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Joe Orton exhibition to open in London

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Inspiring: Joe Orton
Credit: Lewis Morley

A new exhibition inspired by the life and work of Leicester-born playwright Joe Orton will open at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), London on Sunday 5 February.

The exhibition, *What the Artist Saw: Art Inspired by the Life and Work of Joe Orton*, has been curated by Dr Emma Parker from the University of Leicester School of Arts and Michael Petry, director of MOCA.

In a short but prolific career, Orton amused audiences with his scandalous black comedies. His plays include *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, *Loot* and *What the Butler Saw*. He was murdered by his lover Kenneth Halliwell in 1967.

The exhibition, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Joe Orton and celebrates LGBT history month, features three artists: painter David Lock who was Joe Orton's nephew, sculptor Louise Plant and performance artist Tim Youd.

Orton's sister Leonie will open the exhibition and the VIP guest list includes actors

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Dudley Sutton and Kenneth Cranham who knew Orton personally.

The exhibition will run until Saturday 4 March and will transfer to the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester from 24 July until 22 October. It will also complement the exhibition *Crimes of Passion: The Story of Joe Orton* at the National Justice Museum, Nottingham from 22 July until 1 October.

Dr Parker said, “this exhibition recognises for the first time the cross-fertilisation of literature and art in Orton’s creative practice, celebrates his artistic impact and legacy and presents new responses to Orton’s life and work through visual art.”