

## **Circular December 2021**

Welcome...

...to the December issue of the Circular, the newsletter exclusively for members of the Stephen Joseph Theatre's membership scheme.

This month, we bring you some lovely festive images of our two Christmas shows, news of some brilliant visiting work for next spring, and a fiendish Christmas quiz – plus more!

We hope you enjoy reading this final issue of 2021. As ever, our huge thanks to you, our wonderful supporters – we couldn't keep doing what we do without you.

A very happy Christmas to you all from all of us at the SJT!

**It's behind you...**



*Jack and the Beanstalk © Tony Bartholomew*

'Magical, festive, silly and bonkers' – that was the verdict of the Scarborough News on our Christmas show in the Round, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. If you want to see what they meant, take a look at our pictures... and if you haven't booked already, there's still time – it's on until New Year's Eve.

## The Giant Who Had It All (And Then Lost It...)



*The Giant Who Had It All. Photo by Tom Hanson*

We've been delighted this year to welcome the very talented BA (Hons) Acting Year Three Acting students from Coventry University Scarborough into the building. They've been with us for the last few weeks rehearsing for our Christmas show for the fives-and-unders (although we guarantee it's great fun however old you are!), *The Giant Who Had It All (And Then Lost It...)*.

## A saucy new year



*Hammonds Saltaire Band*

We missed them in 2021, of course, but they'll be back for their now-traditional new year concerts in 2022. The Hammonds Band was founded in 1855 as the Saltaire Band by Sir Titus Salt for the workers at his recently opened mill. Later the band had a long association with Hammonds Sauce Works under the baton of the legendary Geoffrey Whitham. It is from these two parts of their past that they now perform under their current name, Hammonds Band, under the direction of Morgan Griffiths.

They'll be playing in our Round at 7.30pm on Saturday 8 January and 3pm on Sunday 9 January.



## New shows for 2022



*Frankenstein*



*The Indecent Musings of Miss Doncaster 2007*

Since the last Circular, we've added five great new shows to our programme for the spring, starting with a visit from Blackeyed Theatre, who recently brought *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* to the SJT.

**Frankenstein** (Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 February) sees Victor Frankenstein obsessing in the pursuit of nature's secret, the elixir of life itself. But nothing can prepare him for what he creates. So begins a gripping life or death adventure taking him to the ends of the earth and beyond. This thrilling adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic horror masterpiece, fusing ensemble storytelling, live music, puppetry and stunning theatricality is a revival of Blackeyed Theatre's 2016 production.

While *Frankenstein* is in the Round, a somewhat past-her-best beauty queen takes up residence in the McCarthy for one night only. In **The Indecent Musings of Miss Doncaster 2007** (Friday 11 February), we meet Miss Donny. Life hasn't quite turned out the way she thought it would when she accepted her sash and crown in Trilogy nightclub back in 2007. No one goes out anymore. Tinder is s\*\*t. And she's pretty sure her dad is dying. Things couldn't get much worse. Until she sits on a cactus... Naked. A one-woman comedy with balls, heart and Yorkshire grit, Miss Doncaster is the most relatable beauty queen this side of the Pennines.

On Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 March, we travel back to April 1980 for **Mugabe, My Dad & Me**. The British colony of Rhodesia becomes the independent nation of Zimbabwe. A born free, Tonderai Munyevu is part of the hopeful next generation from a country with a new leader, Robert Mugabe. *Mugabe, My Dad & Me* charts the rise and fall of one of the most controversial politicians of the 20th century through the personal story of Tonderai's family and his relationship with his father. Interspersing storytelling, live music from a Gwentyambira (a female mbira player) and some of Mugabe's most unapologetic speeches, this high-voltage one man show is a blistering exploration of familial love, identity and what it means to return 'home'.

**Black is the Color of My Voice** (12 March) is Fringe First award winner Apphia Campbell's acclaimed production, heads our way after sell-out seasons in Shanghai, New York, Edinburgh, and the West End of London. Inspired by the life of Nina Simone and featuring many of her most iconic songs performed live, *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* follows a successful jazz singer and civil rights activist seeking redemption after the untimely death of her father. She reflects on the journey that took her from a young piano prodigy destined for a life in the service of the church.

