

Six contemporary productions touring to 40 venues across the South East

house, the touring and audience engagement initiative delivered by Farnham Maltings and supported by Arts Council England to improve the range, quality and audience 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 2017.

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

- *Storyteller Storyteller* by Story Pocket Theatre
- *Joan* from Milk Presents
- *Bookstory* from Monstro Theatre
- *Hummingbird* from Tooth+Nail
- *Leaf by Niggle* by Puppet State Theatre
- *An Evening With An Immigrant* by Inua Ellams and Fuel

This selection of dynamic and exciting shows has been curated by the **house** team and chosen by **house**'s steering group, comprising of Brighton Dome, Colchester Arts Centre, Farnham Maltings, New Theatre Royal Portsmouth, Newbury Corn Exchange, New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich, Oxford Playhouse, South Street Reading, and Nuffield Southampton Theatres.

Katie Williams, house general manager, said: "At the heart of the Autumn season is storytelling; whether it's about books or from books; ancient history or recent history. The warm and welcoming nature of every show will allow audiences to explore different stories and forms, including spoken word, physical theatre and enchanting theatre for young and old. Our work aims to broaden the offer of high quality contemporary touring theatre, and this season is no exception. We hope audiences will find something engaging and curious about this autumn's flavour."

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

- Winners of the Primary Times Children's Choice Award, 2014 and the Three Weeks Editors' Choice Award at Edinburgh Fringe 2015, Story Pocket Theatre brings **Storyteller Storyteller**.

Opening date: Saturday 30 September, Corn Hall, Diss

Closing date: Saturday 28 October, The Lyric Theatre, Bridport

12 Venues, including: Bedales Olivier Theatre, Hertford Theatre, The Ashcroft Arts Centre, The Library Theatre, The Lights, The Stage Door, The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre

- Bringing together drag, cabaret and award-winning writing, **Joan** was created by Milk Presents in association with Derby Theatre.

Opening date: Tuesday 10 October, South Street Arts Centre, Reading

Closing date: Saturday 04 November, Cornerstone, Didcot

18 Venues, including: Shelley Theatre, Sheringham Little Theatre, The Garage, Wells Malting, The Point, The Seagull, The Hat Factory

- **Bookstory** is a magical adventure of discovery using puppetry and song created by Monstro Theatre.

Opening date: Wednesday 27 September, Little Angel Theatre, London



Closing date: Saturday 04 November, Astor Community Theatre, Deal

10 house Venues, including: The Capitol, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, Artsdepot, Bridport Arts Centre, The Gulbenkian, The Old Town Hall

- Lecoq-trained Tooth+Nail blend acrobatics and action in **Hummingbird**, a touching tale of love and murder.

Opening date: Wednesday 01 November, Lakeside Theatre, Colchester

Closing date: Friday 17 November, Bridport Arts Centre, Bridport

11 Venues, including: Forest Arts Centre, The Place Theatre, The Roxborough, West End Centre, Cranleigh Arts Centre, Old Fire Station, The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre

- Based on the short story by J.R.R Tolkien, **Leaf by Niggle** is an enchanting one man show by Puppet State Theatre.

Opening date: Wednesday 08 November, The Woodville, Gravesend

Closing date: Saturday 25 November, Cornerstone, Didcot

13 Venues including: The Marlowe, Mumford Theatre, Norwich Puppet Theatre, The Marine Theatre, The Theatre Royal

- Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams and Fuel present **An Evening With An Immigrant**.

Opening date: Monday 20 November, The Quarterhouse, Folkestone

Closing date: Saturday 02 December, Bridport Arts Centre, Bridport

10 Venues including: Dorchester Arts, The Discovery Centre, The Junction, The Regis Centre, Norden Farm Arts Centre, The Bay Theatre

Full press release:

Clowning, slapstick & magical storytelling create a feast of laughter as rival storytellers go head to head in **Storyteller Storyteller**.

Family fun from the winners of the Primary Times Children's Choice Award, 2014 and the Three Weeks Editors' Choice Award at Edinburgh Fringe 2015.

With almost no words, *Storyteller Storyteller* is a playful and exceptionally funny clowning show of full-energy physicality with the two Storytellers vying with each other and becoming ever more desperate to outdo the other.

Press Quotes:

"Storyteller, Storyteller is quite simply the most brilliant piece of children's theatre... superb comedic timing and expression." Arts Award Voice

Presented by Milk Presents, in association with Derby Theatre, **Joan** is a solo show performed by international award-winning Drag King Champion Lucy Jane Parkinson.



Following an award winning, critically acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe, *Joan* has been performed in over 60 venues. It combines quick wit and cabaret prowess with BBC Legacy Award winner Lucy J Skilbeck's inspired and intricate writing.

Press Quotes:

'Defiantly delightful' ★★★★★ The Stage

Bookstory is a magical adventure of discovery using puppetry and song created by Monstro Theatre.

In an age where magic happens routinely at the press of a button, Bookstory is a highly visual and musical performance to engage and restore our imaginations and celebrate the love of books.

Press Quotes:

"...impossible for anyone, of any age, to resist ...It's a wonderfully inventive work that genuinely has something to say – and has terrific fun saying it. A joy." *The Mouse Queen*, The Times

Lecoq-trained Tooth+Nail Theatre Company present **Hummingbird**, a seductive tale of love and murder.

Following on from the popularity of a number TV and radio programmes documenting real-life murder cases, *Hummingbird* is a considered, creative response to a real case, and follows the steps the characters take on the road to murder.

Multi-award winning physical theatre company Tooth+Nail use acrobatics to explore the character's relationships - using circus to tell story.

Press Quotes:

"A sepia-toned doomed romance... Immaculate!" ★★★★★ The Scotsman

Leaf by Niggle is an adaption of JRR Tolkien's short story of Niggle and the journey he takes to complete one particular painting.

