Final Release – November 2016

**Bristol to host International showcase of British live art**

A host of exceptional British live artists have been selected to showcase their works to British audiences and a delegation of international art producers in Bristol next February.

The IBT17 Bristol International Festival, which takes place from Wednesday 8th to Sunday 12th has announced a new initiative which will present 22 works by British live artists to an invited audience of 100 global producers from six continents around the world as part of the festival programme. Producers from Australia, US, Canada, Asia and Ukraine have already confirmed their attendance.

The ‘International Showcase’ initiative, funded by Arts Council England is not only an incredible opportunity for UK artists and the UK live arts scene it’s also a unique chance for the people of Bristol to see these world-leading artists perform on stage as each showcase performance is open to the public with tickets now available.

The artists have been selected by a panel of esteemed live art producers to ensure the showcases demonstrate a version of the UK that is rich with a diversity of voices, just like the festivals host city.

The international showcase panel is made up of Aaron Wright, artistic director of Fierce Festival, arts producer, Afreena Islam, Antony Roberts, director of Colchester Arts Centre, Cathy Butterworth, director of The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University, Daniel Brine, director of Cambridge Junction Jackie Wylie, artistic director of the National Theatre of Scotland, Lois Keidan, co-founder of Live Art Development Agency, Matt Fenton, chief executive at Contact and Robert Pacitti of SPILL Festival of Performance.

**Lois Keidan** is the Co-Director and Co-Founder of Live Art Development Agency, London. She has previously worked at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, Arts Council of Great Britain, Midland Group, Nottingham and Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh.

Commenting on the International Showcase she said: "Live Art in the UK is a beacon for artists and curators from around the world who are engaged with interdisciplinary, experiential practices that offer audiences something new. The IBT17 International Showcase is an opportunity to see the work of just some of the most interesting and exciting artists working in the UK today."

The 22 selected artists include Lucy McCormick’s *Triple Threat*, Katy Baird’s *Workshy*, Forced Entertainment’s *Real Magic*, Project O’s *Voodoo*, Nic Green’s *Cock and Bull* and Tania El Khoury’s *As Far As My Fingertips Take Me*.

Helen Cole, artistic director/CEO of In Between Time, commented: “.The last twenty years has seen a significant growth in a body of live art practice that is uniquely British and best placed to reflect the UK in all its extraordinary diversity. In Between Time has been central to demystifying live art, contextualizing the work away from the margins and often placing it centre stage and in the public realm.”

Phil, Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England, said: ‘‘The IBT Festival is a significant date in the city’s cultural calendar, drawing artists from around the world to create a dynamic and exciting programme of live art.  The Festival has grown in reputation year on year and we’ve been delighted to support its development as a National portfolio organisation and through the International Showcasing initiative.  I’m looking forward to discovering new work in 2017.’

 In this post-truth era in response to the meaningless and repetition of empty political promises, Nic Green’s *Cock and Bull* sees three female performers convene their own, alternative party conference. The performance is the 2016 winners of the Total Theatre Award for physical and visual theatre.

Drawing on her own experiences at the frontline of the customer service industry, Katy Baird’s *Workshy* explores Britain’s approach to work and the relationship between labour, class and aspiration.

Winner of the Total Theatre Innovation Award and the Arches Brick Award, Tania El Khoury brings As Far As My Fingertips Take Me to the Arnolfini. The one-to-one performance starts a conversation between an audience member and a refugee through a wall and the mediums of touch and sound, sharing stories of people who have recently challenged border discrimination.

*Triple Threat* see’s Lucy McCormick take centre stage re-enacting the New Testament through dance, power ballads and performance art. The performance is both hilarious and shocking and was considered one of the most extreme and extraordinary events at the Edinburgh Fringe this year.

Winners of the International IBSEN Award 2016, Forced Entertainment bring *Real Magic* to IBT17. The performance is caught in an impossible world where moments of defeat and moments of hope are endlessly replayed to take the audience on a hallucinatory journey.

One’s to watch, Project O will showcase *Voodoo* as the two performers dance a dance to themselves, mapping the movement of their memories and the gaps in their knowledge.

For the full programme and to book tickets please visit the IBT website, inbetweentime.co.uk. For more information also find us @In\_Between\_Time on Twitter and @InBetweenTime on Facebook and Instagram.

**ENDS**

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Notes to editors:

The IBT17 Bristol International Festival programme has been curated by In Between Time in partnership with:

Principal Supports: Arts Council England, Bristol City Council

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