

WHAT'S ON

WINTER/SPRING
2025/6



SHAKESPEARE
NORTH
PLAYHOUSE

shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk



Fri 21 Nov – Sat 10 Jan

CINDERELLA

Directed by Nicole Behan

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse

This Christmas, Shakespeare North Playhouse brings you a spellbinding new production of *Cinderella*, by **Nick Lane**.

In the Kingdom of Prescotisia lives Cinderella, a young woman whose world is turned upside down when her mother disappears, and her father marries the dreadful Filania.

When Prince Flarf of Crosbinia decides to throw a party, Filania and her two daughters force Cinderella to stay home. But all is not lost with the arrival of Fairy 23780, known as Mandy, who decides to help Cinderella to find her mum and win the heart of the handsome prince. But can he find the owner of the glass slipper?

Packed with magical moments, your favourite tunes and lots of laughter, *Cinderella* is the perfect family show for the festive season.

IN OUR GALLERY

Join us this winter as our exhibition gallery is transformed into **The Fairy Training Academy**.

Step into the magical world of fairies and begin your journey to becoming a Fully Qualified Fairy. Choose your Fairy Look in our dress-up area, explore enchanting fairy tales in the Library, follow the Fairy Trail to complete your activity guide. You might even learn some fairy dances from *Cinderella* cast members along the way!

Open on show days from 10am – 5pm, **The Fairy Training Academy** is free to attend and suitable for all ages.



CINDERELLA WORKSHOPS

Check website for details

Join us for a magical, family-friendly workshop where dreams come true! Create your very own sparkling crowns and enchanted fairy wands, perfect to wear during our show. There's even the chance to meet Cinderella for a royal chat. Don't miss your chance to step into Cinderella's world and make your own bit of magic!

Child plus a FREE Adult costs £8.

COMING NEXT YEAR

Fri 20 Nov 2026 – Sat 2 Jan 2027

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse and Three Pin Productions

Inside 'The Counting House' pub Manager Bob Cratchit is struggling to keep the spirit of Christmas alive as Landlord Scrooge does all he can to squash it. But when the clock strikes midnight and Scrooge is confronted with spirits from his past, present and future, can Scrooge change his ways before it's too late?



Fri 6 – Sat 28 Mar

TWO BY JIM CARTWRIGHT

Directed by Lisa Allen

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse

Behind the bar of their pub, the Landlord and Landlady lend an ear for stories of celebration, love and loss, keeping the locals in high spirits with drinks and laughter.

But what is their story? As a lost boy turns up on their doorstep, the couple must confront their own demons and for the first time in years, talk to each other...

Performed by two actors, Jim Cartwright's poignant play transports audiences to a Northern pub over the course of one night. Weaving together a vignette of working-class life, this dark comedy will make you laugh and cry, in equal measure.



Fri 12 Jun – Sat 4 Jul

NELL GWYNN

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse,
Theatre by the Lake and Storyhouse

London, 1660. The theatres are alive, the monarchy's restored, and women are finally allowed on stage. One woman is about to take it by storm.

Orange-seller, wit, trailblazer, **Nell Gwynn** is a woman who knows what she wants and isn't afraid to go after it. From the chaotic pit of Drury Lane to the polished halls of Charles II's court, Nell's rise to fame as one of Britain's first actresses is unmissable.

Join us for a night of song, satire, and stage-crashing brilliance in this gloriously funny, feminist comedy that asks: why play by the rules when you can write your own?

WHAT'S ON COCKPIT THEATRE

Wed 4 – Sat 7 Feb

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

**Shakespeare's Globe and
Headlong, with Bristol Old Vic
and Leeds Playhouse.**

Escaping a tyrannical society, four lovers flee to the forest. But the world of the woods is no safer, as a fierce battle rages between the Fairy King and Queen, Oberon and Titania.



Sun 1 Feb

AN AUDIENCE WITH SUE DEVANEY

Join us for a special afternoon as actress Sue Devaney (Coronation Street, Dinnerladies, Shameless) graces the Cockpit stage to discuss her varied career from television to theatre and beyond!



Fri 20 – Sat 21 Feb

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA

1623 Theatre company

Welcome to Egypt, night club and community hub, run by local legend Cleopatra. When the ruthless Rome corporation starts to seize Egypt, one of Rome's leaders - maverick Antony - falls in love with Cleopatra. What does this mean for the future of Rome and Egypt?



Sun 29 Mar

AN AUDIENCE WITH SUE JOHNSTON & JOHN McARDLE

Join us for a special evening as Sue Johnston (*The Royle Family*, *Brookside*) and John McArdle (*Brookside*, *Emmerdale*), the original stars of Jim Cartwright's *Two*, reunite on the set of Shakespeare North Playhouse's *Two* to reflect on their celebrated careers.



