

DUN DEE REP

Dundee Rep Theatre and Vicky Graham Productions present

THIS IS A LOVE STORY: A POP MUSICAL

Saturday 6 November 2021

<https://dundeerep.co.uk/whats-on/this-is-a-love-story-a-pop-musical>

Music & Lyrics by Jack Godfrey
Book & Additional Lyrics by Ellie Coote
Commissioned by Vicky Graham

The development of this concert performance is supported by HOME
Manchester

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[Images available here.](#)

Earth. Humanity. 200,000 years in the making.

A new pop musical tells the 200,000-year love story between Earth and Humanity, from first sparks to today's abusive relationship via infidelities of astronomical proportions.

Using the language of pop music to shine a fresh light on our relationship with the planet, the high-energy score by Jack Godfrey (42 Balloons, Babies) and razor-sharp lyrics by Ellie Coote (42 Balloons). Performed by two actors with a live on-stage band and continuous creative captioning, the presentation of this work continues Dundee Rep's commitment to developing and platforming the most exciting and innovative new musical theatre writing.

This one-off concert performance at Dundee Rep on Saturday 6 November, also streamed live online at Rep Studios, marks a significant moment in the creative development of this original musical, commissioned by Vicky Graham Productions and developed with support of Arts Council England and HOME Manchester. Now further developed at Dundee Rep Theatre this REP STUDIOS live stream, scheduled during COP26 will be the first opportunity for audiences to experience the show in a concert setting.

Co-Creators of the show Jack Godfrey and Ellie Coote said "We're really excited to have our first public showing of THIS IS A LOVE STORY at a theatre which is so passionate about new musical theatre. We're so excited to see how live and digital audiences will respond. This concert version will also give us an opportunity to experiment with creative captioning for the first time, which is a massive part of our vision for the show. We hope that the show will get people talking about the planet and our future, and inspire people to think about their role in the world."

Dundee Rep's Artistic Director Andrew Panton said: "COP26 is a hugely important moment in history and it is exciting to be so near the epicentre of that as it happens in Scotland. We hope that THIS IS A LOVE STORY can draw more people's attention to it. Recent pop musicals like SIX and Our Ladies have proven incredibly popular among a really broad audience and we think there is a real opportunity to open up the conversation around climate change which can be daunting for lots of people to think about and discuss. We hope this show will provide an accessible and entertaining way for people to engage with the conversation about the future of our planet."

Producer Vicky Graham said: "Now is the time to for artists and audiences to engage with the climate crisis. I can't wait to share Jack Godfrey and Ellie Coote's fun, fresh and entertaining work with audiences for the first time, and to work with our partners and talented creative team to embed sustainable practice and creative access into the development of the show. "

THIS IS A LOVE STORY will be further developed ahead of a premiere in 2022, to be announced.

Climate Beacons for COP26 is a Scotland-wide collaborative project between climate change or environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead-up to and following COP26. **Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre** are thrilled to be part of this new initiative together with V&A Dundee, The James Hutton Institute and Dundee Museum of Transport as one of the seven Climate Beacons for the Tayside area. Building on Dundee's reputation as a city of design, the Tayside Beacon will use design-led-thinking as a means to create and deliver innovative forms of public engagement focused on the climate crisis, finding sustainable ways for Tayside communities to take action. New productions like **THIS IS A LOVE**

STORY with environmental themes are a key part of the picture, providing imaginative ways to stimulate debate, discussion and change. **THIS IS A LOVE STORY** is proud to be participating in the beta trial of the **Theatre Green Book**.

ENDS

Creative Team
Music and Lyrics **Jack Godfrey**
Book and Additional Lyrics **Ellie Coote**
Director **Miranda Cromwell**
Orchestrator and Musical Director **Gavin Whitworth**
Lighting Designer **Grant Anderson**
Video Designer **Laura Spark**

Please note, this performance uses creative captioning throughout. Captions will be central to the video design and can be seen from anywhere in the auditorium. Viewers of the live stream will benefit from additional open captions integrated into the stream through vision mixing.

Detail on Climate Beacons nationally can be found here:

<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/project/climate-beacons-for-cop26/>

[Detail on the Theatre Green Book can be found here:](https://theatregreenbook.com/)

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ABOUT DUNDEE REP THEATRE AND SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE

The story of Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre is one of its people: its artists, creatives, staff, participants and audiences.

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre sits at the cultural heart of Dundee as a centre of creative excellence. The Organisation looks outwards, creating and delivering work for local, national and international audiences, with learning at the heart. “The Rep” recently celebrated its 80th anniversary and is home to the Dundee Rep Ensemble, the only permanent full-time company of its kind in Scotland. Scottish Dance Theatre is one of the few full-time companies in the UK and is made up of nine inquisitive and versatile dancers who have come from all over the world to work and create in our home at Dundee Rep. Together these twin ensembles have created a number of award-winning productions, made in Dundee that tour nationally and internationally; establishing a reputation as one of the UK’s leaders in theatre and dance production, carrying the Dundee brand far and wide.

Dundee Rep Ensemble has created a number of award-winning and award-nominated productions, including the world premiere of ‘Let the Right One In’, ‘The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Oil’, the Scottish premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning ‘August: Osage County’, and the 80th Anniversary season world premiere of Peter Arnott’s ‘Tay Bridge’.

Working at the forefront of the art form, Scottish Dance Theatre collaborates with internationally acclaimed choreographers and artists, supports the development of emerging and home-grown talent and promotes a plurality of voices. With more than 30 years of history, the company has developed a distinctive identity that brings together artistic integrity and

social commitment, reaching a wide range of audiences and communities locally, nationally and across the world. Scottish Dance Theatre has received multiple awards, including the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Company Repertoire, and has built a strong international profile, becoming Scotland's flagship contemporary dance company.

At the heart of the Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre vision is the belief that artistic and creative experience of the highest quality should be open and available to all. The Organisation has an extensive engagement programme working with people of all ages both within the building and in formal and informal learning contexts across Scotland and internationally.

Over the course of eight decades, Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre has been at the heart of performance in Scotland, and grown into a world-class organisation, with two artistic forces based in Dundee, travelling to and reaching the rest of the world.

ABOUT VICKY GRAHAM PRODUCTIONS

Since 2012, Vicky Graham Productions has commissioned, developed and produced new plays and musicals by world-class artists. World premieres include: FLOWERS FOR MRS HARRIS by Rachel Wagstaff and Richard Taylor (Sheffield Theatres 2016 & Chichester Festival Theatre 2018); PILGRIMS by Elinor Cook (Theatr Clwyd; HighTide and Yard Theatre 2018); THOR + LOKI by Harry Blake (Edinburgh Fringe 2018) and BREEDERS by Ben Ockrent (St. James Theatre 2014). VGP has eleven projects in development, of which THIS IS A LOVE STORY is one.

www.vickygrahamproductions.com

For more information, please contact The Corner Shop PR Scotland:

Susie Gray, susie@thecornershoppr.com 07834 073795