



An intensely personal story...

Attitude



One hell of a ride...

Northern Soul



FIRST + TIME

By Nathaniel Hall

A show about staying positive in a negative world.

TOUR PACK



Nathaniel Hall and Dibby Theatre present...

FIRST TIME

Written and performed by Nathaniel Hall

A Waterside and Creative Industries Trafford Theatre Commission

Can you remember your first time?

Nathaniel can't seem to forget his. To be fair, he has had it playing on repeat for the last 15 years.

Now the party is over, the balloons have all burst and he's left living his best queer life: brunching on pills and Googling kangaroo vaginas, ancient condoms and human cesspits on a weekday morning... or is he?

HIV+ queer artist and activist, Nathaniel Hall presents a funny and frank one-man show about attempting to stay positive in a negative world.

Join him as he blows the lid on the secret he's been keeping all these years.



ABOUT THE SHOW

First Time was commissioned by Waterside Arts and Creative Industries Trafford and was developed in association with Dibby Theatre.

Conceived, written and performed by theatre-maker and HIV activist Nathaniel Hall, the show was accompanied by a series of participatory visual arts activities led by associate Artist Jessica Loveday. *'First Time: In Equal Parts'* was a community led, collaborative exhibition of artwork to commemorate the 30th World AIDS Day.

Based on Nathaniel's personal experience living with HIV, *First Time* and the associated workshops, exhibitions and events around it received unprecedented media coverage.

Watch the trailer and television interviews: vimeo.com/nathanieljhall

Watch the full show: vimeo.com/309714613

Password: mumbroughtahouseplant
(Not for general public use)

IN NUMBERS

The original production of *First Time* and *'In Equal Parts'* reached...



423

live audience members

456

workshop and outreach participants

3722

gallery visits

3,400,000

readers, listeners & viewers (digital, broadcast & print)

Find out more about First Time's press coverage: nathanieljhall.co.uk/first-time

WHAT'S IT LIKE FOR THE AUDIENCE?



The audience join Nathaniel after an all-night party, he hasn't been to bed and he hasn't prepared anything for the show (he's only had 12 months and a grant from the Arts Council). But he can't avoid the spotlight anymore and is forced to revisit his troubled past...

From sharing a stolen chicken and stuffing sandwich with a Will Young lookalike aged 16, to receiving the devastating news aged 17, to heart-breaking scenes devouring pills and powder for breakfast, to a candlelit vigil without a dry eye in the house, and finally to a surprising ending full of reconciliation and hope (and a houseplant from Mum).

It's a real rollercoaster of emotions that audiences describe as 'eye opening', 'educational', 'joyous' and 'stigma smashing'.

Narratives of HIV often portray people living with the virus as the victim. First Time doesn't accept this stance.

It deftly moves from sadness to humour, from moments of deep reflection to joyous celebration, leaving audiences surprised, moved entertained and empowered.



*"An absolute joy
and a total cry fest."*

Mancunian Matters



PRESENTATION STYLE

The show is presented in an eclectic style mixing storytelling, live art, comedy, drag, audience participation, real life letters and an interactive quiz.

KEY PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES

Through *First Time*, we are changing public attitudes to HIV. Skilfully blending arts with science and education, the show never feels like a lecture, but packs a punch in its messaging.

1. Those living with HIV, who are on effective medication for over 6 months, and have an undetectable viral load, **CANNOT** pass on the virus – this is referred to as Undetectable=Untransmittable or U=U

2. Most new diagnoses come from people who don't know they have the virus so it is important to 'get tested' and 'know your status'

3. HIV medication can be taken pre-emptively if a person is at risk (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP) – PrEP is available on the NHS in England as part of a trial



WORKING RESPONSIBLY WITH DIFFICULT THEMES

First Time deals with some difficult themes including HIV, recreational drug use, mild references to sexual abuse, LGBT issues and living in shame. We strongly recommend post-show discussions and sign posting to local support organisations at all venues. We are keen to work with venues open to this way of working.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

HIV healthcare has changed, but people's attitudes still lag behind.

HIV is treatable, people on successful treatment cannot pass on the virus and last year the U.K. became the first western nation to meet the UN's targets on reducing infections. (1)

Cities across the U.K. are also signing up to become HIV Fast Track cities - committing to reducing new HIV infections to zero by 2030. (2)

And with the introduction of PrEP, more people on effective treatment and better HIV health campaigns, leading HIV charities believe that we now have the tools to end HIV in a generation. (3)

But through our work with charities George House Trust BHA for Equality and the LGBT Foundation, we know there are thousands of people with HIV across the country who live in fear of people finding out.

Recently, several media outlets claimed a man 'risked his life' having sex with his HIV+ girlfriend so they could have a baby when there is in fact zero risk as she was on effective treatment.

Sadly, stigmatising headlines like this aren't uncommon.

They add fuel to the fire that people with HIV are a danger to others and contribute to a culture of fear that stops people getting tested regularly.

Through *First Time*, we want to educate, destigmatise and empower, in turn contributing to the aim of ending HIV in a generation.



