

# Welcome!



The days are getting longer and the long-range forecast from the Met Office is looking promising – Spring is definitely on the way!

And, as our Artistic Director, Paul Robinson, says: *“We’ve got a whole year of great drama and comedy to raise your spirits and make you feel good about life – our programme this year is designed to send you home with a spring in your step!”*

Read on for more about that uplifting programme over the next couple of months...

# Comedy of Errors

We all love a bit of Shakespeare now and then. But let's be honest – while the histories are definitely historical (if not always that accurate), and the tragedies always see our hero (or anti-hero) meet the requisite sticky end, the comedies don't necessarily always do what it says on the tin.

Enter our version of *The Comedy of Errors* (plus our added subtitle: more or less). In a new adaptation by Nick Lane and Elizabeth Godber, we hope you'll be able to see from our rehearsal pictures just how much fun it's going to be.

And if that isn't enough to convince you, consider the following extract from one of the daily notes that come out of rehearsal:

"We are using the leopard print suitcase for Pinch. Items that are currently inside the suitcase:

- a. Two magician's bunches of flowers
- b. Pack of cards
- c. Pocket watch
- d. Wobbly knife
- e. Magician's wand
- f. Rubber knife
- g. Inflatable lobster
- h. Chattering teeth
- i. Rubber chicken
- j. Foam clown nose
- k. Three juggling balls
- l. Gold rope
- m. Beach watering can
- n. Plastic samurai sword
- o. Glasses and nose
- p. Diving mask
- q. Rabbit"

Which just about sums up the show, really!

Find out more when **The Comedy of Errors** (more or less) hits our stage in all its full-on 1980s big-haired-big-phoned-big-shoulder-padded glory at the end of March – you can see it from Thu 30 March to Sat 15 April.





# Poetry in motion



Those of you who have seen poet Luke Wright perform here in the past (he's made three visits to the SJT – once as support to John Cooper Clarke, and subsequently with his own shows, *What I Learned from Johnny Bevan* and *Luke Wright, Poet Laureate*) will know that he's a towering presence on stage.

So when he asked us to find three local poets to support him on his visit here in May with his new show *The Remains of Logan Dankworth*, we knew we had to seek out the best.

With the help of local writer Felix Hodcroft, we've booked popular local poets Charlotte Oliver, Rob Tyson and Helen Birmingham.

You can see them all – and Luke himself, of course – on Thu 4 May. Link to book [here](#).

## 'S Wonderful...

We're all looking forward to a glorious celebration of all things George Gershwin (this year marks 125 years since his birth) tomorrow on Sat 25 Feb.

Gershwin's soaring music will be performed by Sam Jewison, a Scarborough-born-and-bred pianist who has performed at iconic London venues including Camden's famous Jazz Café, Westminster Abbey, and the Royal Opera House.

Sam told the Yorkshire Post last week: "It will be good to be back in my home town. I love the *Great American Songbook* and Gershwin's is some of the best-loved work there is. He moved so easily from one area to another."

Expect to hear some of Gershwin's best-loved songs, including *I Got Rhythm*, *'S Wonderful* and *Love Is Here to Stay*, as well as dazzling transcriptions of his *Three Preludes* and *An American in Paris*.

There are still a few seats left for Sam Jewison: Gershwin 125. Link to book [here](#).



# In like a lion...

As Winter breathes its last and Spring approaches, it's time to come out of hibernation and start getting out and about again. And we've plenty to tempt you over this next month.

First up is **Birds and Bees** (2 & 3 March). Want to find out what goes on in the heads of today's teenagers? There can be no better guide than writer Charlie Josephine, whose joyous portrayal of Joan of Arc – *I, Joan* – played to packed houses at Shakespeare's Globe last summer.



## **The Winston Machine**

(7 & 8 March) is from highly acclaimed theatre company Kandinsky. The show scored a coveted four stars in *The Guardian*, which described it as being 'shot through with music and mischief' and said:

*"It's about a young woman called Becky who dreams of the 1940s and the dashing wartime romance between her grandparents, while planning to buy a house in a town she does not like, with a boyfriend she does not love. It's a rich production, which dances nimbly across the decades and explores how our links with the past can be a joyful and enriching thing – but painful, misleading and crushingly claustrophobic, too."*

TMS favourite **Henry Blofeld** will finally go out to bat at the SJT on 14 March – he had to cancel his visit last year when he was laid low by Covid. We figure he needs no introduction: all you need to know is that, at time of writing, there were only around 14 tickets left, so hurry if you want to hear his hilarious stories!



## **The City and The Town**

(15–17 March) is a blistering and surprisingly funny political comedy from writer Anders Lustgarten. A co-production from the national touring theatre of Sweden,

Riksteatern and Matthew Linley Creative Projects, it promises a fresh perspective on some of the political divides and problems

facing our country today. The cast includes our board member Amelia Donkor; many of you will remember her from our 2018 production of *The 39 Steps*.

