

*"Christmas! Christmas is kindness."*

Rosabelle, *Beauty and the Beast*

# Welcome...

...to the final 2023 issue of the Circular, the newsletter for members of the SJT Circle. It goes without saying that we want to say a huge thank you to you all for your continued support – it means so much to us! From all of us at the SJT to all of you and your loved ones – HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



## Beauty and the Beast

Our Christmas show, **Beauty and the Beast**, has been packing them in, and audiences and critics alike have absolutely loved it:

### Audience feedback:

"Beauty and the Beast is an absolute Christmas cracker. Sheer joy from start to finish. It's classy, clever and brilliantly bonkers in all the ways a Christmas show should be; best Christmas show I've seen in years. Grab a ticket and fill your boots with festive spirit."

"Just saw Beauty and the Beast, hand on my heart it was the best thing I've bought in a long time, a great performance set in an intimate environment and it's hilarious."

"The show was amazing! My six-year-old loved the song and interaction from the cast. I thought the story line was great! The energy and acting was brilliant."

## What the critics said:

"A witty and rounded adaptation... all the more remarkable [that] the whole thing is told by just five actors. And all the more refreshing they do it with such elan. For all its threat and jeopardy, Paul Robinson's production is charged with a relentlessly upbeat energy, managing to be funny and scary at the same time."

*The Guardian (four stars)*

"[Nick] Lane and director Paul Robinson are long-term collaborators; they know how to tell a satisfying story and cue audience involvement without egging on or forcing. Their multiple role playing, all-singing and dancing actors (choreography by Stephanie Dattani) create engaging characters and ad-lib with aplomb (ditto audience). Sheer festive fun."

*The Observer (another four stars – and yes, the choreographer is someone with whom you'll all be very familiar – her day job is as our Fundraising and Development Officer!)*

"Glorious madness... The costumes are glorious, the lighting 'aw' inspiring and the actors roam around the whole auditorium and more. Director Paul Robinson and writer Nick Lane have worked together on multiple occasions – and that is obvious in the resulting controlled chaos. This is a show with a heart bigger than Christmas."

*The Scarborough News*

"Perfectly bonkers, weird and wonderful – it will most certainly keep the young ones enthralled and older ones will love it too."

*Reviews Hub*

"Packed with singalongs, big laughs and silliness ensuring you leave with a big smile on your face."  
*scarborough.co.uk*

It runs to 30 December, so you still have a few days left to catch it – and whether you've seen it or not, we thought you might enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at all the hard work that goes into putting on a show with our gallery of photos taken during tech week by photographer Tony Bartholomew.





# Thor's Great Big Adventure

Running alongside *Beauty and the Beast* (until 23 December) is our show for the smallest members of the family – **Thor's Great Big Adventure**. Written by our Head of Creative Engagement, Rob Salmon (and no, the irony of his surname hasn't been lost on us!), it was inspired by the visit to Scarborough last Christmas of an Arctic walrus.

It's performed by Year 3 Acting students from CU Scarborough, and here's what the Scarborough News had to say:

"The co-production between the theatre and CU Scarborough may be for the youngest in the family but there is nothing little about the show – it is big on charm, big on talent, big on ambition – and accessible, funny and fish-shaped bean bags full of fun."



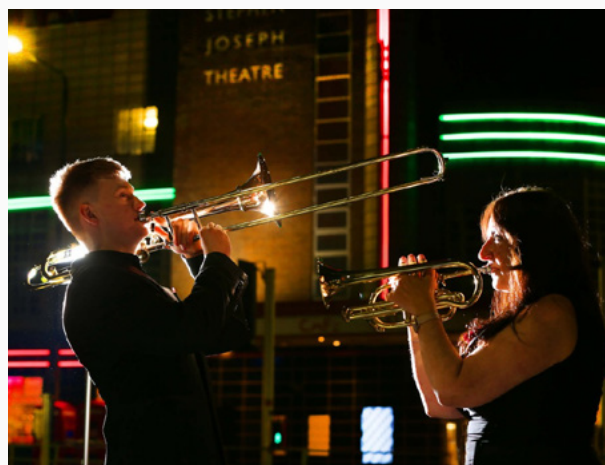
## Looking forward to 2024...

