

Mr Memory: Who won the cup in 1926? The Tottenham Hotspurs won the cup in 1926, defeatin' the Arsenal Gunners by five goals to nil in the presence of His Majesty King George the Fifth. Am I right, sir?

Compère: Quite right, Mr Memory!!

The 39 Steps

Welcome...

...to the April issue of the Circular, the newsletter just for members of the SJT Circle.

The Comedy of Errors (more or less)

Our more-or-less version of *The Comedy of Errors* proved a huge hit with the critics, and with audiences – one delighted audience member emailed us to suggest that the show should be available on prescription through the NHS!

We're aiming to continue spreading the joy with our next show – **The 39 Steps**. Those of you who saw our 2018 production will recall its huge sense of fun: our team will never forget the waves of laughter coming from the auditorium at every packed performance!

That show goes into rehearsal at the end of May, with the first performance on 30 June heralding the start of a very busy six months for us: hot on its heels comes **Blonde Bombshells of 1943**, a fabulous, big-hearted show from the pen of the great Alan (The Beiderbecke Trilogy) Plater; **Constant Companions**, the 89th play – and a very funny comedy – from our Director Emeritus, Alan Ayckbourn; **These Majestic Creatures**, a warm and compelling new drama by up-and-coming writer Emma Geraghty; and **Beauty and the Beast**, a new adaptation by our great friend Nick Lane (who, to go full circle, was partly responsible for the more-or-lessness of *The Comedy of Errors*!).

We hope you can join us for a year of truly uplifting entertainment – and isn't that what we all need right now?



May shows

It's not long now before we're heading back into rehearsal for our next SJT production – the very welcome return of [The 39 Steps](#).

But in the meantime, we've got a busy old month coming up with visiting productions. We kick off on Thu 4 May with Luke Wright's new show, [The Remains of Logan Dankworth](#).

A one-man tour de force, this new show looks at trust, fatherhood and family in the age of Brexit – anyone who saw Luke's two previous shows here, *What I Learned from Johnny Bevan* and *Luke Wright: Poet Laureate*, will know he's a remarkably charismatic performer.

And Luke will be supported by three talented local poets – Helen Birmingham, Charlotte Oliver and Rob Tyson. Here's a taster of their work.

First, Helen's untitled poem:

*As the spoon nears my mouth
I turn my head away.
I am starving, but I still want oysters.
You are my unattainable feast.
I am your boil in the bag
ready meal.*

Charlotte's poem *Snowdrops* was Highly Commended in the Patricia Eschen Prize for Poetry in 2022.

*Slow spindrift,
stems stooped
under Winter,*

*mob-capped, bowed
in trembling deference
or do they quiver with*

*passion? Legion little lamps,
pale-bereted protesters,
light hope in shadows*

*with a shoal's strength
spreading through generations,
showing us how to quietly resist.*



And finally, from Rob, here's Sparrowhawk:

*she sits
talontight on
the stone*

*regards me with
her obsidian eye*

*behind the glass
I am the object
observed in my*

amazement

Poetic appetite whetted? Join us on 4 May!

For those of you interested in new writing, **Tapped** (Tue 16 May) is a must-see. You may remember an earlier version of it was one of our play readings in 2020 – we just squeezed it in before the November lockdown that year!

A comedy drama about three Co-op colleagues who attend a failing self-help group in Nottingham, it's by Katie Redford, a BAFTA Rocliffe TV Comedy Winner. She was on the BBC Comedy Writersroom and Soho Theatre Writers Lab. She is currently listed on the BBC New Talent Hot List. Her short film *Ghosted*, starring Alison Steadman, which she co-wrote, produced and performed in, received the BFI Network award in association with Film Hub Midlands. Her debut audio drama *Yellow Lips*, in which she also played the lead, aired on BBC Radio 4 in 2021 and was nominated for The Imison Award.



Blackeyed Theatre's **Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear** (Thu 18 to Sat 20 May) promises to be a real treat. It's written and directed by our very own Nick Lane, who has provided us with the last seven year's worth of

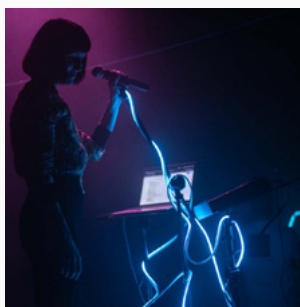
Christmas craziness including, most recently, *Cinderella*; who co-adapted, with Elizabeth Godber, our recent smash hit *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)*; and who has written and directed for Blackeyed Theatre three other shows which have visited us: *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four* (named as one of the 12 best regional theatre productions in the UK for 2015), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*,



and *Frankenstein*. He's a bit of a dab hand at adapting these Gothic-y 19th-century classics! Nick will be joining us for our monthly Circle Café on Thu 18 May – he's a hugely entertaining speaker, so we do urge you to get along for that if you can.



Next up, on Thu 25 May, is **A Shoddy Detective and the Art of Deception**. Feel-good theatre company Shoddy say: "We use comedy as a way of lifting people's spirits as we feel that, sometimes, laughter is the best medicine." They cite the *Carry Ons*, *Only Fools and Horses*, *Naked Gun*, *Dad's Army*, *Airplane*, *Tommy Cooper*, *Morecambe and Wise* and *The Two Ronnies* among their influences – what more can we say??



On Sat 27 May, we welcome Wright&Grainger and their show **The Gods The Gods The Gods**. Alexander Wright and Phil Grainger were both part of the creative team behind the immersive version

of *The Great Gatsby* which wowed audiences and critics across the country a couple of years back; a new production opens in New York next month. This exhilarating new show features big beats, heavy basslines, soaring melodies and heart-stopping spoken word, weaving four stories together across 65 minutes at the crossroads where mythology meets real life.

