

# NICK CASSENBAUM

## BUBBLE SCHMEISIS



Credit: Rebecca Pitt

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.

**In East London's last remaining bath house writer and performer Nick Cassenbaum finds what he's looking for, and he's touring the world to tell you all about it.**

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 bubbemeisis.

Writer and street performer 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.

A hit with critics and audiences at the 2016 Edinburgh Festival, Bubble Schmeisis is full of intimate and personal true stories about identity, home and getting washed by old men. The show will strike a chord with anyone who looks to investigate their past to understand their present.



Credit: Luke Wallis

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### QUOTES

'This is a big-hearted, appealing show about tradition and belonging. Cassenbaum is a gregarious performer and this is an accessible, generous, disarming production.' **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**

### DOCUMENTATION

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

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

### PREVIOUS TOUR DATES 2017/18

**Soho Theatre**, London 4-6 June 2018

**Seven Arts Space**, Leeds 3 June 2018

**The Schvitz**, Detroit USA (UMS) 22-25 March 2018

**Aberystwyth Arts Centre**, Aberystwyth 6 December 2017

**Redbridge JCC**, Ilford 30 November 2017

**artsdepot**, North Finchley 16 November 2017

**Norwich Arts Centre**, Norwich 8 November 2017

**Bedales Theatre**, Petersfield 1 November 2017

**Cast Theatre**, Doncaster 26 October 2017

**Lakeside Theatre**, Colchester 12 October 2017

**Macready Theatre**, Rugby (Festival on the Close) 26 June 2017

**Theatre Delicatessen**, Sheffield 13 June 2017

**New Wolsey Theatre**, Ipswich (Pulse Festival) 5 June 2017

**Bike Shed Theatre**, Exeter 23-27 May 2017

**The North Wall**, Oxford 18 May 2017

**Lawrence Batley Theatre**, Huddersfield 8 May 2017

**The Hub**, Leeds 7 May 2017

**Battersea Arts Centre**, London 21-22 April 2017

**The Lowry**, Salford 20 April 2017

### WRAP AROUND ACTIVITY

Nick is an experienced workshop facilitator. He runs workshops for many theatres including the Royal Court, Soho Theatre and Battersea Arts Centre. His workshops are aimed to empower participants to tell their own story often in respect to the place where they live, asking them to creatively engage with their surroundings.

Nick has developed a specific workshop on encouraging empathy and celebrating difference which accompanies Bubble Schmeisis. It incorporates storytelling and psychogeography and focuses on autobiography & cultural heritage through participants sharing stories and creating maps to house these stories. The techniques used in the workshops are the same as those used to write Bubble Schmeisis so participants always enjoy watching the show after the workshop and seeing what has been taught in action. This workshop has toured extensively with Bubble Schmeisis and has always received extremely positive feedback.



Credit: Luke Wallis

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Get-in requirement	2 hours minimum
Get-out requirement	30 minutes
Running Time	70 minutes
Travelling Company	4 – Nick, 2 musicians, operator
Playing area	Flexible, can make most spaces work
Lighting	Very simple; warm wash with 2 specials, plan available on request
Sound	Live band on stage, no amplification needed
Age Recommendation	14+
Other requirements/info	3 matching chairs, table that can be stood and lay on, stage gets wet

## NICK CASSENBAUM

Nick is a storyteller, street performer and theatre maker. He has an MA from Goldsmiths in Writing for Performance and is a graduate of the Royal Court Young Writers programme. Nick writes plays, makes and performs solo work, creates street performances and broadcasts podcasts for the Guardian.

He is co-artistic director of take stock exchange and has made work for local authorities, such as Redbridge and Waltham Forest, and has also been commissioned by the Soho Theatre, Royal Court and Battersea Arts Centre to create performances based on local heritage and storytelling.

## CONTACT

For more information or to book Bubble Schmeisis please contact Siân Baxter.

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