

PRESS RELEASE

12 July 2017



Fatherland

Created by Scott Graham for Frantic Assembly, Karl Hyde and Simon Stephens

Booking opens today at the Lyric Hammersmith and as part of LIFT 2018

Today booking opens at the Lyric Hammersmith and LIFT for *Fatherland*, which opens at the Lyric in May 2018 as part of the Lyric's Spring/Summer 2018 season and LIFT 2018. This bold new production, by **Scott Graham**, **Karl Hyde** and **Simon Stephens**, focusing on contemporary fatherhood in all its complexities and contradictions, premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre as part of Manchester International Festival.

This intensely physical production is performed by a 13-strong cast who will be joined by the **Chorus of Others**, a cacophony of voices, specially formed as part of *Fatherland*, for the production at the Lyric. *Fatherland* features exclusive songs and music written by **Karl Hyde** (Underworld) and **Matthew Herbert**.

Inspired by conversations with fathers and sons from the three co-creators' hometowns across England, Corby, Kidderminster and Stockport, *Fatherland* explores identity, nationality and masculinity. In a vivid and deeply personal portrait of 21st-century England at the crossroads of past, present and future, *Fatherland* is a show about what we were, who we are and what we try to be.

Commissioned and produced by Lyric Hammersmith, LIFT, Manchester International Festival, Frantic Assembly and the Royal Exchange Theatre. Supported by PRS for Music Foundation.

Creative Team

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Co-Author & Director | Scott Graham |
| Co-Author & Composer | Karl Hyde |
| Co-Author & Writer | Simon Stephens |
| Designer | Jon Bausor |
| Lighting Designer | Jon Clark |
| Co-Composer & Music Producer | Matthew Herbert |
| Sound Designer | Ian Dickinson for Autograph Sound |
| Choreographer | Eddie Kay |
| Dramaturg | Nick Sidi |
| Casting Director | Anne McNulty CDG |

Lyric Hammersmith Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL • Tel +44 (0)20 8741 6850 • www.lyric.co.uk

Chair **Sir William Atkinson** • Artistic Director **Sean Holmes** • Executive Director **Sian Alexander** • Registered Charity No. 278518 • Registered Company No. 1443809

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For more information visit www.lyric.co.uk
Twitter @LyricHammer | Facebook LyricHammersmith

Booking Information

Lyric Hammersmith
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Lyric Hammersmith

Tickets 020 8741 6850 | www.lyric.co.uk | No booking fee

LIFT

Tickets 020 7968 6808 | www.liftfestival.com

Fatherland

Friday 25 May – Saturday 23 June 2018

Mon-Thu & Sat 7.30pm; Fri 8pm

Also Sat & Wed 2.30pm (excluding Sat 26 May & Wed 30 May. No performance on Mon 26 May)

Free First Night: Friday 25 May. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Saturday 26 – Wednesday 30 May 2018

Press Performances: Thursday 31 May at 7pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40.

Notes to Editors

About Lyric Hammersmith

The Lyric Hammersmith is one of the UK's leading producing theatres. For more than one hundred and twenty years it has been responsible for creating some of the UK's most adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. It has gained a national reputation for its work with and for children and young people and creates pathways into the arts for young talent from all backgrounds, helping to diversify our industry. Recent productions include the smash hit *Bugsy Malone*, the international tour and co-production with Filter Theatre of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a new stage adaptation of Sarah Waters' *Tipping the Velvet* and the UK premiere of the world-wide phenomenon, *Terror*.

The Lyric's dual commitment to producing the highest quality contemporary theatre, alongside nurturing the creativity of young people is what makes it unique within the cultural ecology of the UK. It is a local theatre rooted in its community with a national and international reputation for the quality and innovation of its artistic work.

In April 2015 the Lyric reopened following a multi-million pound capital project, which saw the addition of the Reuben Foundation Wing housing state-of-the-art facilities for theatre, dance, film, music, digital and more. The 'new' Lyric is now the largest creative hub in West London and home to an innovative partnership of like-minded leading arts organisations who work together to deliver life changing creative opportunities for thousands of young West Londoners.

About LIFT

LIFT travels the world to bring global stories to London, creating spectacular performances and moments of magic in every corner of the Capital. For over 35 years LIFT has presented shows in partnership with London's major arts venues, theatres and galleries, but also in countless hidden spaces and places across the city. It works with world-class artists, whose radical imaginations create exceptional work that questions the nature of theatre, engages with the big ideas of our time, and reveals the stories and communities of our incredibly diverse Capital.

Working closely with major theatres, dance houses, museums and galleries, LIFT produces a biennial London-wide festival with commissioning at its heart, as well as year-round activity including large scale projects, artist residencies, national touring and a programme of ground-breaking participatory work, LIFT Tottenham.

