

The Circular

October 2025



"Peering from some high window, at the gold of November sunset and feeling that if day has to become night, this is a beautiful way." E.E. Cummings

It's the end of October, November's on its way, and we're about to go into rehearsals for our magical Christmas show, *Sleeping Beauty*. Designer Helen Coyston has pulled out **all** the stops on dreaminess for this one – take a look at some of her gorgeous design work!



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.

Actors, Audiences and Ayckbourn

If you attended our September fundraising weekend – thank you! It raised a substantial amount, yet to be fully confirmed, for our New Work Fund. Watch this space for information

on our next one. Meanwhile, here's what writer Michael Davies said on the WhatsOnStage website: *"No contemporary writer has even come close to his accomplishments, and it's hard to imagine that anyone ever will. Actors love him, audiences love him..."*

More here: https://www.whatsonstage.com/news/actors-audiences-and-ayckbourn-a-weekend-in-scarborough_1696515/

New shows for 2026

Calendars at the ready – we have seven more new shows for you for 2026! And as one of our valued Circle members, you have a week-long priority booking period from 10am on Wednesday 29 October!

Frozen Light: The Ancient Oak of Baldor (3 & 4 March): A multi-sensory experience for audiences with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their companions, exploring a beautiful folk tale of love, loss and the interconnectedness of all things.



Meet Fred (13 & 14 March): Ten years, 20+ countries and countless laughs later, *Meet Fred* is back! This darkly funny, internationally acclaimed satire follows Fred, a puppet fighting for his independence as his Puppetry



Living Allowance is under threat. A hilariously subversive take on bureaucracy, disability rights and what it means to be human. Contains strong language and puppet nudity.

Doris the Dormouse

(7 & 8 April):

Presented by Clown Space, this is the fable of Doris the Dormouse. She begins to prepare for her first winter alone, but the cold is fast approaching... A show about kindness, change, community and what's possible with a little help from our friends. A brand new, gentle and heartwarming story filled with big characters, original live folk music and puppetry, for ages 3+.



The Freshwater

Five (1 May):

Five fishermen. £53m-worth of cocaine. An ongoing fight for justice. Playwright Liam Patrick Harrison's powerful, poignant and poetic debut production asks: innocent fishermen or international drug smugglers? Deadman is an award-winning working/precarious class-led theatre and film company dedicated to staging contemporary and captivating local narratives for and from Britain's unheard and underserved coastal communities.



Dial 1 for UK

(27 May): In New Delhi,

Uday Kumar (UK) answers panicked calls to the Goldmine Crypto GB Helpline and fantasises about being British himself: visions of a sophisticated new life of affluence, fish and chips and tea with the royals. Then a chance conversation reveals how he might make it all a reality. A week later, he leaves the call centre forever and boards his first



ever flight to take his place amongst the English. What happens next is the subject of Mohit Mathur's hilarious and poignant one-man play of high hopes humbled in Hounslow.

Daniel Foxx: How

Lovely (30 May):

Described by Rolling Stone as 'utterly hilarious and effortlessly charismatic', award-winning stand-up Daniel is best known for his viral comedy videos, which are enjoyed by millions of women and gays online.



Alfie Moore:

Acocalypse Now

(13 June): The Four

Horsemen of Rising Crime, Global Warming, AI and Culture Wars are galloping towards us. Are we on the road to hell? And can we avoid the potholes? 'Fair Cop' Alfie has the antidote to the breakdown of law and order, fake news and the price of baked beans.



Incoming for November

Birdwatching (3

November): Directed

by our current

Associate Director,

Chantell Walker

(see below for

information on

how to meet her

at a Circle Café) for

Sheffield-based

theatre company

Black Bright, this folk-

horror about three friends on

a camping trip was a hit at last year's Edinburgh

Festival, with *The Stage* saying "Director

Chantell Walker uses torchlight and birdsong

to good effect, too, generating a genuinely

disturbing atmosphere at times..."





Everybody Dance Festival

(7 November): A chance for young people to shine and share their creativity with a live audience. York Dance Space and local artists have been developing new youth dance initiatives across North Yorkshire, focusing on making spaces for young people to explore dance with professional artists, giving them a creative voice, and developing their individual artistry outside of formal dance settings.



Flamenco Origenes (8

November): Experience the bold passion and drama of flamenco at close quarters when Flamenco Origenes perform in our Round. See below for more...



Black Tie Ball (12 to 15 November):

They're always popular – it's the latest from John Godber!! It's the glitziest night of the year, and everyone from the great to the good wants to be there: the Bentleys are parked, the jazz band's arrived, and the magician is, well, magic. But behind the bow ties and fake tans lies jealousy, avarice, divorce and affairs. The coffee is cold, the service is awful, the guest speaker's drunk and the hard-pressed caterers just want to go home.

