

THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH
PRESENTS

Breathless

BY LAURA HORTON
DIRECTED BY STEPHANIE KEMPSON

59E59

THEATER C

APRIL 18 – MAY 7

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PRESENTS

Breathless

BY LAURA HORTON
DIRECTED BY STEPHANIE KEMPSON

Originally supported by Pleasance
as part of the Edinburgh National Partnerships

Cast

Sophie ..... **MADELEINE MacMAHON**

Creative Team

Playwright ..... **LAURA HORTON**
Director ..... **STEPHANIE KEMPSON**
Associate Lighting Designer ..... **NATASHA WHITLEY**
Composer ..... **ELLIE SHOWERING**
Sound Designer ..... **HOLLY HARBOTTLE**
Production Stage Manager ..... **TYLER CROW***

Theatre Royal Plymouth Production Team

Executive Producer ..... **JAMES MACKENZIE-BLACKMAN**
Original Producer ..... **BEN LYON-ROSS**
Head of Production ..... **HUGH BORTHWICK**
Head of Artistic Planning, Stages ..... **LAURA EDWARDS**
Head of Communications ..... **SAVANNA MYSZKA**
Marketing Officer ..... **ELLIE WOOLMAN**
Digital Content and Media Producer ..... **CHRIS BAKER**

Run time: 65 minutes with no intermission

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Breathless

Breathless started off life as a 20-minute play that Laura Horton wrote and presented with two other shows called ***Triptych*** in The Lab, the studio space at Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP). Based on her own experiences of hoarding disorder, the play is a funny, honest, and stylish exploration of the knife-edge of hoarding.

It was received so well that Laura turned it into a 60-minute piece, which then previewed in The Lab in July 2022 to a sold-out audience and saw Madeleine MacMahon play the role of Sophie.

TRP has an ongoing relationship with The Pleasance Theatre's Futures programme and ***Breathless*** was chosen to be presented at the world famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The production captivated audiences at The Pleasance Courtyard for the duration of the festival and even won a coveted Fringe First Award.

Following this success, the show returned to Theatre Royal Plymouth in The Drum auditorium, something Laura described as a "dream come true."

Breathless then transferred to Soho Theatre in London for a two-week run in February and has now crossed the Atlantic to join the line-up for the Brits Off Broadway festival.

Writer Laura Horton said: "Just before Edinburgh I had a conversation with Madeleine where I told her that my dreams for the show were to win a Fringe First, take the show back to The Drum and to New York. I laughed and said I knew it was unlikely, but all of these things are now happening and it feels beautifully surreal, but also exciting that it's never too late to change direction. I was heavily influenced by *Sex and the City* growing up and it feels like a wonderful place to be presenting this work."

Ben Lyon-Ross, Originating Producer said: "At TRP we couldn't be more delighted to share ***Breathless*** with audiences in New York. We are enormously proud of this play and of Laura's incredible trajectory as an artist and think it will go down a storm!"

Find out more details about International OCD Foundation, a strong community of knowledgeable mental health providers, community responders, Hoarding Task Force members, and researchers who are working with those affected by Hoarding Disorder here.

Madeleine MacMahon

(Sophie)



Madeleine is an actress, singer, and comedian from Gloucestershire. Max Turner Prize Winner, BBC New Comedy Award Longlist, Funny Women Semi Finalis,t and "One To Watch." Film/television includes: *Eastenders, Doctors* (BBC); *The Freedoms* (Amazon Prime), *This Little Girl* (BFI). Theater includes: ***A Super Happy Story (About Feeling Super Sad)*** (Silent Uproar/Tour); ***21 Pounds***, ***Cider With Rosie***, ***Beatrix Potter & The Tailor of Gloucester***, ***Great Expectations*** (Cheltenham Everyman); ***The Tempest*** (Creation Theatre), ***Petticoat Council*** (Warwick Arts Centre), ***Hush Now*** (Feral Productions), ***Mercury Fur*** (Middle Child); ***Kings***, ***Kubrick3***, ***The Dark Room*** (New Diorama Theatre); ***Into The Woods*** (Cockpit Theatre), ***When Harry Met Barry*** (Above The Stag); ***Jack and the Beanstalk***, ***Peter Pan***, ***Sleeping Beauty***, ***Aladdin***, ***Beauty and the Beast***, ***Cinderella***, ***Jason and the Argonauts***, ***Dick Whittington*** (Hereford Courtyard).

Laura Horton

(Playwright)

Plymouth Laureate of Words, 2020-23, the first playwright in a Laureateship. Soho Theatre Writer's Lab alumni 2017. In 2020 Horton wrote and produced her first film, *A Summer of Birds,* Toast of the Fringe winner. Short plays include: ***Giddy Tuppy*** (The Space, ONCOMM winner, 2020,; ***Labyrinth Diet*** (Arcola Theatre 2019), ***This I Believe*** (Theatre Royal Plymouth, Exeter Phoenix, 2019). Full-length plays include: ***Labyrinth Diet*** (The Space, London 2021, ONCOMM winner), ***Triptych*** (Theatre Royal Plymouth, 2021). She is currently commissioned by Theatre Royal Plymouth. She was listed in *The Stage 100* in 2021 for her project Theatre Stories CIC and is an artistic associate of The Space, London. Laura is on the Criterion Writer's group (starting in Jan 2023) and she has an audio commission, "The Light Follows Everyone," that was launched at The Box as part of her Laureateship with Literature Works in February 2023.

Stephanie Kempson

(Director)

Stephanie is a Fringe First award-winning disabled director from Bristol. Her most recent project was Laura Horton's ***Breathless*** (Theatre Royal Plymouth and Pleasance EdFringe). She is the artistic director of her own company, Sharp Teeth Theatre (***Sherlock in Homes 1-3, Streaming Beauty, Polly: The Heartbreak Opera, Parlour Games***), who are associate artists with the Wardrobe Theatre. She has worked with Theatre Royal Plymouth, Pleasance, Scratchworks Theatre, Tom Marshman, Compass Presents, The Egg Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, SS Great Britain, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, New Wolsey Theatre, Wardrobe Theatre, Travelling Light Theatre, and Tobacco Factory Theatres.

Tyler Crow

(Production Stage Manager)

Tyler is thrilled to be a part of this year's Brits Off Broadway Festival! Off Broadway: ***Good Enemy*** (Audible Theater), Emmet Otter's ***Jug-Band Christmas*** (New Vic). National Tour: ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, ***The Prom***. Regional: ***JOY The Musical*** (World Premiere - George Street Playhouse), as well as projects with the Alliance Theatre, Theatre Aspen, and Boston Ballet. Upcoming: ***we were promised honey!*** (59E59), ***The Cottage*** (Broadway). Love to Maddy, my family, and those who have taught me, always.

Theatre Royal Plymouth

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education, and community engagement in Plymouth, UK and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round program of world class productions on all scales as the South West of England's principal center for performing arts. Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way. Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theater. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.

Curators' Note

Welcome to Theatre Royal Plymouth's production of ***Breathless*** by Laura Horton. The play came onto our radar whilst visiting shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe last August. Theatre Royal Plymouth engages and inspires many communities through performing arts, aiming to touch the lives and interests of people from all backgrounds.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters



David

DAVID BYRNE
Artistic Director
& CEO, New
Diorama Theatre

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ELLIOT JACOBS Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
FLOWER RIOS Usher
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JULIA MELLONI Bartender/Usher
LYNDSAY CORBETT Bartender
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KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician

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NEXT IN THEATER C — MAY 9 – 21



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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