

# All that glitters...



...may not be gold, but this year it's certainly Cinderella! Our 2022 Christmas show is shaping up to be our glitziest, most bonkers adaptation of a classic tale yet - to give you a flavour, we bring you a selection of stage directions from the script below, all written in adapter Nick Lane's inimitable style:

The stage is a beautiful twinkle-fest. We are very much in fairy land, the colours, the sparkles and all manner of other beautiful accoutrements.

*...a twinkly dressmaker's dummy filled with fairy lights is gently pushed onto stage, where it drifts into the space (or if that sounds like a recipe for disaster, one of the fairies goes and fetches it).*

**DELIGHTFUL** is making notes on a fabulous clipboard.

**MANDY** puts her hand in the satchel she's wearing, grabs a load of glitter and throws it up in the air in the general direction of **CINDERELLA**.

*...they craft a pumpkin into an incredible carriage. Smoke, lights, music, all the choreography in the world, **CINDERELLA** gets changed, the **FROG** and the **MOUSE** are also dressed/plumed up to the max... it's a glitter-encrusted wonder.*

Well, we think you get the picture. Don't miss this glitter-encrusted wonder, sponsored once again by our generous friends at Boyes it's on from 2-31 Dec, [click here](#) for tickets and info.

# If the shoe fits...



If you feel Cinderella might be too much twinkle for the smaller members of the family to cope with, head up to the McCarthy for [Sammy the Shoemaker's Impossible Day](#) – just as much fun and colour, but a shorter show (around an hour) aimed at 0–5's.

We're delighted to welcome back Cheryl Govan as writer and director of this charming show, presented once again in conjunction with CU Scarborough and performed by Year Three students from their Acting BA (Hons) course. You can see it 12–23 Dec, [click here](#) for tickets and info.

## The Crafty Art of Ayckbourn



Diaries at the ready for an exciting new fundraiser we think you're going to love!

Next September, Alan Ayckbourn will present a weekend of events under the umbrella title of [The Crafty Art of Ayckbourn](#) including three events which can be booked individually:

[The Crafty Art of Playmaking](#): with nearly 90 full-length plays under his belt, Alan Ayckbourn's expertise in writing and directing plays is unsurpassed.

Some years ago, he generously shared some of the tricks of his trade in a ground-breaking book, *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*, written in his usual entertaining and accessible style with plenty of anecdotes to illustrate his helpful hints on tricky subjects like getting started, carrying on, working with actors and technicians, knowing when to listen to others, and coping with rehearsals.

Now, for the first time, you can experience *The Crafty Art* live on stage as Alan's joined by two of his favourite actors to discuss the book and demonstrate some of his top tips.

Fri 15 Sept 2023 at 7pm in the McCarthy. Tickets: £25

[Constant Companions](#): the world premiere of Alan's latest show – find out more later in this issue of the Circular. If you'd like to see it as part of a weekend of Ayckbournalia, we suggest you book for it on Sat 16 Sept 2023 at 2.30pm or 7.30pm. Tickets are priced from £10.



**Truth Will Out:** it was due to be on our stage in the summer of 2020, but we all know what happened there...

Everyone has secrets. Certainly former shop steward George, his right-wing MP daughter Janet, investigative journalist Peggy, and senior civil servant Sefton, do.

And all it's going to take is one tech-savvy teenager with a mind of his own and time on his hands to bring their worlds tumbling down – and maybe everyone else's along with them. A storm is brewing...

This rehearsed reading of his 84th full-length play by professional actors will be the first time the author has ever heard it read aloud (and rumour has it he fancies playing one of the parts himself!).

Sun 17 Sept 2023 at 2.30pm in The Round.  
Tickets: £25.

Or, if you'd like to book a package with some added extras, we're offering two options:

#### **Package A – VIP**

All of the above plus:

A Gala event in Eat Me Café on Sun 17 Sept from 7pm, attended by Alan Ayckbourn and the cast, to include a buffet and a glass of prosecco; premium seats for Constant Companions on Sat 16 Sept at either 2.30pm or 7.30pm; souvenir programme. *Cost: £150 per person*

#### **Package B – VIP plus Behind The Scenes Experience – limited to 15**

As package A plus:

Lunch with Alan and the actors from the Constant Companions company; extra sessions with behind-the-scenes access at the SJT; a talk from Alan's Archivist, Simon Murgatroyd.