Over the last two festivals, LIFT has represented 56 countries and commissioned over 31 new productions and events from around the world including *Minefield* (Lola Arias, LIFT 2016 and 2017/18 UK tour), *Depart* (Circa, LIFT 2016 and 2017 UK tour), *Phaedra(s)* (Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe, LIFT 2016), *Absent* (dreamthinkspeak, 2015), *The Notebook* (Forced Entertainment, LIFT 2014), *Symphony of a Missing Room* (Lundahl & Seidl, LIFT 2014) and *Deblozay* (Rara Woulib, LIFT 2014).

About Manchester International Festival

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. MIF launched in 2007 as an artist-led festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Björk, Steve McQueen, Robert Wilson, Wayne McGregor, Maxine Peake, The xx, Zaha Hadid Architects, Damon Albarn, Punchdrunk, Elbow and Marina Abramović.

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MIF brings together world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations around the world, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible. The Festival also works widely within communities around Manchester, originally with MIF Creative and now with a new initiative called My Festival.

MIF's Artistic Director and CEO is John McGrath, previously the Founding Artistic Director of National Theatre Wales. Earlier this year, MIF was confirmed as the operator of Factory, a new £110 million cultural centre in Manchester due to open in 2020.

For more information www.mif.co.uk

About Frantic Assembly

Award winning theatre company Frantic Assembly's method of devising theatre has been impacting theatrical practice and unlocking the creative potential of future theatre-makers for up to 22 years. One of the most exciting theatre companies in the UK, Frantic Assembly is led by Artistic Director and co-founder Scott Graham, and has toured extensively and worked in over 40 countries, internationally collaborating with some of today's most inspiring artists.

Frantic Assembly is currently studied as leading contemporary theatre practitioners on five British and international academic syllabuses. The success of the company's distinct approach has influenced contemporary theatre-making and foregrounded the use of movement directors and choreographers in new dramatic works. With a history of commissioning writers such as Mark Ravenhill, Abi Morgan, Simon Stephens and Bryony Lavery the company has been acclaimed for its collaborative approach. In 2016 the company started delivering practical modules on a new Collaborative Theatre-Making MA it has created with Coventry University (UK Modern University of the Year 2014, 2015, 2016 and UK University of the Year 2015). Frantic Assembly runs Ignition, a free national training programme for young men aged 16-20, increasing involvement in and access to the arts in places of low cultural engagement.

Frantic Assembly productions include Othello, Beautiful Burnout (UK, Australia, New Zealand and New York), Lovesong, (Stockholm, UK and Australia), The Believers. They are also the Movement Directors on the award-winning National Theatre of Great Britain, production The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (West End, Broadway, UK & Ireland Tour). Television credits include Movement Direction on BAFTA winning British - American series Humans (AMC, Channel 4 & Kudos).

For more information www.franticassembly.co.uk

About Royal Exchange Theatre

Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre transforms the way people see theatre, each other and the world around them.

Their historic building, once the world's biggest cotton exchange, was taken over by artists in 1976. Today it is an award-winning cultural charity that produces new theatre in-the-round, in communities, on the road and online.

Exchange remains at the heart of everything we make and do. Now our currency is brand new drama and reinvented classics, the boldest artists and a company of highly skilled makers - all brought together in a shared imaginative endeavour to trade ideas and experiences with the people of Greater Manchester (and beyond).

The Exchange's unique auditorium is powerfully democratic, a space where audiences and performers meet as equals, entering and exiting through the same doors. It is the inspiration for all we do; inviting everyone to understand the past, engage in today's big questions, collectively imagine a better future and lose themselves in the moment of a great night out.

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In 2016 the Royal Exchange won The Stage's award for Regional Theatre of the year. Recent work includes *Hamlet* with Maxine Peake (for stage and film), *The Skriker* (with the Manchester International Festival), *Husbands & Sons* (a co-production with the National Theatre), *King Lear* (co-produced with Talawa Theatre Company, filmed for BBC iPlayer and BBC Four), *Little Sister* (by Mark Storer & developed with communities across Greater Manchester), *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Maxine Peake, *Wish List* (winner of the 2015 Burntwood Prize for Playwriting) *B!rth* (a global festival of theatre and debate) *And The House Of Bernarda Alba* (a co-production with Graeae theatre Company).

For more information www.royalexchange.co.uk

Lyric Hammersmith - Free First Night

The Lyric is proud to call Hammersmith their home. In 2016 they celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Free First Night scheme, part of their long term partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, through which they give free tickets to people who live or work locally. Through this scheme last year they provided 2,354 Free First Night tickets to people who may not have had an opportunity to see theatre before. And as part of this commitment to the local community, they also provided 2,000 tickets to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details including dates of future Free First Nights, www.lyric.co.uk



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