

Press Release

One Under by Winsome Pinnock

A Graeae Theatre Company and Theatre Royal Plymouth production
commissioned by Ramps on the Moon, presented in association with Curve.

UK National Tour: 17 October – 30 November 2019

- A re-written and re-imagined new version of *One Under* by Winsome Pinnock (*Leave Taking, Rockets and Blue Lights*), recipient of the 2018 Alfred Fagon Award
- Directed by Graeae Associate Director Amit Sharma (*Cosmic Scallies, The Solid Life of Sugar Water*)
- Autumn 2019 tour visiting Plymouth, Leicester, Ipswich, Leeds, Newcastle, Liverpool, Birmingham and Salisbury
- *One Under* will feature a cast of disabled and non-disabled performers, and all performances will creatively integrate audio description and captioning

Graeae and Theatre Royal Plymouth are delighted to announce a reimagined version of *One Under* from playwright Winsome Pinnock and Graeae's associate director Amit Sharma, touring nationally in autumn 2019.

One Under marks Graeae and Theatre Royal Plymouth's continued partnership following their award-winning production of Jack Thorne's *The Solid Life of Sugar Water* in 2015.

First produced at the Tricycle Theatre (since renamed the Kiln Theatre) in 2005, the re-written *One Under* is an evocative play about the power of guilt and quest for atonement, exploring the fragility of human relationships. When a young man jumps in front of a train Cyrus is driving, the mysterious circumstances prompt him to search for answers. In pursuing the truth of Sonny's final hours, Cyrus is led to laundrette worker Christine, as the past begins to catch up with people whose lives are changed forever.

Winsome Pinnock was the recipient of the prestigious Alfred Fagon Award 2018 for her play *Rockets and Blue Lights*. Most recently, a revival of her 1987 play *Leave Taking*

played at the Bush Theatre to critical and commercial success. Further writing credits are available in the Editor's Notes below.

One Under will include a creative combination of captioning and audio description.

Casting and other members of the creative team are yet to be announced.

[ENDS]

Editor's notes

Winsome Pinnock is an award-winning writer (Alfred Fagon Award 2018 for *Rockets and Blue Lights*). Her other plays include *The Winds of Change* (Half Moon Theatre), *Leave Taking* (Liverpool Playhouse Studio, National Theatre, Bush Theatre), *Picture Palace* (Women's Theatre Group), *A Hero's Welcome* (Women's Playhouse Trust at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *A Rock in Water* (Royal Court Young People's Theatre at the Theatre Upstairs), *Talking in Tongues* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *Mules* (Clean Break Theatre Company) and *One Under* (Tricycle Theatre). Winsome has also written for radio and television.

Amit Sharma is Associate Director at Graeae and was Associate Artistic Director at Royal Exchange, Manchester. His production for Graeae and Theatre Royal Plymouth, *The Solid Life of Sugar Water*, received unanimous four and five star reviews, won the Euan's Guide Most Accessible Show of the Fringe Award in 2015 and transferred to the National Theatre's Temporary Space in spring 2016. Other directing credits for Graeae include *Cosmic Scallies* (Edinburgh Festival 2017 & The Studio, Royal Exchange), *Aruna and the Raging Sun* (part of the UK/INDIA Year of Culture) *Prometheus Awakes* and *The Iron Man* (UK Tour). Amit leads on the *Write to Play* programme for Graeae.

About Graeae

Graeae is a force for change in world-class theatre - breaking down barriers, challenging preconceptions and boldly placing Deaf and disabled artists centre stage. Artistically led by Jenny Sealey, Graeae's signature characteristic is the compelling creative integration of sign language and audio description, which engages brilliantly with both disabled and non-disabled audiences. Championing accessibility and providing a platform for new generations of artists, Graeae leads the way in pioneering, trail-blazing theatre. Recent productions and co-productions include *This Is Not For You*, *Reasons to be Cheerful*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Blood Wedding*, *The Iron Man* and *The Threepenny Opera*. www.graeae.org

About Theatre Royal Plymouth

Theatre Royal Plymouth specialises in the production of new plays, both as producer and co-producer, alongside the presentation of a broad range of theatre - including classic and contemporary drama, musicals, opera, ballet and dance. They have three performance spaces – The Lyric, The Drum and The Lab. Their work with young

people and communities is extensive and radical, taking place across all three venues and beyond.

Recent productions and co-productions include *God Of Chaos*, by Phil Porter, *The Kneebone Cadillac* by Carl Grose, *You Stupid Darkness!* by Sam Steiner (with Paines Plough) and *The Unreturning* by Anna Jordan (with Frantic Assembly).

www.theatroyal.com

About Ramps on the Moon

Ramps on the Moon brings together a collaborative network of Arts Council of England National Portfolio Organisations led by New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich with strategic partner Graeae Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Nottingham Playhouse, Leeds Playhouse and Sheffield Theatres.