*Cost: £550 per person*

Priority booking for the individual events is open for Circle members from now until 30 Nov. If you'd like to book a package, please email our Fundraising and Development Department on [supportus@sjt.uk.com](mailto:supportus@sjt.uk.com).

Coming to fundraising events like this one is so important to us – all the proceeds made from the weekend will go straight into our charity, towards our work in local communities and on our stages.

## New shows!

A (sort of) Shakespeare, a new Ayckbourn, and more... we're really excited about 2023!

By now, you've probably heard from us about our in-house productions for next year – more details below, and **don't forget that as a Circle member, you currently have priority booking on all of them until they go on general sale from 10am on 30 Nov.**



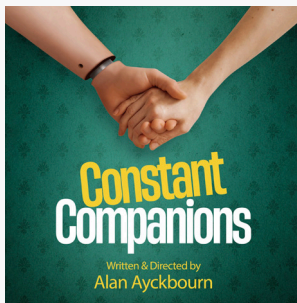
We kick off with Shakespeare's **The Comedy of Errors (more or less)** (30 March–15 April) in a new adaptation by Elizabeth Godber and Nick Lane. A co-production with the recently opened Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot and directed by our very own Paul Robinson, the play's usual rivalry between Syracuse and Ephesus is replaced by a Yorkshire/Lancashire face-off in a madcap retelling of Shakespeare's most bonkers farce. Expect mistaken identity, theatrical chaos and belting musical numbers.

That's followed by a revival of **The 39 Steps** (30 June–29 July, a co-production with Theatre by the Lake), which you'll probably remember playing to packed houses here a few years ago. Based on John Buchan's classic novel and Alfred Hitchcock's film, this rip-roaring comedy sees just four ridiculously talented actors play no less than 139 roles!





Many of you will remember the wonderful *Beiderbecke Trilogy*, Alan Plater's much-loved trio of TV serials from the 1980s. We're delighted to bring you his **Blonde Bombshells of 1943** (2–26 Aug), a co-production with the Octagon Bolton and Theatre by the Lake. The Blonde Bombshells are the most glamorous all-girl swing band in the North, dodging Hitler's bombs to put on the performance of their lives. A warm and witty musical play filled with glorious live swing classics.



**Constant Companions** (7 Sept–7 Oct) will be the 89th play from our Director Emeritus Alan Ayckbourn. In the not-too-distant future humans have turned to artificial friends for companionship without compromise.

Alan weaves together the story of highflying lawyer Lorraine, lonely bachelor Don and technician Winston with characteristic humour and compassion.

2023's Christmas treat is a new version of **Beauty and the Beast** (1–30 Dec) from Nick Lane. The thrilling tale of Belle and The Beast is brought to zany life by Nick Lane and the rest of the team that brought you *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *A (Scarborough) Christmas Carol* – as usual, it'll be packed full of songs, silliness and festive fun.



## And yet more new shows...

The SJT isn't, of course, just a producing theatre – we love the variety that bringing a wide range of touring productions into the building provides. We think that from Jan to June 2023, we've probably got the biggest and most varied season of visiting shows we've ever had – **and as a Circle member, you have priority booking from 10am on Mon 5 Dec until 10am on Mon 12 Dec, when general on sale booking opens.**

Diaries at the ready: there must be something here to suit!

**Hammonds Brass Band (8 Jan)**: An afternoon of brilliant music from one of the country's premier brass bands in the traditional New Year concert – their 25th annual visit to the SJT. **On sale now!**

**Pottervision (10 Feb)**: Four performers are set to recreate *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, but when two drop out on the day (taking all the props and costumes with them), Tom and Lukas must go it alone. Suitable for 16+.

**Egg and Spoon (13–14 Feb)**: The very young won't sit still to watch a show, and Lyngo Theatre doesn't expect them to. *Egg and Spoon* is an interactive romp through the seasons led by Birdy, still hiding in his glowing egg.

**Sam Jewison: Gershwin 125 (25 Feb)**: Fresh from the EFG London Jazz Festival, Sam celebrates the 125th birthday of George Gershwin. Local boy Sam's vocal prowess and virtuosity at the piano have seen him tour internationally. **On sale now!**



**Birds & Bees (2–4 March)**: Leilah wonders if her Instagram is more of a burden than 'living her best life'. Billy's queer and proud but ignored by the education system; they're tired of feeling invisible. Aaron is learning how to be a man online and it's starting to feel toxic. And Maisy, well, Maisy's not that into sex, thank you very much.



