

**PRESS RELEASE
[INSERT DATE]
Immediate release**

**RAPPING, DANCING AND FAR-OUT VIDEO PROJECTIONS COME TO** **[INSERT VENUE] ON [INSERT DATES] IN A STORY ABOUT STANDING UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN**

London based rapper **Simon Mole** brings his interactive spoken word performance for families to **[INSERT VENUE DETAILS]** on **[INSERT DATES]**. ***Friends For All*** is a story about having the confidence to be yourself and stand up for what you believe in and features rapping, dancing and far-out video projections for **ages 5-11** and their grown-ups.

8 year old Lexi doesn’t make friends as easily as some. If only her school would allow a non-school uniform day then she could be herself and find others like her. Inspired by Grandad’s hippy stories from the swinging 60s, she decides to fight the powers that be, namely her class teacher, Mr Marsh, and the class bully, Suzy.

Poet and rapper Simon Mole performs in this humorous and moving piece, which was co-created with theatre maker **Peader Kirk**. The show features Simon Mole’s trademark poetry, rap and storytelling style alongside original video projections courtesy of **Andrew Crofts,** an original sound track composed by **Jonny Wharton** and lighting design by **Phil Clarke**.

Simon Mole is a spoken word poet with an eye for the often overlooked in the everyday. Simon was the first ever Poet Laureate for the London borough of Brent, and is one fifth of the acclaimed poetry collective Chill Pill.

Peader Kirk is an artist and director working internationally in the fields of performance and sound art. His work has recently been shown at The Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, The National Theatre of Greece in Athens, and The Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. *Friends For All* is their 3rd collaboration.

*Friends for All 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.

Simon Mole said: “I wanted to create a piece of theatre that wasn’t dumbed down for young audiences; something that was exciting and complex enough that they could be an active and creative audience. *Friend For All* feels like a wide-screen cinematic experience - it features an array of virtual performers and it’s incredible to see how the young people react to them. But there’s also an important message, to empower them to understand that they are able to make change within the world they live.”

**Chris Elwell**, Director of Half Moon, commented: “I’m really pleased to be working with Simon Mole on *Friends for All*. Simon has great skill in making spoken word a tangible experience and his cool yet quirky performance effortlessly encompasses themes of protest and revolution for young minds.”

*Friends For All* was originally commissioned by the V&A as part of the Family Art Fun Programme and inspired by their *You Say You Want* *a Revolution* exhibition and developed with support from Apples and Snakes, the Albany, University of Bedfordshire and Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre. It is funded by Arts Council England.

All tickets are priced at **[INSERT TICKET PRICE(S)]** and can be obtained by visiting the Box Office or by calling **[INSERT BOX OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER]**. Tickets are also available online at **[INSERT WEBSITE URL]**

**ENDS**

**LISTINGS DETAILS**

Half Moon presents

**Friends for All**

a Simon Mole production for 5-11s

**[INSET DATE]**

**[Insert times]**
Ages 5-11 | 40 minutes

**[INSERT VENUE DETAILS]**

**Tickets:** **[INSERT PRICE]**
**Box Office:** **[INSERT BOX OFFICE DETAILS]**
**ON SALE NOW**

Commissioned by the V&A Museum as part of the Family Art Fun Programme

Supported with public funding from Arts Council England

With support from Apples and Snakes, Spread the Word, the Albany, University of Bedfordshire, and Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre

#FriendsForAll

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Creators** - Simon Mole and Peader Kirk

**Script and Performance** - Simon Mole

**Direction and Design** - Peader Kirk

**Video Design** - Andrew Crofts

**Sound Design** - Jonathan Wharton

**Lighting** **Design**– Phil Clarke

**Project Management** - Maeve O’Neill

**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 and trailers can be downloaded from Dropbox at the link below:

[**https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u4ia5ocd780s2el/AAAgNFpQOxeGacLT8DkrrKDGa?dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u4ia5ocd780s2el/AAAgNFpQOxeGacLT8DkrrKDGa?dl=0)

**ABOUT SIMON MOLE**

Simon Mole is a poet, emcee, and theatre-maker. He built his skills on the Brighton hip-hop scene and has shared the bill with Simon Armitage, John Cooper Clarke and Kate Tempest. He has also been featured on BBC Radio 3’s *The Verb*. Simon co-founded Chill Pill Collective, curating and hosting popular poetry nights at Soho Theatre and the Albany, and was the first ever Poet Laureate for the London borough of Brent. Simon is an experienced facilitator with over 10 years’ experience working with rap and poetry in community and education settings, including projects with Great Ormond Street Hospital and Arsenal FC.

Since 2012 he has collaborated with immersive performance director Peader Kirk and producer Maeve O'Neill, creating three full length shows for theatre spaces. Their partnership takes spoken word performance in a bold direction, with Simon’s intricately crafted poetic stories at the core of immersive entertainment and integrated participation. *Indiana Jones and the Extra Chair* toured nationally with sell out shows at Southbank Centre and Brighton Dome. *No More Worries* had a two week run at the Albany and sold-out shows at the Bush Theatre. *Friends For All* demonstrates he is a writer capable of tackling emotionally and politically challenging subjects in a way that’s accessible to young audiences. Since becoming a Dad, Simon writes increasingly for young people.

www.simonmole.com |www.facebook.com/simonmolepoet |@Si\_Mole

**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 their base in East London, Half Moon specialise in new writing and artform development, acting as a gateway organisation that provides pathways for progression and experimentation. Half Moon’s wide-ranging programme reaches 53,000 people annually and engages those who are often excluded from arts activity. Their 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.

*Friends for All 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

www.halfmoon.org.uk |www.facebook.com/halfmoontheatre |@HalfMoonTheatre

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