

The Circular

February 2026



“An extra yawn one morning in the springtime, an extra snooze one night in the autumn is all that we ask in return for dazzling gifts.” **Winston Churchill**

Depending on when you're reading this, the clocks are about to, or have just, sprung forward, meaning lots more precious daylight. Make the most of these (hopefully sunlit) hours and head our way – we've so much wonderful entertainment this year, starting with our delightful new show, *Murder for Two*, which runs from 28 March to 18 April. It's a madcap murder mystery with many, many characters, lots of music and some big laughs – and all performed by just two actors. Intrigued? Take a look at our rehearsal photos and then, if you'd like to book for *Murder for Two* or any of our other 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.

Honk! – with added Redgrave!

There's still time to get tickets for our in-concert performance of *Honk!* on the afternoon of Sunday 12 April – and we were delighted to be able to announce last week that it will be hosted by absolute theatre royalty in the form of Jemma Redgrave!



This heartwarming retelling of the story of the Ugly Duckling will be performed by a talented cast of SJT favourites, including Annie Kirkman, Alyce Liburd, Carl Patrick, Sarah Pearman, Georgie Samuels and Simon Slater.



Young Company

We're really proud of the work our Creative Engagement department is doing, much of it with young people in the area. So we were thrilled to see three of them featured recently in *The Guardian's* ongoing *Against the Tide* project, a collaboration between the newspaper and documentary photographer Polly Braden reporting on the lives of young people in coastal communities across England and Wales. [You can read it here.](#)



Three new shows...

We've added two/three exciting new shows to our already busy late spring/early summer schedule:

The Scarborough Playwrights' Room Showcase (26 May): A showcase featuring writing from eight local writers, including wild comedy, mysterious drama, and moving monologues. You'll see snapshots of wider works, some published, some entirely new. This show gives you the opportunity to directly support local creatives, and maybe even get involved yourself! All writing in the show has been developed and/or supported by local theatre creatives at the Scarborough Playwrights' Room, a local writing group hosted by the SJT and run by Alfie Howle.

RUM (9 June): Meet Danny, plastering since he was a kid. He's not scared of anything: he's RUM. Danny's been up all night and now he's rushing to finish a job before he has to give the speech of his life. RUM is a darkly humorous and powerful new play that wrestles with masculinity, mental health and addiction in the trade. Written and performed by Joe Mallalieu and directed by Tess Seddon, this powerful play is returning to tour the UK in 2026 following successes at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2024 (winner of Broadway Baby's Bobby Award) and a UK tour in 2025.



Queer Spaces – New Writing (26 June):

A sparkling one-off night of brand-new LGBTQ+ performances. Created by actors, poets and writers, the line-up includes award-winning artists trying out new material for the first time. Produced by two of Yorkshire's leading theatre companies, Roots and Four Wheel Drive, with all proceeds going towards their support of new local artists.

Shows for April

Once Upon a Fairytale (7 April): A magical adventure through some of the world's most loved fairytales, where every page comes to life. You'll meet familiar faces like Little Red Riding Hood, The Gingerbread Man, and some very grumpy bears! This fairytale story is magic from beginning to happily-ever-after: an interactive show full of energy, big bold dance moves and a fair bit of silliness from York's award-winning Story Craft Theatre. The perfect Easter treat for two-to-eight-year-olds.



The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists (16 April):

A one-person magic lantern show from Townsend Productions. This classic story of a year in the life of a group of Edwardian painters and decorators is brought to life by Neil Gore. At time of writing, there were just five seats left, so hurry if you want to see this one!



Sunny Side (24 April):

Combining contemporary dance, theatre and spoken word, join Yorkshire multi-disciplinary performance company Northern Rascals with this socially urgent work that follows the pain and loneliness on the path from adolescence to adulthood. A raw, portrayal of the modern young male experience, touring in partnership with Andy's Man Club and informed by the experiences of over 750 young people across the UK.



Westway Boxing Club

A new documentary about Eastfield's Westway Boxing Club, created by SJT Associate Director and boxing coach Chantell Walker, and local filmmaker Matthew Storm, proved a knockout in our cinema in January.



The SJT collaborated with the club and North Yorkshire Council to create the short documentary, *More Than a Boxing Club – Westway ABC*.

Boxing clubs like Westway aren't there just to create champions. Grassroots boxing clubs can give young people a sense of purpose and belonging. Boxing gyms can be a home and a safe space for many.

The film highlights the important work the club does with the community of Eastfield and raises awareness of the importance of grassroots boxing clubs to their local communities, including valuable work with those living with Parkinson's.



Westway coach Ryan Ashworth says: *"It's been an incredible experience letting people in to see the magic of boxing and how it's used for the greater good. This film was the perfect platform to share the gym's journey and myself becoming a level 3 coach. It's also an honour to share the relationship between myself and George Rhodes Snr, my mentor and founder of the club and how he'll be passing on the torch to me to lead the next generation at Westway."*

Director Chantell Walker says: *"It's been a privilege directing this film about Westway Boxing Club. I'm so thankful to Ryan, George and everyone at the club who made me and Matt feel so welcome and allowed us to capture the true nature of the club and the array of people that walk through those doors. It came as no surprise as I grew up in boxing clubs, first as an amateur boxer and now turned coach myself. I know how welcoming and accessible boxing clubs are and the important work they do for their communities. This is my film directorial debut and I'm incredibly grateful it's about something so close to my heart."*



[You can still catch the film here.](#)

For all you budding playwrights...

Have you ever wanted to write a play? We're running eight workshops led by local writer Christina Lewis, exploring all the elements of writing a play. From dialogue to structure to conflict and characters, the sessions will help you create, craft, redraft and shape your vision.

Each week will look at a different element of playwriting, including plot, writing dialogue, creating compelling characters, conflict, and dramatic convention and elements. The course will culminate in a sharing of work in the SJT's McCarthy auditorium, bringing your work to life on stage for the first time.

Aimed at people in the early stages of their playwriting journey, the workshops will run at the SJT, fortnightly, from 7pm to 9pm on Wednesdays 15 and 29 April, 13 and 27 May, 10 and 24 June, and 8 and 22 July. [More details here!](#)

Circle Cafés

A packed house enjoyed a delightful March Circle Café with the cast and director of *The Grand Babylon Hotel*, who shared backstage secrets and stories with us.

Circle Cafés are getting busier and 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 9 April: It's our first SJT production of the year: *Murder for Two* promises to be a riot of music and comedy, with non-stop laughs and two exceptionally talented performers.



Thursday 21 May: Meet Rob Salmon, our Head of Creative Engagement, who'll talk us through the great work his department is doing.

Thursday 18 June: Meet Ernie Acquah, our Creative Engagement Co-ordinator, who's also a freelance sound designer. Ernie will educate and entertain us with a sound workshop.



Thursday 9 July: Your chance to meet some of the multi-talented company of our second SJT production: *Calendar Girls the Musical*.



Thursday 6

Handbagged



August: Those SJT productions come in thick and fast at this time of year! Meet the company of *Handbagged* and find out what it's like to play two of the 20th century's most iconic women – the Queen and Margaret Thatcher.

Thursday 10 September: It's Alan Ayckbourn's 92nd play – the *Trial of Romeo Oscar* company isn't cast yet, but it's bound to feature a few familiar and much-loved faces.



Thursday 22

ALL AT SEA



October: *All at Sea* is a new play from award-winning playwright Alison Carr, inspired by the notorious Canoe Man case in which a former teacher turned up alive five-and-a-half years after faking his own death in a canoeing accident.

Thursday 12 November: Meet our Marketing 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).

