

"Show & Tell is about something which has preoccupied me for the last 60 years and probably more – theatre. It's a love letter to theatre!"

– Alan Ayckbourn

Welcome...



Welcome to the August issue of the Circular. We've got big news below – we're announcing our first SJT production of 2025 and it promises to be a doozy! Read on to find out all about it.

If you'd like to book for any of the shows below – or anything else! – please visit our website on www.sjt.uk.com, call our Box Office on 01723 370 541, or drop by: 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.

Show & Tell

A new play by our Director Emeritus Alan Ayckbourn is always an event, but this year's is extra special – it's his 90th!

Show & Tell is described by the author as 'a love letter to theatre', and although it's very much set in the present day, it draws on his memories of this theatre's early days when we had a temporary set-up on the first floor of Scarborough Library.

The show is in rehearsals now, and we're delighted to welcome back a few familiar faces – Bill Champion, Paul Kemp, Frances Marshall and Richard Stacey – alongside newcomer Olivia Woolhouse. You can catch a flavour of the first read-through [here](#).

The show runs for a month from 5 September to 5 October – we hope you can join us.

Mr A's Amazing Days

If you haven't booked your tickets for the gala fundraising weekend in September, we advise you to hurry. At time of writing, Friday evening's event *Everything Including the Kitchen Sink* was sold out with a waiting list (always worth adding your name if you're really keen; we do get cancellations!).

And tickets for the Sunday afternoon reading of Alan's never-before-heard play **Father of Invention** are selling fast! The cast comprises Elizabeth Boag, Bill Champion, Liza Goddard, Paul Kemp, Frances Marshall, Laurence Pears and Naomi Petersen, all directed by the author who'll be joining them on the day.

Don't miss out!



Love's Labour's Lost



If you were one of the many, many people who just loved our somewhat irreverent version of *The Comedy of Errors* (*more or less*) last year, you'll be excited to hear that we're assembling the same team – co-adaptors Elizabeth Godber and Nick Lane and director Paul Robinson, in a co-production with Shakespeare North Playhouse – for a vibrant new version of *Love's Labour's Lost* next year.

This new adaptation sets the story of four young men attempting to improve themselves by swearing off sex in mid-90s Ibiza.

A stag do in Ibiza. A hen do in Menorca. What could go wrong? Everything...

The stags have made a solemn promise to each other: this is a boys' weekend. Don't talk to any girls, don't even think about any girls and most importantly, do not contact the hens.

The hens are ready for fun in the sun when the resort calls to say they've had to relocate them... to a hotel in Ibiza. Both groups of revellers are stuck on the same Mediterranean island. Cue: shoddy disguises, mislaid love letters and theatrical chaos.

Shakespeare's riotous comedy is brought to life in the nineties, featuring belting musical numbers in the era of boy bands and Girl Power.

Co-writer Elizabeth Godber says:

"I'm so excited to be back working with Nick, the SJT and Shakespeare North on another hilarious Shakespeare adaptation. Love's Labour's Lost is one of my favourite Shakespeare plays, and to get the chance to play around with the language, develop the (already great) female characters, and add in plenty of 1990s pop classics has been an absolute joy! I can't wait for audiences to come

and see the show – it's funny, irreverent, and I'm sure Shakespeare would approve – he would definitely have been a Britpop fan!"

Director Paul Robinson, our Artistic Director, says:

"We had the most enormous fun making The Comedy of Errors (more or less) in the spring of 2023, and our audiences did too! We couldn't resist following it up with another of the Bard's early comedies, this time set a decade later in the midst of the party era that was the 1990s. We'll again be including some great music from the period, and just wait until you see those 90s fashions again..."

Love's Labour's Lost can be seen at Shakespeare North Playhouse from Friday 28 February to Saturday 22 March 2025, and right here from Thursday 27 March to Saturday 19 April 2025.

And as a valued Circle member, you have priority booking at the SJT from 10am on Wednesday 28 August until 10am on Wednesday 4 September.

New visiting shows

We're delighted to bring you news of some great new shows visiting us early next year – and, as always, as a valued Circle member, you have priority booking from 10am on Wednesday 28 August until 10am on Wednesday 4 September, when general booking opens. They are (and just to avoid any confusion, this version of *Dracula* will be very different to ours last month!):

Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act (15 February): Drawn from two years of Sussex retirement for the funeral of his friend Dr Watson, Holmes returns to Baker Street to resolve the 'last act' of his epic career. A theatrical evening unfolds, with 14 characters all played by Nigel Miles-Thomas in a tour de force performance written by Conan Doyle expert David Stuart Davies.

