

The Circular

March 2025



"Oh, to be in England now that April's there."
Robert Browning

Spring has definitely sprung, and it's only a few days now until the clocks go forward, and we get those lovely loooooooong days again. We've got loads to tempt you out in the evenings (or the afternoons) for the next few months – join us!

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.

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



We can't wait to welcome back our brilliant Love's Labour's Lost (more or less) company next week, after nearly a month over the Pennines in Prescot. They've had a wonderful time, but it's been hectic – here's a few LLL facts and figures for you:

Our scenic artist, Julia Wray, estimates that she has painted around 10,000 brilliant blue tiles for the set, here and in its slightly different configuration in Prescot. And in keeping with our commitment to working towards becoming a carbon-neutral building, the floor was recycled from our Christmas show, *Aladdin*.



Our Head of Production, Simon Bedwell, says: *"The flooring was all flipped, filled and finished from Aladdin, ensuring that we bought no new wood for the floor. My policy now is that all show floors should make two productions."*

The benches were all reused from a stockpile of wood which was part of The Whitby Rebels."



Company Stage Manager Fleur Beeley tells us: *"There are 338 individual pieces of costume that need to be set, from large garments like paintballing coveralls, to wedding rings, socks, scrunchies – and three moustaches! Most of the 90s costumes are original vintage pieces, many of them sourced from charity shops."*



"Due to the lack of backstage space at Shakespeare North Playhouse, we bought 22 laundry baskets whilst in Prescot just to be able to run the show."

And the show's choreographer, Stephanie Dattani – who many of you will also know as our Fundraising and Development Manager – praises our backstage team: *"The number of props is crazy! There's a lot of stuff that our wonderful Assistant Stage Manager Emma Lang deals with – it has its own choreography backstage to be in the right place at the right time."*



Love's Labour's Lost (more or less) is in our Round from 27 March to 19 April. It'll be a perfect start to the spring!

Shoes and hats photo by Stephanie Dattani, all others by Tony Bartholomew



New shows for your diary

We love bringing you news of new shows, and we've got a great line-up of new announcements for this autumn (plus one for the summer). As our valued Circle members, you have priority booking from 10am on Wednesday 26 March (general on-sale opens at 10am on Wednesday 2 April) for the following:

Isolation Creations – Totally 1980s Summer Prom (22 June)

“Do you wanna go to the prom with us?” A Sunday afternoon of comedy, bingo, games and a party atmosphere like no other brought to you by Scarborough's cheekiest queens, the Isolation Creations.

Round the Horne (29 and 30 September)

Apollo Productions return to the SJT with a new, exciting production celebrating the classic radio comedy's 60th anniversary. Meet Julian and Sandy, Rambling Syd Rumpo and J. Peasemold Gruntfuttock in the cultural phenomenon that attracted up to 15 million listeners a week.

Into the Light (16 October)

A double bill from dance duo Pett/Clausen-Knight. *Vessel* takes inspiration from the feeling of unfamiliarity experienced by choreographers as they were suddenly exposed to a quieter world, while *In the Absence* is an exploration on the nature of moving forward, the concept of evolving past an event and the boundaries created in that transition.

Ordinary Decent Criminal (28 October)

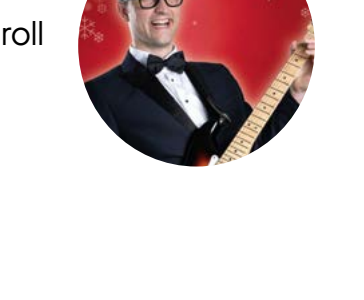
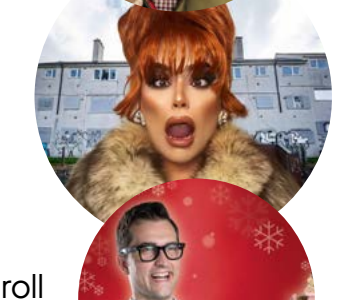
Starring political comedian Mark Thomas as Frankie, who enters the brave new world of a liberal prison experiment. His fellow convicts aren't what they seem, and he discovers the revolution is not dead. It's just sleeping.

