

The Circular

May 2026



“June suns, you cannot store them” AE Houseman

Here at the SJT, we're all getting ready for a busy, busy, BUSY summer! At the end of May, we go into rehearsals for the much-anticipated *Calendar Girls the Musical*. Keep an eye out on our socials and website, and in the press, for rehearsal photos. Then, by the time you get your next Circular at the end of June, we should be able to bring you production pictures – we can't wait!

That's followed by another show about remarkable women – *Handbagged* looks at the relationship between our late Queen and Margaret Thatcher during the period of the latter's premiership. We're thinking a few sparks will fly...

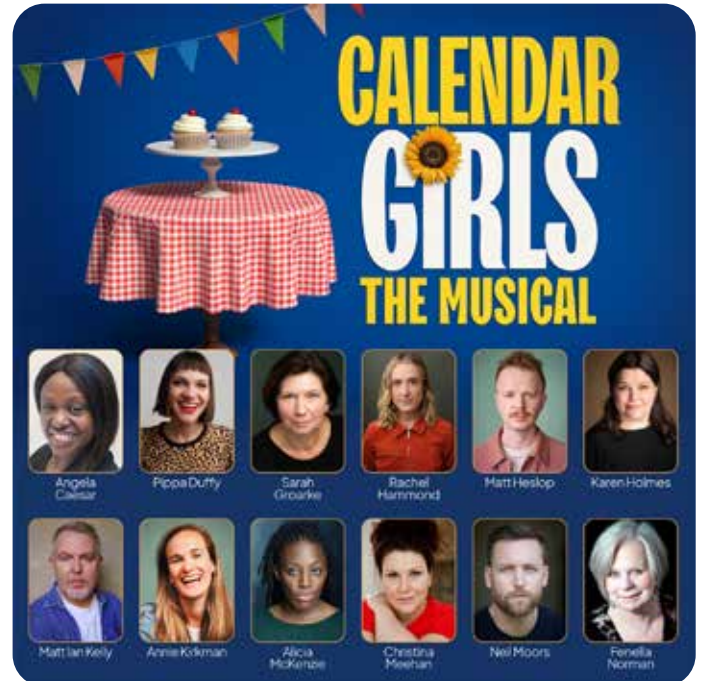
And then our final offering of the summer is Alan Ayckbourn's 92nd (yes!) new play, *The Trial of Romeo Oscar*, a good old-fashioned courtroom drama with a futuristic twist – it's a really strong story that we think you'll love.

So settle in and enjoy a summer of superb storytelling here at the SJT – 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.

Meet the cast...

Here's our wonderful team of actors for *Calendar Girls the Musical* – Angela Caesar, Pippa Duffy, Sarah Groarke, Rachel Hammond, Matt Heslop, Karen Holmes, Matt Ian Kelly, Annie Kirkman, Alicia McKenzie, Christina Meehan, Neil Moors and Fenella Norman.

Seven of them are new to us, but there are some familiar faces, too – you might remember Sarah Groarke from our recent productions of *Jane Eyre* and *Blonde Bombshells of 1943*; Matt Ian Kelly from *Brassed Off*; Annie Kirkman from *Sleeping Beauty*, *Noises Off*, *Love's Labour's Lost (more or less)*, *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* and *Beauty and the Beast*; Alicia McKenzie from *A (Scarborough)*, *Christmas Carol*, and Fenella Norman from *Stepping Out*.



And there's more – they'll be joined by seven young actors from the area, who are sharing the roles of teenagers Danny, Jenny and Tommo, the children of three of the Calendar Girls. They are current SJT Young Company members Robyn Chambers and Jack Pickering, and Youth Theatre member Arabella Carey, all from Scarborough; Will Ireland, from Bridlington; and Keane Liley and Charlie Wright, from Eastfield. They're all aged between 16 and 19.

More new shows for you!

We've had so many new shows heading our way these past few weeks, we had to do a 'Christmas special' announcement in mid-May – you'll have heard from us then about a cracking programme of entertainment for December: **Hairy Bob's Christmas Jumper** (our annual show for under-sixes), **Holly at Christmas** (it's an SJT tradition!), **A Pleasing Terror** (this year's ghost stories from the MR James, performed by RM Lloyd Parry), **Haus of Games: The Christmas Special** (a Sunday afternoon treat from the Isolation Creations) and multi-instrumental band **Raven** with another magical Christmas fundraiser for the SJT. We also slipped in a new show for February – the latest from John Godber, **This is the Life**.

And now, some more!