Our penultimate show for May is fairly self-explanatory – **Tony Skingle: The Best of the Elvis '68 Comeback Special** (Sun 28 May), which is completely sold out! It's always worth joining the waiting list in case any tickets become available though.



Finally next month, on Tue 30 and Wed 31 May, we're marking half term with **The Not So Grimm Twins**. This joyous show for the whole family (although some elements will be best enjoyed by those aged four and

over!) is written and directed by the talented Elvi Piper, who many of you will have seen as part of the panel at our season celebration event back in March (or on the resulting film, which we circulated a link to – do let us know if you haven't had that for any reason). World-famous twins Jake and Will Grimm tumble from their magical wagon brimming with stories from Rapunzel to Red Riding Hood. Your favourite tales are re-spun by our storytelling duo (and, of course, their little sister Lottie!). But sometimes even familiar fairytales can take a turn for the unexpected, and our heroes need all the help they can get to defeat the creatures of their own creation and save the world!

More on all the above, and all our other shows and films, here: www.sjt.uk.com

The truth, the whole truth...



We're all looking forward to our next big fundraising event over one very busy weekend in September – **The Crafty Art of Ayckbourn**.

Both packages are now completely sold out, but we'd urge you to join the waiting list by calling 01723 370 541 or [emailing](#) our Box Office.

There are still tickets left for the afternoon show on Sun 17 Sept – a rehearsed reading of Alan's show **Truth Will Out**. This prescient tale of an internet meltdown triggered by a tech-savvy teenager was due to be on our stage in the summer of 2020, but fell victim to a very different global event, of course.

This could be your only chance ever to experience this great story, which shows that our Director Emeritus – who turned 84 earlier this month – remains as switched on as ever.



Stealing the show(case)



We're delighted to be able to offer you an hour or so of free entertainment and the chance to see some possible stars of the future at the end of May.

After three years of professional actor training at the Coventry University Scarborough campus, the class of 2023 are graduating this summer. In their **showcase performance** (24 May at 2pm) you'll meet a collection of characters who will guide you through their experiences of the journey of life.

Those who attended last year got a first look at the talents of some excellent young actors, including Jude Deeno and David Lomond before their show-stopping turns as the removal men in *Family Album*.

This year's graduates are Liam Farricker, Ellen Ramos, Gui Sá Pessoa, Joshua Simpson, Jamielee Squires, Heather Taylor and Chloe Whiteley.

The BA Acting course is designed to offer an alternative pathway into the theatre industry to traditional training routes and this showcase is an opportunity for its graduates to shine in front of industry professionals, agents and supporters. Please join us to celebrate their hard work and talent. Tickets are free but please book in advance: Link to book [here](#)

We run a BA (Hons) Degree in Acting in partnership with Coventry University Scarborough. To learn more about the course please visit [Coventry University Scarborough's website](#).

Backstage secrets



Welcome to a new regular slot in the Circular where we ask our backstage team to reveal some of the secrets and stories that are just everyday events to them – but extraordinary ways to make a living to the rest of us!

Our brilliant Company Stage Manager, Fleur Beeley, kicks off with a current and currant-y tale from our recent *The Comedy of Errors* (more or less).

“Did you know that some of the food onstage for shows is ‘real’?” she says. “Take the basket of Eccles cakes in The Comedy of Errors (more or less) for instance. It wasn’t the quickest way to make them, but because the cast had to interact with them but not eat them, it was the best.

“We bought proper hand-made Eccles cakes from a local baker. They were dried out in a very low oven for a couple of hours to remove some of the moisture. Then, they were simply covered in layers and layers of PVA (a water-based, see-through malleable glue).

“This meant that the end product was more true to life than if we had made them from another product and painted them.

“Of course the goalposts change if and when food has to be actually eaten onstage!”

Dates for your diary – and why not make a day of it?

More and more people are enjoying our monthly members-only Circle Cafés. This year we're also introducing some evening Circle Cafés for those of you who can't make the morning events – more details and dates to follow.

It's a great way to make friends and to get to know your theatre – you'll meet the people who run the SJT and company members from our shows. Plus, of course, there's always free tea/coffee and sweet treats.

Our April Circle Café was packed; as well as the 40-some members who attended, there were also seven actors in the room – our *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)* company. The audience heard from Claire Eden how, in the Round, they're never far away from an actor both on stage and off – the run round, where the actors move from one entrance to another, do quick changes, etc, is actually under the seating blocks!

Andy Cryer talked about the perils of costumes losing their 'Velcro-ness', and David Kirkbride was revealed as the company's biggest 'corpser' – the actor who gets the giggles at just the wrong moment. It was a hugely fun event; the marketing team working in the office next door said the laughter was making their wall shake!

Our Circle Cafés are usually held on Thursdays, which just happens to be matinee day, too, for both live shows and in our cinema, so why not make a day of it? Your Circle membership entitles you to a tasty 10% discount in Eat Me @ The SJT, and you could catch a show or a film afterwards.

All the dates below are 10:30am to 10:50am arrival for an 11am start. The talks usually last around 45 minutes. These events are free, but **please** do book a ticket as numbers are limited.

Thu 18 May: Nick Lane, adaptor and director of *Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear*

Thu 8 June: meet the *Quality Street* (Northern Broadsides) company

Thu 13 July: meet *The 39 Steps* company

Thu 10 Aug: meet the *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* company

Thu 14 Sept: meet the *Constant Companions* company