Oasiz (22 February): Oasiz are one of the UK's most authentic Oasis tribute bands. In 2023 a clip of Oasiz frontman Steve performing went viral, racking up over 10 million views with fans convinced the clip was Liam Gallagher

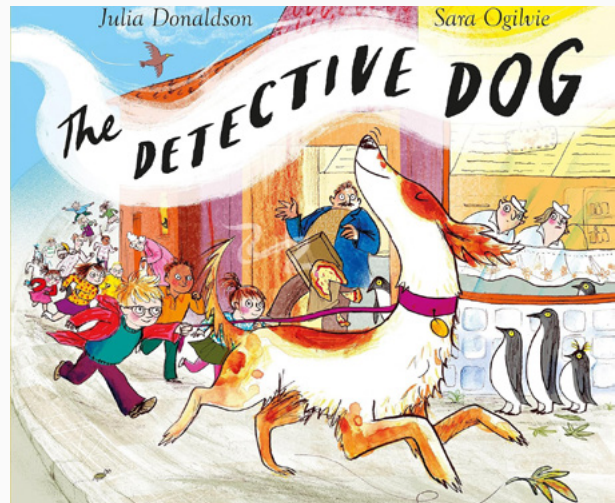
himself. The story was covered in the national press including an appearance on national TV. This unique in-the-round performance involves flexible staging set-ups to ensure every seat in the house has a brilliant view of the band.

Lady Maisery + O'Hooley & Tidow (28 February): Two of the English folk scene's best, power trio Lady Maisery and songwriters/singers O'Hooley & Tidow, join forces again for the first time since their much-loved collaboration as supergroup Coven, with songs of celebration, solidarity, peace, unity, a healthy dose of rage and heaps of love. Combining the vocal and multi-instrumental talents of Rowan Rheingans, Hazel Askew and Hannah James, Lady Maisery has enraptured audiences throughout the UK and Europe. Yorkshire duo Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow penned the theme to Sally Wainwright's hit BBC1/HBO drama *Gentleman Jack*.

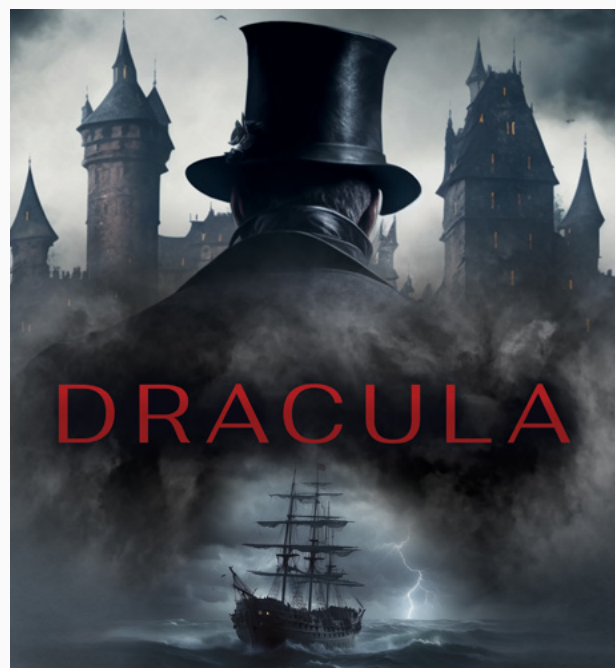
Velma Celli: God Save the Queens (13 March): Award-winning international cabaret superstar Velma Celli in an evening of music, comedy and fabulous entertainment in a tribute to the best UK music icons: Adele, Amy Winehouse, Annie Lennox, Florence Welch, Leona Lewis, The Spice Girls and more. Known as ‘the UK’s queen of live vocal drag’, Velma has charmed audiences across the globe for the past 13 years. Velma is the alter ego of West End star Ian Stroughair who’s appeared in hit musicals *Cats*, *Fame*, *Chicago* and *Rent*.



The Detective Dog (11 April): Tiny & Tall Productions brings Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie's well-loved story to the stage for Deaf and hearing family audiences. Whether it's finding a lost shoe or discovering who did a poo on the new gravel path, Nell's ever-sniffing nose is always hard at work. So when the books at school disappear one morning, Nell is ready to sniff out the culprit! With British Sign Language, creative captions and spoken English, this engaging production celebrates books and the magic of reading in an inclusive and accessible performance. Expect captivating puppetry, surprising smells and toe-tapping music.



