

# WHAT'S ON 2025



**SHAKESPEARE  
NORTH  
PLAYHOUSE**

[shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk](http://shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk)

# THE TEMPEST

Fri 3 – Sat 25 October

## THE TEMPEST

Directed by Nel Crouch

**“WE ARE SUCH STUFF  
AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON!”**

On a distant island, a magician lies in wait...

Ousted former Duke Prospero and his daughter Miranda have been exiled to a remote island with only sprites, monsters and books for company.

This is until Prospero conjures up a mystical storm to shipwreck the court of Milan onto the island's shores. The new arrivals quickly learn that nothing is as it seems....

Magic, music, mayhem and mishaps rapidly unfold.

Dive into Shakespeare's timeless tale of intrigue and wonder in the HandleBards signature style of joyfully irreverent and environmentally friendly storytelling.

This production of **The Tempest** is the first collaboration between **Shakespeare North Playhouse** and internationally renowned theatre company, **The HandleBards**.



Fri 21 November – Sat 10 January

## CINDERELLA

Directed by Nicole Behan

This Christmas, experience Cinderella like never before — the magical tale you love filled with laughter, fun, and unexpected surprises...

Meet Mandy, Fairy 23780, fresh from Fairy Godmother school and excited to share her first assignment: helping Cinderella!

Cinderella's world is turned upside down when her mother goes missing and her beloved father remarries the cruel Filania, who brings along her dreadful daughters... But with a wave of Mandy's wand, a pumpkin-turned-carriage, and some enchanted animals, Cinderella's magical adventure begins.

Packed with magic, humour, and a heartwarming message about family, friendship, and self-discovery, Cinderella is the perfect family show for the festive season!

# WHAT'S ON COCKPIT THEATRE

**Thu 5 – Sat 7 June**

## **MACBETH**

**HER Productions, Girl Gang  
Manchester & Unseemly Women**

Something wicked this way comes...  
Blood, destiny, manipulation, power.  
In 2025, Unseemly Women go red  
and bring you the power of Macbeth.



**Tue 10 June**  
**ACT YOUR AGE**

**Imaginarium**

Join Taylor on a time-travelling  
adventure, meeting child-actors from  
history and finding out more about  
when being in a play meant work.



**Tue 17 June**  
**PLAYS FOR  
THE PEOPLE**

Join acclaimed theatre maker Andy  
Smith and award-winning applied arts  
practitioner Lynsey O'Sullivan for a  
day of play, discussion, and action.



**Wed 25 – Sat 28 June**  
**THE HIGHWAYMAN**  
**John Godber Company**

The Highwayman's creed is simple;  
look after number one and to hell with  
the hangman! Visceral and very funny  
- history has never felt so modern...



**Thu 3 July**  
**AN AUDIENCE WITH  
LOUIS EMERICK**

Hailing from Toxteth, Louis Emerick is a  
much-loved British actor, best known  
for his portrayal of Mick Johnson in  
Brookside. Louis will be interviewed  
by Mike Neary.



**Sat 5 July**  
**AN AUDIENCE WITH  
JULIE  
HESMONDHALGH**

Best known for her award-winning  
role as Hayley Cropper in Coronation  
Street, Julie has since worked  
extensively in theatre, TV, film and  
radio. Julie will be interviewed  
by Noreen Kershaw.



**Thu 17 – Sat 19 July**

## **COCK**

**HER Productions**

John is happy in himself, and with his boyfriend, until one day he meets the woman of his dreams. A razor-sharp play about love and identity.



**Fri 25 – Sat 26 July**

## **RAVES R US**

**Naughty Corner Productions**

From the sizzling 70's synthesiser, pumping bangers of the 80's and 90's, euphoric drops of the 00's and beyond in this love letter to the history of rave culture!



**Wed 27 – Sat 30 Aug**

## **ELECTRIC DREAMS**

**A Place For Us**

A Midsummer Night's Dream award winning rock musical, awesome 80s tunes, live band.

Love, mischief, spells... it's a kinda magic! Abridged and suitable for all ages.