**Alfie Moore: Fair Cop Unleashed (3–4 March):**

Join BBC Radio 4's cop-turned-comedian for his latest stand-up show based on a dramatic real-life incident from his police casebook. We're expecting this one to sell quickly, so don't delay - **on sale now!**



**The Winston Machine (7–8 March):** At the height of the Blitz, Charlotte's in a passionate affair with a Spitfire pilot, fighting fascism in red lipstick and living each day like her last. Eighty years later, her granddaughter Becky is stuck singing old songs at other people's weddings and dreaming of a better time.

**The City and the Town (15–17 March):** When Ben returns home for his father's funeral after 13 years away, he's confronted by uncomfortable truths. Anders Lustgarten's new play is a funny, eclectic and uniquely political piece of theatre, produced by Riksteatern and Matthew Linley Creative Projects, who brought the wonderful *The Ballad of Maria Marten* to our stage in early 2020.

**Too Much World at Once (2–22 March):** The world turns. Dark clouds gather. Chaos is on the horizon. Billie Collins' new play from Box of Tricks Theatre Company is a lyrical, theatrical journey that spans continents and lives and an urgent coming-of-age story for our times.



**Kate Mosse: Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries: How Women (Also) Built the World (24 March):** A fabulously entertaining evening with best-selling author Kate Mosse:

part detective story, part love letter, part celebration of extraordinary, brilliant, trail-blazing and inspirational women throughout history. **On sale now!**

**Flat & the Curves (25 March):** After their Edinburgh Fringe debut, this award-winning group of West End vocalists and comedians bring an hilarious comedy cabaret of unbridled fun to the SJT. Expect a raucous evening with no holds barred.

**Hey Diddle Diddle (15 April):** All nursery rhyme characters love to party, perform and have fun! Kitchen Zoo bring some of the most famous faces from favourite rhymes together for a spectacular nursery rhyme cabaret for under-sixes.

**Living on Fresh Air (19–22 April):** Newly retired Caroline and Dave have everything they've ever wanted. But things are changing. No wonder they feel like starting again, and with their new hobby of walking it feels like they have. The double BAFTA and Olivier Award-winning partnership of John Godber and Jane Thornton pull on their walking boots, pack up their knapsacks, and tackle modern life head on. Written by John, performed by John and Jane.

**Five Years (24 –25 April):** Would you exchange five years of your life for the perfect body? Yasmin has decided that she would. Inside Theatre's new comedy-drama asks what we lose in the pursuit of perfection.

**The Chosen Haram (28 April):** A heady mix of love, drugs and Islam. This unique and complex take on circus, presented by Sadiq Ali and performed on two Chinese poles, is emotionally candid with moments of humour and joy set to a banging soundtrack.

**The Remains of Logan Dankworth (3–4 May):** Luke Wright's new show looks at trust, fatherhood and family in the age of Brexit. It won The Saboteur Award for Best Show in 2020 and was a big hit with audiences and reviewers at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe. Luke will be supported by a line-up of local poets.



**Tapped (16 May):** A garage. A flipchart. A pile of Club biscuits. T-shirts that don't fit. And three people who are really stuck. Meet Gavi, Jen and Dawn, an amateur self-help group who all share one thing: they're desperate for escapism. A heart-warming comedy from Bethany Cooper Productions and Theatre503.

**Sherlock Holmes and the Valley of Fear (18–20 May):** Crammed full of adventure, mystery and, of course, one or two rather brilliant deductions, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's thrilling final Sherlock Holmes novel has been adapted by our great friend Nick Lane, and is brought to life in a spectacular new stage adaptation from Blackeyed Theatre, in association with South Hill Park.

**A Shoddy Detective & The Art of Deception (25 May):** When a priceless painting goes missing, Detective Stuart Pidcock is called upon to uncover the mystery. Shoddy Theatre Ltd present a slapstick farce inspired by the classics of comedy, from the Carry Ons and *Dad's Army* to Morecambe and Wise and *The Two Ronnies*.



