

*"The men who knew that he knew what he knew had found him."*

*John Buchan, The 39 Steps*

**The 39 Steps**

# Welcome...

...to the May issue of the Circular, the newsletter just for members of the SJT Circle.



## New shows for the autumn

Your all-important members' priority booking for our autumn/winter programme of visiting shows opens from 10am on Thursday 1 June. Booking opens for the general public a week later, so do use that time to grab the best seats and ticket prices for the following:

**LIVE Scarborough** (11 September): LIVE: Scarborough is your chance to see exciting new productions in their early stages. You'll see extracts from four new performances from North Yorkshire artists, and have chance to offer feedback on how they develop in the future.

**ADHD The Musical** (20 September): This new, exciting and heartfelt work explores the highs and lows of having the most common neuro developmental disorder worldwide. A wonderful mix of facts, storytelling and some cracking original show tunes.



**Hancock's Half Hour: The Last Episodes** (2 & 3 October): From the producers of the critically acclaimed tours of *Round the Horne* and *The Goon Show*, another radio comedy classic live on stage. So come and take a trip to 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam to join 'the lad himself' and his motley crew for three classic episodes of this hilarious show.

**Brown Boys Swim** (9 & 10 October): Mohsen and Kash are gearing up for the biggest night of their lives – Jess Denver's pool party. Just one problem – they can't swim. An exhilarating new play about fitting in and striking out.

**Betty Blue Eyes** (12 to 14 October): Fresh from their smash run of *The Addams Family*, Scarborough Theatre Company bring you this musical comedy based on Alan Bennett and Malcolm Mowbray's hilarious film *A Private Function*.

**Alfie's First Fight** (28 October): Featuring boxing action, surprising plot twists, compelling characters and an inspiring boy-hero, this is a knockout show for children aged five-plus and their grown-ups. If you liked Roald Dahl's *Danny, Champion of the World*, the books of Jacqueline Wilson and the Rocky movies, you'll love this!

**I Believe in Unicorns** (2 & 3 November): Michael Morpurgo's treasured story is brought to life by award-winning storyteller Danyah Miller. An intimate show set in a library full of books that hold more than stories in their pages.



**You Heard Me** (6 November): Luca Rutherford's *You Heard Me* is for anyone who has been underestimated. Anyone who has been told to shut up. Anyone who has been afraid to walk home alone. It's a celebration of a single moment of noise that freed Luca from an attack.

**England and Son** (8 & 9 November): A one-man play written for award-winning political comic Mark Thomas. Prepare for a kaleidoscopic odyssey where disaster capitalism, stolen youth and stolen wealth merge into a tale of a working-class boy who just wants his dad to smile at him.

**Swinging at the Cotton Club featuring The Lindy Hop Dance Company & The Harry Strutters Hot Rhythm Orchestra** (10 November): Take a step back into 1920s and '30s New York City and through the doors of Harlem's hottest nightclub, The Cotton Club. This action-packed show features the music of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Fats Waller.



**Boy's Khaya** (13 November): Choreographer Bawren Tavaziva's powerfully moving and deeply personal new work questions who we are in a divided world. A mesmerising combination of original choreography and electrifyingly versatile dancers tell a story of colonialism, persecution, slavery and racial injustice.

**Sinatra: RAW** (16 November): A multi-award-winning play starring actor/singer Richard Shelton, acclaimed as one of the world's best interpreters of Sinatra's music. Palm Springs, 1971, and Sinatra is preparing for his last pre-retirement intimate show. This is the 2am Sinatra you dream of meeting – dangerous, unpredictable and brilliant.

**The Pretend Beatles** (18 November): Escape to the time of Beatlemania! This top UK tribute band features professional musicians who have performed all over the world, truly capturing The Beatles' sound.

**Bridget Christie: Who Am I?** (23 November): Bridget Christie is hot, but not in a good way. The award-winning comedian can't ride the motorbike she bought to combat her mid-life crisis and wonders why there are so many films, made by men, about young women discovering their sexuality, but none about middle-aged women forgetting theirs.

**Raven** (10 December): A Christmas concert fundraiser by six-piece, multi-instrumental band Raven featuring a mixture of traditional festive songs as well as their own original music. Their enchanting harmonies and haunting melodies will start your festive season with more than a touch of sparkle.

**A Warning to the Curious** (12 December): Two ghost stories by MR James, performed by RM Lloyd Parry. Lost Hearts features one of James' most memorable black magicians, the predatory Mr Abney. In A Warning to the Curious a young archaeologist is haunted by the guardian of an ancient treasure. The English seaside has never looked so menacing.

**Thor's Great Big Adventure** (12–23 December): Our annual Christmas show for under 6s! Thor the Walrus is off on his holidays. He's booked a few nights down South, then a short stop in Scarborough for New Year before he heads home to the ice and snow of the North Pole. This Christmas, join Thor on his great big adventure, sing a silly song about seagulls and throw him some fish for his tea! \*All fish will be provided!