**Tue 16 – Wed 17 Sept**

## **AUSTEN'S WOMEN: LADY SUSAN**

**Dyad Productions**

Austen as you've never seen it before! Meet Lady Susan: charming, scheming, and wickedly funny – she's taking on society and making it her own, by manners and manipulation...



**AGE 12+**

**Thu 30 Oct – Sat 1 Nov**

## **EVEN MORE... GHOST STORIES BY CANDLELIGHT**

**HighTide & Pentabus, in  
association with Harlow Playhouse**

This Hallowe'en HighTide and Pentabus present four contemporary spooky stories from award-winning writers. Join us by the candles. Just don't let the light go out.

**Wed 5 – Sat 8 Nov**

## **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HUNT FOR MORIARTY**

**Blackeyed Theatre**

A thrilling world premiere based on the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, combining powerful performances, a haunting soundscape and innovative design for an exhilarating theatrical experience.



# WHAT'S ON MUSIC

Fri 13 Jun

## A CONCORD OF SWEET SOUNDS

Atticus Arts

An evening of magnificent music inspired by the words of Shakespeare, including renowned composers Bach, Dring, Gounod, Purcell and Quilter.



Sat 14 June

## SIMPLY DYLAN

No ordinary interpretation, this remarkable and exceptional project promises to delight Bob Dylan fans young and old!



Sun 15 June

## BUTLER, BLAKE & GRANT

Three of the most revered songwriters of our time—Bernard Butler, Norman Blake, and James Grant— bring their soul-stirring songs to life in an intimate and electrifying performance.



Thu 19 June

## DREAMS: A CELEBRATION OF THE FLEETWOOD MAC STORY

Sound and Motion Studios

DREAMS celebrates the music through the experiences of modern day musicians who cite the important influences of the original band in the 50th anniversary of the 1975 White Album. Live Music and Spoken Word.



Fri 20 June

## DOWN IN LAUREL CANYON

Down In Laurel Canyon is a 7-piece band reimagining iconic 60s-70s California hits, bringing the timeless music of Neil Young, Carole King, Fleetwood Mac, and more to life.

## THE CLASSIC DOUBLE BAND PRESENTS...

**Sat 21 June**  
**PINK FLOYD & RADIOHEAD**

**Thu 11 Sept**  
**LENNON & MCCARTNEY**

The Classic Double is a group of highly skilled musicians with one aim: to play the best music ever created in the most faithful way they can...

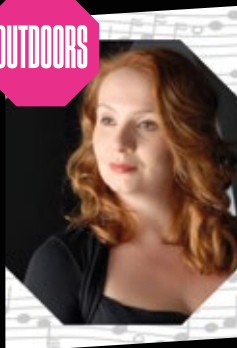


**Wed 25 June**  
**AFTERNOON OPERA:  
SOLOS & SOLILOQUIES**

**Prescot Festival of Music and Arts**

This spellbinding recital will feature some of the Bard's most beloved scenes, reimagined through the power of operatic voice and poetic performance.

OUTDOORS



**Fri 4 July**  
**THE KATE BUSH  
SONGBOOK**

Featuring stunning arrangements of some lesser-known tracks as well as many of the hits – including Wuthering Heights, Babooshka, Hounds of Love and Cloudbusting!



**Sun 6 July**  
**Q&A-SIDES WITH  
STUART MURDOCH  
(BELLE & SEBASTIAN)**

**F-10 Artistes**

Join Stuart Murdoch, frontman of one of Scotland's most iconic bands, Belle and Sebastian in conversation with Chris Hawkins (BBC Radio 6 Music).



**Sat 12 July**  
**LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND:  
THE MUSIC OF  
VICTORIA WOOD**

**The Cabaret Geek**

A whistle-stop tour of some of Victoria Wood's best-loved songs! Star of BBC1's All Together Now, Paulus The Cabaret Geek, is joined by Michael Roulston of Fascinating Aida on piano.



**Wed 9 July**  
**VOICES & LYRICS:  
CELEBRATING THE  
MUSICALS**

**G&J Productions Ltd**

Voices & Lyrics presents a vibrant celebration of musicals, past and present, starring exceptional vocalists from the West End and beyond.





