STOP PRESS!!!

Apologies that your August Circular is a little late, but we wanted to wait so we could bring you exciting news: we're about to open booking for our third more-or-loss Shakespeare, *As You Like It (more or less)* by Nick Lane and Kat Rose-Martin.

As a valued Circle member, you have priority booking from 10am on Wednesday 9 September to 10 am on Wednesday 15 September, when general booking opens.

You can see the show here from Friday 19 March to Saturday 3 April. It then plays at our co-producers, Shakespeare North Playhouse.



The Circular
August 2026

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."
F Scott Fitzgerald



Handbagged was a huge success, a show which built a devoted following and gained some wonderful four- and five-star reviews.

And now, as we head into new pencil case season, we're getting ready for our annual visit to Ayckbourn land, with ***The Trial of Romeo Oscar***. It may be set in the future, but at heart it's a good old-fashioned courtroom drama which will exercise your moral muscles – did he, or didn't he? You can hear the author and some of the cast talk to BBC Radio York's Bek Homer here (from 1h 46m).



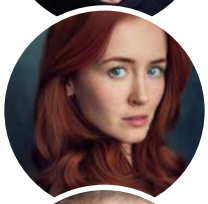
If you'd like to book for any of our shows, please visit our website: www.sjt.uk.com, call our box office on 01723 370541, or drop by – our box office is open from 10am until at least 7pm (closing time depends on the start time of that night's show/film) every day except Sunday.

Welcome to Pendon

The Ayckbourn fans amongst you will recognise the fictional town of Pendon as the setting for some of Alan's most popular shows.

It hosted a pageant in ***Ten Times Table***; an amateur production of ***The Beggar's Opera*** in ***A Chorus of Disapproval***; and, of course, all manner of watery shenanigans in ***Way Upstream***.





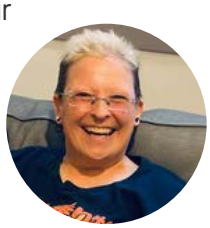
Its most recent incarnation was as the home of the, to say the least, toxic Meizner family in 2023's ***Welcome to the Family*** , a show which Alan wrote for our friends at the **Old Laundry Theatre** (now the **Victoria Wood Theatre**).

That mean it's never been seen in Scarborough, so we're thrilled to bring you it as the Sunday afternoon centrepiece of our September fundraising weekend, ***Welcome to Pendon***. We've got our cast sorted now and it's five much-loved Ayckbourn actors – **Eileen Battye, Terence Booth, Georgia Burnell, Bill Champion** and **Antony Eden**!

Join us, too, for a fascinating evening on the Friday, when various people who have worked with Alan in non-acting roles – production staff, directors, etc – will spill some ***Backstage Secrets***. They'll include **Robin Herford**, a much-loved Ayckbourn actor who first worked



with Alan in 1976 and, of course, directed the original ***The Woman in Black*** and still directs it to this day; **Antony Eden**, who first performed here on ***A Brief History of Women*** and ***Taking Steps*** in 2017, and is also Robin's right-hand man on ***The Woman in Black***; choreographer Sheila Carter, who has worked with Alan many times including on ***By Jeeves***; and our Company Stage Manager **Fleur Beeley**, who has worked on more Ayckbourn shows than she cares to remember!



They'll be joined after the interval by the rest of the ***Welcome to the Family*** cast – it should be an evening to remember.

All funds raised from this celebratory weekend will go towards our New Work Fund and help us to put new shows on our stages for you in 2027!

Welcome to Pendon takes place from **Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September** – for more information and details of different packages and prices, do take a look here and here.

Availability check

Just a heads up on some of our best-selling shows this coming autumn (all figures correct at time of writing):

Attention All Shipping and **Raven** are now sold out but do get in touch if you'd like to be added to the waiting list.

Simon Evans: Staring at the Sun (21 November): This one's selling steadily almost every day – just a handful of tickets still available.

Haus of Games – the Isolation Creations' Halloween offering on 1 November is sold out, but you can still grab a ticket for their Christmas special on 20 December if you're quick – just 14 still remaining.

And it goes without saying that annual Christmas treats **A Pleasing Terror – two ghost stories by MR James** on 9 December, and **Holly at Christmas** on 10 December – are both rapidly heading towards selling out.

Charlie, Jack and Keane on tour

You may remember that back in March, we told you how three of our Young Company members – **Keane Liley, Jack Pickering** and **Charlie Wright** – had been interviewed by **The Guardian** for their ***Against the Tide*** project, which looked at the challenges young people face living in seaside towns – it's here if you'd like a reminder.

