PRESS RELEASE
25 February 2020

IMITATING THE DOG AND LEEDS PLAYHOUSE RECREATE GEORGE A ROMERO’S CLASSIC FILM WITH NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD™ - REMIX,
AT HOME MANCHESTER, WED 18 - SAT 21 MARCH 2020

In 1968, Night of the Living Dead began life as a low-budget independent zombie horror movie telling the story of seven strangers taking refuge from flesh-eating ghouls in an isolated and deserted farmhouse.

Directed by George A Romero, it became a cult classic. Today, 52 years on, seven performers have recreated the film in a unique shot-for-shot co-production between imitating the dog, one of the UK’s most original and innovative theatre companies, and the Leeds Playhouse.

Directed by imitating the dog’s co-artistic directors Andrew Quick and Pete Brooks, Night of the Living Dead™ - Remix comes to HOME Manchester, Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 March 2020, as part of an extensive national tour.
Armed with cameras, a box of props, and a rail of costumes, can the cast recreate the ground-breaking film, shot-for-shot, before our eyes, using whatever they can lay their hands on? With 1,076 edits in 95 minutes, it’s a heroic struggle. Success will require wit, skill, and ingenuity, and is by no means guaranteed.

George A Romero’s original was an apocalyptic vision of paranoia, the breakdown of community and the end of the American Dream. In this new stage production, masters of digital theatre imitating the dog create a love-song to the original 1968 film, a remaking and remixing, which attempts to understand the past in order not to have to repeat it.

Imitating the dog’s version is in turns humorous, terrifying, thrilling, thought-provoking, and joyous. Above all, in the retelling, it becomes a searing parable for our own complex times.

“Looking at the state of the world today it seems so appropriate that we are going back to this seminal story, the original zombie movie,” says Andrew Quick, co-director and Artistic Director of imitating the dog. “It’s amazing how scary and relevant Romero’s 60s vision still seems.”

Russ Streiner, who produced and appeared as Johnny in the original film, said: “Before Night Of The Living Dead™ became the classic film it is, it started as a collection of ideas and story points: story points that are timeless in their reflection of the human condition.

“We are absolutely thrilled that imitating the dog and Leeds Playhouse have teamed up to present their own authorised fresh and exciting retelling of the story that began over 50 years ago for us.”

The cast features Laura Atherton (A Farewell To Arms, imitating the dog); Morgan Bailey (Heart of Darkness, imitating the dog, and In the Dark); Luke Bigg (Yes/No/Maybe, UK tour); William James Holstead (The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Lowry); Morven Macbeth (Opening Skinner’s Box, Improbable, and the hit TV series Outlander); Matt Prendergast (The Train, imitating the dog) and Adela Rajnović (Who They Were, Etcetera Theatre).

The production’s creative team features design by Laura Hopkins (Black Watch and Peter Pan, National Theatre of Scotland; The Divide, Edinburgh International Festival and The Old Vic); projection and video design by Simon Wainwright (The Kid Stays in the Picture, Royal Court); lighting by Andrew Crofts (Trash Cuisine,
Belarus Free Theatre and The Young Vic); and original music composed by James Hamilton.

**PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**
Wed 18 March 2020 19:30
Thu 19 March 2020 14:00, 19:30
Fri 20 March 2020 19:30
Sat 21 March 2020 14:00, 19:30

**TICKETS**
£10-£24 (concessions from £5)

https://homemcr.org/production/night-of-the-living-dead-remix/
@home_mcr
#LivingDeadRemix

For further information - to request review tickets (press night performance Wednesday 18 March 2020), images or interviews, please contact: Mike Barnett, HOME Media and Communications Manager, +44 (0) 161 212 3462, or mike.barnett@HOMEmcr.org

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**Notes to Editors**
HOME is Manchester’s centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in May 2015, HOME has welcomed over two million visitors to its two theatres, five cinemas, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary theatrical experiences, producing an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance and festivals, with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development. After Night of the Living Dead™ - Remix, the next HOME shows are **Poet in da Corner** presented by the Royal Court Theatre (24-28 March 2020); **Not I** presented by A Touretteshero and Battersea Arts Centre, in association with the Albany (31 March-2 April 2020); and **Amsterdam** presented by Actors Touring Company, Orange Tree Theatre and Theatre Royal Plymouth (15-18 Apr 2020).
HOME’s ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOMEmcr

imitating the dog have been making ground-breaking work for theatres and other spaces for 20 years. Their work, which fuses live performance with digital technology, has been seen by hundreds of thousands of people in venues, outdoor festivals and events across the world. Past productions have included Hotel Methuselah, A Farewell to Arms, and most recently Heart of Darkness. The company became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation in 2018. www.imitatingthedog.co.uk | @ImitatingtheDog | Facebook ImitatingTheDog

LEEDS PLAYHOUSE opened nearly 50 years ago. It is a cultural hub, a place where people gather to tell and share stories and to engage in world class theatre. The Playhouse makes work which is pioneering and relevant, seeking out the best companies and artists to create inspirational theatre in the heart of Yorkshire. From large scale spectacles to intimate performance, the Playhouse develops and makes work for the stage, found spaces, touring, schools and community venues. As dedicated collaborators, Leeds Playhouse works regularly with other organisations from across the UK, and some of the most distinctive and original voices in theatre today. Through its Artistic Development programme Furnace, the Playhouse develops work with established practitioners and finds, nurtures and supports new voices, as well as cultivating artists by providing creative space for writers, directors, companies and individual theatre-makers to refine their practice at any stage of their career. The Playhouse’s sector-leading Creative Engagement team works with over 10,000 people aged 0 - 95 every year through a range of weekly workshops and exciting creative projects using theatre to open up possibilities, reaching out to refugee communities, young people, students, older people and people with learning disabilities. At the Playhouse there is always a way to get involved. www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk | @LeedsPlayhouse | Facebook LeedsPlayhouse

Did you know that HOME is a charity? We need your support to bring the best film, theatre and art to Manchester and inspire the next generation. Get involved at www.homemcr.org/support