# WHAT'S ON FAMILY

Fri 27 – Sat 28 June

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Oddsocks

**Suitable for Ages 7+**

Lovers on first dates, kitchen staff with a mission, and feuding fairies combine to create hilarious havoc for all the family.



OUTDOORS

Tues 15 July

## WONDER GIG

Filskit Theatre

**Suitable for Ages 0-4 years**

Wonder Gigs offers family-friendly live music for ages 0-4, featuring acoustic covers, play props, puppets, bubbles, and relaxed fun.



OUTDOORS

OUTDOORS



Sat 19 July & Wed 6 Aug

## ALEENA'S GARDEN

Colour The Clouds

**Suitable for Ages 10 & under**

The perfect first theatre experience for little ones. Aleena tends to her garden from the first days of spring through to snowy winter, with the help of some special friends!

OUTDOORS



Wed 30 July

## TREASURE ISLAND

Off The Ground Theatre

**Suitable for Ages 7+**

Argh maties! OTG Theatre are bringing the classic swashbuckling pirate tale to SN this summer! Come sail the seas with us!

Tue 12 – Wed 13 Aug

## SAVING SHAKESPEARE

A Place For Us

**Suitable for All Ages**

A great introduction to Shakespeare for young people! Shakespeare arrives at Queen Elizabeth's court to put on his latest play, only to realise that nothing has gone to plan...

OUTDOORS



**Fri 15 – Sat 16 Aug**  
**BREADCRUMBS**

**Wrongsemble**

**Suitable for Ages 3+**

Brand-new family show packed full of music, magic and puppetry celebrates how even the simplest story can become the wildest fairytale in the hands of the right storyteller!

**OUTDOORS**



**OUTDOORS**



**Sat 30 August**  
**ROBIN HOOD**

**Folks Theatre**

**Suitable for Ages 3-12**

A brand-new musical adaptation of this classic tale! Will Robin and his band escape the Sheriff's clutches? And whose side is Maid Marian truly on?!

**Wed 20 Aug**  
**PIRATE PRINCESS**

**Gemma Bond**

**Suitable for Ages 5+**

For fans of circus, princesses, puppets, laughing, pirates and adventure! Poor shipwrecked Princess Poppy finds herself lost at sea - expect wayward crabs, slippery fish, and coconut telephones...

**OUTDOORS**



**CHRISTMAS**



**Tue 10 – Sat 13 Dec**  
**WHERE DO THE NOSES GROW**

**Goofus Theatre**

**Suitable for Ages 7 & under**

Lucy can't sleep. A strange sound leads her to discover a strange crumbled bit of brown paper, paper that seems to be alive... sparking a fantastical journey filled with play and wonder.

**Tue 26 – Wed 27 Aug**  
**THE STORY FORGE:  
 MAKE YOUR OWN MYTH**

**Rubbish Shakespeare Company  
 & Silly History Boys**

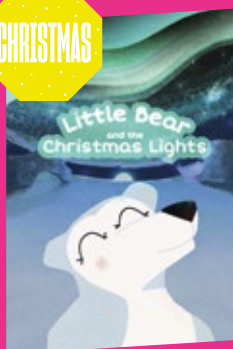
**Suitable for Ages 6+**

Mayhem, mirth, myths! Two loopy professors, armed with cardboard, unleash your inner hero! Don't dare myth this hilarious choose-your-own-adventure show!

**OUTDOORS**



**CHRISTMAS**



**Thu 18 - Wed 24 Dec**  
**LITTLE BEAR AND THE  
 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**Colour the Clouds**

**Suitable for Ages 3 & under**

Join Little Bear on a magical festive adventure to find perfect Christmas lights in this interactive, musical, sensory theatre show!



# REGULAR EVENTS

## THEATRE EXPLORERS

Sunny Theatre Explorers  
Spooky Theatre Explorers  
Festive Theatre Explorers

August 2025  
October 2025  
December 2025

perfect for  
**AGES 4+**  
with parents

## RAISE YOUR VOICE

Tuesdays 4pm – 6pm

Weekly session for young people (11-16 years) who are passionate about using creativity to make a real difference.

