29 SEPTEMBER - 31 OCTOBER 2026
SOHO THEATRE



TO EAT, OR NOT TO EAT?
IS THAT THE QUESTION?

Speakerphone Productions and Soho Theatre present

HAM

BY HOTTER PROJECT

SPEAKERPHONE PRODUCTIONS & SOHO THEATRE PRESENT

HAM

BY HOTTER PROJECT

CREATED & PERFORMED BY
MARY HIGGINS & ELL POTTER

DIRECTOR
URSULA MARTINEZ

SET & COSTUME DESIGN
RŪTA IRBĪTE

LIGHTING DESIGN
DAVID DOYLE

SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION
TOM FOSKETT-BARNES

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
ABBI GREENLAND

STAGE MANAGEMENT
CIARA PIDGEON

PRESS
HOLLY NICHOLLS FOR
HOLLY PR

SOCIAL MEDIA
EDEN HOWELLS FOR
FLYING PAPAYA SOCIALS

GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SOPHIE VISSCHER-LUBINIZKI & ZOE NOVELLO FOR
SPEAKERPHONE PRODUCTIONS

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
ORSETTO PRODUCTIONS AND ROYO

A Note from Ell and Mary

Hello!

If you're reading this after watching the show, we hope you are feeling in equal parts horny, haunted and inspired to action. If you're reading this before the show: STOP! SPOILER ALERT!

We've been making work together for nearly a decade. We've always tried to make shows that transform shame into joy and leave our audience with a sense of life-affirming catharsis.

So we're surprised that, in HAM, we've made a tragedy. The facts of the animal farming industry are harrowing. From both an ethical and environmental perspective, it is truly and undeniably an all-round shit-show of cruelty and waste.

But here's the rub: we don't think shaming people is a useful form of activism. (Of course we don't, we're queer!) And we would never ever ever want to shame anybody for what they eat.

So how do we square that principle with the urgent demands of climate change? Putting on a show that purposefully makes the audience uncomfortable - even ashamed - has sometimes felt risky or wrong. We don't want you to leave feeling dejected and hopeless, but we do want you to leave a little closer to the truth.

Here's a truth: changing the way we eat in the global north is non-negotiable when it comes to slowing global warming. It's not the only thing we have to do, but it's one of the most important. And it requires every single one of us to get on board.

The good news? You can start this change with your next meal, and no one can stop you.

We think that's hopeful.

Big love,
Ell & Mary

Content Warnings

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CREATIVE TEAM

Hotter Project | Creators & Performers
Hotter Project is theatremaking duo Mary Higgins & Ell Potter. Known for their unique blend of verbatim theatre, clowning and cabaret, Hotter Project are the makers of The Last Show Before We Die ('vividly, viscerally alive' - The Guardian), HOTTER ('riotously funny' - Evening Standard), and FITTER ('fearless' - WhatsOnStage). They are also writer-performers of the British Podcast Awards-winning audio drama Lem n Ginge: The Princess of Kakos and the chart-topping podcast Life of Bi: a slippery history of bisexuality. https://www.hotterproject.co.uk/

Ell Potter | Creator & Performer
Ell (she/they) is an actor, writer, and award winning narrator. As writer/performer: The Last Show Before We Die (The Yard and Bristol Old Vic), HOTTER and FITTER (Soho Theatre and National Tours), and Minutes (official selection BFI Flare & Outfest LA). Their work in theatre includes, as performer, Unity Mitford in The Party Girls (National Tour) and Suddenly Last Summer (Oxford Playhouse). Screen credits include Dr Who (BBC/Disney+), Cheaters (BBC), and The Stand Up Sketch Show (ITV). As a voice artist, Ell is a ten-time Earphones Award-winner; an Audie-nominee; and her narration of Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell was named a Washington Post Audiobook of the Year. She trained at LAMDA and is represented by The Artists Partnership.



Mary Higgins | Creator & Performer
Mary (they/them) is an actor and playwright. As writer/performer: The Last Show Before We Die for Hotter Project at The Yard and Bristol Old Vic; and FITTER and HOTTER for Hotter Project at Soho Theatre. Their work in theatre includes, as performer, Hamlet at the National Theatre; A Billion Times I Love You at Liverpool Everyman; Callisto: a queer epic at Edinburgh Fringe and the Arcola; and Suddenly Last Summer at Oxford Playhouse. TV includes The English Game, JUICE (Season 2) and Twenty Twenty Six (upcoming 2026). Films include Digger (upcoming 2026), She Said, Cinderella (2020) and Misbehaviour. Audio includes, as writer/performer, Lem N Ginge: The Princess of Kakos and Life of Bi for Hotter Project.