The project follows on from the highly successful production of *The Threepenny Opera* in spring 2014, and in recognition of the under representation and employment of disabled people throughout the industry, particularly in “mainstream” theatre.

Integrating disabled and non-disabled performers and practitioners, this six year programme of work, funded by Art Council England’s Strategic Touring Fund, aims to achieve a step change in the employment and artistic opportunities for disabled performers and creative teams, and a cultural change in the participating organisations to enable accessibility to become a central part of their thinking and aesthetics.

www.rampsonthemoon.co.uk

About Curve

Almost one million people annually engage with Curve through performances and projects at our home in Leicester, across the UK and internationally. Under the leadership of Chief Executive Chris Stafford and Artistic Director Nikolai Foster, Curve has developed a reputation for producing, programming and touring a bold and diverse programme of musicals, plays, new work, dance and opera. All of this presented alongside a dynamic mix of community engagement, artist development and learning programmes, which firmly places audiences, artists and communities at the heart of everything we do.

Recent Made at Curve productions include Irving Berlin’s *White Christmas*, Dr. Seuss’s *The Cat in the Hat* (& UK tour) the world premieres of *Memoirs of an Asian Football Casual*, *An Officer and a Gentleman* (& on national tour) and *Pink Sari Revolution*, Leslie Bricusse’s *Scrooge* and the award-winning revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Sunset Boulevard* (& UK tour).

Curve is run by Leicester Theatre Trust Limited, a registered charity (no. 230708). We gratefully acknowledge and welcome the continued support of and partnership with Arts Council England and Leicester City Council.

Quotes

Winsome Pinnock, writer of *One Under*, said:

'I'm delighted to be re-visiting my 2005 play *One Under* for Graeae and Theatre Royal Plymouth. I've long admired Graeae's mission and aesthetic, and have always wanted to work with them. I am excited to be working with Amit on exploring the world that the characters inhabit and I'm really looking forward to seeing how new audiences up and down the country will respond to the play.'

Amit Sharma, Director of *One Under*, said:

'*One Under* is such a rich, nuanced and beautiful piece of work. It's a play about everyday people, overcoming extraordinary events in the most human way possible. Winsome is someone who has a unique touch writing characters and stories that you feel nothing but empathy for. I'm delighted to be partnering up with Theatre Royal Plymouth again as well as Leicester Curve and Ramps on the Moon to be presenting a play that at its heart is exploring the idea that our past is inextricably linked to our future.'

David Prescott, Artistic Associate at **Theatre Royal Plymouth** said:

'Theatre Royal Plymouth has carved out in The Drum a distinctive and award-winning position in the national and regional development of new work over the last two decades. Graeae have been coming to TRP for over fifteen years and we previously co-produced with them the highly lauded *The Solid Life of Sugar Water* by Jack Thorne in 2015, directed by Amit. This year we are also proud to be supporting Graeae's *Write To Play*, developing D/deaf and disabled playwrights in the South West. This production of *One Under* will tech and premiere in The Drum this October.'

Michelle Emmerson-Grey for **Ramps on the Moon** said:

'Ramps on the Moon is proud to be commissioning this vital and exciting piece of theatre: Increasing the representation D/deaf and disabled people on stage, and as part of the creative process, and enabling limitless access for all to enjoy this UK tour.'

Curve's Chief Executive **Chris Stafford** and Artistic Director **Nikolai Foster** said:

'We are proud to be associated with this revival of Winsome Pinnock's moving play. It is a thrilling prospect to welcome the trailblazing Graeae back to Curve, as well as working with the mighty Ramps on the Moon and friends at Theatre Royal Plymouth. Collaborations like this not only offer audiences remarkable theatre, but force our organisations to challenge our existing mechanisms, pushing us further towards true equality. We look forward to welcoming Amit and his extraordinary team to Leicester.'

Tour dates

All venues will go on sale soon. Please check websites for further information.

Thursday 17 – Saturday 26 October

Theatre Royal Plymouth

Box office: 01752 267 222

www.theatroyal.com

Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30 October

Curve Leicester

Box office: 0116 242 3595

www.curveonline.co.uk

Thursday 31 October – Friday 1 November

New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich

Box office: 01473 295 900

www.wolseytheatre.co.uk

Tuesday 5 – Saturday 9 November

Leeds Playhouse

Box office: 0113 213 7700

www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Tuesday 12 – Wednesday 13 November

Live Theatre, Newcastle

Box office: 0191 232 1232

www.live.org.uk

Thursday 14 – Friday 15 November

Unity Theatre, Liverpool

Box office: 0151 709 4988

www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

Tuesday 19 – Saturday 23 November

Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Box office: 0121 236 4455

www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Wednesday 27 – Saturday 30 November

Salisbury Playhouse

Box office: 01722 320 333

www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk

Contacts

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Access information

All performances include audio description and captioning.

Please contact Richard Matthews on richard@graeae.org or call 020 7613 6906 if you would like this press release in alternative forms.

