

"I am longing to be with you, and by the sea, where we can talk together freely and build our castles in the air."

– Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Welcome...



..to the May issue of the Circular. We're deep into rehearsals for **Dracula: The Bloody Truth** here at the SJT and loving every minute of it. It's a co-production with the Octagon Theatre Bolton and opens there first, so we're going to have to wait until July to see it – but in the meantime, here are some rehearsal pics to whet your appetite!

June shows

June is a month of music and comedy at the SJT – and all the shows are selling fast, with only a handful of tickets left for each of the shows below. If you haven't already booked, we advise haste! Eliza Carthy and Elton John are both part of the [Scarborough Fringe festival](#).

[Seriously Collins](#) (1 June): No gimmicks, just a genuine tribute to one of the biggest artists of our generation.



[Alfie Moore: A Face for Radio](#) (14 & 15 June): The new stand-up show from the popular cop-turned-comic-turned-BBC radio star.



[Ria Lina](#) (19 June): One of The Telegraph's 10 best comedy shows to see in 2024! Ria Lina is fearless, provocative, and very funny.



[Eliza Carthy](#) (21 June): The daughter of folk legends Martin Carthy and Norma Waterson, local girl Eliza grew up just up the coast (dad Martin was a stage manager at the SJT in the early 60s). Describing herself simply as a modern English musician, she is one of the most impressive, engaging, and important performers of her generation.

[The Elton John Show](#) (22 June): The UK's ultimate Elton John tribute with Soul Street Production's bestselling show, bringing 'Young Elton' back to the stage at his energetic best.



For all bookings, either pop into our box office, call them on (01723) 370541, or visit our website: sjt.uk.com

Impact report

Hopefully you should all have received a copy of our annual report for the financial year 2023 to 2024, but just in case you missed it, you can find it [here](#) (scroll down to the jade green block).

To be honest, this report always takes us a little by surprise – we talk to our different departments about what they've been up to over the last year, and when we finally pull it all together, we're startled by the scale of it: have we really done all that in a just a year?!

But the answer is always 'yes', and the lovely thing is that we couldn't do any of this work without you, our Circle members – your on going support is invaluable.

Captain Cliff and the Seagull Squad on sale now!



Swoop in and nab your tickets for our annual Christmas show for under sixes and their big people, made in collaboration with CU Scarborough!

Can [Captain Cliff and the Seagull Squad](#) save Scarborough from a very sticky situation? Expect songs, silliness and loads of festive fun from the team who brought you Thor's Great Big Adventure.

(We also love the show artwork by local artist Savannah Storm – you'll find more of her work [here](#).)!

Meet Connor!

If ever you wanted to meet a real enthusiast for their job, talk to the SJT's Senior Technician Connor McPherson.

The Scarborough-born former Graham School pupil, who trained at LIPA in Liverpool, confesses to being able to talk for hours about the intricacies and challenges of his job, which are quite different to the everyday tasks undertaken by the average electrician. Take, for instance, his work on Tigger Johnson's stunning lighting design for DNA, our early May production from our Young Company.

Set in a street, a wood and a field, but performed on a bare stage, its various scenes were represented by angled bars of light stretching from floor to ceiling which flickered into life at each scene change, cycling through colours to evoke the different settings.

"We started out with a very basic drawing from the director, Rob Salmon," says Connor. "I had to Google trigonometry to remember how to calculate the angles and length of the struts!"

The bars – or, to give them their technical name, Unistrut Channels – were inlaid with lengths of pixel tape: flexible strips of LED lighting. To gain the fine detail required by lighting designer Tigger, Connor chose to use tape which could be controlled in sections of just 5cm. You can see them in action in DNA [here](#).

Despite the hours of effort that went into creating the lighting effects for this – and every other! – SJT show, Connor says audiences shouldn't be aware of it.

*"They shouldn't even know I exist!" he says. "I really enjoy the technical challenge of coming up with a solution for something like DNA, or a show like **Constellations**, which had nearly three miles of fibre optic lighting used in a way we'd never encountered before. But it should be seamless; of course, we want the audience to appreciate the lighting as part of the overall show, but it should feel organic and be a part of the emotional journey that the audience goes on."*

And he's keen to point out that a concern for both the environment and the theatre's finances means that everything is reused if possible: *"Even the cable storage in our workshop was once part of a set!"*



Spotlight on... Alfie Moore

In the busy world of stand-up comedy, Alfie Moore does tend to stand out a little – and not just because, in his own words, he has ‘a face for radio’.

