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**PRESS RELEASE
7 March 2017
Immediate release**

**SPOKEN WORD PIECE EXPLORING THE CULTURAL BAN ON BOYS EXPRESSING THEIR FEELINGS, COMES TO HALF MOON THEATRE FROM 20-24 MARCH FOR AGES 8-12**

***Boys Don’t***, a spoken word piece exploring the cultural ban on boys expressing their feelings, comes to **Half Moon Theatre** from **Monday 20 to Friday 24 March** in an exciting new collaboration with **Papertale**, exploring the mental and social cost to everyone (boys and girls alike) when boys don’t express their feelings. The production is for young people aged 8-12 and adult audiences.

In partnership with Half Moon Theatre and Apples and Snakes (South East), *Boys Don’t* features some of the UK’s leading poets and performers in repertory, including **Justin Coe**, **Hadiru Mahdi**, **Tanaka Mhishi** and **Steve Tasane**. It is the latest work from Papertale, following on from the *Suitcase Trilogy* (*A Roo in My Suitcase, One Way Ticket* and *Map of Me*) of spoken word performances about migration for young audiences, directed by **Rosemary Harris**.

What’s a boy to do? From the playground to the classroom, from home to the uncharted waters of online, boys learn that displaying their feelings is a no-no. But what happens to emotion that can’t be let out?

*Boys Don’t* explores what happens when boys show their feelings and is written from the real-life experiences of the male cast. Through a series of funny, familiar and sometimes heart-breaking stories of boys in the emotional spotlight, this spoken word show offers the possibility of more open communication for everyone.

Rosemary Harris, the director of *Boys Don’t*, said: “Working a lot with young people you become very aware of the gender strictures that still persist, and how keenly they are felt by young people. Boys and girls really suffer because of this, and for boys a lot of the expression of distress goes into anger, which is a major problem for schools and for our culture as a whole. In 2017 boys are still handed these antiquated, unhelpful, unwritten rules about what is permissible for them as human beings expressing emotion, and that has a serious effect on their mental health, with a knock on effect to the wider community.”

**Chris Elwell**, **Director of Half Moon**, commented: “We are delighted to collaborate with Papertale on this engaging new spoken word production that delivers insights into male experiences of growing up. This new production offers a heartfelt glimpse into the real-life experiences of the male cast and looks at the important issue of what happens when boys are unable to reveal their true emotions.”

*Boys Don’t* is one of several productions that form part of Half Moon Presents, the producing arm of Half Moon, supporting the promotion and development of theatre for young audiences at a national and international level.

**ENDS**

**LISTINGS DETAILS**

Half Moon presents

**Boys Don’t**

a Papertale production in association with Apples and Snakes (South East)

**Monday 20 – Friday 24 March 2017**

Ages 8-12 and adult audiences | 50 minutes

**Mon 20 Mar** | 1.30pm & 4.30pm

**Tue 21 Mar** | 10.30am & 1.30pm

**Wed 22 Mar** | 10.30am & 1.30pm

**Thu 23 Mar** | 4.30pm & 7pm

**Fri 24 Mar** | 10.30am & 1.30pm

Half Moon Theatre
43 White Horse Road, London E1 0ND

**Tickets:** £7
**Box Office:** 020 7709 8900 or online at [www.halfmoon.org.uk](http://www.halfmoon.org.uk)
**ON SALE NOW**

#BoysDont

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**FURTHER DETAILS**

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

A selection of images will be available to download from the Dropbox link below. Production photos will be added as soon as they become available.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b23exj6ud0i8yw3/AACLc_iMEsj3ytDUT2bHmkWia?dl=0>

**ABOUT HALF MOON**

Half Moon is the UK’s leading small-scale young people’s venue and touring company. It is a local organisation with a national remit, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage of their creative development. Working from our base in East London, we specialise in new writing and artform development, acting as a gateway organisation that provides pathways for progression and experimentation. Our wide-ranging programme reaches 49,000 people annually and engages those who are often excluded from arts activity. Our activity includes a season of professional plays for young audiences, national touring productions and an extensive creative learning programme, including five youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and receives regular funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Half Moon’s digital archive is available at [www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk](http://www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk)

[www.halfmoon.org.uk](http://www.halfmoon.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/halfmoontheatre](http://www.facebook.com/halfmoontheatre)

Twitter: @halfmoontheatre

**ABOUT PAPERTALE**

Papertale delivers original, innovative, spoken word performance for family audiences, produced and directed by writer and performer Rosemary Harris in conjunction with some of the UK's leading performance poets. Papertale’s spoken word shows for children, developed and presented in partnership with Half Moon and Apples and Snakes, include the *Suitcase Trilogy*: *A Roo in My Suitcase,* *One Way Ticket* and *Map of Me*.

[www.papertale.co.uk](http://www.papertale.co.uk) |

Twitter: @papertaleshows

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