

Welcome...



...to 2023! We know you probably weren't expecting a January edition of the Circular – we don't usually do one, as traditionally it's quiet time at the theatre – but we have some new shows to announce, and we wanted you to be the first to know about them. So, here goes...

Coming up: majestic creatures, wild swimmers and bad boys of country!

We're delighted to add a brand new play by up-and-coming playwright Emma Geraghty to our programme of SJT productions for 2023.

Emma's **These Majestic Creatures** will be directed by Kash Arshad and presented in the McCarthy auditorium from 20 Oct to 4 Nov.

A whale's washed up in Scarborough, and Max has come back to see it – or at least that's Max's story and they're sticking to it. Max's mum Pam isn't convinced. Pam still runs the B&B that has been in the Vaughan family for generations, but Max's return brings up memories that she doesn't want to deal with, especially anything to do with Pam's own mum, Edith.

Max wants Pam to listen when they're talking. Pam wants to move on. And Edith? Well, we're not talking about Edith.

These Majestic Creatures takes us back and forth between the past and present of the Vaughan family – relationships made of old photos, an inherited love of Strictly and insults that only a mother could throw. After all, nobody knows you like your family!

Our Artistic Director Paul Robinson says:

“We’ve been working with Emma ever since we presented a reading of an earlier draft of the play, which was unique, insightful and hilarious. *These Majestic Creatures* has the same brilliant humour and has reached new levels of drama and poignancy. A must-see!”

And Kash Arshad – our current Carne Associate Director – says:

“I'm so excited to bring Emma's play to life here at the SJT. For me, *These Majestic Creatures* is not only a play about family and the particular bond you have with them that you have with no one else, but a play for Scarborough and what it means to live here, to be connected to this place and to call it home. Emma has written a brilliantly funny, honest and heartwarming play that I'm so excited to share with Scarborough!”

We've also just added two shows to our programme of visiting productions – *SWIM* and the *Nashville Bad Boys of Country*.

SWIM (23 June) is a show about wild swimming, community and holding each other. When her new community is rocked by tragedy, Liz rediscovers outdoor swimming and how it can keep both her and her new friends afloat. Filled with humour and heart, live music and projection, *SWIM*, a tender tale based on a true story, is written and performed by Liz Richardson.



The Nashville Bad Boys of Country bring their fabulous stage show celebrating the baddest and very best of Nashville to the SJT on 16 June. More than just another plod through country music it bursts on to the stage with a bucketload of humour and fun, but with reverence to the music. The Bad Boys will be performing the hits of Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Steve Earle, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Garth Brooks, Kenny Rogers, Hank Williams, Dolly Parton, The Eagles, and many more.



As a Circle member, you have priority booking for all three shows from 10am on Wed 1 Feb; general booking opens at 10am on Wed 8 Feb.



The Sad Club

Don't be dismayed by the title – our next youth theatre production is anything but sad. Directed by Alice Kynman, it's a collection of monologues, songs and duologues from all over time and space exploring what exactly about living in this world stops us from being happy, and how we might go about tackling those problems.

Writer Luke Barnes says: "I wanted to write something to get young people to think about the stuff that tripped me up in my twenties earlier, in the hope that when these things hit them they'll feel less weird and might even be better equipped to handle them."

If you want to find out what young people today are really thinking, catch [The Sad Club](#) in our Round on 17 and 18 Feb.



Alfie – and moore...

When we booked cop-turned-comic Alfie Moore with his show [Fair Cop Unleashed](#) for a Friday evening in early March, we didn't anticipate just how fast the seats would sell – they were gone within days.

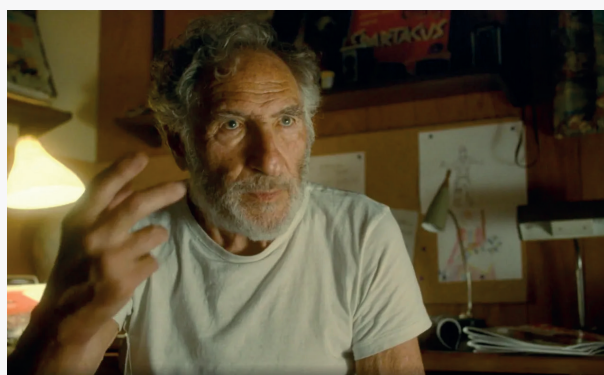
We asked Alfie if he'd do a second show on the Saturday evening – and that sold out quickly, too.

So now we've added a third show – a matinee on the Saturday afternoon, 4 March. And guess what – it's selling fast! But at time of writing there are still seats available, so don't delay if you want to catch this Radio 4 favourite.

Our other live shows in Feb are selling well too! Anarchic comedy show [Pottersvision's](#) pretty much sold out, and there's limited availability for [Sam Jewison's tribute to George Gershwin](#) on the 25th.

And if you're looking for something to do with the smallest members of the family over the half-term break, check out [Egg and Spoon](#) (13 and 14 Feb), an absolutely charming show from Lyngo Theatre, headed by CBeebies presenter Patrick Lynch.

Judd and Herb



We're all looking forward to seeing Steven Spielberg's latest movie *The Fabelmans* in our cinema from 17 to 23 Feb – and not least because one of its stars graced our stage back in the 1990s.

Judd Hirsch appeared in Herb Gardner's brilliant play *Conversations with my Father* at our former home at Westwood back in 1994, in a production directed by Alan Ayckbourn – and didn't he set that little stage alight.

Now 87, he was already an elder statesman of Hollywood back then – it's probably fair to say that his star was probably at its brightest in the glory days of *Taxi* in the late 70s and early 80s – but he still had charisma in spades. It was an extraordinary experience to sit opposite him over a bowl of soup in the old Square Cat café and hear him spin yarns about people he knew. And he knew EVERYONE!

While he was here, he and his family rented a tall Georgian house on St Nicholas Cliff in Scarborough – he loved it, but used to complain that it was like *‘living inside a Stairmaster’*. He was late to the first day of rehearsals, so we sent out a search party; we found him wandering around the duck pond on Valley Road. Turned out that someone had suggested a short cut to him, which had gone somewhat wrong.

It was almost as exciting having the playwright Herb Gardner knocking around the theatre and wandering into our offices to see if the coffee was on. One of our team is still reeling from picking up the phone to take a call for him only to find herself talking to her hero – Jeff Bridges!

Dates for your diary

We’re looking forward to welcoming you to our monthly Circle Cafés for members only. This year we’re 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...

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 9 Feb: Head of Marketing Jack Heaton and Assistant Producer and Talent Development Coordinator Nelli Mooney

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)

And finally – a ‘save the date’ for you!

You’ll shortly be receiving an invitation to our annual season celebration on the afternoon of Fri 17 March – pop the date in your diary for now, and you’ll be able to book your free tickets once the invitation arrives.