

WITH THANKS TO...

Fans and players past and present of Rochdale Hornets especially Adam Bates, Chief Executive and Niel Wood, and Oldham Roughyeds with special thanks to Mick Harrop and Christopher Hamilton

Thanks also to Terry and Kevin Flanagan, David Hinchliffe, Dorothy and Drui Voate Dawai, Jeff and Ann Schofield, Michael Coulman, Trevor Tyrrell, Watergrove Memory Clinic, Rochdale Hornets Heritage Committee, Jim String, Catherine Coward, Glenis Meeks, Oldham Rugby League Heritage Trust, Oldham Local Studies & Archives, The Flying Horse Rochdale, Touchstones Gallery Rochdale, Mahdlo Youth Centre, Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library, North West Film Archive and The Little Theatre, Hebden Bridge, for the loan of props and costumes

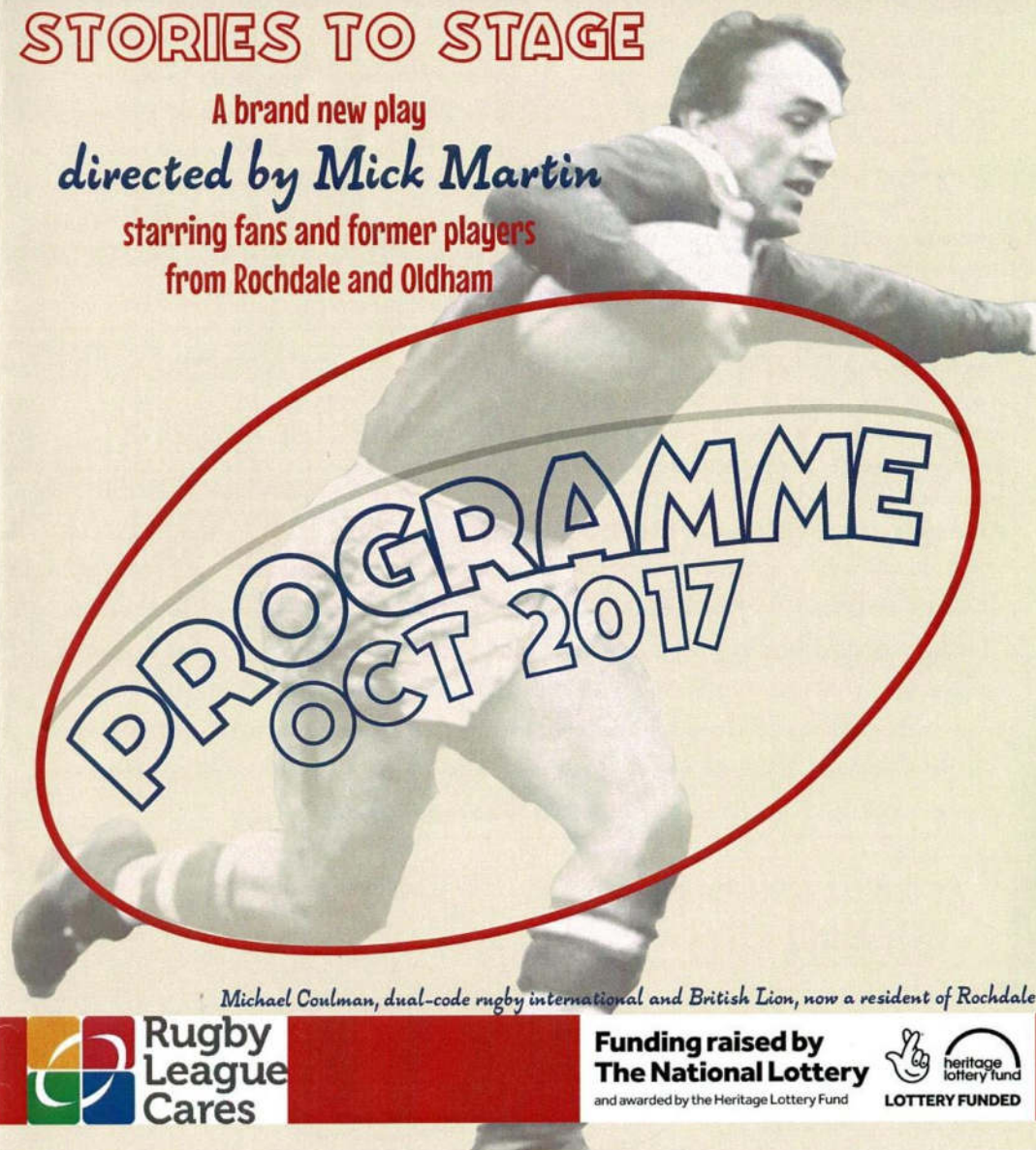
Dedicated to the memory of Peter Birchall, co-founder of the Rochdale ex-players Association

IT'S IN THE BLOOD!

