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Immediate release**

**AN UPLIFTING SHOW THAT ENABLES FAMILIES TO TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH COMES TO HALF MOON THEATRE ON**

**FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY AS PART OF THE MARK YOUR MIND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

***The Girl and the Giraffe****,* an uplifting show about friendship and wellbeing that enables families to talk about mental health, comes to **Half Moon Theatre** on **Friday 24 February**, after sold out performances in April and December 2016. The production by **Floods of Ink** isfor young people **aged 3-6** and their families.

The 4.30pm performance of *The Girl and the Giraffe* is part of the Mark Your Mind campaign, a new project that aims to inform young people, families and those who work with children and young people about mental health and how to support each other. All tickets to this performance are free. There are further performances at 10.30m and 1.30pm where tickets cost £7 (available via the box office on 020 7709 8900 or online at www.halfmoon.org.uk)

One day whilst Girl is playing in her garden, she spots something peculiar on the other side of the fence. Climbing up as high as she can to get a better view, she is surprised when she comes face to face with... Giraffe!

As their friendship grows, Girl discovers that Giraffe isn't very well. She tries everything she can to make him feel a bit better; putting on bandages, making a cup of tea, and even baking a truly magnificent cake, but she doesn't get it quite right. Girl soon realises that Giraffe doesn't need a plaster for a graze on his arm or a scratch on his knee. Giraffe is sad. Sometimes we need a different kind of plaster for the things you can't always see.

Charming puppetry, an enchanting soundscape and beautiful storytelling combine in this sensitive show about wellbeing and friendship, told from a child's perspective.

“*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,” commented **Amber-Rose May**, who plays the Girl in *The Girl and the Giraffe* and is also the co-founder of Floods of Ink.

“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,” she said.

“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,” added Amber-Rose May.

*The Girl and the Giraffe* 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.

**Chris Elwell**, **Director of Half Moon** commented: “We're delighted to welcome back Floods of Ink to Half Moon Theatre with their touching and sensitive new show *The Girl and the Giraffe*, an important production that sensitively address mental health and allows families to talk about these issues, offering them a reference point for further discussion.”

**ENDS**

**LISTINGS DETAILS**

Half Moon presents

**The Girl and the Giraffe**

A Floods of Ink production for 3-6s

**Friday 24 February at 4.30pm**

Ages 3-6 | 45 minutes

All tickets are free

There are further performances at 10.30m and 1.30pm which are not supported by Mark your Mind. Tickets cost £7 and can be obtained by visiting the Box Office or by calling 020 7709 8900. Tickets are also available online at www.halfmoon.org.uk)

Half Moon Theatre

43 White Horse Road, London E1 0ND

#GirlAndGiraffe

Mark Your Mind is Tower Hamlets campaign that aims to inform young people, families and those who work with children and young people about mental health and how to support each other.
Find out more at www.youngminds.org.uk/tower\_hamlets

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Girl:** Amber-Rose May

**Giraffe:** Laurence Alliston-Greiner

**Director:** Titania Krimpas

**Designer:** Amy Yardley

**Sound Designer:** Greg Hall

**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 production images can be downloaded from Dropbox:

**https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0gn7inuztnq91qa/AAAnWhf9xDtDYSOntHKi4FGKa?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 seven youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and receives regular funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

*The Girl and the Giraffe* 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.

Half Moon’s digital archive is available at www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk

Website: www.halfmoon.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/halfmoontheatre
Twitter: @HalfMoonTheatre

**ABOUT FLOODS OF INK**

Floods of Ink champion young people’s right to experience theatre – creating work that speaks to the reality they live in and opens their eyes to the world outside it. Co-founders Amber-Rose and Laurence source ideas from young people themselves through collaborations, conversations and workshops, combining different disciplines, which include movement, writing and devising. Through practice based interaction and facilitation, Floods of Ink produce theatre that speaks to young audiences of today. In 2014 they created *Up in the Attic*, an actor-musician show for 3-6 year olds which toured extensively across England following their earlier success with a teenage focused piece *M for Medea* (2013). Both toured as part of Half Moon Presents. Floods of Ink aim to continue producing unique performances and workshops for children and young people, collaborating with new artists and broadening our reach to new and existing audiences.

Website: www.floodsofink.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FloodsOfInk

Twitter: @floodsofink

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