Ursula Martinez | Director
Ursula is a theatre maker, performer and director. She has presented work in esteemed venues around the world including Sydney Opera House, NYU Skirball and Téâtre de la Ville (Paris). After 20 years performing her own shows, Martinez naturally fell into directing. She recently directed Sh!t Theatre's epic musical Evita Too, and has directed all of Lucy Mc Cormick's groundbreaking shows (Triple Threat, Post Popular and Lucy and Friends.

Last year Martinez co-directed 'Casting Lear' with Spanish artist Andrea Jimenez. The production won a Premio Max for Best Show, the highest accolade in Spanish theatre.

For all her theatrical achievements Martinez is probably most well known for pulling hankies out of her vagina.



Rūta Irbīte | Set & Costume Designer
Rūta is a London-based designer for live performance and play. She trained in Performance Design and Practice at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, graduating with a First Class Diploma in 2013. Rūta was a shortlisted finalist for the Linbury Prize for Stage Design 2013.

In response to the Climate Emergency, Rūta continued her education at the MA Material Futures at Central Saint Martins College, graduating in 2021. Her performance and play design work focuses on socially and environmentally engaged projects, work for families, devised work and new writing, often in unconventional spaces.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration, materiality and sustainability are at the core of her practice. Recent design work include REPLAY - A Limitless Recycled Playground (Southbank Centre), TESTO (Southbank Centre / International tour), Slime (UK Libraries Tour), Pink Lemonade (Bush Theatre), And The Rest of Me Floats (Rose Lipman Building / Bush Theatre), Fitter (Soho Theatre), Hotter (Soho Theatre), Open Court (Royal Court), Primetime (Royal Court).



CREATIVE TEAM



David Doyle | Lighting Designer
David is a multi-award-winning lighting designer from Ireland.

Lighting work includes: Tender (Bush Theatre), Outlying Islands (Jermyn Street Theatre), Bellringers (Hampstead / Paines Plough Roundabout); Bullring Techno Makeout Jamz (Royal Court / Paines Plough Roundabout / UK tour); we were promised honey! (59E59 / Paines Plough Roundabout / UK and International tour); Life According to Saki (New York Theatre Workshop / Edinburgh Fringe); Skye: A Thriller, Baby in the Mirror, Instructions, Little Deaths (all Summerhall, Edinburgh Fringe); SAP (Paines Plough Roundabout / Soho / UK tour); Nation (Paines Plough Roundabout); Boy in Da Korma (Jermyn Street / Pleasance); Fabulous Creatures, Anna Bella Eema (both Arcola); Carmen, EAST, Outlying Islands (all King's Head); The Last Show Before We Die (Yard / Bristol Old Vic / Paines Plough Roundabout); Douze, The Power of Wow, Confirmation (UK and Ireland tour); ADMIN (Project Arts Centre / Irish tour); Brendan Galileo For Europe (Irish tour); Richard Carpenter is Close to You, My Name is Saoirse (both International tour).

David also works as a producer and is currently the Co-Artistic Director and Executive Producer for Jermyn Street Theatre.



Tom Foskett-Barnes | Sound Designer
Tom is a musician and composer based between Berlin and London, working across theatre, film, and live performance.

His work for stage has been presented at leading international venues including the Berliner Ensemble, Royal Court Theatre, Southbank Centre, and Berliner Festspiele. Credits include DAS ARCHIV DER TRÄUME and DAS SCHLOSS (Berliner Ensemble), MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIPS (Ballhaus Ost / Berliner Festspiele), BULLRING TECHNO MAKEOUT JAMZ (Royal Court Theatre), RESURRECTION (A BAD COPY) (Ufer Studios), SAP (UK tour / Roundabout), WORK.TXT (international tour), and ANNA BELLA EEMA (Arcola Theatre).

His film work has screened at major international festivals including Sundance, the Berlinale, and the London Film Festival. Credits include the Academy Award–nominated BLACK SHEEP and the Academy Award–longlisted CASHING OUT, as well as the BBC3 comedy-drama JUICE.
As musical director and arranger, his work includes THE AGE OF CONSENT. He has received commissions from BBC Radio 3, the ICA, and Chisenhale Gallery. He will undertake a Britten Pears Arts residency in 2026 and has been selected for the Jette Parker Artist Programme, both in collaboration with Crispin Lord. He trained at the Royal College of Music and was the recipient of a BAFTA UK Scholarship.