Thu 14 May

THE CITY OF CURSES - A MURDER MYSTERY BY TRIAL

DBY Interactive

During the civil war, hunger and sickness prevail. Desperation conjures paranoia amongst locals taking matters into their own hands. Join the secret trial where a Witch accused of murder must prove her innocence. But what is the truth?



Tue 26 – Sat 30 May

OUR PUBLIC HOUSE

**Dash Arts in association with
Leeds Playhouse presents**

In a town like yours, a community spoiled their ballots and cast no vote. Now, landlady Sanjana, Scott the guitarist and some unexpected guests are stuck in their local. Tensions rise, love sparks, and secrets unravel in this humorous play about change.



WHAT'S ON **MUSIC**

Thu 29 Jan **AN EVENING WITH THE MAYORS** **- STEVE ROTHERAM AND ANDY BURNHAM**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of live music and conversation.



THE CLASSIC DOUBLE BAND PRESENTS:

Sat 14 Feb **FLEETWOOD MAC**

Fri 22 May **BLONDIE, TELEVISION & TALKING HEADS**

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...



Fri 17 Apr **AMBER SINGS ELLA**

Enjoy a passionate tribute to the timeless legacy of Ella Fitzgerald. Showcasing some of the finest talent from Liverpool's vibrant jazz scene, this performance offers an evocative journey through Ella's illustrious career.



Sat 18 Apr **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.



WHAT'S ON **COMEDY**

Thu 27 Nov & 12 Feb (Studio) **Sat 25 Apr (Cockpit)** **WOMEN AREN'T FUNNY**

Join us for a night of standup that proves women are hilarious. Featuring a lineup of the funniest female/non-binary comedians from the North West and beyond, hosted by Kay Nicholson.



Tue 14 & Wed 15 Apr **JAMES ACASTER**

Little Wander in association with PBJ Management present

A brand new show, full of everything you love about James Acaster and more!



Fri 1 & Sat 2 May **JUSTIN MOORHOUSE:** **THE GREATEST PERFORMANCE OF MY LIFE**

After a successful and extensively extended tour of his 2022 show, Justin is back with a brand new one. Get ready for an unforgettable experience with "The Greatest Performance of My Life".



Fri 10 & Sat 11 Jul **RICKY TOMLINSON -** **RETIREMENT MY AR*SE TOUR** **Who Dares Grins**

From his time in the building trade to becoming a TV legend & a freeman of Liverpool, Ricky Tomlinson tells all to writer of successful theatre show Irish Annies, Asa Murphy.



WHAT'S ON STUDIO

Thu 12 Mar
CENSUS

Malandra Jacks

Malandra Jacks invite you into a world of spellbinding projection, real voices and unapologetic heart. *Census* is part theatre, part time capsule: a celebration of communities rarely seen on stage.



Wed 25 - Thu 26 Mar
MY MIX(ED UP) TAPE

Payne Productions

Dragged home to a Valleys wedding and running from a life she can't face - Phoebe Phillips is forced to reckon with her identity in this riotous tale, powered by live beats and brutal honesty.



Fri 27 - Sat 28 Mar
RISE UP PROGRAMME
SHARING

Paperwork Theatre

Join Paperwork Theatre, as an ensemble of Northern women take centre stage. *RISE UP* offers an inclusive space for women to explore theatre-making, develop new skills, and share their stories with the world.



Fri 24 Apr
THE SILENCE OF SNOW: THE LIFE OF PATRICK HAMILTON

Mark Farrelly Presents

A captivating, acclaimed solo show exploring one of the great writers of the inter-war years, who created classics like *Rope*, *Gaslight* and *Hangover Square* whilst battling inner demons.



Fri 1 - Sat 2 May
THEY WERE ALL SOME MOTHERS' SONS

Mike Howl Productions

Based upon the memories of German prisoners of war, Rolf Rheinlander and Eric Kirste, who were held at Huyton camp in 1945, this heartwarming story explores how they were befriended by locals, ultimately choosing to live in Liverpool after the war.

WHAT'S ON CINEMA

Get ready for big-screen adventures at Shakespeare North Playhouse! Curated by Imagine Futures CiC, this brand-new film season brings together family favourites, powerful dramas, inspiring documentaries, and cult classics.



I'M STILL HERE - Fri 28 Nov

Wee Film Club: SAVAGES - Sat 29 Nov

Wee Film Club: THE SNOWMAN - Sat 6 Dec

Wee Film Club: THE LEGEND OF OCHI - Sat 27 Dec

THE END - Mon 29 Dec

THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND - Fri 30 Jan

Wee Film Club: THE KID - Sat 31 Jan

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN - Fri 20 Feb

WHAT'S ON FAMILY

Wed 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.

