



PUSH

**Pleasance Festival Online
Friday 6th August – Monday 30th August 2021**

A hell of a lot can happen in the time you await the results of a pregnancy test. *PUSH* is the story of a woman staring down the barrel of motherhood, torn between her own ambivalence and an uncontrollable urge to push.

Award-winning Popelei have burst out of isolation and onto our screens with their darkly comic theatre production, reimagined for film after its preview at VAULT Festival 2020. Fusing theatre, movement and dance the company have embraced this new medium, collaborating with cinematographer Jack Offord. With blistering honesty, exhilarating choreography, and one extremely knocked-up performer this *is an engaging, expressive performance...a show that captures the blizzard of feelings parents have for their as-yet-unborn children* (The Guardian).

PUSH was written in response to the difficulty faced as a woman in her 30s trying to separate your own life choices from the sense of a biological ticking clock, and the eternal question of whether to try to become a parent. It was created out of a desire to see the seemingly mundane moments of a woman's life portrayed and explored on a grander scale. Here, the three-minute panic of waiting for the results of a pregnancy test transforms into a full-scale existential crisis, pulling in physical theatre and dance to express the broad range of complicated emotions.

Director Scarlett Plouviez comments, *figuring out if, how and when to have a baby has never been easy. The last year has complicated this even further for many - dating in a time of social distancing, cancelled fertility appointments, money problems, moving back in with your parents, the climate crisis...the list goes on. PUSH doesn't pretend to have an answer to any of this, but instead holds a mirror up to what it can feel like to experience a sliding-doors moment in your life, looking down at a pregnancy test and wondering what it is exactly that you want.*

Popelei is an ongoing collaboration between writer-performer Tamsin Hurtado Clarke and writer-director Scarlett Plouviez, seeking to make performances that are authentic, energetic

and hopeful, reflecting the world as they experience it and want it to be. *PUSH* features an original soundtrack by a regular Popelei collaborator, the renowned Chilean film and stage composer Santiago Jara Astaburuaga.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>PUSH</i>
Performance Dates	Friday 6 th – Monday 30 th August 2021 Available on demand
Running time	40 minutes
Created by	Popelei
Performer	Tamsin Hurtado Clarke
Director	Scarlett Plouviez
Producer	Penelope Saward
Composer/Sound Designer	Santiago Jara Astaburuaga
Cinematographer	Jack Offord
Sound Recordist	Graeme Willetts
Assistant Director	Anja Kulesa
Gaffer	Jack Lilley
Box Office	Tickets are available for £5 from www.pleasance.co.uk .
Twitter	@helloworldpelei, #PushEdfringe
Instagram	@helloworldpelei, #PushEdfringe
Facebook	@helloworldpelei
Website	www.popelei.com
Age Guidance	16+, strong language and nudity

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin, Chloé Nelkin Consulting
E: chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07764 273 219
W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com