Baga Chipz – Chip Off the Old Block (30 October)

Join Baga and friends for an evening of live vocals, big band ballads and disco classics, plus a special segment dedicated to her dear friend, The Vivienne. This X-rated comedy extravaganza will be followed by an audience Q&A.

Holly at Christmas (16 December)

What can we tell you? Buddy and the boys are back with the ultimate rock 'n' roll experience – it wouldn't be Christmas without them!



Heading our way in April...

Three very different visiting shows are on our McCarthy stage next month.

We start with Box Tale Soup's adaptation of that great gothic story, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Oscar Wilde's only novel scandalised Victorian society but has since been reassessed and is considered a classic of the genre. Box Tale Soup uses puppets to swell the compact cast, creating a show which has been praised as 'thoroughly engaging' and 'both humorous and haunting'. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* can be seen at 7.45pm on Tuesday 8 April – and there are currently fewer than 30 seats left.



A few days later we'll welcome the *Detective Dog* to the McCarthy. Based on the much-loved book by Julia Donaldson and Sara Oglivie, your little ones will love the story of



detective dog Nell sniffing out the story behind the mysterious disappearance of all the books at Peter's school! *Detective Dog* is from Tiny & Tall Productions and can be seen at 12.30pm and 3pm on Friday 11 April. It's the perfect non-chocolate-y treat for the Easter holidays!

Our final April show in the McCarthy is *Toxic*, from award-winning writer and performer Nathaniel J Hall. Some of you will recall his moving *First Time*, which was one of the final shows we staged a month or so before lockdown five years ago. Of *Toxic*, Nathaniel says: "*When the world treats us so badly, why do we end up treating ourselves and each other badly too? In workshops with other LGBTQ+ people... it became clear to me that despite the modern Pride movement, behind closed doors many of us still battle deep shame and self-worth issues stemming from societal prejudice. Toxic is a love letter to all my exes and myself, and I hope it helps others who maybe be struggling with shame to feel less isolated.*" *Toxic* can be seen at 7.45pm on Thursday 24 April.



And don't forget that the Hammonds Band are in the Round on Sunday 27 April at 3pm – a replacement date for their usual New Year's concert, which was scuppered by the awful weather this year! We only have just over 50 seats left for this concert.



Availability check

And while we're on the subject of availability, a

quick heads up on a few shows over the next few months which are all selling particularly well – if you're keen to see any of the following, we'd advise you to book sooner rather than later.

Dracula (Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 May) and, hot on the Prince of Darkness's wicked heels, *Do I Love You?* (Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May) – there's still decent availability for both these shows as we write, but we know from experience that anything from Blackeyed Theatre or the John Godber Company can sell out, so don't hang (bat-like) about.



Raven on Sunday 11 May – just 10 tickets available as we write. This 20th anniversary concert (how can that be – surely they're all still only in their 30s?) is a fundraiser for the theatre.



Marshmallow Me – we programmed this show from Scarborough-born-and-bred actor Rosie Pepper in the McCarthy, and it sold out within days, so we moved it the Round (same date – Monday 19 May), where it's already selling well. You can hear Rosie's delightful interview with our great friend at BBC Radio York, Bek Homer, [here](#) (from 1 hour 12 minutes in).



Circle Cafés

Thanks to those of you who came to our March Circle Café to meet our four-strong marketing team, who keep you informed about what's going on at the SJT!

Our Circle Cafés are getting busier and 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, and before the day**. 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.

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



10 April – this one's bound to be lively – come and meet our *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 – a lighting demo from our Technical Manager, Tigger Johnson – please note this will take place in the Round, not Eat Me, but head to foyer outside the Round doors as usual to pick up your refreshments.



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



14 August – it's often named as 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 cast of John Godber's *Black Tie Ball*



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)