



# The War of the Worlds

2021 UK National Tour

- A Radical adaptation inspired by Orson Welles' radio play and reimagined for the era of disinformation and 'fake news' embarks on an extensive tour of the UK's most acclaimed regional theatres
- From Rhum and Clay: the company behind the award-winning adaptation of *Mistero Buffo* as well as their devised plays *Testosterone*, *Hardboiled* and *64 Squares*

★★★★ Guardian | ★★★★ Observer | ★★★★ The Stage | ★★★★ What's On Stage

**Temporarily halted in their tracks by the pandemic, the aliens fight back in 2021!**

**Rhum and Clay** will at last bring their critically acclaimed adaptation of HG Wells' *The War of the Worlds* to some of the most prestigious mid-scale venues in the UK, touring this Autumn. This follows sold-out runs in London and in Edinburgh.

*"No one would have believed, in the last years of the 19th century, that human affairs were being watched from the timeless worlds of space..."*

But we did believe. We believed that Martians landed in New Jersey. We believed a water tower was an alien war machine. We believed a man walked on the moon. Perhaps we will believe anything...everything ...

Inspired by Orson Welles' classic radio play almost 80 years to the day since the original broadcast was reported to have caused widespread panic in its listeners- this legendary icon of science fiction is reimagined for our era of deliberate disinformation, 'fake news' and 'alternative facts'. An era where mistrust and fear are routinely stoked by the purveyors of 'news' and the truth has become an ever-harder concept to identify. *The War of the Worlds* slips between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century lives and listeners as if moving the dial on a radio: atmospheric and disorienting.

Rhum and Clay are renowned for the humour and physicality of their productions as well as their ability to create beautiful, visually textured on-stage worlds. They are joined here by **Isley Lynn**, writer of the extraordinary sexual odyssey *Skin a Cat*, currently being adapted for television. Her powerful contemporary voice offers a welcome counterpoint to a story that originated in the male-dominated society of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*The War of the Worlds* explores our inability to separate fact from fiction and our active complicity in the process of being hoodwinked: lies dressed as truth and truth presented as fiction. But even fake events cause real reactions. With references ranging from H.G Wells and Orson Welles via Jeff Wayne and a nod to Tom Cruise, this intense, unsettling and raucously entertaining reinvention of the original alien invasion myth shows that in the darkest of times, the truth is a very precious commodity.

Recent Rhum and Clay productions include a tour-de-force one-man adaptation of Dario Fo's classic, *Mistero Buffo* which won the Stage Award for Acting Excellence at the 2018 Edinburgh

Fringe. Their previous show *Testosterone* - the true story of a trans man's search for a new male identity- is still touring worldwide, three years after its first performance.

**For media enquiries please contact Sally Cowling, Executive Producer**  
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### Listings

**Rhum and Clay present *The War of the Worlds***  
**Written with Isley Lynn**

Rose Theatre Kingston  
28 July - 1 August

HOME Manchester  
22 Sept - 2 October

Mercury Theatre Colchester  
7 -8 September

Warwick Arts Centre  
13 - 16 October

Corn Exchange Newbury  
10 - 11 September

Liverpool Everyman  
19 - 23 October

Derby Theatre  
14 - 16 September

### Credits

Originally commissioned by New Diorama Theatre  
Co-produced by Brighton Festival and HOME Manchester Supported using  
public funding by Arts Council England

About Rhum and Clay      [www.rhumandclay.com](http://www.rhumandclay.com) / [@rhumandclay](https://twitter.com/rhumandclay)

Created at Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris in 2010, Rhum & Clay is a multi-award-winning theatre ensemble led by artistic directors Julian Spooner and Matt Wells. Their work is, as you'd expect with that pedigree, physically ingenious and skilful, shape-shifting in style from show to show. They work as an ensemble, collaborating with writers, musicians, dancers, designers and anyone with an interesting story to tell.

### About New Diorama Theatre

New Diorama Theatre is a pioneering venue in the heart of London dedicated to providing a home for theatre ensembles, both emerging and established, from across the UK. Since opening in 2010, New Diorama has welcomed well over 120,000 audience members and has developed productions that have toured both nationally and internationally. New Diorama was the recipient of the 2013/14 Les Enfants Terribles Prize and David Byrne was awarded the OffWestEnd Award for Best Artistic Director in 2014.

New Diorama was the Mayor of Camden's Official Charity in 2012/13, the only non-government funded studio theatre to offer access performances throughout an entire season. It received the prestigious Peter Brook 'Empty Space' Award in 2016 as a "vital creative hub for established and emerging theatre companies" and was named Best Fringe Theatre at the 2016 Stage Awards.