

NICK CASSENBAUM
BUBBLE SCHMEISIS



Written and Performed by Nick Cassenbaum
Directed by Danny Braverman
Music by Josh Middleton and Daniel Gouly
Produced by Siân Baxter
Designed by Bethany Wells

WELCOME TO THE STEAM BATHS. WELCOME HOME.

The acclaimed solo show that launched Fringe First Award-winning playwright Nick Cassenbaum returns.

For ten years, *Bubble Schmeisis* has delighted audiences across the UK, the USA and beyond with its warmth, wit and irresistible storytelling. Now, following the success of Nick Cassenbaum's Fringe First Award-winning play *REVENGE: After the Levoyah*, this much-loved production returns, celebrating the disappearing world of London's last authentic Jewish steam baths.

Bubbemeises is Yiddish for a grandmother's story, a tall story, an old wives' tale. A schvitz is a Jewish steam bath where old men go to wash, relax, complain and rejuvenate, to exchange jokes and gossip and to swap bubbemeises.

Nick Cassenbaum has been trying to make sense of his Jewish identity ever since he was a young boy. He tried everything - going to Spurs, summer camps, barbershops, religion even. All, alas, to no avail. It wasn't until his blind grandfather took him to the schvitz in Canning Town, East London that he found what he was looking for. Here men enact the ancient washing ritual of schmeissing, and, as he lay naked being schmeissed by his grandfather, he knew he had found what he was looking for, but above all, he knew he had to make a show about it.

In *Bubble Schmeisis* Nick and his accompanying klezmer musicians invite you to join them as they conjure the enveloping warmth of this last remaining authentic steam bath house in East London. Amongst the steam and ritual Nick will take you with him as he embarks on a journey schlepping through memories of the milestones in his life when he questioned, but also celebrated, aspects of his heritage to find the place where he belongs. It's about Nick finding his identity and wanting to keep the spirit of the steam baths alive, giving an up-close insight into a community that is fading and a folk history of a once vibrant culture.

First seen at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2016, *Bubble Schmeisis* has become one of contemporary Jewish theatre's best-loved solo shows. Funny, intimate and deeply moving, it explores identity, family, heritage and the stories we inherit, all while getting washed by old men.



WHY PROGRAMME *BUBBLE SCHMEISIS* NOW?

Bubble Schmeisis returns at a time when audiences are seeking stories that celebrate community, connection and belonging. Warm, funny and deeply moving, it offers a joyful celebration of cultural heritage that invites everyone in.

Following the success of Nick Cassenbaum's Fringe First Award-winning *REVENGE: After the Levoyah*, this is an opportunity to present the acclaimed solo show that launched one of Britain's most distinctive theatre-makers.

Rooted in Jewish tradition yet universal in its themes, *Bubble Schmeisis* resonates with anyone who has ever searched for where they belong. With live klezmer music, a simple technical set-up and flexible staging, it is equally at home in studio theatres, festivals, pubs, community venues and, of course, the schvitz itself.

PRESS

"A big-hearted, appealing show about tradition and belonging." ★★★★★

The Stage

"Cassenbaum is a disarmingly informal raconteur, talking to the audience as if we're old friends." ★★★★★

The List

"Effortlessly charming and infectiously funny, *Bubble Schemisis* is everything you'd want from a show."

Three Weeks



WORKSHOPS & ENGAGEMENT

Nick is an experienced workshop leader and community artist, regularly delivering workshops alongside performances.

Using the same creative methods that inspired *Bubble Schmeisis*, participants explore autobiography, oral history and cultural heritage through storytelling, mapping and creative writing. Workshops can be tailored for groups such as: Schools and colleges, Community groups, Adult participants, Artists and writers and Jewish and interfaith organisations.

Sessions encourage participants to discover and share the stories hidden within their own communities, creating a deeper connection with the themes of the performance.

ABOUT NICK CASSENBAUM

Nick Cassenbaum is an award-winning playwright, performer, storyteller and theatre-maker whose work explores identity, community and belonging through humour, autobiography and oral history. He creates theatre that is both unapologetically Jewish and warmly accessible to audiences of all backgrounds.

A graduate of Goldsmiths' MA in Writing for Performance and the Royal Court Young Writers Programme, Nick is Co-Artistic Director of Take Stock Exchange. He has created work with and for organisations including the Royal Court, Soho Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre and *The Guardian*, alongside developing community-led projects inspired by local history, place and lived experience.

His acclaimed solo show *Bubble Schmeisis* has toured extensively across the UK, with selected international performances. His play *REVENGE: After the Levoyah* premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2024, where it won a Fringe First Award, the Summerhall Lustrum Award and was named the Fringe's top sell-out show, before transferring to London to widespread critical acclaim. Alongside his plays, Nick has also written the hugely successful annual Jewish pantomimes for JW3, helping establish a new festive tradition for audiences in London.





RESOURCES

Trailer: <https://bit.ly/2tp3mRY>

Full show: <https://bit.ly/2JUOJkw>

Bubble Schmeisis has toured extensively since 2016. A full touring history is available at: nickcassenbaum.com/bubble-schmeisis

BOOKING INFORMATION

Availability: Ready to tour from Autumn 2026 onwards

Performance availability: Single performances to week-long runs

Travelling Company: 4 people

Get-in requirements: 2 hours minimum

Get-out requirement: 1 hour

Running Time: 70 minutes

Playing area: Flexible and adaptable for a wide range of venues

Lighting: Very simple; warm wash with 2 specials, plan available on request

Sound: Live musicians on stage, no amplification required

Age Recommendation: 14+

Other requirements: 3 matching chairs, 1 table that can be stood and lay on, stage gets wet

BOOKING

For booking enquiries, availability and workshop information please contact Siân Baxter.

Email: showmetheschmeiss@gmail.com