

*"The day was uncommonly lovely. It was really March; but it was April in its mild air, brisk soft wind, and bright sun, occasionally clouded for a minute; and everything looked so beautiful under the influence of such a sky..."*

– Jane Austen

## Welcome...

..to the March issue of the Circular. We're really hoping for some days this month like the one Jane Austen describes – we suspect she'd have considered the winter we're just coming out of as uncommonly dreary, with its endless rain.

But things are on the up: spring is definitely a-springing. It's Easter this coming weekend, and we're looking forward to a brilliant year of uplifting entertainment – we hope you can join us!

**If adventures will not befall a young lady in her own village, she must seek them abroad...**

We've finally welcomed *Northanger Abbey* to our stage, opening on Wednesday night and with us until 13 April. Our four-way co-production with the Orange Tree in Richmond, London, Bolton's Octagon Theatre and Keswick's Theatre by the Lake started life in London in late January, before moving to Bolton for the first three weeks in March; its final destination is Keswick from late April.

Tickets are selling well for what's a fairly short run here – just 22 performances spread over 18 days, so don't miss out – you can [book here](#); or, of course, call our box office on 01723 370541 or drop in to see them.



# April showers

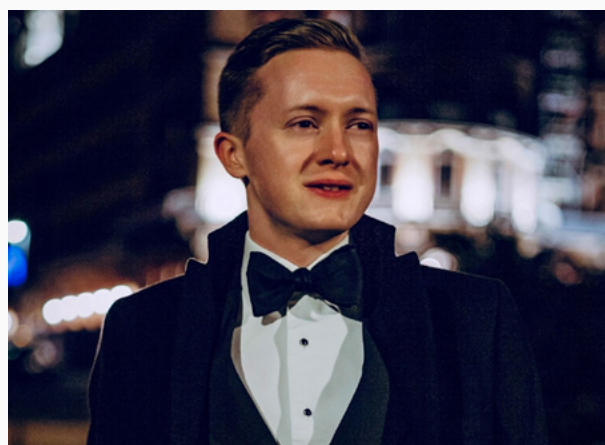
As spring unfurls and the days get longer, why not book a night out at the theatre? **Northanger Abbey** is in our Round until 13 April, but we're also bringing you the random genius that is Daniel Kitson, with his new show **Collaborator** on 19 and 20 April – we wish we could tell you more about it, but in true Kitson style, all we know is that (a) it's a mystery, (b) it will be brilliant and (c) there are only a handful of tickets left for it!

On 23 April, new show **Rotten** comes to our Mac. Three young, regional actresses are struggling to survive in London, their shared dream dwindling quicker than their bank balances. But who needs electricity? Or Netflix? Every night, through their grotty living room window, they have a front row seat to observe the life of Instagram 'celebrity' Iris Montague-Willis. **Rotten** is the first play from up-and-coming Nottingham actor and writer Josie White, who began writing it during lockdown under the mentorship of the production's director, Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE.

At the end of the month, don't miss the hugely engaging musings of **Henry Normal** on Thursday 25 April (more on Henry later in this issue), and powerhouse girl-band **Flat and the Curves** (Friday 26 April). Not for the faint-hearted, they're like a (much!) filthier version of Fascinating Aïda. "Imagine," they say, "if Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte, and Miranda teamed up with the Spice Girls and went on a wild hen-do in Blackpool." You get the picture...

That last week in April is a busy one for visiting work – on the Saturday (27 April), we welcome back to our Round Scarborough-born pianist and vocalist **Sam Jewison**, with his acclaimed interpretation of the Great American Songbook. Sam last played here in February of 2023 to a rapturous reception – writing in *The Yorkshire Times*, local reviewer Mike Tilling said:

*"The audience were on their feet at the end and I have not had a better evening in the theatre in the last twelve months."*





# Nurse, the Screens!

*Doctor, Doctor – will this cream clear up my spots?  
I never make rash promises...*

More than 75 young people took part in our Youth Theatre Festival production on 13 and 14 March. Nurse, the Screens! was written and directed by our Head of Creative Engagement, Rob Salmon, and was a joyous romp through the history of the NHS, punctuated by some very bad, but hugely enjoyable, jokes...

We hope you enjoy this gallery of pictures of the event.



## Spotlight on...

*"Always seemed odd to me that skinheads, they didn't want to conform, they wanted to be individuals. So they all shaved their heads exactly the same, and they wore the same clothes. It's a paradox. Which is what, of course, they wore on their feet."*

If that's the kind of humour that appeals to you, then we highly recommend Henry Normal, who brings his new show, **Everything and More**, to our McCarthy on Thursday 25 April. If you're in two minds, we recommend you give a couple of his excellent Radio 4 shows a listen – it's where we heard the paradox joke, and many more like it! Find them [here](#).

Henry is a remarkable blend of being genuinely funny and intelligent (let's not forget that this is the man who not only founded the Manchester Poetry Festival and co-founded the Nottingham Poetry Festival, but also co-wrote and script edited *Mrs Merton*, co-created and co-wrote the first series of *The Royle Family*, and set up, with Steve Coogan, Baby Cow, the company behind *Gavin and Stacey*, *Marion and Geoff*, *Nighty Night*, *The Mighty Boosh*, *Red Dwarf* and *Alan Partridge*) with tenderness and compassion (he was also the producer of *Philomena*, the Oscar-nominated story of Philomena Lee, played by Judi Dench, and her search for the son she gave up 50 years earlier). You'll find all these elements in his show. It's with us for one night only – Thursday 25 April.



