

★★★★★ Evening Standard ★★★★★ The Stage ★★★★★ Herald Scotland ★★★★★
The Guardian ★★★★★ Financial Times ★★★★★ The Independent ★★★★★ The Telegraph
(Critical praise for Bryony Kimmings)

I'M A PHOENIX, BITCH

BRYONY KIMMINGS ANNOUNCES FIRST SOLO SHOW IN NEARLY A DECADE



Who do we become after trauma? How do we turn pain into power? How do we fly instead of drown?

In 2016 **Bryony** nearly drowned. Postnatal breakdowns, an imploding relationship and a very sick child left her sitting beneath the waves hoping she could slowly turn to shell. When Battersea Arts Centre invited her to create a new work for the previously burnt down Grand Hall, she felt an affinity with that building, for her own life had also burnt to the ground that year. *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* is an ambitious, multimedia, mid-scale, solo theatre work about putting yourself back together after trauma. The show seeks to create a new myth of human survival for the modern world.

Bryony Kimmings is a performance artist, theatre-maker, comedian, musician and activist renowned for her outlandish "social experiments." Previous works have seen Bryony retracing an STI to its source, spending seven days in a controlled environment in a constant state of intoxication and becoming a pop star invented by a nine year old girl. Having spent the last few years on collaborative projects and telling other peoples' stories, recent personal cataclysmic life events have led Bryony back to her original solo practice: the confessional, the need to give the unspeakable a voice, the need to rally for positive social change. **Bryony** sets her sights on the impossible and the unconquerable, and turns stigmas, anomalies and social injustices into the year's hottest topic:

"My shows are usually born out of me going: 'We don't talk about this enough, this is problematic in terms of a political or feminist narrative.'" – **Bryony Kimmings**

Her most recent work *A Pacifists Guide to the War on Cancer* was commissioned by Complicite and originally shown at The Royal National Theatre and HOME, Manchester. The touring version of this show is currently on in Melbourne and Sydney. **Bryony's** award winning work has toured across the world, including: Antifest (Finland), Culturgest (Portugal), Fusebox Festival (Texas), Southbank Centre (London), Melbourne International Comedy Festival (Australia) and Lisinski Operahouse (Croatia).

Currently in development, *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* will be running at Battersea Arts Centre between 3rd and 20th of October.

I'm a Phoenix, Bitch is commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts and supported by Latitude Festival and in association with Avalon Promotions. Research and development was funded by Arts Council England.

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For more information or press tickets please contact Sian Docksey on SDocksey@avalon-entertainment.com / 020 7598 7222.

Notes to Editors:

About Battersea Arts Centre

Battersea Arts Centre is a public space where people come together to be creative, see a show, explore the local heritage, play or relax. The organisation's mission is to inspire people, to take creative risks, to shape the future.

Battersea Arts Centre encourages people to test and develop new ideas with members of the public – a process called Scratch. Scratch is used by artists to make theatre, by young people to develop entrepreneurial ideas and as a helpful process for anyone who wants to get creative.

In 2018 Battersea Arts Centre's Grand Hall reopens with the [Phoenix Season](#), featuring work by Bryony Kimmings, Gecko, the National Theatre of Scotland, Lekan Lawal, Dead Centre, Little Bulb Theatre, BAC Beatbox Academy, Daniel Kitson, Touretteshero and others.

Each year Battersea Arts Centre:

- Welcomes over 160,000 people to its building
- Inspires the local community to get creative including 3000 young people
- Works with over 400 artists to put on over 800 performances and tour at least 10 shows and projects

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About Avalon

Avalon is a multi-award winning talent management, live promotion and television production group with offices in the UK and the USA.

The talent management arm has discovered and represents many artists which are household names, both in the UK, the USA, and around the world.

Through Avalon Promotions the group produced *Newman and Baddiel: Live at Wembley*, the UK's first arena comedy show; Jerry Springer: The Opera, the first West End show to win all four UK **Best New Musical** awards; and has continued to produce live shows globally, as well as promoting more winners and nominees of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award than any other company.

In 2017 Avalon was named the top true independent television production company in the UK and has produced numerous ground-breaking television shows including: Emmy and Peabody award winner *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (HBO), multi-award winning and Emmy-nominated *Catastrophe* (Channel 4/Amazon Prime), RTS and Rose d'Or winning *Not Going Out* (BBC1's longest running sitcom currently on air), BAFTA and RTS-nominated *Taskmaster* (DAVE), multi-BAFTA award winning *TV Burp* (ITV1), *Russell Howard's Good News* (BBC2), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC/ITV) and *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA).

Avalon Television, Liberty Bell Productions, Flame Television and Topical Television form the television arm of the company and other shows currently in production include: *The Button* (BBC One), *Not Going Out* (BBC One) *Taskmaster USA* (Comedy Central), *Man Down* (C4), *The Chris Ramsey Show* (Comedy Central), *Russell Howard & Mum: Road Trip* (Comedy Central), *Unspun with Matt Forde* (Dave) and *Stand Up Central with Chris Ramsey* (Comedy Central); whilst the catalogue is sold worldwide by Avalon Distribution.

For Avalon news visit: www.avalonuk.com/press or @Avalon_Press.