## BABY BARDS

Tuesdays 11:15am – 12pm

Early years story sessions.

## HOME EDUCATION

Bi-Weekly (alternating)

Junior Sessions, Thursday  
10am-12pm | Senior  
Sessions, Thursdays 2 – 4pm

## CHATTY CAFE

Wednesdays & Saturdays  
11am – 1pm.

## DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday,  
6 – 8.30pm

## ITCH

Monthly

2nd Tuesday, 7 – 9.30pm

Spoken word night.

## SCRATCH

Quarterly

Tue 24 June – Tue 16 Dec

Our platform for creatives to share, experiment, and connect.

## SHARED READING

Thursdays, 11:15am –  
12:30pm & Fridays,  
3:30pm – 4:45pm

## LIFE DRAWING

Monthly, Last Saturday,  
11am – 1pm

## DRAWING COURSE

Tuesdays in June 6pm – 8pm,  
Resuming in September

## GUIDED TOURS

Various dates, times & topics.

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO FIND OUT MORE:



CALL TO BOOK: 0151 433 7156

# GET INVOLVED

## WORKSHOPS

### FIND YOUR FUNNY

Thu 7 Aug: Senior Age 12-16

Fri 8 Aug: Junior Age 6-11

Improvisation and Comedy.

### ONCE UPON A BRICK - LEGO TALES

Thu 28 & Fri 29 August

Become a master LEGO builder.

Perfect for 6 – 12 year-olds.

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FAMILY WORKSHOPS:

Christmas Holidays

Jewellery Making  
with Katie Callaghan  
Cinderella: The story  
unwrapped

## FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

At Shakespeare North we'll  
always have free activities  
for you and your family.

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS:

Storytime sessions, Bike  
drop-in, Build your own  
Bird Feeder, Dj-ing  
sessions, Football skills,  
Graffiti Art, Dungeons and  
Dragons (Young People 11-16  
years).

### OCTOBER HALF TERM:

Creepy Crafts.

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

Fairytale inspired craft  
sessions and storytelling  
sessions.

HAF & SNAP  
provider

SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR MORE DETAILS:



BOOK ONLINE: SHAKESPEARENORTHPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK

# WHAT'S ON OUTDOOR THEATRE

## Thu 29 – Sat 31 May A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

**Cartwright Drama Studio**

Clodhoppers meet fairies in Nick Bagnall's raucous Shakespeare rework—where chaos reigns as two worlds collide in a wild, witty twist.



## Wed 11 – Thu 12 June MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

**Boaty Theatre Company**

Set in Thatcher's turbulent Britain, this Shakespeare reimagining blends verse with post-punk grit, spotlighting LGBTQ+ voices resisting oppression and prejudice.



## Tue 17 June SHAKEITUP: THE IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE SHOW

**ShakeItUp Theatre**

Shakespeare hasn't written anything new for an age, so we thought we'd lend a hand... Using his language, audience suggestions, live music and plenty of laughs – we make something brand new!



## 9 – 10 July BICYCLE FACE

**Violet Arts**

A riotous comedy about women, wheels, and rage. From Victorian slurs to road rebellion — watch out, *Bicycle Face* is coming!



**Wed 16 July**

## **AS YOU LIKE IT**

**Festival Players International**

Join us in the magical world of the forest, inhabited with a colourful array of folk. A delightful tale, packed with music and comedy!



**Thu 24 – Sat 26 July**

## **ROMEO & JULIET**

**A Place For Us**

Passion, violence and urgency explode in a bold high-energy production, capturing the intensity of youthful passion and the devastating consequences of division...



**Fri 1 – Sat 2 Aug**

## **HAMLET**

**The Pantaloons**

Join the critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company as they put on a frantic disposition to tackle Shakespeare's greatest tragedy in their own anarchic style.



**Thu 7 – Sat 9 Aug**

## **MEASURE FOR MEASURE**

**Shake-Scene Shakespeare**

Dirty Politics, bad behaviour, secrets, hypocrisy and scandals - and all from cues only with no group rehearsal!