Your Circle members' priority booking for all of the below opens at **10am on Wednesday 27 May**, with general on-sale from 10am on Wednesday 3 June.

How Soon is Now? (6 & 7 November): New Year's Eve, 1997. Manchester. In Déjà Vos', Spin Jim is on the decks and ready to take you into the new year. The whole place is electric. Set to a live soundtrack of indie classics, this is an indie musical about mates, music and magic – finding your place and finding yourself.



Close Enough to Touch (9 November): A funny, intimate, queer play exploring sexuality, shame and... toilets. He's lost in life. He doesn't have a job, he doesn't have a direction... but he does have a secret.



It's A Wonderful Us (24 November): This funny and heartfelt show traces one man's journey with learning disabilities. Performed by and co-created with a cast of learning-



disabled and non-learning-disabled artists, it's a celebration of the fact that every life is wonderful, and sometimes all we need is a little nudge and a few good jokes to remember why.

June shows

Meanwhile, we've the usual diverse programme of visiting work for you in June, including:



Queer Spaces (3 June): a sparkling one-off night of brand-new LGBTQ+ performances created by actors, poets and writers.



Tim Lucas: We're Havin' a Party (4 June): Tim built up quite the fan base when he appeared as Ferdie in Love's Labour's Lost (more or less) last year. He returns with his feel-good show combining singing, stand-up comedy and live entertainment – a celebration packed with Motown, soul, swing and rock 'n' roll and more!



Party Piece (5 & 6 June): Our Young Company members Will, Keane, Robyn and Tom take us through the outrageous events of the night before as they look beneath the

showing off and realise it's time they got out and grew up... although they might just have to find their shoes first! Please note, this production contains very strong language, sexually explicit content and adult themes throughout.

RUM (9 June): Meet Danny, plastering since he was a kid and not scared of anything: he's RUM. He's been up all night and now he's rushing to finish a job before he has to give the speech of his life. A darkly humorous and powerful new play that wrestles with masculinity, mental health and addiction in the trade.



10CCLO (11 June): The only tribute band in the world to both ELO and 10cc, two of the most enduring and varied bands from the last four decades.



Acocalypse Now (13 June): 'Fair cop' Alfie Moore returns with his unique combination of stand-up and storytelling – at time of writing, there were just a few restricted view seats left!



And don't forget the **Scarborough Fringe** events happening here:

Monologue Slam (13 June): A chance for actors to perform live in front of industry professionals and connect with creatives.



Playwright's Room (16 June): A short play created collectively by the Scarborough Playwright's Room. Come and celebrate our local talent!



You Decide (18 June): A one-man show about a male victim of domestic abuse and the system that failed him at every turn.



Poetry Salon Live at the SJT! (19 June): A celebration of Scarborough's poetry talent with an evening of local poet-performers.



Aidan Jones: Chopin's Nocturne (19 June): Classical music, presented with jokes by a bald, Australian *****head with a beard.



Artist's Brunch (20 June): A short creative catch-up for artists, creatives, and practitioners.





Writing a play with Kat Rose-Martin (20 June): A two-hour workshop for playwrights at all stages of their development with our playwright-on-attachment.



Besieged (20 June): the explosive final chapter in a trilogy created with young people from Eastfield, all members of our Young Company, following **Battleground** (2024) and the double award-winning **Feral** (2025). It has been developed with support from McCain.



Thursday 6 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.

Another celebration...

We've had a little run of significant birthdays recently, including our 30th year in the former Odeon back in April – and there's another coming up!

The 50th anniversary of the opening of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round at Westwood will be celebrated with a talk by Alan Ayckbourn's archivist Simon Murgatroyd. Simon will present a talk about the move from The Library Theatre to Westwood in 1976 – why and how it happened as well as exploring the significant impact of this influential venue and home to theatre in the round between 1976 and 1995. It will take place in the Sitwell Library at Woodend Gallery and Studios at 1pm on Saturday 20 June; tickets are £5 and available via the Scarborough Fringe website [here](#) (please note tickets are only available here – NOT from the SJT box office).

Simon will also mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Theatre in the Round at the Library Theatre this September during Heritage Open Days; details to be announced soon.



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

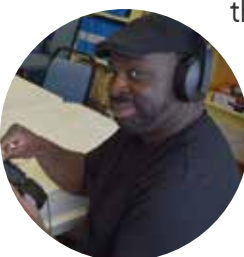
Thursday 12 November: Meet our Marketing and Sales Department team and find out what they do.

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).



Circle Cafés

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 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 the multi-talented company of our second SJT production: *Calendar Girls the Musical*.