Kevin Quantum: Unbelievable Magic for Non-Believers (18 November):

A former science teacher-turned-magician (trained by Penn and Teller, no less), Kevin Quantum brings his unique physics-informed magic act to our stage. If you're struggling to imagine what that might look like, take a look here, and prepare to be amazed! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upilTBNGLGy>

Spotlight on... *Flamenco Origenes*

Here's something new for us – flamenco! This November, experience this passionate and dramatic art form at close quarters in our Round.

The show is performed by a company founded by Lourdes Fernandez, who began dancing when she was five years old. Since then, her whole life has been dedicated to flamenco. She studied dance at the Madrid Conservatory, graduated at Rey Juan Carlos University and completed her

Masters in Performing Arts. She also taught dance at the American Saint Louis University of Madrid and participated in the International Dance Gala for UNESCO.



Flamenco Orígenes is a unique celebration of the roots of flamenco, embracing the influences that have defined its soul.

The show blends expressive guitar strumming, soulful singing, captivating dance, enchanting violin melodies, and mesmerising percussion to create a cultural journey that transcends boundaries and captures the essence of flamenco's historical evolution. It's more than a performance; it's an immersive exploration of the art form's deep heritage.



Dancers Lourdes Fernandez and Josie Sinnadurai are joined on stage by Adrián Solá (guitar), Ayoze de Alejandro López (percussion), Fuensanta Zambrana-Ruiz (violin) and vocalist Monica Garcia.

Fine out more about Welsh-born Josie's journey to becoming one of Spain's leading Flamenco dancers in this lovely piece by Andrew Liddle in the Yorkshire Times: <https://yorkshiretimes.co.uk/article/A-Flamenco-Spectacular-Lights-Up-Scarborough-In-November>

Availability check

Just a reminder that a lot of our shows do sell out in advance, so it pays to book sooner than later.

Tickets are currently going particularly quickly for *Flamenco Origenes* ((8 November), *Black Tie Ball* (12 to 15 November), *Kevin Quantum: Unbelievable Magic for Non-Believers* (18 November) and *Holly at Christmas* (16 December).

And at time of writing, there are just two single tickets left for the Raven concert on the afternoon of Sunday 7 December, while *Count Magnus* (this year's MR James treat from Robert Lloyd Parry) on 12 December is sold out. Both have waiting lists, so do add your name if you're keen – we do get returns.

Backstage secrets – like a rolling stone...

Our Company Stage manager, Fleur Beeley, writes:

As I've mentioned before in this column, attention to detail from all departments involved in the making of a show has to be pinpoint accurate, especially in the Round. As members of the audience, you can be sitting centimetres away from the set, a costume or a prop.

We like to go the extra mile – even if we don't think anyone will notice! However, something has been noticed recently by quite a few eagle-eyed customers, so I thought I would let you in on its secret.

In *Earth Angel*, part of the set is the outside of the front door of a suburban home. Along with meticulously weathering the hand-painted brick, our fabulous scenic artist, Julia Wray, has littered the nooks and crannies of the brickwork with moss.



You can get all sorts of moss, fake and real, but we like to use something called Norwegian reindeer moss (which is technically a lichen – you learn something new every day!).



It comes in a multitude of colours and as it's natural, it still has spongy movement and can be walked on without being 'crackly'. It gives a much more natural look than painting alone, and as you lot are so close, it has to look completely authentic!



Circle Cafés

A quick reminder that our October Circle Café is very late in the month this time – we're looking forward to introducing you properly to our current Associate Director, Chantell Walker. And hot on its heels is our next Circle Café on 13 November, which will introduce you to the cast of John Godber's *Black Tie Ball*.

Circle Cafés are getting busier and busier by the month so it really helps us if you can **make sure you book your tickets in advance, and ideally, before the day**. That way, we arrive that morning 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 – we need to finish by 10.50am latest to give Eat Me Café time to clear for their reopening at 11am).

30 October – a chance to chat with Chantell Walker, our Associate Director, and director of the folk horror *Birdwatching*, which played to great acclaim at last year's Edinburgh Fringe – it visits us the following week, on 3 November



13 November – meet some of the cast of the John Godber Company's latest, *Black Tie Ball*, in which writer and director John turns his laser gaze onto the glitziest night of the year



11 December – 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, and will take place in the Round)

Keep an eye out here for details soon of Circle Cafes for 2026 (but don't forget that we don't do one in January, so the first one will be late February!)

