

The Circular

January 2025



"While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch." **Patience Strong**

Welcome to the January issue of the Circular, the first one of this brand-new year. It's been relatively quiet here at the SJT since we closed our Christmas shows at the end of December, but we're revving up for a busy 2025 now, with a bumper month of visiting work coming up in February, ranging from saucy comedy to moving drama.

If you'd like to book for any of our shows, please visit our website: www.sjt.uk.com, call us 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.

Mystery at the Museum

Those of you who came to see our 'in conversation' with James Norton at the beginning of December will recall that he was inspired to pursue a career in acting by a stint on work experience here in his mid-teens. Those



early years of someone's life are so important in forming the adult, and we'd like to think that our various youth theatre groups play a part, small or large, in that process.

We have groups for children as young as five (Drama Club, for school years 1 to 6) and for young people into their mid-teens (Youth Theatre for years 7 to 10), and under the leadership of Head of Creative Engagement, Rob Salmon, they all come together once a year to perform a very special show under the umbrella title of Youth Arts Festival.

This year, around 70 young actors from tinies to teens will join on our stage next month to

perform *Mystery at the Museum*, a new show written and directed by Rob.

Things have been going missing at the Museum. The woolly mammoth has wandered off, the Grecian urns are nowhere to be seen, and King Tut's beard is a thing of the past! Join Detective Davies and his hapless assistant Archie to get to the bottom of it all before there's nothing left.

Judging by last year's inaugural Youth Arts Festival production, *Nurse, the Screens!*, it'll be a joyful occasion – and who knows, you might just spot the next James Norton!



You can see *Mystery at the Museum* at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February – tickets are just £6 each.

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

We're about to go into rehearsals for our next foray into Shakespeare – *Love's Labour's Lost* (*more or less*).

That bit in brackets is dually important. First, it will hopefully link it in your minds to our co-production, with Shakespeare North Playhouse, of *The Comedy of Errors* (*more or less*) back in the spring of 2023. That show was a huge hit, bringing in new audiences and people booking to see it again and again – which is why we wanted to get the team back together again. Secondly, it should remind you that this show – another co-pro with Shakespeare North – is Shakespeare, but not necessarily as you know it! Adaptors Elizabeth Godber and Nick Lane have taken the Bard's basic plot, along with some of his text, and updated it all to the 1990s,

complete with a liberal sprinkling of fabulously upbeat '90s songs.

You'll find all the characters you know and love – Armado, Moth, Dull, Costard, Berowne, et al – and a storyline that's faithful(ish) to the original: a king and three noble friends vow to avoid women but end up falling in love with a princess and, yes, her three friends. There are many misunderstandings on the way, including a series of hilariously misdirected letters, but it all ends happily a year later.

In our version, we've lost the kingliness and just have four ordinary blokes heading to Ibiza for a stag weekend, having reluctantly agreed with the bride-to-be's father that they will forswear the company of women for the duration. But things go awry when the hen and her friends, who were meant to be in Menorca, are redirected to Ibiza...



We're delighted to welcome back to our stage Linford Johnson (Alf in Alan Ayckbourn's *The Girl Next Door* back in 2021); David Kirkbride (Antipholus of both *Scarborough* and *Prescott* in *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)*); Annie Kirkman (Malaria in our UK Theatre Award-winning Christmas 2023 show, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Dracula* in last summer's *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*), and Alyce Liburd (Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)* and Mina in *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*).

Joining them are four actors new to our company (although you may remember Alice from Northern Broadsides' *Quality Street* in 2023): Thomas Cotran, Alice Imelda, Timothy Adam Lucas and Jo Patmore.

Love's Labour's Lost (more or less) promises to be at least as much fun as *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)* – don't miss it!! It rehearses here, then opens at Shakespeare North Playhouse, playing from 28 February to 22 March. It then comes home and is in our Round from 27 March to 19 April.

Fun fact:

The original text of *Love's Labour's Lost* includes the longest single word in any of Shakespeare's plays:

honorificabilitudinitatibus.

We've chosen not to include it in our adaptation, not least because we didn't think it was fair to expect Linford, who plays Costard, to say it every show!