STORIES TO STAGE

A brand new play
directed by Mick Martin

starring fans and former players
from Rochdale and Oldham



Michael Coulman, dual-code rugby international and British Lion, now a resident of Rochdale



Funding raised by
The National Lottery
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



FIJIAN FORCE

It's a fact worthy of any pub quiz that Rochdale boasts the UK's largest Fijian community outside London. In 1958, whilst in Australia, Hornets director Arthur Walker saw Fijian Joe Levula play in a union match. Impressed by the winger's power and speed, Arthur determined to bring Joe and fellow Fijian Orisi Dawai, onto the Hornets team. In 1961 Joe and Orisi flew the 10,000 miles to a new life in Rochdale. Close behind were Liatia Ravouvou, Apisai Toga and Voate Drui. Drui's wife Dorothy remembers a call going out for blankets for the Fijians who touched down at Manchester airport wearing sarongs, in the midst of one of the coldest winters on record. Mika Ratu made the trip in 1965, and like Drui, married a Rochdale girl. Three generations of Ratus have played for the Hornets, and Mika's son Emon recalls his father's experiences for our audience. As the play says - It's In the Blood!

It's in the Blood! is funded by the HLF and RLC and highlights the rich Rugby League heritage of Rochdale and Oldham. We've recorded hours of interviews with former rugby players and fans, held reminiscence sessions and scoured the archives for historic images to ensure the authenticity of our production. The stories you see and the words you hear are all true - experienced and spoken by the people who were there.

SOUND & LIGHTING
MICHAEL HILL

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
TRIZIA WELLS

WATERSHEDDINGS STADIUM HOME TO OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS:

The Watersheddings stadium was home to Oldham RLFC for 108 years, from 1889 to 1997. With its pavilion, quirky scoreboard and vibrant social club whose acts included committee man, Rocky Farnsworth, Watersheddings was the heart of Oldham's rugby league community. Entire generations of families went through its turnstiles. The Watersheddings' record attendance was set in 1912 when 28,000 people watched the Roughyeds beat Huddersfield 6-2. On the same day, a crowd of 35,000 saw Oldham Athletic F.C. lose to Everton in the FA cup final.

FILM EDITING
EMILIE FLOWER

WRITER AND DIRECTOR
MICK MARTIN

When the ground
was sold for development, it was said that
RUGBY LEAGUE WITHOUT
THE WATERSHEDDINGS
WOULD BE LIKE A HORROR
FILM WITHOUT
BORIS KARLOFF

CAST LIST

LAD WITH RUGBY BALL, MR. TURNER, PLAYER 1,
KID LOOKING AFTER CAR, TOMMY JONES

Declan Anthony

YOUNG MICHAEL TURNER, KATE, ANNE RATU, OFFICER

Kendra Marshall

YOUNG NORMAN SHORT, YOUNG MICK CROCKER, OLDHAM
DIRECTOR JOE, TOMMY JONES, KEVIN FLANAGAN, BOB

Jack Rawstron

GINGER JOHNSON, GLENIS ATKIN, PLAYER 2, JEN, SERGEANT

Eleanor Kelly

HORNETS DIRECTOR, HORNETS CHAIRMAN JACK,
OLDHAM DIRECTOR JOE, COLIN ATKIN, COACH, MICK
CROCKER'S DAD, OLDHAM DIRECTOR JOE, TONY PRATT'S
OLD TRAINER PHIL, TOMMY JONES' DAD, STAN

Brent Rawstron

TONY GOURLEY'S MUM, PHYLLIS CROCKER, NURSE

Mary Turner

RADIO ANNOUNCER, SOLICITOR

Paul Machen

COLIN ATKIN, BILL FLANAGAN, DR. PATTERSON

Michael Turner

ARTHUR WALKER, NARRATOR

Malcolm Price

FRED KERSHAW, PLAYER 4

Tony Pratt

NARRATORS

Members of the Cast

ROCHDALE HORNETS PLAYERS AS THEMSELVES:

**Tony Gourley, Tony Pratt, Malcolm Price, David Taylor,
Paul Machen, Emon Ratu**