

LOWRY

SPRING CONTEMPORARY SEASON 2026

SADIQ ALI: TELL ME CO-COMMISSIONED BY LOWRY



**INTRODUCTION FROM
STEVE COWTON
CO-HEAD OF THEATRES**

Lowry first presented Sadiq Ali in 2022 with his brilliant first show *The Chosen Haram*. Sadiq is an amazing performer who makes everything he does seem effortless - and has real presence on stage. He also tells important stories about contemporary Britain which don't often get heard - and we are very proud to have co-commissioned his new show *Tell Me*. Lowry remains committed to supporting new Circus work from both the UK and abroad - and *Tell Me* promises to be something very special. **We hope you enjoy the performance.**

**LOWRY**

Lowry's theatres present over 1000 performances a year, reaching 850,000 audience members with its diverse programme of drama, opera, musicals, dance and comedy. Partner companies include National Theatre, Rambert, Opera North and Birmingham Royal Ballet and the programme regularly features productions from the nation's most established companies, including Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Royal Shakespeare Company and Complicite.

Lowry has an extensive commissioning and artist development programme that showcases its commitment to the development of new work for theatre. Recent commissions and co-productions include Operation Mincemeat, A Squash and a Squeeze, Complicite's Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Rambert's Peaky Blinders, High School Musical with Hope Mill Theatre and Bank of Dave The Musical. The Lowry is committed to the development and presentation of new Circus shows from the UK and abroad. In recent years we have commissioned new work from Ockhams Razor and Upswing – and currently programmes more circus than any other venue in the UK outside London.

Following the success of Sadiq Ali Company's debut show The Chosen Haram, the company return with their new show Tell Me, a captivating contemporary circus and dance show that reimagines the narrative around HIV in today's world.

Combining breathtaking Chinese Pole performances on three Aerial Cubes, the show creates a hypnotising visual spectacle as it follows the journey of a woman navigating her diagnosis.

Based on Sadiq's lived experiences, Tell Me, confronts stigma and challenges outdated perceptions. The three-person cast of acclaimed circus, dance and theatre artists weaves poignant storytelling with inspiring physical artistry to offer a hopeful and empowering vision of living with HIV.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Performed and devised by
Sadiq Ali, Phoebe Knight, Jonah Russell

Artistic Director
Sadiq Ali

Dramaturg
Rishi Trikha

Production Manager
Bryn Jones

Company Stage Manager
Carina Simões

Sound Design
Guy Veale

Lighting Design
Jamie Heseltine

Scenography and Costume Design
Aslı Özük

Choreography Consultants
Jonathan Lunn, Junior Cunningham

Associate Director
Hauk Pattison

Equipment & Rigging Consultancy
Alex Harvey for Ockham's Razor, Hauk Pattison

Produced by
Turtle Key Arts

Research and development contributions from Junior Cunningham, Amir Hosseinpour, Mila Sanders, Felix Fogg, Gabbie Cook and Jean-Daniel Broussé.

Tell Me is funded by Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Without Walls and Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement, commissioned by the Lowry Salford, Certain Blacks, Stockton International Riverside Festival, An Indian Summer, Norfolk & Norwich Festival and in association with MimeLondon, Summerhall and 101 Outdoor Arts.

LOWRY