In 1939 Tolkien woke up with Leaf by Niggle complete in his mind and wrote it down. Surrounded by ladders, bicycles and heirlooms, Richard Medrington (Jean from The Man Who Planted Trees) recounts Tolkien's miniature masterpiece.

Press Quotes:

"Enchanting one man show" ★★★★★ The Guardian

"Absence of orcs can't spoil this wizard show." ★★★★★ The Times



Inua Ellams and Fuel present **An Evening with an Immigrant**, a one-man show littered with poems, stories and anecdotes.

In his hilarious autobiographical Edinburgh Fringe First Award-winning play *The 14th Tale*, Inua Ellams documented only part of his tale; now he's back to tell his ridiculous, fantastic, poignant immigrant-story in spoken word.

In 1996, the award-winning poet and playwright left Nigeria for England aged 12; later moving to Ireland for three years before returning to London and starting work as a writer and graphic designer.

"His words are incredible... The poems are just stunning." Everything Theatre

★★★★★ Whatsonstage.com

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Notes to Editors:

house:

house supports venues across South East England to build the audience for contemporary theatre throughout the region, by improving the range, quality and audience of contemporary theatre presented. **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

Further Information:

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Full tour schedules

Storyteller Storyteller by Story Pocket Theatre

Month	Date	Town	Venue
September	Sat 30	Diss	Corn Hall
October	Sun 1	Hertford	Hertford Theatre
	Sat 7	Petersfield	Bedales Olivier Theatre
	Sun 8	Southampton	The Stage Door
	Mon 9	Emsworth	Emsworth library
	Tue 10	Waterlooville	Waterlooville library
	Wed 11	Havant	Riders Infant School
	Thur 12	Hayling Island	Hayling Island library
	Sat 14	Bordon	The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre
	Sun 15	Canterbury	Gulbenkian
	Sat 21	Andover	The Lights
	Wed 25	Leighton Buzzard	The Library Theatre



	Thur 26	Farnham	Farnham Maltings
	Fri 27	Fareham	Ashcroft Arts Centre
	Sat 28	Bridport	The Lyric Theatre

Joan from Milk Presents

Month	Date	Town	Venue
October	Tue 10	Reading	South Street Arts Centre
	Thur 12	Farnham	Farnham Maltings
	Fri 13	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre
	Sat 14	Bridport	Bridport Arts Centre
	Mon 16	Weymouth	The Bay Theatre
	Tue 17	Bournemouth	Shelley Theatre
	Thur 19	Oxford	Old Fire Station
	Fri 20	Luton	The Hat Factory
	Sat 21	Eastleigh	The Point
	Tue 24	Norwich	The Garage
	Wed 25	Sheringham	Sheringham Little Theatre
	Fri 27	Wells-next-the-sea	Wells Maltings
	Sat 28	Lowestoft	The Seagull
	Tue 31	Bordon	The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre
November	Wed 1	Maidenhead	Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
	Thur 2	London	artsdepot
	Fri 3	Hemel Hempsted	Old Town Hall
	Sat 4	Didcot	Cornerstone

Bookstory from Monstro Theatre

Month	Date	Town	Venue
October	Sat 7	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre
	Sun 8	Horsham	The Capitol
	Sat 14	Hemel Hempstead	Old Town Hall
	Sun 22	Canterbury	Gulbenkian
	Mon 23	Gravesend	The Woodville
	Tue 24	Bridport	Bridport Arts Centre
	Thur 26	Bury St Edmunds	Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds
	Fri 27	Maidenhead	Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
	Sun 29	London	artsdepot
November	Sat 4th	Deal	Astor Community Theatre

Hummingbird by Tooth+Nail

Month	Date	Town	Venue
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November	Wed 1	Colchester	Lakeside Theatre
	Thur 2	Oxford	Old Fire Station
	Fri 3	Cranleigh	Cranleigh Arts Centre
	Tue 7	Stowe	The Roxburgh Theatre, Stowe School
	Wed 8	Weymouth	The Bay Theatre
	Thur 9	Havant	The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre
	Sat 11	Bedford	The Place
	Mon 13	Canterbury	Gulbenkian
	Wed 15	Aldershot	West End Centre
	Thur 16	New Milton	Forest Arts Centre
	Fri 17	Bridport	Bridport Arts Centre

Leaf by Niggle by Puppet State Theatre

Month	Date	Town	Venue
November	Wed 8	Gravesend	The Woodville
	Fri 10	Lyme Regis	The Marine Theatre
	Sat 11	Bridport	The Lyric Theatre
	Sun 12	Farnham	Farnham Maltings
	Wed 15	Norwich	Norwich Puppet Theatre
	Thu 16	Luton	The Hat Factory
	Fri 17	Cranleigh	Cranleigh Arts Centre
	Sat 18	Cambridge	Mumford Theatre
	Tue 21	Margate	Theatre Royal Margate
	Wed 22	Canterbury	The Marlowe Studio
	Thu 23	London	artsdepot
	Fri 24	Hemel Hempstead	Old Town Hall
	Sat 25	Didcot	Cornerstone

An Evening with An Immigrant by Inua Ellams and Fuel

Month	Date	Town	Venue
November	Mon 20	Folkestone	Quarterhouse
	Tue 21	Maidenhead	Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
	Wed 22	Cambridge	Cambridge Junction
	Thur 23	Gosport	Gosport Discovery Centre
	Fri 24	Slough	The Curve
	Tue 28	Bognor Regis	The Regis Centre
	Wed 29	Gravesend	The Woodville
	Thur 30	Weymouth	The Bay Theatre
December	Fri 1	Dorchester	Dorchester Arts Centre
	Sat 2	Bridport	Bridport Arts Centre