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**PRESS RELEASE
20 January 2017
Immediate release**

**A DARK AND TWISTED WORLD OF POLITICS, WAR AND SURVIVAL TO TOUR THE UK**

***Her*,** a new co-production for teenage audiences by **Brolly Productions** and **Half Moon Theatre**, embarks on a five venue UK tour from **2 – 13 Feb 2017**.

*Her* was developed over two years by Brolly Productions and Half Moon. Brolly is a collaboration between designer and illustrator **Rachana Jadhav** and writer and director **Dominic Hingorani.** It has direction byDominic Hingoraniwith designs and illustrations by Rachana Jadhav. Digital Engineer is **Ed Sunam**, sound design by **Tate Hingorani-Short**, lighting design by **Phil Clarke** and the **Dramaturgy and Theatre for Young People Consultant** isChris Elwell. The story is told by one performer, **Shala Nyx**, who plays five versions of the same girl, plus other male and female characters.

A girl comes home to find her house has disappeared. The neighbours have fled and the streets are deserted. *Her* is a compelling new story about a fifteen year old London girl who inexplicably finds that conflict has made her an alien in her own country.

Drawing on the experiences of ordinary people confronted with displacement as a result of war, the play features one actor playing different versions of the ‘girl’ as she navigates the harsh realities faced by young women in conflict zones and the difficult choices they have to make to survive.

Using innovative green screen technology to integrate animation, film and live action, *Her* combines the emotional depth of theatre with the visual intensity of the graphic novel to create a dark and twisted world of politics, war and survival.

The performance lasts 60 minutes and is followed by a Q&A giving audiences a chance to discuss the creative processes used to make the show and the issues raised by the production.

*Her* opens at Half Moon Theatre in East London on 2 February 2017, where it runs for ten performances. The production then tours to **Norden Farm Centre for the Arts**, **Redbridge Drama Centre,** **Newhampton Arts Centre** and schools in **Rochdale Schools**.

Dominic Hingorani, the Director of *Her* and Co-Artistic Director of Brolly Productions*,*commented: “We wanted to look at the experiences of young women in war and how people in that situation are often portrayed as if they are somehow different, or other, than any other young person – we wanted to make a connection between a young woman in East London and young women in Syria, Bosnia or Nigeria. We had also seen reports of how often a war would be advancing on a civilian population and, even though they knew the fighting was coming, there was nothing they could do about it except wait.”

Rachana Jadhav, the Designer of *Her* and Co-Artistic Director of Brolly Productions*,*commented: “The design is central to the production; we want *Her* to have the visual intensity of a graphic novel and the emotional power of theatre. We have one actor, Shala Nyx, playing five versions of the same girl, plus all the other characters. We do this by filming her on ‘green screen’ so that she can then act in scenes with herself as the other characters. We then have original artwork that is animated to bring the story to life.”

**Chris Elwell**, **Director of Half Moon**, commented: “We’re excited to be working once again with Brolly Productions on a new co-production of *Her*, after the success of *Guantanamo Boy* in 2013. This cutting edge production looks at the complex issues faced by women during war and we look forward to bringing this contemporary piece of theatre to venues across the UK.”

*Her* is supported by Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation.

**ENDS**

**LISTINGS DETAILS**

***her***

A Brolly Productions and Half Moon co-production for teenage audiences

**TOUR LISTINGS**

**2-7 February 2017**- Half Moon Theatre, 020 7709 8900, www.halfmoon.org.uk

**8 February 2017** - Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, 01628 788997, www.norden.farm

**9 February 2017** - Redbridge Drama Centre, 0208 708 8803, www.redbridgedramacentre.co.uk

**10 February 2017** - Newhampton Arts Centre, 01902 572 090, www.newhamptonarts.co.uk

**13 February 2017** - Rochdale schools (closed performances)

Performance lasts for 60 minutes followed by a Q&A session.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Girl** – Shala Nyx

**Director and Writer** - Dominic Hingorani

**Designer and Illustrator** - Rachana Jadhav

**Digital Engineer** - Ed Sunam

**Sound Designer** - Tate Hingorani-Short

**Lighting Designer** - Phil Clarke

**Dramaturgy and Theatre for Young People Consultant** -Chris Elwell

**Stage Manager** - Callum Thomson

**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 can be downloaded from the Dropbox link below. Please credit Toby Lee for the relevant photographs:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7u9tinycys31elc/AACYHbO76eJZOtwl2X2YQrVRa?dl=0>

**ABOUT BROLLY PRODUCTIONS**

Brolly Productions is designer and illustrator Rachana Jadhav and writer, director Dominic Hingorani.

Brolly Productions make performance work across the disciplines where form is led by concept. They place design at the centre of their practice and integrate live performance with digital technologies.

As a BME led company, they aim to engage new and diverse audiences; especially among those who may not have attended an arts event before. Brolly Productions believe that both the stage and the company should reflect the diversity of their audience. The company collaborate with a range of cultural and advocacy organisations at local and national level to develop networks, platforms and agency for our audience through our exchange initiative.

[www.brollyproductions.com](http://www.brollyproductions.com)

Twitter: @brollytweets

**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

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