

Double Bill:

***Narcissist in the Mirror* by Rosie Fleeshman**
***POP* by EVENTHORIZON**

Part of Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Main House Takeover

Friday 28 September 2018, 7.30pm

Two of the region's most exciting fringe theatre productions come to Oldham Coliseum Theatre's historic stage in a double bill as part of the theatre's Main House Takeover. Rosie Fleeshman's Manchester Theatre Award winning ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** is joined by the Coliseum's pick of this year's Greater Manchester Fringe Festival, ***POP*** by EVENTHORIZON.

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.

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."*

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.

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.

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, ***Narcissist in the Mirror*** is an honest account of self-exploration, as rip-roaring as it is poignant.

Rosie is a part of Manchester's First Family of Theatre; her mother, Sue Jenkins, father, David Fleeshman, and sister, Emily, are well known for television and theatre roles and her

brother, Richard, is a star of musical theatre with leading roles in *Ghost: The Musical*, *Legally Blonde*, *Guys and Dolls*, and most recently, Sting's *The Last Ship*.

Rosie commented: *"My dad has been taking me to see shows at the Coliseum since I was a kid so it will be really special to get to perform Narcissist on the Main Stage for a night. I'm looking forward to seeing what the wonderful people of Oldham make of it."*

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. Teenage friendship is tested and the bonds of loyalty severed in an audacious theatrical presentation, mixing music and fashion in a funny and tender new play.

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.

Sade Malone commented: *"We didn't expect to win Oldham Coliseum's 'Pick of the Fringe' Award at the Greater Manchester Fringe, it was such a surprise! It's a fantastic opportunity to be performing alongside Rosie Fleeshman in a double bill on the Main Stage. We can't wait!"*

Martha Godber added: *"I'm really looking forward to performing at Oldham; the Pick of the Fringe Award gives young Northern actors like ourselves a chance to develop our play and perform it on the Main Stage. It's vitally important to support new work from the North; that's exactly what Oldham are doing."*

Martha Godber is the daughter of one of Britain's most performed playwrights and former Artistic Director of Hull Truck Theatre, John Godber. Her credits include *RIGHT* (Old Vic Theatre, London) and *The Empty Nester's Club* (John Godber Company). Sade Malone played Agnes Addo on CBBC's *4 O'Clock Club* for four series until 2014. She won the BAFTA scholarship in 2017.

Putting the spotlight on Greater Manchester's eclectic fringe theatre scene, the Main House Takeover also features a three-night run of ***The Effect*** by Lucy Pebble, presented by Play With Fire Productions (25 – 27 September).

- Ends -----

Notes to Editor:

Double Bill: POP / Narcissist in the Mirror is on Friday 28 September 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

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

Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/double-bill-narcissist-in-the-mirror-pick-of-the-fringe/>

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 **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.