**The Gods The Gods The Gods (26 May):** Four stories; 12 tracks; three performers; one show full of big beats, soaring melodies, and heart-stopping spoken word. The team behind international smash-hit shows *Orpheus* and *Eurydice* call us to the crossroads where mythology meets real life. The Gods are gathering and you're invited.

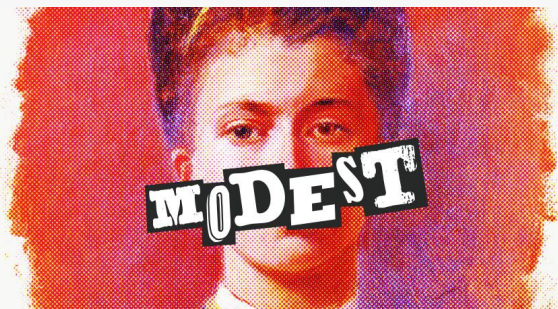
**Tony Skingle: The Best of the Elvis '68 Comeback Special (28 May):** Tony's show brings together sections of the '68 Comeback Special and the Vegas years, all performed in his own unique way. Tony is one of the UK's best Elvis tribute acts. He is based in Scarborough but performs all over the world.

**The 'Not So' Grimm Twins (30–31 May):** Roll up one and all to hear the fabulous Grimm Brothers' stories like never before. Meet world-famous twins Jake and Will Grimm (and their sister Lottie) as they tumble from their magical wagon brimful of fairytales. Suitable for the whole family, but especially 4+.



**Quality Street (5–10 June):** Phoebe Throssel runs a school for unruly children on Quality Street. Ten years since a tearful goodbye, old flame Captain Valentine returns from fighting Napoleon – but the look of disappointment on his face when he greet an older, less glamorous, Phoebe spurs our determined heroine to action. Northern Broadsides revived JM Barrie's regency hit comedy with a good helping of Yorkshire wit from the retired workers of the Halifax factory where Quality Street chocolates are made.

**Modest (12–14 June):** Rooted in music hall and inspired by drag king cabaret, Middle Child's *Modest* is a farcical play about Elizabeth Thompson, the artist who *almost* became the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy in 1879.



By the way, those of you who kindly contribute to our New Writing Fund might be interested to know that two of the shows – *Too Much World at Once* and *Tapped* – had early outings as play readings at the SJT and are now being toured professionally as full productions.

## **Cinderella: a beginning and an end**

Stage managers are the unsung heroes of our shows, working their socks off backstage to keep everything running smoothly. One such is Sara-Lee Bull, the assistant stage manager, or ASM, on our Christmas show, *Cinderella*.

In a nice piece of circularity, Sara-Lee started her stage management career on our previous production of *Cinderella* exactly 10 years ago – and will end her career on this production to move on to pastures new.

“I graduated from Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in 2011, and worked as a freelance prop maker for a year,” says Sara-Lee. “I then worked in my very first stage management role as ASM at the SJT on *Cinderella* in 2012. Since then, I’ve worked at other regional theatres including Theatr Clwyd, Salisbury Playhouse, York Theatre Royal, Leeds Playhouse and most recently at The Royal Exchange in Manchester, all as ASM.

“As well as the two Cinderellas, I worked at the SJT on *The Schoolmistress* in 2013, *The Offing* last year, and just recently, *Constellations*.

“I don’t have any plans on what I’m going to do next year yet! I’d love to try and stay in something artistic: maybe working in a bookshop, art gallery, craft shop, or something like that.”

## **Raven – don’t miss out!**

At time of writing, there was just a handful of tickets left for our special festive fund-raising event with multi-instrumentalists and vocalists Raven, whose line-up includes our own Jaye Lewis.

The concert will take place in Eat Me@The SJT on Sun 18 Dec from 1.30pm to 3.30pm (doors open at 1pm). Tickets are £18.00 and include festive sweet treats, mulled wine, red or white wine, or tea or coffee. To book, [click on this link](#) or call our Box Office on 01723 370 541.

## **Just one date for your diary this month!**

(Apart from all those new shows we mentioned earlier, of course...)

We do hope you can join us for a festive Circle Café on Thu 15 Dec – it’s a little later than usual, starting at 1pm, so we’d be grateful if you could aim to arrive **between 12.30pm and 1pm**.