More drama on 21 and 22 March, when Box of Tricks (*Chip Shop Chips*, *SparkPlug*, *Last Quiz Night on Earth*) pay us a visit with their latest show, **Too Much World at Once**. It's scripted by the Papatango Prize-shortlisted writer Billie Collins, who says:

*"I'd be chuffed if people were entertained, and a bit moved. I'd be mega chuffed if people saw something of themselves in it. But I think the main thing I'd like people to take away is that we can all notice our environment a little more. Noticing something is one step closer to caring about it. Sounds naff, but there's power in taking a minute to notice the birds out your window, or the trees in your local park. If you pay attention to something, you'll miss it when it's gone. Learn the names for things. If you learn the difference between a great tit and a blue tit, suddenly you're a bit more invested than you were before."* Those of you who are interested in new writing may recall that this play was one of two play readings (along with *How To Survive the War*) that Box of Tricks brought to our Round last summer.

Those great and blue tits will be nesting by this point in the month – it's spring! On 24 March we welcome author Kate Mosse and her new show **Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries**. One of our greatest modern storytellers, Kate promises a fabulous evening of entertainment; part detective story, part love letter about how history is made, part celebration of extraordinary, brilliant trail-blazing and inspirational women throughout history. And if you're in two minds, we'd encourage you to go to our website and watch the short film of her chatting with presenter Graham Norton – we think she will charm you with her passion and enthusiasm.

And finally – the eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that two shows are missing from our March roster above. *Alfie Moore's Fair Cop Unleashed* (3 & 4 March) and *Flat & the Curves* (25 March) are both completely sold out – but if you're keen to see them, it's worth adding your name to our returns list (just call the box office on 01723 370541). And if that doesn't work, don't despair – we're already talking to both of them about possible return visits.

# Pining for the fjords...

Given that we screen some 10 to 15 films a month in our cinema, you can imagine that we have a constant influx of posters – and many of them arrive in very sturdy cardboard tubes.

We can't bear to see them used only once, but had amassed an unmanageable stack of them in the marketing office – it felt like one of us only had to sneeze and the lot fell over and went rolling around the room.

So we put out a message on social media to see if anyone could use them. We had replies from several local artists and charities. So far, so expected.

What we didn't anticipate was the message (appropriately enough, on Twitter) from a man who asked if he could have some for his friend's parrot, which apparently can't get enough cardboard tubes – it enjoys getting a workout by demolishing them.

We were happy to oblige; we're just sorry we can't bring you any pictures!

## Dementia-friendly films



We'd like to say a huge thank you to one of our longest-standing members, Sue Standard-Shader, who has just given us some very generous financial support for our dementia-friendly screenings.

These screenings take place once a month, and bring classic films in a very relaxed atmosphere to those living with dementia, and their friends, families and carers (although they are open to all, of course).

They start with a brief introduction from the popular speakers Tim Tubbs or George Cromack, and if the film is a musical, a singalong with Bill Scott at the keyboards. There's always an interval, with free refreshments on offer. Tickets cost £6 and carers/companions go free.

We're really proud of these events – as one regular companion told us: *"A real joy is what the event does for memory. 'I remember when I first saw this, I went with my sister, she had a crush on Gordon MacRae'".* That one sentence opened a way into other recollections of life with her sister and of going to the pictures. We had a rich conversation on the way home.

*"A person living with dementia may be dependent on a carer in so many aspects of their life. In the theatre, they are both there on our own terms, simply members of the same audience. It's liberating for both. And there is security in being able to say 'see you next month' as we leave. This regularity puts markers in diaries around which other events and activities can fit."*

And without Sue – and all of you, our supportive members – none of this would be possible. To (sort of) quote Gordon MacRae – your generosity is a many splendoured thing!

Our next dementia-friendly movie is *Calamity Jane*, starring the immortal pairing of Doris Day and Howard Keel, on Fri 10 March – whipcrackaway! Find out more [here](#).

# Dates for your diary – and why not make a day of it?

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our monthly Circle Cafés for members only. This year we are also introducing some evening Circle Cafés – more details and dates to follow.

It's a great way to meet like-minded people and to get to know your theatre – you'll meet the people who run the SJT and company members from our shows for the year ahead. Plus, of course, there's always free tea/coffee and sweet treats.

And our Circle Cafés are usually held on Thursdays, which just happens to be matinee day, too, for both live shows and in our cinema – why not make a day of it? Your Circle membership entitles you to a tasty 10% discount in Eat Me@The SJT, and you could catch a show or a film afterwards.

All the dates below are 10:30am to 10:50am arrival for an 11am start. The talks usually last around 45 minutes. These events are free, but please do book a ticket as numbers are limited.

**Thu 16 March:** tour of the building with Company Stage Manager Fleur Beeley

**Thu 13 April:** meet *The Comedy of Errors* (more or less) company

**Thu 18 May:** guest speaker (TBC)

**Thu 8 June:** guest speaker (TBC)

**Thur 13 July:** meet *The 39 Steps* company

**Thu 10 August:** meet the *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* company

**Thu 14 September:** meet the *Constant Companions* company