**Fri 8 – Sat 9 Aug**

## **JULIUS CAESAR**

**Shake-Scene Shakespeare**

Dirty Politics, deception, treachery and plotting - who can you really trust? - and all from cues only with no group rehearsal...!



**Fri 29 Aug**

## **TWELFTH NIGHT**

**Folksy Theatre**

Shipwrecked and separated from her twin brother, Viola disguises herself as a man and becomes entwined in a hilarious love triangle... Cue a whirlwind of mistaken identities and joyful endings!





# WHAT'S ON STUDIO

## Fri 13 June QUENTIN CRISP: NAKED HOPE

Mark Farrelly

A truly memorable figure, Quentin Crisp continues to inspire. Naked Hope is a glorious, uplifting celebration of the urgent necessity to be your true self.



## Sat 14 June RUM

Max Emmerson Productions

RUM is the award winning play that wrestles masculinity, mental health and addiction in the trades.



## Wed 18 June SHELLSHOCKED

Richard Jordan Productions, King Brilliant Theatre, 412, Lawrence Batley Theatre and Harrogate Theatre

The horrors of WW11 have broken young Wesley, but could the madness he encounters beyond it save or destroy a soldier's shellshocked mind?



## Wed 25 June TWO STEPS BACK

Em Parr Projects

She was not of an ice-breaking, team-playing, shot-drinking disposition. Hiding in her room eating dry bran flakes, she now begins to wonder... Why has she moved away to university?!

## Thu 3 July WOMEN AREN'T FUNNY

Get ready for a glorious night of standup comedy in our studio that's here to prove one undeniable truth: women are in fact hilarious. Featuring a stellar lineup of the funniest female and non-binary comedians from across the North West and beyond.



## Thu 24- Fri 25 July OUT THE WOODWORK

Gingerlee Does It

A £30 million lottery win turns one quiet Huyton night into chaos, betrayal, and mayhem in this dark Scouse comedy.



## Fri 10 & Sat 11 Oct **BALLYDANCEHALL**

**Cult Collective**

A one-act comedy about not getting to choose your family, growing up in rural Ireland, the cultural divide between north and south, and finding solace in art.

## Sat 29 Nov **BLACK LIVER'S GAME SHOW SHOW**

The musical game show about Liverpool. A night of trivia and parody as two local teams battle it out.

## Wed 3 – Thu 4 Dec **GHOST STORIES AT CHRISTMAS**

**ArtsGroupie**

Join us for classic ghost stories by candlelight, reviving festive frights with eerie tales from local writers. Dare attend?



## Sat 6 Dec **DECK THE HALLS WITH DOLLY**

**Dani Graham Entertainments**

A Dolly Parton tribute show with live music, festive cheer, classic hits, and unforgettable holiday sparkle! One night only!



## Sat 13 Dec **CILLA'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER**

**Victoria Jones**

Join us for a night of laughter, love, and the unforgettable magic of Cilla and her sensational 60s sisters. Book now — it's a cracker.



# HEADING NORTH FRINGE FESTIVAL

Catch exclusive previews of incredible works from ground-breaking artists and companies before they make the journey to Edinburgh later this season.

**Fri 20 – Sat 21 June**

## **SHAUN GUFF: ENUFF IS ENUFF**

**Get Giddier**

Shaun Guff's life hit rock bottom so yours doesn't have to. Come learn from the worst to be your best.

**Fri 27 – Sat 28 June**

## **SAME**

**Francesca Di Cesare**

Same explores male friendship, hidden pain, and mental health, revealing how unspoken struggles can unite or divide us all.

**Tue 1 - Wed 2 July**

## **ONE MAN POE: THE TELL-TALE HEART & THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM**

**Threedumb Theatre**

Two macabre classics from the "Godfather of Gothic Horror" Edgar Allan Poe, performed live by one actor.

**Fri 4 - Sat 5 July**

## **THE GREEN KNIGHT (BUT IT'S GAY)**

**Niall Moorjani X**

**Some Kind of Theatre**

A fantastically funny reimagining of Arthurian legend The Green Knight with the subtext made text! Spoiler alert: it's gay.