The wonderful photographs taken all round the UK coast by **Polly Braden** went on to become an exhibition at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol, and at the end of July, the three teenagers (who had just finished playing Danny and Tommo in ***Calendar Girls the Musical***) and our Head of Creative Engagement, **Rob Salmon**, went to see it.

Rob tells us: *"As you walk into the gallery, their image is the first big picture you see. The gallery assistant looked up at them, did a double take and jumped up to say hello and ask for a selfie with them – they felt like stars!"*



If you happen to be in Bristol, you can catch ***Against the Tide*** at the Arnolfini until 27 September – after that, it moves to Firstsite in Colchester in October and can be seen there until February.

Circle Cafés

July's Circle Café was just a two-hander – Simon Darwen and Deven Modha from ***Handbagged*** – but my, it was lively, with topics ranging from politics to posture!

Circle Cafés are getting busier by the month, so it really helps us if you can book your tickets in advance of the day. That way, we arrive first thing that morning knowing how many people to expect, how many chairs to lay out, how much coffee to make, how much cake we need – all the important stuff! Thanks for your help.

Thursday 10 September: It's **Alan Ayckbourn's** 92nd play – and the ***Trial of Romeo Oscar*** company includes a few familiar and much-loved faces.



Thursday 22 October: Meet the cast of **Alison Carr's** intriguing new play, ***All at Sea***.

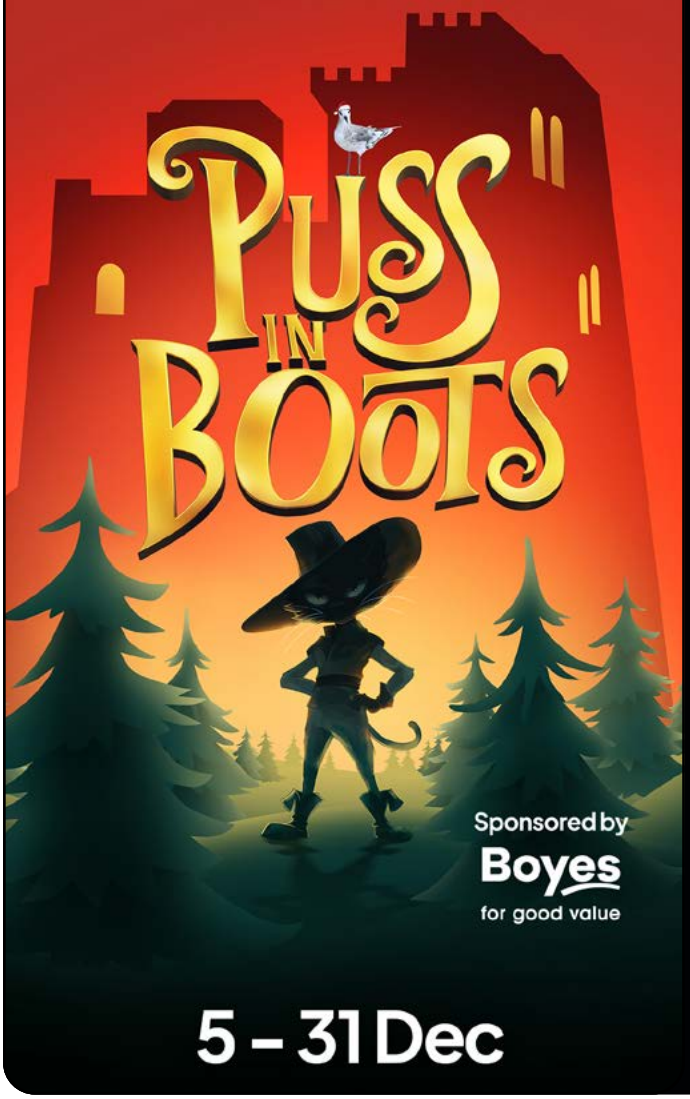


Thursday 12 November: Meet our Marketing and Sales Department team and find out what they do.

Thursday 10 December: Meet the sparkling **Puss in Boots** company (please note that this will be an afternoon Circle Café at 1pm as the company will be on stage performing at our usual time).



Our annual Christmas show takes a classic fairy tale and turns it on its head. Full of familiar songs, silliness and festive fun – a great show for all the family to watch together…



…but you definitely don't need young people with you, as previous audience members have said:

"Excellent, as someone 45+ [ahem] on my tod and looking for something to do, I thoroughly enjoyed it."

"Fabulous fun for four overgrown kids in their 60's."

"Always excellent… lots of jokes and deeper meaning for children of all ages, including pensioners like us!"

"This is a must see, if you don't have kids don't worry, just go, treat yourself!!"

"My husband and me loved everything about it. I was shouting out with all the children."

"A fantastic afternoon out. Who needs children to go to the panto?"