

Hoxton Hall and Firehouse Creative Productions Presents

The Alchemist

Based on the play by Ben Jonson

Re imagined by the Company

Directed by Rachel Parish. Designed by Nadia Malik. Lighting by Tom Wickens

Disaster strikes. London is nearly deserted. Bad luck for some..... but for others, it's too good to be true.

Ben Jonson's classic masterpiece takes a ruthless and hilarious look at the tendency in us all to believe the outlandish and the unlikely in pursuit of our wildest dreams.

What do you desire? What do you dream of? How much are you willing to believe?

Firehouse and Hoxton Hall have joined forces to stage a reworking of this classic text, using true stories from the local community in Hoxton. Over the next few months, StoryStation will be found in a stall on Hoxton Street Market. From these recordings will come a new version of The Alchemist - one that belongs firmly to Hoxton.

Cast includes: Rose-Marie Christian, Jon Foster, Zoe Ford, Elisa Armstrong, Clare Quinn, Thomas Blyth, Freya Alderson, Huge Darbyshire and Nick Whitley

Hoxton Select is a panel of local young people set up to artistically programme the URBANISM season at Hoxton Hall. The panel, aged 14 - 26, have made regular visits to productions across London, had discussions and workshops with artists and selected Firehouse Creative Productions reworking of the Alchemist to headline the season.

Based both in the UK and the USA, **Firehouse Creative Productions** creates international performance work inspired by distinct communities, inviting voices from diverse cultural and historical backgrounds to share a creative space in the performance making process. They often incorporate true stories into the creative process. This approach is based on the belief that each individual's story can give us insight into universal truths, offering unique and vibrant avenues into creating contemporary theatrical events.

Past productions include: **Elevator** (New Diorama Theatre, Time Out Critic's Choice)

Stella (Douglass Theatre, USA and Southwark Playhouse, London, supported by ACE).

Past performance installations include **StoryStation** (Seven Dials' Festival 09/10, St Thomas' Hospital, BAC, Tristan Bates Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Arts Exchange—USA, Bibb Senior Citizens Centre—USA, supported by Arts Council England)

I Confess (Latitude Festival, Blysh Festival, Tate Britain, HighTide, Edinburgh Fringe, Nabakov Arts Club, Southwark Playhouse, Shamanimal, Greenbelt Festival, and more)

"Recaptures the heart of theatre" **** - Three Weeks (for **I Confess**)

"I was seduced and charmed by this production" - Southwark News (for **Stella**)

"Rachel Parish's taut, naturalistic [production]...is by turns charming and desperately bleak" ****

Time Out Critic's Choice (for **Elevator**)

PRESS NIGHT: TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2010 AT 8PM

PHOTO CALL: THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 3-4PM

Hoxton Hall, 130 Hoxton Street N1 6SH. Book online at www.hoxtonhall.co.uk or call 020 76840060

Tuesday 24 August – Friday 10 September 2010

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 8pm. Sunday at 6pm. Matinee Saturday 4 at 3pm

No performances on 27 and 28 August, and 3 Sept

Tickets £12.50/£10 concessions. Various season multi-buy offers available – see www.hoxtonhall.co.uk for details

Previews (24-26 August) £10 all seats.

Performance length: approximately 90 minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact
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