

# The Circular

## February 2025



*"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."* **Charles Dickens**

Nearly spring! It won't be long before winter is a distant memory, and we can start enjoying longer days and lighter evenings – the clocks go forward on Sunday 30 March this year, just after we open *Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)*. More on that below, plus news of two new shows added to our 2025 programme.

If you'd like to book for any of our shows, please visit our website: [www.sjt.uk.com](http://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.

### Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)

As you read this, our co-producers over the border in Prescot, Shakespeare North Playhouse, are about to open our latest show *Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)*.

We can't wait to see what audiences over the Pennines think of this colourful, uplifting show, packed with gags and great music. It promises to be at least as much fun as its predecessor, *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)*, which so many of you loved two years ago.

*Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)* is at Shakespeare North Playhouse from 28 February to 22 March, then is in our Round from 27 March to 19 April.

### Education, Education, Education

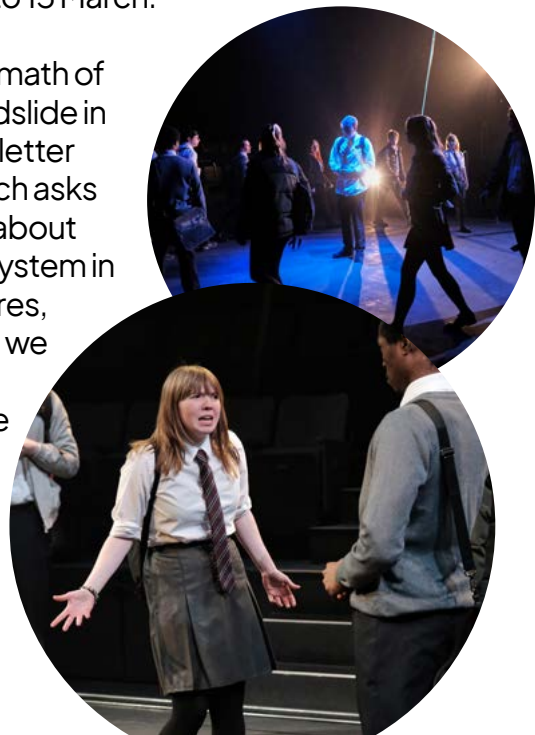
Last year's starkly excellent *DNA*, the first show from our newly formed Young Company, was an absolutely stunner. Come and support the stars of the future again in this year's Young Company show, *Education, Education, Education*, in our Round from 11 to 15 March.

Set in the aftermath of the Labour landslide in 1997, it's a love letter to schools which asks big questions about an education system in special measures, exploring what we are taught and why, and where responsibility lies.

2024's *DNA* –  
photos by Tony  
Bartholomew



*Love's Labour's Lost* in rehearsal – photos by Tony Bartholomew



The Young Company is a talent development programme for young creatives in Scarborough. Members enjoy weekly classes in theatre-making skills and acting technique, access to support from experienced theatre professionals, complimentary tickets, and the opportunity to perform in the Round.



The group is designed for aspiring young theatre makers actively pursuing a career in the performing arts. Whether they're applying for a place in higher education, studying, or at the start of their career, it's the perfect place to grow their knowledge and understanding of a career as a professional theatre maker. They deepen awareness of a range of theatre practices through exploring text, making work for a public performance, and devising new work that reflects their lived experience.

## Don't tell him, Pike!

We're thrilled to bring you news of two great new shows for this year – and as ever, as valued Circle members, you have **priority booking from 10am on Wednesday 26 February** until general booking opens at 10am on Wednesday 5 March.

First up is **Dad's Army Radio Show**, on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 June.



Two actors, two microphones, over 25 characters and lots of sound effects – *Dad's Army Radio Show* brings the classic BBC comedy to life in this highly acclaimed stage production. Three episodes of the popular sitcom, adapted for radio for the very first time, are hilariously and lovingly enacted on stage by two master performers – complete with sound effects, vintage music and all your favourite Perry and Croft characters and catchphrases.

Then in the autumn, we're delighted to welcome

back the ever-popular John Godber Company with their latest show, **Black Tie Ball** – it's in the Round from Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 November.

It's the glitziest night of the year, and everyone wants to be there, from the great to the good. The Bentleys are parked, the jazz band has arrived, and the magician is magic, so pick up your invite for this fundraising frenzy.

But behind the bow ties and fake tans there are jealousies and avarice, divorces and affairs: upstairs meets downstairs through a drunken gaze. The raffle is ready, the coffee is cold, the service is awful, the guest speaker is drunk, and the hard-pressed caterers just want to go home.

Told in Godber's signature visceral style, this hilarious comedy sees the hotel staff recount an entire evening at breakneck speed, from arrival at seven to carriages at midnight. Being short staffed has never been so funny!

## Heading our way in March...

Our March programme is dominated by *Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)*, but that doesn't mean we can't squeeze in a couple of superb visiting shows...

**Velma Celli** (13 March): Do you love a diva? Then you won't want to miss God Save the Queens, the new show from Yorkshire's very own drag superstar, Velma Celli.