From the UK's leading disabled-led theatre company, Graeae, **Kerbs** (23 to 26 March) is the debut play by Wolverhampton-based playwright and poet Michael Southan. Exploring taboos around sex, romance and disability, the play charts the relationship between Lucy and David who are dating and desperate to find some time alone. The perfect spot? A caravan holiday park, of course. But

can this romantic weekend away go to plan? With everything stacked against them, including broken toilets, patronising staff and Lucy's constantly interfering mum, not to mention broken pink wafers, this holiday could be make-or-break. *Kerbs* is a co-production between Graeae and Belgrade Theatre Coventry for Coventry UK City of Culture 2021.

To book for any of our shows this year or next, visit: <https://www.sjt.uk.com/whatson>

### Dates for your diary

First, a reminder that January is traditionally the month where the Circular takes a break – so your next issue will be with you at the end of February. Meanwhile, shiny new diaries at the ready – here are some dates for you to pop into it...

Circle Cafés (all 10.30am arrival for an 11am start):

Thursday 17 February – our joint chief executives, Paul Robinson and Caroline Routh  
Thursday 17 March – members of the Northern Broadsides company, who are performing their latest show *As You Like It* in our Round from 15 to 19 March  
Thursday 21 April – members of the spring company (see below!)

PLUS! Save the date: on Friday 4 February, from 2pm, we're planning to hold our annual season celebration – a chance for you to find out more about our shows for the year ahead, and meet some of the writers and directors involved. More information will follow soon, but for now – pop it in your diary!

### The Great Circular Christmas Quiz

It's nearly Christmas and the Circular is tapping into the SJT's Archivist encyclopaedic knowledge of Alan Ayckbourn for a festive quiz.

Of Alan Ayckbourn's 87 full-length plays, 14 have been set at or around Christmas. Simon has found an image or a poster from each show or the poster, all you have to do is guess which Ayckbourn show it is!

You can find the answers on Alan Ayckbourn's Official Website at <http://christmas.alanayckbourn.net>, where there's also a video of Simon discussing the festive plays.

So how well do you know your Christmas Ayckbourn?

To help you along - possibly - there's a brief clue with each photo.

1. Alan Ayckbourn's only play to incorporate ballet including a dancing Christmas tree.
2. An evil genius attempts to stop Santa Claus delivering his presents.
3. Three kitchens, three couples - this is one of the easy ones.
4. No clue needed. The obvious Ayckbourn Christmas play.
5. Our first poster clue for the first musical from Alan Ayckbourn & Paul Todd - it's an obscure one!
6. Tennis on Boxing Day anyone?
7. A poster clue for a play where Christmas is just one of many possible endings.
8. Another poster with fantasy and reality clashing during a very dark Christmas.
9. Singing waiters and oddly named desserts over a tense Christmas meal.
10. A Christmas visit by the police investigating a body in the Thames.
11. A young woman saves 'Santa's' life - and her life is changed.
12. A writer's circle literary aspirations come during a pre-Christmas meeting.
13. The ghost of a husband comes visiting on Christmas Eve.
14. Panto rehearsals in a once stately home.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

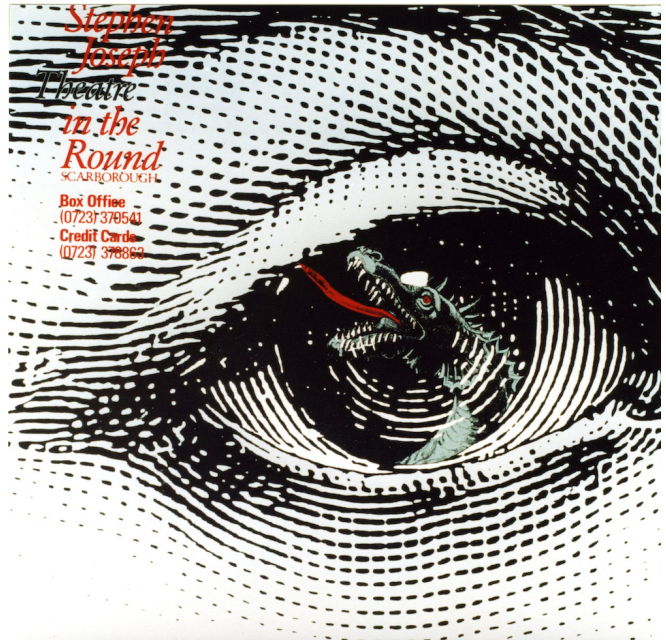


6. \_\_\_\_\_





7. \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_



10. \_\_\_\_\_



11. \_\_\_\_\_



12. \_\_\_\_\_



13. \_\_\_\_\_



14. \_\_\_\_\_