***The Girl and the Giraffe* – Amber-Rose May Interview**

*The interview below with Amber-Rose May is available to be used in all media, edited or unedited, to promote coverage of the Girl and the Giraffe.*

Actor Amber-Rose May plays the Girl in *The Girl and the Giraffe*, an uplifting show about wellbeing and friendship by Floods of Ink, a theatre company she co-founded with Laurence Alliston-Greiner, who plays Giraffe in the production. We caught up with Amber to find out more about the show, the challenges of creating a giraffe, and exploring issues of mental health onstage!

**What is *The Girl and the Giraffe* about?**

*The Girl and The Giraffe* is a story about making friends and learning to understand that sometimes people can be poorly in ways that aren't always obvious, and it can be the little things in life that can make a big difference.

**What was your inspiration for the story?**

We listened and shared personal stories with friends and family, and began talking to people whose lives had been affected by mental illness. We realised that these things can be really daunting for adults to talk to children about, so we decided to create a show that, starts to explore these issues in a sensitive and age-appropriate way.

**How did the piece come to fruition?**

We started with our title, and a very rough outline of a story, and then spent time exploring different stories, sounds and imagery in rehearsal with our director, designer and composer. We brought in objects and different materials to play with and through improvisation, writing and drawing pictures (and a lot of creative brain power) we created our adventure together.

**What would you say are the challenges of *The Girl and the Giraffe*?**

One of the biggest challenges was probably creating the Giraffe! We experimented with lots of different necks, heads, hooves and ways to make to make Giraffe move, until we found one that spoke to us – what we created turned out to be somewhere in-between a costume, a mask and a puppet.

**Describe the show in three words.**

Magical, musical and mischievous.

**What would you like audiences to take with them after seeing the show?**

We would like audiences to feel that they too can make a difference. Mental health can be a difficult topic to address, and we would like audiences to know that sometimes we need a different kind of plaster for things we don't see. By talking to a friend, giving somebody a hug or sharing a smile, we can change lives for the better.

**And finally, if you were an animal, what would you be?**

That's really hard. I think I'd like to be a monkey and swing through the treetops!

**FURTHER DETAILS**

**For further information, interviews and press tickets please contact Stephen Beeny on 020 7709 8907 or** **stephen@halfmoon.org.uk**

A selection of images can be downloaded from the Dropbox link below. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0gn7inuztnq91qa/AAAnWhf9xDtDYSOntHKi4FGKa?dl=0>