



worthing theatres and museum

PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:

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Marketing Coordinator

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Press Direct Line: (01903) 231227 | Box Office: (01903) 206206

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Press Release – for immediate release

A blend of dance, theatre and comedy reveals the real story of Romeo and Juliet. It turns out they didn't die tragically, rather grew up and lived happily ever after. Well, they lived at least...this November in Worthing.

Directed by Olivier Award-nominated Artistic Director of Lost Dog, Ben Duke, *Juliet & Romeo* takes on our cultural obsession with youth and our inevitable issues with longevity. Now the star-crossed couple are 40ish, at least one of them is in the grips of a mid-life crisis, and they've decided to confront their current struggles by putting on a performance... about themselves. Their therapist told them it was a terrible idea. Experience this reamining of a classic on Friday 12 November 2021, 8pm.

The work is broadly based on Shakespeare's love story, read as both passionate and pessimistic, and explores whether our culture's celebration of youth creates unrealistic expectations around love, sex and relationships. It is a duet performed by two dancers, Juliet and Romeo, who feel constantly mocked by their teenage selves and haunted by the pressures of being the poster couple for romantic love. This show is a humorous and heartfelt investigation into well-trod tropes and modern love.

Lost Dog was formed in 2004 by Ben Duke and Raquel Meseguer with the aim of creating work that is both theatre and dance. The company works with text, live music and movement, and blends these elements to create work in which dance is framed by stories and characters. As Duke puts it, 'We began with an idea and we continue to wrestle with it, to say what needs to be said and dance the rest.'

Lost Dog's previous work, *Paradise Lost* received high critical acclaim at Edinburgh Fringe in 2015 and was shortlisted for a Total Theatre Award in the Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with Form category. It was also nominated for the 2016 Sky Academy Arts Award for dance and won the 2017 Rural Touring Award for the most innovative and inspirational show.

Discussing the show, Duke says, 'When I watch *Romeo and Juliet* I am always hoping that their timings will be a little different and Juliet will wake up a few moments earlier. I know she never will but I can't help hoping for it. The idea for this piece came from allowing myself to imagine that alternate version. In this work they've been together about 25 years.'

He continues, 'Romeo is in the middle of a mid-life crisis and so his character is trying to re-shape itself. He is trying to let go of the passionate, over the top



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teenager he was and become a Man. But he doesn't have any clear idea what that Man should look like so he is in limbo. Juliet is very attached to the extraordinary teenager she was and is finding the ordinariness of her current life a struggle.'

Juliet & Romeo is being performed at the Connaught Theatre on Friday 12 November, 8pm. Tickets are available from £10. For more information on this or any of the events, visit www.wtam.uk or call the WTM Box Office on 01903 206 206.

★★★★★ 'Pure pleasure. Smart, subversive and sexy.' - The Guardian

★★★★★ 'Superb. Devastating realism and dark humour.' - The Stage

★★★★★ 'Squirmingly funny and no less heartbreaking' - Time Out

★★★★★ 'Glorious. Full of warmth and intimacy' - The Independent

★★★★★ 'Wonderful. Shakespeare's lovers live on' - The Observer

<ENDS>

NOTES TO EDITORS

WTM

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @wtmworthing

Website: wtam.uk

Box Office Phone: 01903 206 206

Lost Dog

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @lostdogdance, #julietandromeo

Website: lostdogdance.co.uk

Trailer: vimeo.com/369284669

Interview with Lost Dog's Artistic Director, Ben Duke:

wtam.uk/interview-with-ben-duke-about-juliet-romeo/

Making of the show: wtam.uk/the-making-of-juliet-romeo/



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EVENT LISTING

Juliet & Romeo

Date: 12 Friday November 2021

Time: 8pm

Venue: Connaught Theatre, Union Pl, Worthing BN11 1LG

Tickets: From £10

Link: wtam.uk/events/juliet-romeo/

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IMAGE DOWNLOADS

[WTM Venues](#)

[Juliet & Romeo](#)