Dracula (1 – 3 May): It's 1897, and mankind is on the cusp of vast technological change, scientific mastery and media innovation. But a shadow looms over England, and a small group of young men and women, led by Professor Van Helsing, are plunged into an epic struggle for survival. Adapted by our very own Nick Lane, this brilliant treatment of Bram Stoker's adventure blends Victorian Gothic with the contemporary, showcasing Blackeyed Theatre's trademark style and featuring a haunting soundscape, powerful performances and innovative design for an exhilarating theatrical experience.



September visiting

While we're on the subject of visiting work, September brings the first of our autumn season of touring shows.

Sanctuary (30 September) is a brand-new musical from Red Ladder Theatre Company, about a young Iranian man seeking sanctuary in a Northern town. When Alland begs to be given sanctuary at St Mary's church it sparks a mixed reaction within the community. Some call for his protection; others for his removal. Molly, a young church worker, joins forces with vicar Fiona to try to protect him, resisting both the angry vigilantes and the hard-hearted authorities beyond the church walls. This musical welcomes us in and asks: *do we want safety and freedom for only ourselves, or for us all?*

A wedding with a difference

We were thrilled last month to play host to a very special occasion – the first ever double wedding at the SJT! And it turned out that it was an equally auspicious occasion for the team at Scarborough Registration Office, who officiated – it was their first double wedding, too.

Friends Gill and Sami, and Ruth and Sean, decided to celebrate their special days together, and turned our McCarthy auditorium, where the ceremony was held, and Eat Me Café, where the reception took place, into magical flower-decked wonderlands, with many of the stunning decorations created by brides Gill and Ruth.

100 guests enjoyed a buffet catered by Eat Me, and in the evening, 80 went to see *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* – the two couples even managed to find time to have a handful of photos taken on stage.



They even shared their wedding cake with fellow theatre-goers at the interval! And we were so happy to hear from them afterwards, in an email which singled out our venue hire organisers, Jaye Lewis and Paul Baines, for particular praise, but added: “*All in all, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible team that made our wedding day truly unforgettable. Jaye, Paul, Tigger, Martyn, Stephen, Andy, and the dedicated staff all worked in perfect harmony to ensure every detail was flawlessly executed. Your combined efforts, enthusiasm, and unwavering support transformed our vision into reality and filled our hearts with joy.*”

Jamie Baughan

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death last month of actor Jamie Baughan, who many of you will remember as Hugh in *Joking Apart* in 2018, and as Adrian in *Birthdays Past*, *Birthdays Present* in 2019. Jamie was also in Alan’s 2017 production of *By Jeeves* at The Old Laundry Theatre. Despite only appearing in two shows here, Jamie’s warmth, humour and kindness meant he made many friends here, both within the theatre and beyond in Scarborough. He will be much missed.



Dates for your diary

Those attending our August Circle Café met the cast of *Brassed Off* had the joy of meeting not just members of the team, both actors and stage management, but also Maude the dog, who came along with her owner, actor Joanna Holden, and stole the show. It was a joyous occasion, with actors Russell Richardson, Andrew Turner, Joanna and Stacey Ghent all on excellent and entertaining form.

Our Circle Cafés are getting busier and busier – we had a record number of attendees for *Brassed Off* – so it really helps us if you can make sure you book your tickets **in advance**. That way, we arrive for the day knowing how many people to expect, and therefore how many chairs to lay out, how much coffee to make – all the important stuff! Thanks for your help.

We hope you can join us for our next Circle Café on 26 September to meet the cast of *Show & Tell*.

2024 Circle Cafés (starting at 10.15am, so please aim to arrive between 10am, when the building opens, and 10.10am) include:

Thursday 26 September: The *Show & Tell* company – the 90th play from the pen of our Director Emeritus, who turned 85 in April.

Thursday 31 October: *The Whitby Rebels* company – you may remember the almost unbelievable story of Captain Jack Lammiman, the Whitby skipper who in 1991 set off from Whitby Harbour with a very motley crew to place a plaque on an Arctic island honouring whaling captain William Scoresby. This affectionate retelling of the story is by Bea Roberts.

Thursday 14 November: The visiting *Perfect Pitch* company will join us this morning to talk about working with John Godber and, of course, camping and caravanning.

Thursday 12 December (time TBC, but this will be an afternoon event, as the cast will be on stage in the morning): The *Aladdin* company – our annual visit to the strange and wonderful imagination of Nick Lane as he retells a traditional tale in his own inimitable style.