STUDIO



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!

STUDIO



Fri 20 Feb

THE LOST PROPERTY LIBRARY

Wrongsemble

Suitable for Ages 3+

Welcome to the Lost Property Library - a place where lost stories, memories, and objects come to be archived and kept safe. Discover trunks and suitcases brimming with exciting tales and adventures to discover.

FREE SHOW



Wed 18 Feb
TIDY TROLLS

Ilaria The Storyteller

Suitable for Ages 3+

Adventure awaits as Albert the monkey, Brian the chicken and Rita the mouse prepare for The Tidy Trolls to visit in this entertaining show about friendship and keeping your bedroom tidy.

FREE SHOW



Sat 21 March

PUCK: A FAIRY'S TALE

Sleeping Giant Theatre

Suitable for Ages 7+

Join Puck, Shakespeare's most mischievous fairy, on a magical, comedic, heartfelt ride through his origin story! Learn more about Puck, the war between his parents and all there is to know about a magic flower.

STUDIO



Tue 31 March

WREN'S WORLD

Colour The Clouds

Suitable for Ages 7+

Wren and her sister Robin experience the world differently; Robin understands it, Wren finds it loud and confusing. To make sense of it, she creates a magical world of adventure. But can the sisters use their differences to help each other?

STUDIO



Sat 11 April
RAPUNZEL

Wrongsemble

Suitable for Ages 3+

Rapunzel, trapped in a tower by a wicked witch, must seize her destiny and plan her own escape in Bethan Woollvin's bold, funny and twisted fairytale - bursting with music, magic, and madcap schemes.

STUDIO



GET INVOLVED

HOME EDUCATION - £11

Bi-Weekly (alternating), Junior Sessions, Thursdays 10am – 12pm, Senior Sessions, Thursdays 2 – 4pm

Rooted in creative practice, Home Education invites young people to explore language, storytelling, and performance in bold, hands-on ways.

Whether it's stepping into a character's shoes or crafting their own narratives, students develop key skills through play, collaboration, and discovery.



BABY BARDS - £6

Tuesdays 11:15am – 12pm

Join our Learning & Engagement Team every Tuesday for a Baby Bards early years story and language session for pre-school children aged 18 months to four years old.

Introducing story, letters and phonics through readings and fun activities, your little ones will be Bards in no time. Each child attending should be accompanied by an adult.

Child plus a FREE Adult costs £6. Any additional children or adults will need their own ticket.



LIFE DRAWING - £12.50

Sat 29 Nov, Sat 31 Jan, Sat 28 Feb & Sat 28 Mar, 11am

Join us for monthly life drawing sessions, suitable for all levels of experience. Materials and support will be provided for those who need it, but you can bring your own sketchbooks and dry materials to the sessions.



WREATH MAKING - £55

Thu 27, 7pm & Fri 28 Nov, 1:30pm

Guided by an expert florist, handcraft a festive wreath using greenery, natural textures, and decorative accents. Whatever your experience, this workshop is the perfect way to relax, enjoy mulled wine and nibbles, and create a bespoke wreath. All materials are provided.



ITCH - PAY WHAT YOU DECIDE

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 7 – 9:30pm

Itch is our monthly spoken word night, an inclusive community space for performers and audiences. Whether you're new to performing, a seasoned performer, or returning to the mic, everyone is welcome here at Itch.



CHATTY CAFÉ - FREE

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 11am – 1pm

Chatty Café is a free weekly meet-up at Shakespeare North – a space for people to talk, whether for five minutes over a brew, or an hour of good conversation. We'll see you there!

SHARED READING - FREE

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

Join our discussion group and explore extracts from stories, plays and poetry. Shared Reading is for everyone, so grab a brew, come for a chat and hear brilliant texts read out aloud – no pressure to read!

Sessions are free, but places are limited so booking is recommended.



SCRATCH - PAY WHAT YOU DECIDE

Quarterly

Scratch is the quarterly platform for creatives to share, experiment, and connect.

Audiences can look forward to bold new work from ambitious creatives across music, poetry, performance, and storytelling.



ACE SURGERIES - FREE

Artist Development

Are you a creative practitioner, freelancer, or artist in Knowsley looking to take the next steps in your work?

Arts Council England Advice Surgeries are one-to-one advice sessions (20 minutes each). Available on a first come, first served basis.



GUIDED TOURS



Discover the magic behind the curtain with our carefully curated guided tours.

Each experience lasts just over an hour and offers exclusive insight into the inner workings of the theatre, from its unique architecture to what it takes to bring a production to life.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a theatre lover looking to deepen your understanding, our tours are the perfect way to enrich your visit. Ideal before or after a performance, they offer a fascinating glimpse into the craft, history, and creativity at the heart of Shakespeare North Playhouse.