**Holly at Christmas** (13 December): All the hits, other contemporary classics and some Christmas crackers wrapped up in a fast, furious and funny feast of entertainment for all the family.

**Hammonds Band** (7 January): An afternoon of brilliant music from one of the country's premier brass bands in the traditional New Year concert at the SJT.

**Forever Tenors: Surrender** (3 February): Two incredibly talented vocalists, Adam Lacey and Robert Durkin, this dynamic classical crossover duo wows audiences with their perfect blend of nostalgia and innovation, taking classic compositions from Nessun Dorma to Unchained Melody and infusing them with new life and energy.



**Jo Caulfield – Here Comes Trouble** (23 February): Comedians' Comedian of the Year 21/22 Jo doesn't mean to cause trouble – she just has the nerve to say out loud what everyone else is thinking!

More details and full booking info will be on our website from Thu 1 June – [www.sjt.uk.com](http://www.sjt.uk.com)



# Bitten by the theatre (June) bug?



We've got a feast of visiting entertainment for you next month to keep you busy until *The 39 Steps* opens at the end of the month.

First up is Northern Broadsides' delicious confection, **Quality Street** (Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 June). Do those shimmering dresses remind you of your favourite Christmas chocolates? There's a reason for that – JM Barrie's show inspired their name. This sweet and sumptuous show was created with a team of retired workers from the Halifax factory where the chocolates have been proudly made since 1936, wrapping the action in their witty and outrageous observations.

With a whole selection box of five- and four-star reviews (you can read some of them [here](#)) – this is definitely a show to tempt the theatrical tastebuds!

The Nashville Bad Boys of Country can't be all *that* bad – in a show set (yes, really!) in the Nashville branch of Wetherspoons, they play hit tunes from country favourites including (deep breath!) Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Steve Earle, Merle Haggard, Johnny Paycheck, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Toby Keith, Patsy Cline, Alan Jackson, Chris Stapleton, Garth Brooks, Kenny Rogers, Hank Williams, George Strait, Brad Paisley, Dolly Parton, The Eagles and (are there any?) more...

If you need more convincing, check out their rootin'-tootin' video [here](#) – then mosey on down to our box office to book your tickets for Friday 16 June.

Music hall, theatre and drag king swagger collide as **Modest** (Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 June) introduces you to Elizabeth Thompson – megastar of the Victorian art scene.

In 1874 Elizabeth stunned the Royal Academy with her dramatic and compassionate painting *The Roll Call*. Five years later, she fell two votes short of becoming the first woman elected to the academy. The painting was ultimately acquired by Queen Victoria and remains in the Royal Collection to this day – see it [here](#).

Performed by a cast featuring the UK's hottest drag talent, this electrifying new play will break your heart and start a revolution. Playwright Ellen Brammar was inspired to write about Elizabeth after listening to an episode of Malcolm Gladwell's fascinating and highly regarded Revisionist History podcast – you can catch it [here](#).

We know lots of you love to dip your toes in the wild waters of the North Sea – why not get in the mood with **SWIM** (Friday 23 June)? Based on a true story, writer and performer Liz Richardson grew up in the Lake District and spent her childhood walking in the fells, playing in the lakes and in the river at the end of her garden. After time away living in the City, Liz returns to the hills and into a new village for a new chapter of her life. But when her new community is rocked by tragedy, Liz rediscovers outdoor swimming and how it can keep both her and her new friends afloat.

For more information on, or to book for, all our June shows, take a look at our website: [www.sjt.uk.com](http://www.sjt.uk.com)



# The 39 Steps cast



We're looking forward to welcoming these four ridiculously talented actors to the SJT next week – they're joining us for the joyous comedy adventure that is *The 39 Steps*, going into rehearsal on 30 May.

If you're a fan of the *Goes Wrong* shows, you'll recognise our Richard Hannay, Dave Hearn – he's a founder member of Mischief Theatre, the award-winning comedy creators of the franchise, and has appeared in many *Goes Wrong* shows on stage and TV.

Lucy Keirl set our stage alight last Christmas as Mandy, the Fairy Godmother (plus oh-so-many other roles!) in *Cinderella*. All that running around will stand her in good stead for *The 39 Steps* – she's one of the two Clowns, who between them portray over 100 roles!

Olivia Onyehara joins the team at the SJT for the first time. Her recent credits include *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Richard III* at the RSC. She was also in the 2019 Hull Truck production of *Jack Lear*, starring SJT favourite Barrie Rutter.

Niall Ransome is also a member of Mischief Theatre, and returns to the SJT to play the other Clown in *The 39 Steps* for the second time. He was also seen in *Treasure Island* at Christmas 2019.

We've had amazing feedback since we announced this show – so many people have been in touch to say they can't wait to see it again! Which means, of course, that it's booking fast – just saying!

## The 39 Steps... the workshop!

If you're a teacher, a school or college governor, or know a young person who's keen to get into comedy, you might like to know about our 39 Steps workshops.