Abbi Greenland | Movement Director
Abbi is a writer, movement director, performer, dramaturge and founder of theatre company RashDash. Previous work includes: A Little Inquest Into What We Are All Doing Here (writer, ThisEgg), Fringe First; Three Sisters (RashDash) Winner UK Theatre Award for Best Touring Production; Two Man Show (RashDash) Fringe First and Stage Award for Acting Excellence; We Want You To Watch (by Alice Birch, National Theatre).


Photo by Holly Revell

Let's unpack the *FACTS*:

1) Animal agriculture is responsible for at least 51% of annual greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

"Livestock and Climate Change", Worldwatch Institute, 2009

Other reports estimate that animal agriculture is responsible for around 15-18% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. The key difference between these lower figures and the 51% figure is that the latter also accounts for the large-scale deforestation caused by livestock production, and the impact that has on the Earth's photosynthetic capacity, along with carbon loss from soil.*

*Tillage and plowing fields cause the soil to release more CO2.

2) The four highest-impact things an individual can do to tackle climate change are eat a plant-based diet, avoid air travel, live car-free and have fewer children.

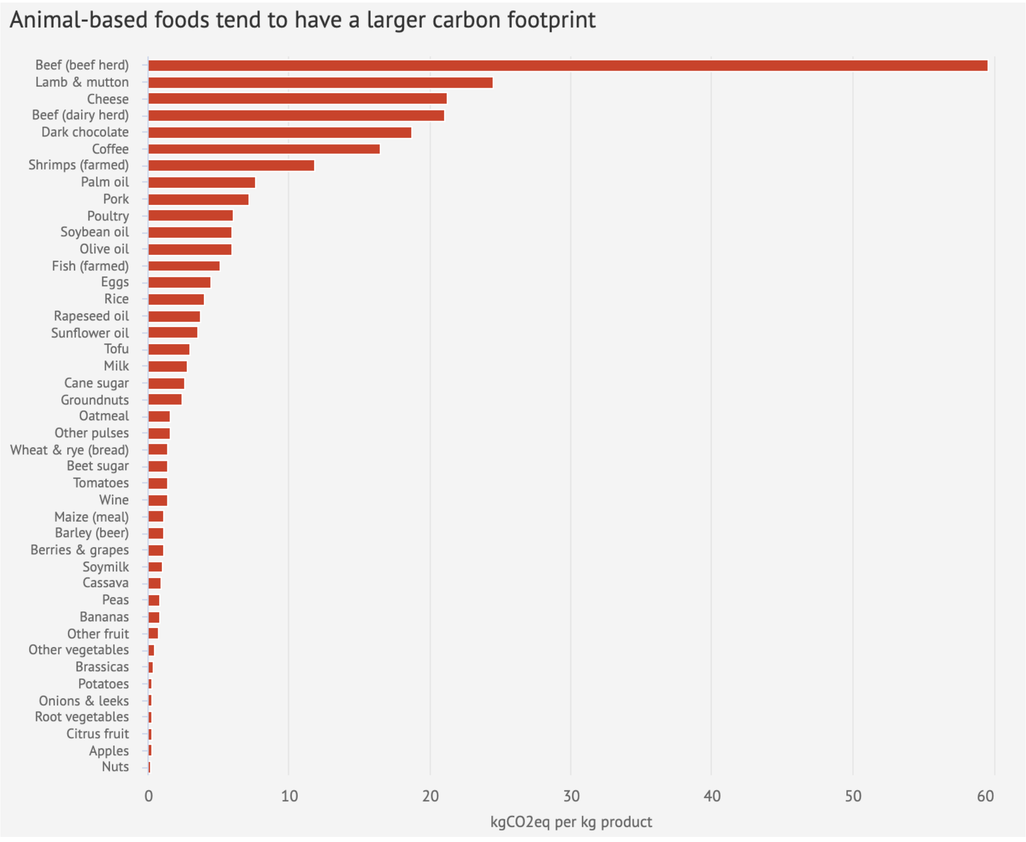
Wynes and Nicholas, The Climate Mitigation Gap, 2017.

In HAM, Hamlet says that switching to a plant-based diet is the most impactful change that an individual can make. This is because, of those four actions above, only plant-based eating immediately addresses methane and nitrous oxide - the most urgent greenhouse gases to cut. Methane has 34 times the global warming potential (GWP) as CO2 does over a century. Nitrous oxide has 310 times the GWP of CO2. In other words, if CO2 were the thickness of an average blanket, methane is a blanket thicker than a 6"9 person is tall, and nitrous oxide is a blanket so thick you could commit suicide by jumping off it.

3) Not eating animal products for breakfast and lunch has a smaller CO2e footprint than the average full-time vegetarian diet.

Global Environmental Change, 2020.