(1) theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/29/uk-meets-un-target-end-hiv-epidemic-un-aids-public-health-england

(2) who.int/hiv/pub/arv/wad-2015-infographic/en/

(3) lgbt.foundation/news/lgbt-foundation-welcomes-progress-on-ending-all-new-transmissions-of-hiv-within-a-generation/248

WHAT HAVE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT FIRST TIME?



"Watching First Time reminded me of the first time I worked the telephone counselling line at Manchester Aidsline over 30 years ago. It was a full house last night, but I can't help feeling it was also filled many times over by all those young men no longer here, who would have also been loudly and proudly applauding Nathaniel."

Live Art Alive

"Delightful and devastating in equal measure... [Hall has] a sense of theatricality which ensures the audience feels the full emotional impact... a thoroughly entertaining and engaging piece of theatre which is genuinely inspiring - a true statement of hope."

Unrestricted Views

"First Time was Not. Long. Enough. [It] stamps out shame, and feels like a swan song for the stigma of the past... Nathaniel Hall is such an engaging stage presence that I could have watched him for hours... an absolute joy and a total cry fest."

Mancunian Matters



"It's one hell of a ride... The man next to me cried through the closing sequence, then at the end he told me that he'd been diagnosed HIV+ eight weeks earlier... it's that sort of show, it promotes disclosures... the emotional aftermath of the show is with me still, two days later. It's that important."

Northern Soul



"Any one man show depends uniquely upon the skill and relatability of that one man. Nathaniel has both in bucket loads... An intensely personal story... Hall has created something universal and deeply moving."

Attitude

WHAT HAVE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT FIRST TIME?

"First Time is a taboo-breaking, genuine and powerful experience - a must see."



"The best piece of theatre I have ever seen - incredible!"



"I must persuade my brother to come and see this beautiful work so he can get the courage to tell Mum and Dad."

'After watching First Time I have learnt that if a person living with HIV is undetectable, they can't pass it on.'

"After watching First Time I feel emotional - missing my boyfriend who didn't get the help he needed."

"First Time has taught me not to live in shame anymore."

WHAT HAVE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT FIRST TIME?

@PeterRuddick (BBC Broadcaster)

So privileged to have watched @nathanieljhall's play First Time at @WatersideArts last night. I laughed, sobbed, learnt and cried like a baby. It is intensely personal but also so generous in its storytelling - a play about Nathaniel but also about so many more of us. Perfection.

@Stewart_D_C

FirstTime by @nathanieljhall is why I love theatre. 'What a mess!', a beautiful mess, from heartache and pain we create art and beauty. A tremendous personal and emotional performance. This won't be the last time we see First Time. Next time I highly recommend you get tickets!

@JoshJWilkinson

I wear this [ribbon] today with an awareness I didn't have before last night show. @nathanieljhall, what a bloody good show that brings awareness and shows off you being your charming northern self. I'll never look at silly string in the same way x #FirstTime @WatersideArts



@20StoriesHigh (Theatre Company)

Super proud of the brilliant @nathanieljhall and his brand new show #FirstTime in association with @DibbyTheatre! Premiering at @WatersideArts until tomorrow! We hope it has a touring life after its debut, this story NEEDS to be shared! #WorldAidsDay #HIVTestWeek #UequalsU

@simon_naylor

(53Two, Manchester Actor's Platform)

This afternoon I saw #FirstTime @WatersideArts. One of the bravest performances I've ever seen & under @hoyle_chris this team created one of the most powerful, astonishing, heart-breaking, sensational single images I have ever seen in theatre. THANK YOU! Just incredible.

HOW WAS THE SHOW DEVELOPED?

The show was originally commissioned by Waterside Arts in 2018 and funded by Creative Industries Trafford, Arts Council England and Superbia.

The show development was supported by artists and organisations including performance artist Stacy Makishi, playwright Chris Hoyle, trans performance artist Kate O'Donnell, Mothers Ruin, Taking Flight at Contact and A-Festival at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, as well as support from HIV charities George House Trust, BHA for Equality and research fellow Dr Bella Starling.

After 14 years of living in relative silence about his HIV diagnosis, Nathaniel experienced a breakdown and finally came out to his family (again) via a heart-breaking letter. Fascinated by the power of the stigma and shame that had kept him living in secret for so long, he began to explore the notion of telling his story publicly.

After working with other people living with HIV on the Positive Speakers Programme at HIV charity George House Trust, Nathaniel realised two things: that many other people living with HIV lived in similar fear of people finding out, and that there weren't any modern representations of people living with HIV in theatre and film... Tom Hanks just wouldn't cut the mustard anymore.

Working closely with a strong support network around him, Nathaniel has created a devastating, heartfelt and humorous piece of theatre that not only transforms audiences in HIV allies, but also helps them rid toxic shame from their own lives.



WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

First Time is suitable for a range of adult audiences over the age of 14.

It contains scenes of recreational drug use, swearing, some sexual references and mild reference to sexual grooming.