February treats

We've got a cornucopia of theatrical delights to brighten up February for you:

Bull (1 February)

From Mike Bartlett, the writer of the hit TV show *Doctor Foster* starring Suranne Jones, *Bull* has garnered some rave reviews in its time. The Observer's Susannah Clapp described it as '*riveting and really uncomfortable*', while Michael Billington in The Guardian said: "*It makes for a gripping 55-minute spectacle... a mixture of bear pit and boxing ring [which] turns us into voyeuristic accomplices.*"



Both (tough!) critics gave *Bull* four stars. With reviews like that, we'll forgive the show, an incisive piece about workplace bullying, for beating Alan Ayckbourn's *Surprises* to the 2013 Best New Play at The UK Theatre Awards!

Last Rites (8 February)

Another powerful piece of theatre which has gained four- and five-star reviews from many different publications. The Stage praised its 'powerful physical storytelling', The Guardian called it 'sumptuous' and 'tremendous', The Scotsman loved its 'mighty theatrical lyricism' and according to The Reviews Hub, it's 'a triumph... as real, raw and beautiful as it gets'.



Performed by Ramesh Meyyappan, the show combines exciting physical, non-verbal storytelling with dynamic projection and an immersive soundtrack that can be felt and heard. Told through a Deaf man's unique perspective, it tells the

passionate and poignant story of a complex relationship cut short. Travelling from the UK to India, Arjun needs to carry out his father's funeral rites. But how can he perform an ancient Hindu practice that was never passed on? In life, his father wouldn't learn sign language, but in death Arjun needs to find a way to say goodbye. He creates his own intimate, final ceremony that brings to life a rich tapestry of shared memories.

The Isolation Creations Haus of Games: Kiss & Makeup (9 February)

Fancying a saucy Sunday afternoon? Join Scarborough's cheekiest comedy drag double act for fun, games, bingo and a party atmosphere like no other! The Isolation Creations are back at the SJT with their live show, which will have you blushing, giggling, and maybe even winning a rubbish prize or two. Don't come expecting RuPaul's Drag Race: The ICs are here to remind you that drag can be a bit saucy, rough around the edges, and a whole lot of fun! Step



into a world where the heels are a bit lower, the banter is a lot cheekier, and the wigs have a delightful hint of nostalgia, all inspired by

the old-fashioned drag of Les Dawson, Dame Edna, Dick Emery, Lily Savage and Julian Clary.

Egg & Spoon (19 & 20 February)

We're delighted to welcome back this lovely show for the very youngest members of the family following a successful visit in 2023. We love Lyngo Theatre's outlook: "The very young won't sit still to watch a show and we don't expect them to.". Percy and April get audiences settled on comfy cushions and introduce them to Birdy in his glowing egg. It's time to begin a hands-on journey through the year. The little ones will run through the rain and the falling leaves and sleep under the snow until spring wakes them up for a butterfly party. The perfect gentle introduction to the magic of theatre, *Egg & Spoon* has delighted children all over the world from New York to Singapore, and when Birdy comes out they all want to give him a little stroke and a feed!



Oasiz (22 February)

Missed out on tickets for Noel and Liam's reunion tour? We've got the next best thing – Oasiz are one of the UK's most authentic Oasis tribute bands. In 2023, a clip of frontman Steve performing as Liam went viral, racking up over 10 million views with fans convinced the clip was Liam himself. The story was covered in the national press, including an appearance on national TV later that year. Oasiz's 2025 tour celebrates the 30th anniversary of the release of *(What's the Story) Morning Glory*, with the setlist paying homage to the most memorable parts of Oasis' record-breaking second album, plus all the big-hitting, career-spanning anthems you know and love.



Lady Maisery and O'Hooley and Tidow

(28 February)

Fans of the hit series *Gentleman Jack* (Suranne Jones again!) will recall the haunting theme music written and performed by Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow. For this visit to the SJT, they've teamed up with old friends Lady Maisery – Hannah James, Hazel Askew and Rowan Rheingans. The duo and the trio will perform separately and then come together at the end of the show for the first time since their much-loved annual collaboration as supergroup Coven.



