



PRESS RELEASE
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Immediate release

IMMERSIVE NEW PLAY FOR TEENAGERS THAT NAVIGATES THE UNDERBELLY OF A HIDDEN SOCIETY TOURS TO 11 UK VENUES

***“I trade in my teenage years for you
To protect you
Create what I never had
So you’ll see how beautiful the world can be”***

Off the Grid, an immersive new play for **teenagers and adults** by children’s theatre specialists **Half Moon Theatre**, embarks on a **nationwide 11 venue tour**, from **Wednesday 7 November – Saturday 1 December 2018**.

The production has its premiere at Half Moon Theatre, in East London, for 10 performances from **Wednesday 7 to Monday 12 November 2018**.

Developed in partnership with young people, *Off the Grid* is an immersive new play by **David Lane** that navigates a shocking and heart breaking human story through the underbelly of a hidden society. It has direction by **Chris Elwell**, design by **Verity Quinn** and the composer is **Guy Connelly**. The story is told by two performers, **Jesse Bateson** and **Bradley Connor**.

Connor and Kelly are brother and sister. They share the same birthday, but ten years apart. Since the disappearance of their parents, when Kelly was three, they have been dependent on each other for survival. Connor is everything to Kelly: dad, brother, mum, friend – and storyteller. They’ve learned how important it is to believe in something fantastic when you’re living off the grid.

But what happens when you discover you’ve made the wrong decision? Forced to back down, do you sacrifice your beliefs in order to stay together? Follow Connor and Kelly over seven years and discover if their own tale is as hopeful as the fiction they’ve clung on to for their very existence.

Off the Grid is presented by Half Moon, the UK’s leading small-scale theatre company making work for young people, and follows on from *What Once Was Ours* in 2017, a co-production with Zest Theatre, that won the Off West End OFFIE Award for Best Production for Young People aged 13+.

Off the Grid is written by David Lane, one of the most exciting writers in the field of work aimed at teenage audiences, his previous work for Half Moon includes *Free* (2014) and *Begin/End* (2010).

David Lane commented: “*Off the Grid* is about two abandoned children: a brother who at thirteen makes an impossible promise to his three year old sister. He does this for the most genuine, humane and compassionate reasons, but doesn’t know it’s impossible when he makes it. By the time he realises, he knows that in breaking it he’ll destroy the only thing that has made their joint experience of a cruel world bearable. But without surrendering that thing, he can’t fulfil his own needs as a human being. Can he sacrifice his needs to maintain someone else’s happiness, and can he keep the biggest promise he’s ever made to the one person he’s vowed to protect?”

David continues: “I wanted to write a sibling story, but through that to explore the role of a parent. What might happen if you shouldered a young person who had passion and creativity and hope with the responsibilities of being a parent – and how does that conflict with the huge self-discoveries that occur when you change so much between the ages of 13 and 20? What happens when the values that you’ve invested into creating a whole fictional world, for the benefit of somebody else’s protection, are no longer compatible with how you see yourself?”

Chris Elwell, the director of *Off the Grid*, commented: “*Off the Grid* is a compelling piece of new writing for young audiences that isn’t afraid to ask some difficult questions about surviving on the poverty line. The immersive style of the production means audiences will become an integral part of the heart breaking action and witness at close quarters the emotions’ of the characters as the struggle to survive over a decade of time.”

ENDS

LISTINGS DETAILS

Half Moon presents
Off the Grid, by David Lane

Ages 13+ | 60 minutes

Funded by The Royal Victoria Hall Foundation

TOUR DATES

Wednesday 12 to Monday 12 November – Half Moon Theatre, London

Tuesday 13 November - The Egg, Bath

Wednesday 14 November - The Riverfront, Newport

Tuesday 20 November - Waterside, Sale

Wednesday 21 November - Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham

Thursday 22 November - Stamford Arts Centre

Friday 23 November - The Garage, Norwich

Tuesday 27 November - Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham

Thursday 29 November - The Civic, Barnsley

Friday 30 November - Pegasus Theatre, Oxford

Saturday 1 December - Forest Forge Theatre, Ringwood

#OffTheGrid

NOTES TO EDITORS

CAST

Kelly	Jesse Bateson
Connor	Bradley Connor
Additional voiceover work	William Harrison-Wallace

COMPANY INFORMATION

Director	Chris Elwell
Designer	Verity Quinn
Composer	Guy Connelly
Production Manager and Lighting Designer	Phil Clarke
Technical Stage Manager	Miranda Paraskeva

GUEST NIGHT

The official guest night is on Wednesday 7 November, 7pm, at Half Moon Theatre, but press are very welcome to attend any performance. The Half Moon schedule is below.

Wednesday 7 November - 4.30pm and 7pm

Thursday 8 November - 10.30am and 1.30pm

Friday 9 November - 1.30pm and 4.30pm

Saturday 10 November - 3pm and 7pm

Monday 12 November - 10.30am and 1.30pm

FURTHER DETAILS

For further information or to arrange interviews, photographs and press tickets please contact Stephen Beeny on 020 7709 8907 or stephen@halfmoon.org.uk

A selection of images can be downloaded from Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h33jo2ksks93xk8/AABiIZ1uWFUfXKQ-TUIaNinra?dl=0>

A trailer for the show is available here: <https://vimeo.com/290720675>

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 over 50,000 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

www.halfmoon.org.uk | [@HalfMoonTheatre](https://www.instagram.com/HalfMoonTheatre) | www.facebook.com/halfmoontheatre

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