Shakespeare North Playhouse: A Guided Tour
Tuesday to Saturday throughout the year,
advance booking advised.

Specialised Tours covering a range of specific interests including **Back-of-House** and **Witchcraft** are scheduled throughout the year. **More info on the website.**

SHAKESPEARE NORTH BAR & KITCHEN

RELAX, EAT, DRINK AND ENJOY!

Our Bar & Kitchen is the ideal spot to meet up before a show, unwind afterwards, or simply sit back and relax with great food and good company.

We're proud to keep things local, fresh and full of flavour; from homemade bakes and hearty dishes to locally brewed beers and proper coffee.

Whether you're catching up with friends or chatting about the show after the curtain falls, it's a space where everyone's welcome.

Share a plate, a story, or a laugh. A space for all, with food for thought.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday

11am - 5pm.

Open late on show dates.

Lunch 12-4pm

Pre-theatre dining 4-7pm*

* Last orders will be taken
30 mins before performance.

Coming up

Thu 11 Dec & Fri 27 Feb

MAMA SOOD'S SUPPER CLUB **£30**

Following sell-out success earlier this year, Mama Sood's Supper Club returns to Shakespeare North Playhouse. Expect bold Indian flavours, homemade chutneys, and an atmosphere rooted in connection and storytelling.

Thu 2 Apr

SPRING SUPPER CLUB **£35**

Celebrate the season of new beginnings with an intimate evening of fresh flavours and good company. Inspired by the brightness of the season - think vibrant produce, fragrant herbs, and dishes that bring a touch of sunshine to the table.

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



VENUE HIRE

MEETINGS | EVENTS | CELEBRATIONS

Looking for the perfect place to host your next event? Whether it's a business conference, awards night, team away day, workshop, or a family celebration - our spaces are made to impress.

We're right at the heart of the region, perfectly placed for networking, entertaining clients, and marking life's big moments.

Let's make it happen together. Chat with our friendly events team about your ideas or book a walk-around to see what's possible. We'll help you find the best space and setup to bring your plans to life. Our spaces and food and drinks packages can all be tailored to meet your needs

We offer:

- Flexible spaces available for exclusive hire; linked, divided or configured your way.
- Delicious event catering.
- Corporate away day packages.
- Great 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.

Scan the QR to enquire or email events@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk



WEDDINGS

Put your love story centre stage.

MAKE YOUR WEDDING OR CELEBRATION TRULY UNFORGETTABLE.

Whether you're planning a grand celebration or a cosy, intimate gathering, we'll help you craft a day that reflects your personal style.

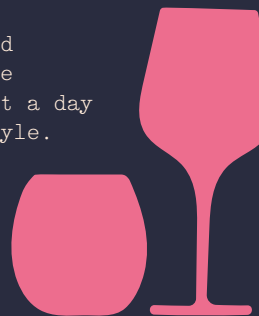
Say your vows on stage in our stunning oak-framed theatre, then dine, dance and celebrate with your guests through our beautiful spaces.

We'll work with you to find the perfect setting for your guest list and vision. From bespoke menus created by our head chef in collaboration with you to personalised drinks packages, we'll tailor every detail to make your day shine.

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

We're now taking bookings for weddings and celebrations up to the end of 2027.

Scan the QR to enquire or email weddings@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk



BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Every spotlight, every shared laugh and gasp, every first-time encounter with theatre or Shakespeare begins with generosity.

As a charitable organisation, we rely on the kindness of people who believe in the power of creativity to change lives.

Our theatre is built around our communities, right here in Knowsley and across the Liverpool City Region. We bring people together to enjoy well-loved classics, discover bold new work, and take part in community projects and learning programmes that make culture accessible to everyone.

YOUR SUPPORT UPLIFTS THE COMMUNITY

Bright futures are the focus of our giving this season. Your gift:

- Delivers creative workshops for children and young people.
- Supports safe spaces for all ages.
- Offers free and low-cost tickets to make theatre open to all.

Double your impact! From 2nd–9th December, help us raise £6k to support children and young people.



Take the next step – join the Cockpit Circle and become part of our community of supporters.

From just £50 a year (less than a takeaway a month or a weekly coffee-to-go), your support helps us:

- Nurture local talent and future stars.
- Preserve our heritage.
- Create theatre that inspires and connects.

As a thank you, you'll enjoy behind-the-scenes updates, early booking, and exclusive opportunities to get closer to the theatre you love.

Step into your role: your regular or one-off support helps us create theatre that matters, belongs to everyone, and benefits our communities.

JOIN US TODAY AND HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS SHINING BRIGHT.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT US:





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

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