Availability check

Just so's you know – a few of our spring shows are, at time of writing, sold out or close to it. In case you wondered why they weren't above, *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act* and *Miles Jupp: On / Bang* are sold out. As always, though, it's worth adding your name to the waiting list if you're keen to see it – just contact the box office. There are six tickets left for the Isolation Creations and 60 left for Oasis.

Hammonds Band

For the first time in over 25 years, Hammonds Band didn't make it to us this year for their traditional New Year concert – they were due to be with us on Sunday 5 January, which was the weekend when we had a severe cold snap and the Met Office was issuing amber warnings left, right and centre.



Fortunately, we've been able to reschedule – they'll now be with us from 3pm on Sunday 27 April when (we hope!) the weather will be considerably milder! We still have a few tickets left – visit our website or call the box office.

Crane ahoy!

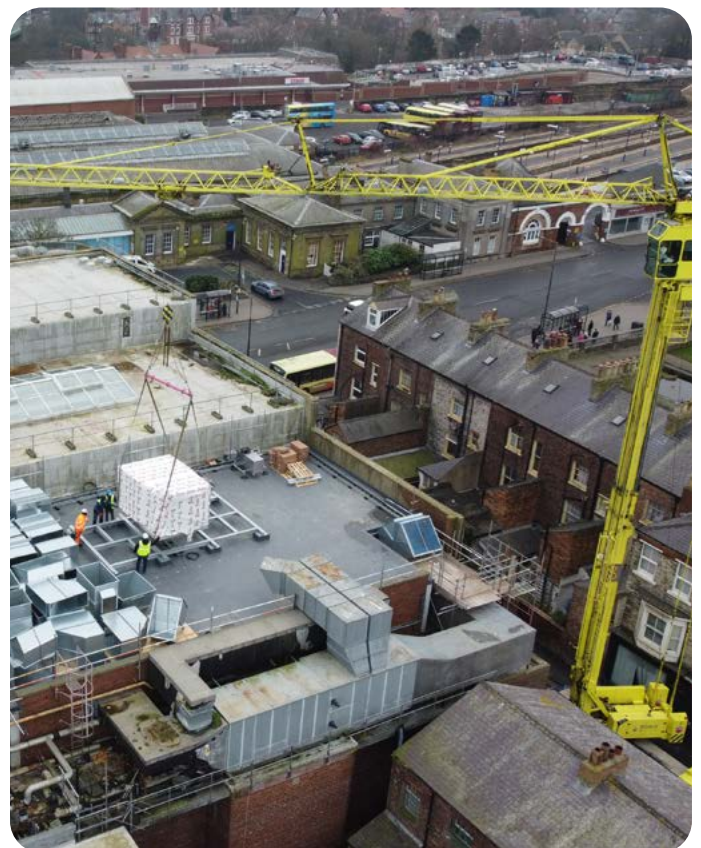
If you passed our way at the beginning of last week, you might have noticed something a little out of the ordinary ... a giant crane, to be exact!

Last year we said we'd be starting work on replacing our outdated heating and cooling systems. That work's been ongoing over the past few months, and the new air handling unit for the Round has now been craned up onto

the roof. The next stage will be installing all the new ductwork and other equipment, and we'll keep you posted on how it's all progressing.



This work is thanks to funding by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund administered through North Yorkshire Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, the Bernard Sunley Foundation, and the Scarborough Theatre Development Trust. And thanks to Houltons and DM Cranes for making it happen!



Circle Cafés

If you're missing our monthly get-togethers, don't worry – they're starting again next month. You'll find the full programme, or as much of it as we can currently give you, below...

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 time to clear and reset for their reopening at 11am).

27 February – meet our Producer Amy Fisher and our Assistant Producer, Lisa Chapman

20 March – meet our marketing team

10 April – this'll be a lively one – the *Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)* company will join us to talk about the show

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 & Prejudice* promises to be a sparkling 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 – the company of the new John Godber – it's not yet announced, but watch this space for more information and details of your priority booking period next month

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)

Please note:

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. You can [book online here](#), or call the Box Office on 01723 370541.

That way, we arrive for the day knowing how many people to expect, and therefore how many chairs to lay out, how much coffee to make, how much cake we need – all the important stuff! Thanks for your help.