What makes Alfie (probably) unique in today’s comedy landscape is his background as a beat copper, which gives him a somewhat leftfield take on everyday life. Consider, for instance, his feelings on what he calls ‘megalomaniac motorists’, who ‘like to drive very badly, very quickly’.

They think that they’re excellent drivers and believe themselves to be genuine victims. They will always tell you that they themselves were overtaken several times and also ask, “Why aren’t you catching real criminals?” If they are politicians or professional footballers they will often enquire, “Do you know who I am?” The correct response is always ‘no’, although I have sometimes responded, “Are you the mysterious Stig from Top Gear, out test driving the reasonably priced car?”

On Alfie’s last visit to the SJT, he told us the extraordinary story of his role the night four lions escaped from a circus in Grimsby and terrorised the town until a brave clown – in full make-up and costume – tackled them, armed with just a chair.

It was a story that was just too good to be true, but Alfie insisted it was – and a quick post-show Google backed him up – see our picture of the Grimsby Evening Telegraph from the following day!

This time around, he’s musing on the surprising career shift that turned a middle-aged street cop into a BBC radio star. But when TV fame beckoned, could he grasp it or was he past it...?

Alfie sold out completely last time he was here, and we’re anticipating the same again – if you haven’t copped your tickets yet, he’s with us on Fri 14 and Sat 15 June – call our Box Office on 01723 370 541, drop in, or head [here](#).

And for more of his insights into those megalomaniac motorists and more, [head this way](#).

RIBBLE BY-ELECTION SENSATION — PAGE SEVEN

Grimsby Evening Telegraph

Weather: Dull, misty. 25p. FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1991. Tel. 359232

6 AM SPECIAL EDITION

TERROR AS FOUR LIONS FLEE BIG TOP

The heroic clown



A brave clown, armed only with a chair, helps police as they try to capture the circus fugitives.

Man mauled in circus break-out

FOUR CIRCUS lions brought terror to the busy streets of Grimsby last night.

Hundreds of parents grabbed their children and ran for their lives as the animals broke free during a performance at Chipperfields Circus.

One man was savaged as he dashed to the aid of his wife and young child caught up in the chaos.

The lions roamed the town centre for more than an hour before being caged by circus staff and police.

● One hour of fear — pages 2,3,4,5,6.

This is a special early morning edition of the Evening Telegraph with full coverage of the lion drama in Grimsby town centre and major further editions of the Express with the Evening Guide, horoscopes, marriage and divorce, updated news, finance and information desk and be published as normal after today.

The moment of disbelief

THIS was the moment Marilyn Strath was told by a police officer her husband had been mauled by a lion in the centre of Grimsby.

Strath (32) was attacked from behind as he ran from Victoria Road to see if his wife and young child were safe. The lion snapped his back and head before running off. It was later captured by circus staff and police.

● Full story inside

THE COLT... HOT SHOT, HOT DEAL



COLT 1500 GLX

ON THE ROAD PRICE	£8254
FINANCE	9% 12.3% APR
REPAYMENT PERIOD	48 MONTHS
MINIMUM DEPOSIT	£1764.99
MONTHLY PAYMENT	£199.67
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£11381.56

Approved Credit Brokers, written details on request. Price includes car tax and VAT.

NUNNS
MITSUBISHI CENTRE
Ford & Vauxhall
100% FINANCE
100% FINANCE
100% FINANCE

Dates for your diary

Our May Circle Café introduced members to our Head of Creative Engagement, Rob Salmon, plus members of our Young Company – and given that it was the morning after their first performance of their show, DNA, we thought they were all remarkably bright-eyed and bushy-tailed! Rob talked about his approach to young people – informed by a fascinating story about a young Gillian Lynne – and the Young Company members discussed the show, the casting process, and their characters.

We hope you'll join us for our June Circle Café to hear from our Joint Chief Executive Caroline Routh, who'll be talking about some exciting things happening here at the SJT.

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

Thursday 6 June: Our Joint Chief Executive Caroline Routh will join us for the June Circle Café to chat through some of our future plans.

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.