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

**A SWASHBUCKLING PIRATE ADVENTURE WITH A TWIST COMES TO [INSERT VENUE] ON [INSERT DATE] FOR AGES 4-9**

***Young Herbert’s Horrors***, a swashbuckling pirate adventure with a twist told by performance poet **Justin Coe**, comes to **[INSERT VENUE]** on **[INSERT DATE]** for young people **aged 4-9** and their families.

Young Herbert is a little horror. Living on a boat should be the ideal life for a wannabe pirate, but the boat’s grounded until Herbert can learn to tidy his cabin, eat his greens and be more polite. A big storm brews up when Herbert is sent home from school and Mum calls on Great Uncle Albatross - navy captain and scourge of all pirates - to warn him of the dangers of rebellion.

But who is Great Uncle Albatross and do his cautionary tales really have the power to make Young Herbert behave? Or will they just give Young Herbert the horrors?

Featuring swashbuckling verse, jaunty music, gallows humour and the obligatory parrot, *Young Herbert's Horrors* is Justin Coe's brand new spoken word show for children, following the highly popular *Big Wow, Small Wonder*.

Justin Coe commented: “The inspiration for the show came from my children. Although the story is told predominately from a child’s point of view, the idea came out of my attempts to parent my three young kids. Deep down, the show is really about the relationship between Herbert and his Mum, and the relationship between all children and their parents, about the conflict and the love between us.

Justin continued: “Just because there is an ocean of love between parents and their children, doesn’t always make for plain sailing. Some sort of conflict between children and adults is inevitable. So, though in real life I am neither Herbert the Horror or Herbert’s Mother, I can relate to both. In some ways, this is really a love letter to my children and to my parents.”

Justin Coe is *a w*riter and performance poet whose work has been published in the anthologies *The Secret Life of Pants*, *Born to Giggle*, *Recycling Grandad* and *The Jumble Book* - the title of which was loaned from his one man show of the same title exploring dyslexia. *The Jumble Book* won Best Children's Event at the 2010 Brighton Fringe Festival. Justin started his career comparing open-mike and poetry cabaret events including *Don't Feed the Poets!*, one of the south coast's longest running spoken word gigs.

*Young Herbert’s Horrors* 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 be working with performance poet Justin Coe on his new spoken word show, a swashbuckling pirate adventure with a twist. Justin's work is driven by a passion to connect poetry with people and people with poetry and we look forward to engaging and stimulating you with the magic of live theatre, an unbeatable event.”

**ENDS**

**LISTINGS DETAILS**

Half Moon presents

**Young Herbert’s Horrors**

a Justin Coe production for ages 4-9

**[INSERT DATE]**
Ages 4-9 | 45 minutes (no interval).

[INSERT VENUE ADDRESS]

**Tickets:** £ [INSERT PRICE]
**Box Office:** [INSERT BOX OFFICE NUMBER] or online at [INSERT WEBSITE]
**ON SALE NOW**

#YoungHerbert

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Performer:** Justin Coe
**Director:** Chris Elwell
**Designer:** Adam Nee
**Music:** Greg Hall and Vladimir Wills-Sokolov
**Lighting Designer:** Phil Clarke
**Movement:** Juliet Chambers
**Dramaturge / Poetry Advisor:** Rosemary Harris

**FURTHER DETAILS**

For further information or to arrange interviews, photographs and press tickets please contact [INSERT NAME] on [INSERT TELEPHONE NUMBER] or [INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS]

A selection of images can be downloaded from Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wszzs8vmgm4bqrj/AAArbagIK5qNBgteeCxrU9jCa?dl=0>

An interview with Justin Coe is available to be used across all media.

**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 53,000 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.

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

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

**ABOUT JUSTIN COE**

Southend-on-Sea based performance poet Justin Coe work is driven by a passion to connect poetry with people and people with poetry. Justin started his career comparing open-mike and poetry cabaret events including *Don't Feed the Poets!*, one of the south coast's longest running spoken word gigs. In recent years his family-friendly poetry based performance work for venues, schools and libraries have included The Dictionary of Dads (focusing on children's experience of fatherhood) and the interactive show My Creepy Crawly Story House (about bugs, mini-beasts and fantastical creatures, suitable for younger children). His work has also been published in the anthologies, *The Secret Life of Pants*, *Born to Giggle*, *Recycling Grandad* and *The Jumble Book* - the title of which was loaned from his one man show of the same title exploring dyslexia. *The Jumble Book* was Best Children's Event at the 2010 Brighton Fringe Festival.

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