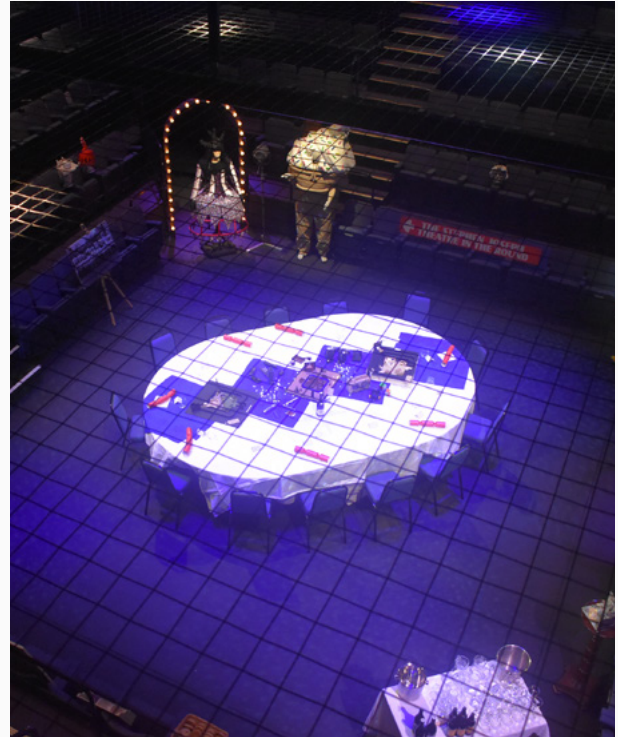
Participants will learn how to stage some of the slapstick, nonsense, danger and derring-do in the show with this masterclass on the art of comedy and making people laugh.

Designed for anyone studying Patrick Barlow's brilliant play, this one-hour workshop will guide a class-sized group through the pitfalls (and pratfalls) of making something funny.

Student tickets for the show are just £10, and for every ten students there's a free teacher ticket. If you bring a group of 25 or more you can receive one of the workshops for free! Additional workshop bookings are £100 per workshop.

If you're interested, contact Lynn Cloete on [lynn.cloete@sjt.uk.com](mailto:lynn.cloete@sjt.uk.com)

# Annual dinner



One of the many benefits of being a Diamond or Platinum member of the Circle is an invitation to our annual members' dinner. This year, for the first time, we held it in a very special location – the Round!

With a specially constructed oval table (courtesy of our Stage Services and Building Technician, Chris Meek) installed on the newly painted stage, and a lot of hands-on help from our backstage team to decorate (special thanks to Fleur Beeley and Dan Abell, who had great fun raiding the props and wardrobe stores), the evening was a great success.

Guests chose from a fantastic menu provided by Martyn Hyde from Eat Me @ The SJT, choosing either broadbean soup with crackers, salt cod Scotch eggs with red pepper sauce and chorizo, or black pudding fritters with apple chutney to start.

Main courses were chicken ballotine stuffed with spinach and cep sauce, Shetland Pie Co. broch pie, or sautéed ceps and potatoes with garlic, parsley and fried egg, followed by a choice of puddings: plum crumble with real custard, lemon verbena posset with spiced berries and North Yorkshire sugar cakes, or warm triple chocolate brownie with ice cream.

Sounding good? Well, just to say that that specially made table could actually expand to seat a few more guests next year – just talk to Stephanie on [stephanie.dattani@sjt.uk.com](mailto:stephanie.dattani@sjt.uk.com) if you'd like to upgrade your membership.



# Dates for your diary – and why not make a day of it?

More and more people are enjoying our monthly members-only Circle Cafés – so much so that we're having to move to a bigger venue! From June onwards, Circle Cafés will be held in Eat Me Café on our first floor with a new, earlier start time of 10.15am and a prompt finish time of 11am to allow the Eat Me team to reset in time for lunch. As our building doesn't open until 10am, please aim to **arrive between 10am and 10.15am**. These events are free, but **please** do book a ticket at box office as, even with our increased capacity, numbers are limited.

It's a great way to make friends and to get to know your theatre – you'll meet the people who run the SJT and company members from our own productions and from visiting shows. Plus, of course, there's always free tea/coffee and sweet treats.

Earlier this month, Nick Lane – the wonderful brain behind *The Comedy of Errors (more or less)* and our madcap Christmas shows – popped in to chat about his recent adaptation of *Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear* with Blackeyed Theatre. As funny, warm and engaging as ever, he took us from watching wrestling and Sherlock Holmes with his nana in the 70s, to his journey becoming a writer (and getting his first writing gig from a certain John Godber!).

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

**Thursday 8 June:** meet the [Quality Street](#) (Northern Broadsides) company

**Thursday 13 July:** meet [The 39 Steps](#) company

**Thursday 10 August:** meet the [Blonde Bombshells of 1943](#) company

**Thursday 14 September:** meet the [Constant Companions](#) company

**Thursday 26 October** – meet the [These Majestic Creatures](#) company

**Thursday 23 November** – meet Simon Bedwell, the SJT Production Manager

**Thursday 14 December** – meet the [Beauty and the Beast](#) company