## Fangs for the memory...

It's always a really exciting time for us when we find out who's going to be in the cast of upcoming SJT productions. We love spotting old friends in the cast list, and discovering potential new ones.

So we're delighted to bring you news of the cast of **Dracula** – it'll be performed by a terrifically talented multi-roling team of four (think *The 39 Steps*!): Chris Hannon, Annie Kirkman, Killian Macardle and Amy Revelle. Three of the actors are new to us – only Annie has been here before, playing villain Maloria in last year's Christmas hit, *Beauty and the Beast*.

They'll be joining us to start rehearsals at the beginning of May before heading off to open the show at our co-producer, the Octagon Theatre Bolton. The show then returns to us from 3 to 27 July. It's already selling really well, so don't miss out! Book [here](#).





## Perfect Pitch

If that title rings bells with you, it's because you may have seen this John Godber show on its first outing – it was commissioned by us back in 1998 as part of our 10x10 season, which featured 10 shows by 10 different writers.

John was uniquely qualified to write about its theme – caravanning. He was at the time a proud caravanner himself, and in fact spent the rehearsal period here living in his own caravan at a local caravan park: we visited him there to do a photocall for the press.

And now he has updated *Perfect Pitch*, and his own company is taking it out on tour later this year, including a visit to us from 13 to 16 November.

When teacher Matt borrows his parent's caravan for a week on the Yorkshire coast with partner Rose, they're expecting four days of hill running and total de-stress. But with a Tribfest taking place nearby, Grant and Steph's pop-up tent is an unwelcome addition to their perfect pitch.

Class and toilet cassettes become an issue as Godber reignites his classic comedy set on an eroding coastline.

Described as 'a triumph' by *The Sunday Times*, this state of the nation comedy is by turns hilarious and unsettling, as Matt and Rose are inducted into the world of caravanning and Karaoke.

Circle members have priority booking from Tuesday 2 April; booking opens to the general public on Monday 8 April. Book [here](#).

## Light and brilliance

On 10 October, we're delighted to welcome for the first time the Sonia Sabri company with their new show *Roshni*. Taken from the Persian word meaning light or brilliance, it's an intimate crafting of dance and live music exploring the highs and lows of life today. The audience is taken on an emotional journey, through wordless storytelling, eclectic music, percussive dance and upbeat audience interaction. *Roshni* is both deeply moving and gloriously entertaining.

Circle members have priority booking from Tuesday 2 April; booking opens to the general public on Monday 8 April. Book [here](#).

## Raven's return

After two sell-out Christmas shows in 2023 and 2022, we're delighted to welcome our favourite girl band, Raven, for an afternoon of festive music this coming Christmas (and yes, we know you're currently all getting egg-cited\* about Easter, but trust us, these women sell out quickly!).

You can catch Raven from 1.30pm (until around 3.30pm) on Sunday 8 December – tickets are priced at £19, and Circle members have priority booking from Tuesday 2 April; booking opens to the general public on Monday 8. Book [here](#).

\*Apologies – we had to have at least one egg pun in this issue, and this was only place we could find for it...

## Holly at Christmas

And on the subject of Christmas – sorry to remind you, but there are only around 280 shopping days left! – we're delighted to tell you that one of the key elements of every SJT Christmas is back again for 2024. Holly at Christmas will be in our Round on Wednesday 4 December. As ever, Circle members have priority booking from Tuesday 2 April; booking opens to the general public on Monday 8 April. Book [here](#).



# Dates for your diary

Circle Café attendees in March met members of the multi-talented *Oh What a Lovely War* company – a group of young actor-musicians (not one of them over 30) who brought this moving show to life. We heard about how they approached such an emotionally intense show, and in some cases, how their own family history informed their performance.

Our next Circle Café, on Thursday 11 April, will introduce the *Northanger Abbey* company – we do hope you can join us.

And please remember that the Eat Me team, who kindly postpone their opening time to 11am on Circle Café days to allow us to take over their space, do need to reset before they reopen. You're very welcome, of course, to linger and chat after the event, but please move to the bar end of the room so they can do that.

It's also most helpful to both them and us if you can book your free place via the box office in advance – it helps us to predict numbers and make sure we have enough seats, of course, but it's also important from a safety point of view (in the unlikely event of us having to evacuate the building, we really need to know exactly how many people are in there so no one gets left behind!).

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

**Thursday 11 April:** The *Northanger Abbey* company – writer Zoe Cooper infuses the plot and spirit of Jane Austen's novel with her unique voice, resulting in a play fizzing with imagination, packed full of humour and brimming with love.

**Thursday 9 May:** Our Head of Creative Engagement will join us, along with his acting company, to talk about DNA, the first production from our new Young Theatre Company.

**Thursday 6 June:** Our joint chief executive, Caroline Routh, will join us to talk about some of the exciting plans for the SJT over the next few years...

**Thursday 11 July:** The *Dracula* company – you can't live on the North Yorkshire coast and not be familiar with this great gothic tale – but this is a vision of the vampire as you've never seen him before: hilarious and madcap (think *The 39 Steps*!).

**Thursday 8 August:** The *Brassed Off* company – adapted by our good friend and former board member Paul Allen from the film by Bridlington-born Mark Herman – with a pedigree like that, we've been wanting to do this show for years... it'll be worth the wait.

**Thursday 26 September:** The *Show & Tell* company – the 90th play from the pen of our Director Emeritus, who turns 85 in April – he doesn't do things by halves...

**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:** TBC

**Thursday 12 December (time TBC, but afternoon):** The *Aladdin* company – our annual visit to the strange and wonderful brain of Nick Lane as he retells a traditional tale in his own inimitable style.