This is probably the most uplifting statistic in the whole show because it's inspiring even to those people (like Ell) who struggle to give up meat entirely. For more info on the carbon footprint of food you can look at the graph below. It's worth bearing in mind that the reason poultry and pork have a much lower carbon footprint than beef is because pigs and chickens are often kept in cages their entire life, whereas most cows in the UK have 12-20 months of outdoor grazing before they are slaughtered.
#notallcows



Adapted from Dr Hannah Ritchie/Our World in Data (2020) Data source: Poore & Nemecek (2018)

Theatre Green Book

HAM is being produced to Theatre Green Book Intermediate standards. This means that:
60% of everything on stage must be reused or recycled
70% must be stored or used again afterwards

Theatre Green Book is an industry-wide initiative to work more sustainably in response to the climate crisis. It is a free resourse for everyone in the performing arts, wokring in any role and at all scales, providing a framework for planning, best practice guidance, a measurement system and shared standards.

Practically and artistically, the making of HAM was informed by our sustainability goals.

Click here for more information on Theatre Green Book

Resources & Campaigns

Vegan Starter Kit - Plant Based Treaty
An incredible resource for those considering switching to a plant-based diet. If you've got any practical concerns about nutrition and cooking, this is the place to look.

The Plant Based Treaty
Modeled on the Fossil Fuel Treaty, the Plant Based Treaty aims to put food systems at the forefront of combating the climate crisis to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal agriculture and to promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based diets. There are lots of ways you can endorse and take action with PBT.

Gasping for Life - Pigs, Viva!
In the UK, 90 per cent of the 10 million pigs slaughtered each year are gassed. In 2003, the Government's own advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Committee, now the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) – condemned the practice, recommending that gassing pigs with high concentrations of CO_2 should be phased out within five years.

Reading List

We Are The Weather, Jonathan Safran Foer
Eating Animals, Jonathan Safran Foer
Meat Love, Amber Husain
The Intersectional Environmentalist, Leah Thomas
Consumed, Aja Barber
This Is Vegan Propaganda, Ed Winters*
*he's a bit annoying, but he's also right (like Hamlet)





PRODUCERS

Speakerphone Productions | Producer
Speakerphone Productions is a London-based independent production company founded by Sophie Visscher-Lubinizki & Zoe Novello. Speakerphone develops and produces interdisciplinary theatre, dance, and comedy with a commitment to amplifying queer voices, emerging artists, and developing new work. Speakerphone's recent theatre productions include Private View at Soho Theatre, Shower Chair, presented at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and HIVE, which debuted at Camden People's Theatre before its 2023 run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

As producers, Sophie and Zoe are dedicated to building inclusive, playful, and innovative creative environments and productions that reflect diverse experiences and voices, with a particular emphasis on LGBTQIA+ artists and individuals outside the cis-normative gender binary.

Soho Theatre | Producer
Soho Theatre is London's most vibrant producer for new theatre, comedy and cabaret. Last year, our central London venue in Soho celebrated 25 years as one of the UK's busiest with a buzzing bar, lively audiences and an entertaining year-round festival programme with a queer, punk, counter-culture flavour. Our second London venue SOHO THEATRE WALTHAMSTOW opened in May 2025, bringing our vibrant programme to its biggest stage yet. Work extends beyond our venues with a full touring programme and connections with New York, Melbourne and Mumbai. Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a huge part of our year, we present many shows and scout hundreds more and we are the UK's leading presenter of comedians from India. Our filmed comedy specials can be seen on international airlines and online. And our artist development and participation programmes are as important as the work on our stages. Soho Theatre is a charitably-owned social enterprise and makes a positive contribution to growth in creative industries and UK soft power.
sohotheatre.com / @sohotheatre.

Soho Theatre's Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2026 Programme is supported by Michael and Isobel Holland.

Giuliana Carullo | Associate Producer
Giuliana Carullo is a theatre producer and founder of Orsetto Productions. She is the recipient of the 2025-2026 Prince Fellowship and serves as Lead Producer on The American Football Musical, which she is developing with 2023 Jonathan Larson Grant recipient Larry Owens, with whom she also serves as Lead Producer on his play Five Sisters (of the) Regan Dauphin. Giuliana recently produced the world premiere of The Last Podcast on Earth at The Tank NYC, as well as presentations of Craig Lucas' The Dying Gaul and a new play by Megan Brown, The Tasters. Giuliana holds a BFA in Theatre from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is based in New York City.


Photo by Holly Revell

PRODUCTION CREDITS

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Video Programmer	Marc Lavallee
Press Relations	Holly Nicholls for Holly PR
Social Media	Eden Howells for Flying Papaya Socials
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Rehearsal Space	The Club for Acts and Actors

For Soho Theatre

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