      |
|                 | Wed 16 | CAMBRIDGE       | Cambridge Junction |

**Jess and Joe Forever by Zoe Cooper, a Farnham Maltings and Orange Tree Theatre co-production**

| Month           | Date            | Town        | Venue                           |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>October</b>  | Thu 13          | HAVANT      | Spring Arts and Heritage Centre |
|                 | Fri 14 - Sat 15 | CANTERBURY  | Marlowe (studio)                |
|                 | Tue 18          | NORWICH     | The Garage                      |
|                 | Wed 19          | SHERINGHAM  | Sheringham Little Theatre       |
|                 | Fri 21          | HARLOW      | Harlow Playhouse (studio)       |
|                 | Sat 22          | DIDCOT      | Cornerstone                     |
| <b>November</b> | Thu 03          | FARNHAM     | Farnham Maltings                |
|                 | Fri 04          | PETERSFIELD | The Studio @TPS                 |

**Key Change by Open Clasp Theatre**

| Month           | Date   | Town            | Venue                            |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>October</b>  | Mon 31 | WEYMOUTH        | Weymouth College Theatre         |
| <b>November</b> | Thu 03 | OXFORD          | Arts at the Old Firestation      |
|                 | Fri 04 | BEDFORD         | The Quarry Theatre               |
|                 | Tue 08 | CAMBRIDGE       | Mumford Theatre                  |
|                 | Thu 10 | MARGATE         | Theatre Royal                    |
|                 | Tue 15 | CANTERBURY      | Gulbenkian                       |
|                 | Wed 16 | MAIDENHEAD      | Norden Farm Arts Centre (studio) |
|                 | Thu 17 | FARNHAM         | Farnham Maltings                 |
|                 | Fri 18 | HEMEL HEMPSTEAD | Old Town Hall Arts Centre        |
|                 | Sat 19 | LONDON          | artsdepot                        |