

## ***The Effect***

A Play With Fire production supported by Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 September

By Lucy Prebble

Directed by Jake Murray

### **Part of Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Main House Takeover**

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**Press Night: Tuesday 25 September 2018, 7.30pm**

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Romance is put under the microscope in Play With Fire's new production of ***The Effect*** by multi-award winning playwright, Lucy Prebble.

Love is a naturally occurring chemical reaction, so can it be created medicinally?

***The Effect*** is a funny, moving and perhaps surprisingly human play that explores questions of sanity, neurology and the limits of medicine, alongside ideas of fate, loyalty and the inevitability of physical attraction.

Psychology student, Connie, and drifter, Tristan, agree to 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 Oldham Coliseum Theatre by Play With Fire as part of the theatre's Main House Takeover. Play With Fire is 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*.

The Coliseum's Main House 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, by putting shows that would usually be seen in the current Studio Theatre onto the Main Stage.

**Hannah Ellis Ryan, Producer of Play With Fire, commented:** "*We feel so privileged to have this opportunity to present Lucy Prebble's **The Effect** on the Coliseum Main Stage. As independent artists, striving to provide opportunities, push boundaries, and do something a bit different - these kinds of opportunities rarely come around. We are so grateful to the Coliseum for giving over their stage and are so excited to share this beautiful and complex love story.*"

Writer Lucy Prebble is creator of the television series *Secret Diary of a Call Girl* (ITV2). Her debut play, *The Sugar Syndrome*, won the George Divine Award and the TMA Award for Best New Play in 2004. Follow up, *Enron*, premiered at Chichester Theatre Festival before transferring to London's West End and won the TMA Award for Best New Play in 2009.

***The Effect*** premiered at the National Theatre in 2012, starring Billie Piper, and won the Critics' Circle Award for Best New Play. This production from Play With Fire is its North West premiere.

Putting the spotlight on Greater Manchester's eclectic fringe theatre scene, Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Main House Takeover also features a double bill of Rosie Fleeshman's ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** and the Coliseum's pick of the Greater Manchester Fringe Festival, ***POP*** by EVENTHORIZON.

- Ends -----

#### Notes to Editor:

***The Effect*** runs from Tuesday 25 – Thursday 27 September 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)  
Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/the-effect/>

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale on 0161 785 7012 or [shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk)

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#### Images:

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***The Effect*** is available to download from Dropbox via:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lqoqo2bbq3qp778/The%20Effect%2C%20photography%20by%20Sophie%20Giddens.jpg?dl=0>

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#### 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.