

Main House Takeover

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

The Effect

A Play With Fire production supported by Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 September

Press Night: Tuesday 25 September, 7.30pm

Double Bill:

Narcissist in the Mirror by Rosie Fleeshman

POP by EVENTHORIZON

Friday 28 September, 7.30pm

Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Main House Takeover puts the spotlight on Greater Manchester's eclectic fringe theatre scene, presenting shows that would usually be seen in Studio and Fringe venues on Oldham's historic Main Stage.

Featuring a **double bill** of two of the region's most exciting Fringe Theatre shows and the North West premiere of award-winning clinical romance, ***The Effect***, the Takeover offers audiences a taste of what they can expect from the flexible 170 seat Studio Theatre in the new Coliseum on Union Street in 2020.

Chris Lawson, the Coliseum's Associate Director, commented: *"The Main House Takeover provides further support to companies making fresh and interesting work in the North West, giving their shows a bigger platform and wider reach. This is also an insight into the new work that you can expect to see championed in Oldham in the new Coliseum, as shows in the Main House and our new larger Studio Theatre will complement each other."*

Written by multi-award winning writer and creator of ITV2's *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*, Lucy Prebble, ***The Effect*** puts romance under the microscope; following psychology student, Connie, and drifter, Tristan, as they take part in a clinical drug trial for a new kind of anti-depressant. When the clinicians up the dosage they find themselves falling for each other, but struggle to work out whether their feelings are real or just a side effect.

The Effect will be presented at the Coliseum by **Play With Fire**, a Manchester City Centre based theatre company co-founded by Artistic Director Daniel Bradford and Producer Hannah Ellis Ryan, who is also currently playing Liz Macdonald's long-lost daughter, Katie, in

Coronation Street. It takes over the Coliseum's Main Stage from Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 September.

On Friday 28 September the Coliseum presents a **double bill** of Rosie Fleeshman's Manchester Theatre Award winning ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** and the theatre's pick of this year's Greater Manchester Fringe Festival, ***POP*** by EVENTHORIZON.

Winner of Best New Play at this year's Manchester Theatre Awards and Best Spoken Word Show at the Greater Manchester Fringe Awards 2017, ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** is a dark comedy about life, ambition and millennial expectation. Narcissist is a love addict, a starving artist and a lost soul searching for self-worth. Laced with acerbic wit, punchy dialogue and intricate spoken word, this is an honest account of self-exploration, as rip-roaring as it is poignant.

Written and performed by Rosie Fleeshman, the show debuted in April 2017 at 53Two in Manchester city centre and has played to back-to-back sell-out audiences and received widespread critical acclaim. This summer ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** enjoyed a hit one-month run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

POP by EVENTHORIZON won the Coliseum's Pick of the Fringe award at this year's Greater Manchester Fringe Festival. The theatre's staff attended this year's festival with a view to selecting a show to showcase at the Coliseum on the Main Stage alongside ***Narcissist in the Mirror***.

Written and directed by EVENTHORIZON Artistic Director, Wil Hammond, and produced by Creative Producer Sophie Elliott, ***POP*** stars Martha Godber and Sade Malone as aspirational young northerners Abbi and Beth.

Abbi and Beth want to be Kate and Naomi, walking the fashion week in Paris or partying with Britpop stars in London. Instead, they're stuck in a small northern town, incarcerated to pre-fab science labs and cold wet playgrounds. Taking place over a decade, taking in London and New York, ***POP***'s narrative moves at breakneck speed to a soundtrack of Britpop and Indie music: Blur, Oasis, The Killers and more.

- Ends -----

Notes to Editor:

The Effect runs from Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 September 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.
Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/the-effect/>

Double Bill: POP / Narcissist in the Mirror is on Friday 28 September 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.
Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/double-bill-narcissist-in-the-mirror-pick-of-the-fringe/>

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at www.coliseum.org.uk

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale on 0161 785 7012 or shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk

Images:

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***The Effect*** is available to download from Dropbox via:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lqoqo2bbg3gp778/The%20Effect%2C%20photography%20by%20Sophie%20Giddens.jpg?dl=0>

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***POP*** is available to download from Dropbox via:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mf7gmsscbv023fv/Pop.jpg?dl=0>

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** is available to download from Dropbox via: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0punpzuu9fforkv/Narcissist%20in%20the%20Mirror.jpg?dl=0>

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a cultural and educational charity that works with over 150,000 individuals per year.

The Coliseum has a rich history in Greater Manchester dating back to 1885. It provides a wide variety of distinctive theatre performances and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and beyond. It creates original productions, of which up to half are newly-commissioned work, which are presented at the Coliseum and on tour. Intrinsic to the town's on-going regeneration, the theatre works with its local communities and young people to develop creative programmes to facilitate learning, engagement and community cohesion.

The Coliseum is actively engaged with Oldham Council and Arts Council England to deliver a new theatre in the town by 2020.