***First Time* is suitable for:**

- Contemporary theatre audiences
- Queer audiences and those with an interest in queer arts and theatre
- Those with an interest in arts and health
- Medical professionals (particularly those interested in patient voices)
- Those interested in autobiographical theatre
- Audiences interested in storytelling
- Audiences interested in eclectic theatrical presentation styles
- People living with and those affected by HIV and AIDS - particularly those who lived through the AIDS crisis
- Queer and HIV allies

NOTE: Although primarily a queer story about living with HIV, *First Time* has wide appeal touching on themes of parenting, losing one's virginity, coming of age as well as containing a healthy dose of 90s and 00s nostalgia.

AUDIENCE SEGMENTS

Using the Audience Finder Pen Portraits, *First Time* is most likely to appeal to Metroculturals, Experience Seekers and Commuterland Culturebuffs.

Using Morris Hargreaves McIntyre Culture Segments, *First Time* is most likely to appeal to the Expression, Stimulation and Essence Culture Segments.

"First Time is a taboo-breaking, genuine and powerful experience - a must see."

Audience Member, Waterside Arts

CREATIVE TEAM

About Nathaniel Hall

Nathaniel is a HIV+ queer activist and theatre-maker from Manchester. He writes, directs, inspires, and produces bold and provocative socially minded work.

nathanieljhall.co.uk

About Dibby Theatre

Dibby Theatre is a new Manchester-based theatrical production company founded by Chris Hoyle - a proud Mancunian and theatre-maker. Their debut production of *The Newspaper Boy* received critical acclaim and enjoyed a 14 nights sell-out run as part of Queer Contact 2018.

About Waterside Arts

Waterside is an award-winning thriving and vibrant arts venue. Comprising a theatre, art galleries, studios and workspaces, the centre is an important regional hub for both performance and visual art.

watersidearts.org

About Creative Industries Trafford

CIT (Creative Industries Trafford) is the artist development strand at Waterside Arts, established at the venue in 2004. The project provides talks, masterclasses, opportunities and mentoring for artists working in animation, literature, theatre and visual arts.

creativeindustriestrafford.net

Creative Team

Nathaniel Hall Writer and Performer

Chris Hoyle Director and Dramaturg

Irene Jade Designer

Nathaniel Hall Original Music & Sound Design

Stacy Makishi Live Art Consultant

Jessica Loveday Associate Artist

Lee Baxter Production Photography & Artwork

Dawn Kilner Additional Photography

Georgiana Ghetiu Trailer and Film

Russell Andrews BSL Interpretation

Original Production Team

Tarrick Wilks Production Technician

Rachel Furst PR Consultant

Claire Saville and Emily Lyons Marketing

Nathaniel Hall

and **Chris Hoyle** Producers for Dibby Theatre

Ross Carey Producer for Waterside



PARTICIPATION & OUTREACH

The premiere of *First Time* was presented as part of a series of visual arts, writing and drama workshops with participants from local LGBT youth groups, schools and charities getting involved.

The show was accompanied by a bustling programme of activities including: 2 post-show discussions, a visual arts drop-in workshop and rapid HIV testing. The project culminated in a World AIDS Day party raising funds for local HIV support organisations.

We would like to work with venues open to a participatory approach to presenting work.

Alongside the tour we can offer:

- Creative workshops with young people in local schools and colleges focussed on HIV education
- Creative workshops for people living with HIV focussed on exploring personal storytelling
- Writing workshops focused on autobiographical work
- Post-show discussions
- Post-show party (continuing the theme of a party within the show) raising money for local HIV organisations

Post-show discussions are encouraged and will be offered free of charge. Other participatory and outreach offers will come at an additional cost to venues.

Nathaniel and the Dibby team are highly skilled and experienced workshop facilitators with over 10 years experience delivering workshops to industry professionals and community participants.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The show is being performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2019.

We are seeking bookings for a U.K. tour from mid-October to December 2019

Running Time

approx. 75 minutes

Company

1 performer, 1 stage manager

Minimum Playing Space

6m x 3m

Preferred Space and Capacity

Studio or small theatre

Approx 80-150 seats

Audience layout – thrust or end on

Set

3m high backdrop (frame provided)

6m x 3m floor vinyl (preference to be on low decking)

2 x stage blocks

Bench

Park bin

Clothing rail

No offstage space required

To Rig

Glitter ball

4 x paper letter on string

Technical Requirements

High quality projector (front facing, small throw approx. 4m, can rig or mount on floor)

1 x microphone and stand

Full sound design provided

Lighting – design available on request, pre-rig if available

Get-In

1 day

Get-Out

Half Day



GET IN TOUCH

To discuss tour booking contact Waterside
and CIT Theatre Commissions Coordinator,
Ross Carey

ross@watersidearts.org / 0161 912 5616

nathanieljhall.co.uk/first-time

watersidearts.org



Follow us on social media

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[@dibbytheatre](https://twitter.com/dibbytheatre)

[@watersidearts](https://twitter.com/watersidearts)

Read Nathaniel's latest blog on why you
should join the HIV POSITIVE revolution!

[read now](#)



First Time has been funded, supported and developed by...