January is necessarily a quieter time of year for us – chance to take stock and do some essential maintenance before our busy theatrical year starts again. That doesn't mean we've forgotten you, though – we still have a very busy programme of movies in our McCarthy cinema, including two matter-of-factly named biopics, **Ferrari** (Enzo) and **Napoleon** (Bonaparte). Watch the latter carefully and you might catch a fleeting glimpse of Tom Godwin, son of Christopher – the pair appeared together in our 2015 production of *The Woman in Black*. Tom plays the Austrian Ambassador in Ridley Scott's new film.

Plus, of course, two great shows: **Hammonds Band** return on Sunday 7 January with their traditional New Year concert – there are still a few tickets left for that if you hurry.

We're also looking forward to welcoming a stunning new show called **As SHE Likes It** (Wednesday 31 January): a darkly comedic explosion of multimedia, verbatim, cabaret and drag inspired by the story of Old Hollywood #MeToo pioneer Patricia Douglas.

There's much, much more to come for '24, too: for more information and to book, visit our website: [www.sjt.uk.com](http://www.sjt.uk.com)




## Play reading


On Tuesday 30 January, we bring you the latest of our increasingly popular series of play readings. Holly knows that human beings have screwed the planet, but she's still desperate to have a baby of her own. She's tried doing the right thing, but can using a bamboo toothbrush really reverse global warming? **Me for You**, a play all about love in the face of overwhelming evidence that we're a despicable race of selfish parasites, was longlisted for the Kenneth Branagh Award For New Drama Writing.

Author Rachel E. Thorn is a writer and actress from Sheffield. She trained at Drama Studio London. She writes comedy for BBC Radio 4 and has collaborated with impressionists Alistair McGowan, Charlie Hopkinson and Darren Altman. She tours the country with her improvised shows which have won awards including Best Improv Show at Leicester Comedy Festival and Best Improv Show at Edinburgh Fringe.


SJT Play Reading:  
**Me For You**  
Tue 30 Jan, 7.15pm



By Rachel E. Thorn



Holly  
Elizabeth Hope



Alex  
Claire Morley



## ... to the core

Remember we said in the last Circular we were keeping our options open on announcements, just in case? Well, one more great show has just dropped into our 2024 diary...

Josie White's new play **ROTTEN** is described as 'Hitchcock meets Lord of the Flies': a rollercoaster full of hilarious and scary twists and turns. Three young regional actresses are struggling to survive in London. Their shared dream is dwindling away quicker than their bank balances. But who needs electricity? Or Netflix? Every night through their grotty living room window the Antiheroes have a front row seat into the life of Instagram 'celebrity', the Honourable Iris Montague-Willis. And when the girls spot Iris in a compromising position, they see their chance to cash in!

**ROTTEN** tours to us on Tuesday 23 April – booking opens for Circle members on Tuesday 2 January; general booking opens Monday 8 January. To book, visit our website at [sjt.uk.com](http://sjt.uk.com), call the box office on 01723 370541, or drop in.

# Dates for your diary

We had an absolute blast at our final Circle Café of 2023, when members met the delightful cast of *Beauty and the Beast* to hear about auditioning for Christmas shows in June, super-quick changes of costume, and the things that kids say...

Our Circle Cafés are usually held on Thursdays, which is also matinee day for both live shows and in our cinema, so why not make a day of it? Your Circle membership entitles you to a generous 10% discount in *Eat Me @ The SJT*, and you could catch a show or a film afterwards.

Circle Cafes are getting increasingly popular, **so please make sure you book a free place via the box office in advance** so that we can predict numbers and make sure we have enough seats!

**Circle Cafés (starting at 10.15am, so please aim to arrive between 10am and 10.15am) include:**

**Thursday 8 February, 10.15am:** Meet the company from the latest John Godber, *Do I Love You?*

**Thursday 7 March, 10.15am:** Meet the company from Blackeyed Theatre's *Oh What A Lovely War*

**Thursday 11 April, 10.15am:** Meet the *Northanger Abbey* company

**Thursday 9 May, 10.15am:** Meet our Creative Engagement team

**Thursday 6 June:** TBC

**Thursday 11 July, 10.15am:** Meet the *Dracula* company

**Thursday 8 August, 10.15am:** Meet the *Brassed Off* company

**Thursday 26 September, 10.15am:** Meet the *Show & Tell* company

**Thursday 31 October, 10.15am:** Meet *The Whitby Rebels* company

**Thursday 14 November, 10.15am:** TBC

**Thursday 12 December (time TBC, but afternoon):** Meet the *Aladdin* company