Velma is the alter ego of York-born musicals star Ian Stroughair, who spent 20 years performing in shows such as *Cats*, *Fame*, *Rent* and *Chicago* – he played tabloid journalist Mary Sunshine alongside Jerry Springer as Billy Flynn in a West End production of the latter (wonder where the



inspiration for his drag name came from?). Velma will be celebrating some great British music icons from across the years, with a set list that includes medleys of songs by Adele and Julie Andrews, and numbers by Amy Winehouse, Jessie J, Sinead O'Connor, Kate Bush, Dusty Springfield, George Michael, Bonnie Tyler, Cilla Black and Shirley Bassey.

## The News Quiz

The BBC's flagship topical comedy show, The News Quiz, is coming to Scarborough! We're delighted that they'll be recording in The Round on Thursday 27 February. Join host Andy Zaltzman for a recording of the long running Radio 4 show, as he grabs the headlines and hurls them at the nation's best comedians and journalists. If you'd like to attend you can apply for tickets through a ticket ballot, the BBC are managing the ticketing for the recording and the only way to get tickets is [through their website](#). **Please note there are a few Ts & Cs so please read them carefully** – we don't want anyone travelling to Scarborough to be disappointed!



## Scarborough Film Festival

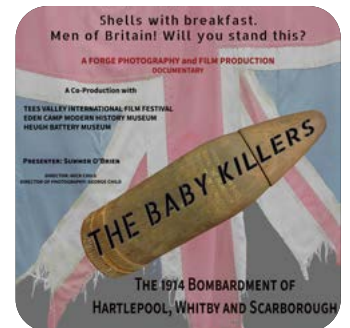
We're delighted to announce the line-up for the second Scarborough Film Festival. The festival has something for everyone, with film previews, live music, collaborations, short films, children's events and workshops. Festival co-directors Martha Cattell and Liz Boag say:

*"We're so pleased to bring Scarborough Film Festival back with more collaborations and screenings than ever before! Our highlights include an exciting film launch with artists Conway and Young, musical collaborations with the Tuesday Funky Choir and local punk bands, our regional film competition and topical documentaries and films from around the world. **The festival is not just a celebration of film but also of the amazing talent and community in the area.**"*

The festival runs from 15 – 23 March with events here at the SJT and across Scarborough. You can see the full festival programme [online](#), including *Dancing Queen*, a 1993 romcom filmed in Scarborough starring Rik Mayall and Helena Bonham Carter. One of the shots of them leaving the train station was filmed from our roof!



In other film news, we'll be hosting a screening of a new documentary about the 1914 bombardment of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough. The one-off screening on Saturday 1 March at 2.45pm will be followed by a live Q&A with the film-makers including the Collections and Engagement Manager from Eden Camp, Summer O'Brien.



## Availability check

Our favourite girl group, Raven, are performing a fundraiser for us on the afternoon of Sunday 11 May – and it's proved so popular, we've moved it from Eat Me Café to our McCarthy auditorium. A lot of the extra tickets were snapped up immediately, but there are still a few left if you're quick...

## Circle Cafés

There's still time to book onto our first Circle Café of the year on Thursday 27 February, where you can meet our producing and programming team.

Our Circle Cafés are getting busier by the month – we had record attendances in 2024 – so it really helps us if you can make sure you book your tickets in advance. That way, we know how many people to expect, and therefore how many chairs to lay out, how much coffee and cake we need – all the important stuff! Thanks for your help.

**Dates for your diary** (all Thursdays and, December excepted, a 10am arrival for a 10.15am start, please – and we need to finish by 10.50am latest to give Eat Me Café time to clear and reset for their reopening at 11am).

**27 February** – have you ever wondered what our producing and programming team does? Come and meet them to find out...

**20 March** – Next, meet our marketing team – the next step in the journey of a show to stage!

**10 April** – this'll be a lively one – the *Love's Labour's Lost* (more or less) company



**1 May** – Blackeyed Theatre is one of our most popular visiting companies, and this year, our great friend Nick Lane is both writing and directing a new adaptation of *Dracula* for them – meet the company



**26 June** – TBC

**17 July** – our co-production with the Octagon Theatre Bolton and Theatre by the Lake, *Pride and Prejudice* promises to be a sparkling and memorable production of Jane Austen's best-loved book



**14 August** – it's widely believed to be one of the funniest comedies ever, and our Artistic Director Paul Robinson is straining at the leash to get at the first ever in-the-round production of *Noises Off*. Come and meet the company and find out what challenges that entails!



**25 September** – it's not cast yet, but there's bound to be a few Ayckbourn favourites in his 91st play, *Earth Angel*



**30 October** – TBC

**13 November** – TBC

**11 December** – Come and meet the *Sleeping Beauty* company (and please note that, as they'll actually be on stage in front of a school audience at our usual time, this will be an afternoon Circle Café with a 1pm arrival time for a 1.15pm start)