**Tue 15 – Wed 16 July**

## **SOME MASTERCHEF SH\*T**

**G&J Productions Ltd**

A darkly funny queer tale of connection, taboo, and identity, where two men meet, and nothing goes as expected.

**Thu 17 – Fri 18 July**

## **A COVERT AFFAIR**

**Belvedere Productions**

During the Cold War, two spies on a deceptive mission blur lines between duty and desire, risking everything for love.

**Tue 22 – Wed 23 July**

## **THE HAMMER & HELENA**

**ArtsGroupie**

The Hammer and Helena is the true story of the most evil book ever written and its horrifying legacy.

# SHAKESPEARE NORTH BAR & KITCHEN

From tasty bakes to crafted beers we keep it local, fresh and inviting; you're always welcome at our table.

From daytime meets or post show debates we keep the coffee and conversations flowing. A gathering of new and old friends, sharing dishes, stories or who pays the bill.

A space for all, with food for thought.

## OPENING HOURS

11am - late Tuesday-Saturday

Lunch 12-4pm

Pre-theatre dining 4-7pm\*

\* Last orders will be taken 30 mins before performance.

**VIEW OUR MENUS  
& BOOK A TABLE:**



## SPOTLIGHT: ROLAND WILLIAMS, HEAD CHEF

Roland heads up our catering offer, including the Bar & Kitchen and Event Catering. He brings a wealth of experience having previously worked at places like Queen's Bistro, The Pen Factory and Oktapus.

*"My food is simple, no frills, and purely focused on flavour. I want people to enjoy pre-theatre dining in a relaxed, no-stress atmosphere - sharing plates, trying a bit of everything, and just having a good time."*



## Coming up SHAKESPEARE'S SUPPER CLUBS:

*Fri 26 Sept (40 places available)*

### FROM FIELD TO FORK **£40**

A tasting menu rooted in sustainability and locality.

*Thu 20 Nov (40 places available)*

### THE MIDWINTER FEAST **£40**

A thoughtfully curated tasting menu that celebrates the depth and elegance of winter's finest ingredients.

*Sat 2 Aug (12 places available)*

### DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT ON THE COCKPIT STAGE **£80PP INCLUDES 1/2 BOTTLE WINE**

An intimate dining experience featuring a carefully curated tasting menu served by candlelight on the stage of our Cockpit Theatre.

*A unique opportunity to savour seasonal dishes in an exclusive setting!*

## EVENTS & VENUE HIRE CELEBRATIONS • WEDDINGS • FILM/VIDEO • LOCATIONS • CORPORATE

*Set the stage for stunning events;  
where every space inspires*

We've got:

- Flexible spaces available
- Food and drinks packages
- Space for live entertainment, bands and DJs
- Bars on two floors, mobile bar carts and a late license
- Skilled in-house teams to ensure your lighting and sound is spot on

Contact Fiona on  
[events@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:events@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk)





**SCAN THE QR  
TO SUPPORT US**

## YOUR SUPPORT

Every spotlight, every shared gasp of an audience, every first-time encounter with Shakespeare or the theatre in general begins with generosity. As a charitable organisation, we rely on the kindness of individuals who believe in the transformative power of creativity.

### **Your support is more than a donation: It's a catalyst.**

Your gifts help us offer free and low-cost tickets, deliver creative workshops to young people, support emerging artists, and ensure our work remains open and accessible to all.

For those who want to go one step further, The Cockpit Circle is our community of regular supporters. Through monthly or annual contributions, they provide a steady foundation for our work, creating long-term impact both onstage and off. In return, you'll enjoy behind-the-scenes updates, early booking, and unique opportunities to connect more deeply with the theatre you love.

Whether you give once or choose to journey with us regularly: your support helps us make theatre that matters and belongs to everyone.

## HEAR ABOUT IT FIRST

Sign up to our newsletter and hear it from us first. Some events fly out the door, make sure you're not left disappointed.

**SIGN UP TO OUR  
MAILING LIST**



**CALL US: 0151 433 7156**

**EMAIL US: HELLO@SHAKESPEARENORTHPLAYHOUSE.CO.UK**

**SHAKESPEARE  
NORTH  
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