

WHAT'S ON

SUMMER
/AUTUMN
2026



SHAKESPEARE
NORTH
PLAYHOUSE

shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk



Fri 12 Jun – Sat 4 Jul

NELL GWYNN

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse,
Theatre by the Lake and Storyhouse
Directed by Bryony Shanahan
Written by Jessica Swale

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?



Tue 21 – Fri 24 Jul

TWELFTH NIGHT

Produced by Pantaloons Theatre Company

Get in a fight. Cross-dress. Throw on some yellow stockings. Love can make you do the funniest things...! The critically acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company present their own brand of Shakespearean mayhem.

Separated at sea, twins Viola and Sebastian wash up on the island of Illyria, both fearing the other lost forever. Plied pranksters, puritanical pillocks and perhaps even true love await them as they forge their own paths through this new world of fools, jewels, duels and dual identities.

Family-friendly fun with live music and audience participation!

FAMILY



Fri 11 Sep – Sat 3 Oct

MACBETH

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse
Directed by Ben Crystal

WHAT WOULD YOU DESTROY TO GET WHAT YOU WANT?

A dagger. A crown. The original text.

One musician. Ten storytellers.
Fifty candles. Ninety breathless minutes.

Step into the shadows. Let the scorpions in
your mind strike. Watch a world turn inside-out
beneath a tyrant's rule.

Ben Crystal returns to Shakespeare North
with a fast, spooky, blood-spattered staging of
one of William Shakespeare's most famous works:
The Tragedie of Macbeth — ambition-driven,
greed-flecked, grief-filled, revenge-fuelled,
ghost-haunted... and absolutely cursed.

Something very wicked this way comes.

Fri 20 Nov – Sat 2 Jan

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Produced by Shakespeare North Playhouse
in Association with Three Pin Productions

Festive lights twinkle outside 'The Counting House' pub but inside
Manager Bob Cratchit is struggling to keep the spirit of Christmas
alive as Landlord Scrooge does all he can to squash it - no music,
no laughter and definitely no bar credit.

But at midnight, the piano mysteriously strikes up and spirits of a
different kind rise from the cellar to confront Scrooge with his past,
present and future. Can he change his ways before it's too late?

Step inside and pull up a barstool for this riotous, foot-stomping,
musical retelling of Dickens' classic, packed with heart, humour
and bar...humbug.

CHRISTMAS IN THE STUDIO

Tue 8 – Sat 19 Dec

A VERY MESSY
CHRISTMAS

Colour The Clouds

AGE 0-3

Tue 22 Dec – Sat 2 Jan

TINSEL
Wrongsemble

AGE 4+

WHAT'S ON COCKPIT THEATRE

Fri 10 & Sat 11 Jul
RICKY TOMLINSON

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.



Wed 7 – Sat 10 Oct
**THE PICTURE
OF DORIAN GRAY**

Tilted Wig Productions

This stylish and unsettling new adaptation of the classic novel celebrates Wilde's dazzling wit and dark imagination, plunging audiences into a world where charm is currency and the truth always exacts its price.



Fri 30 Oct
**WHAT WOOD
VICTORIA DO?**

Paulus The Cabaret Geek

How have we survived the past decade without Victoria Wood's wit and wisdom? Paulus is on hand to find answers. What Wood Victoria Do? is a new show that dives into Wood's world. Come for music, mirth and macaroons.



WHAT'S ON FAMILY

Sat 27 Jun
TAKE FLIGHT

Rebel Sparks

Take Flight is a stunning aerial show about a musical mother bird who, as their baby hatches, navigates hunger, sleep and play, whilst supporting her baby to leave the nest and take flight.



AGE 0-2

Wed 22 Jul
REYNARD THE FOX

The Fabularium

Join The Fabularium as they tell the tale of Reynard the Fox, the woodland's most infamous scoundrel who plays one too many tricks and finds himself answering to the King!



OUTDOOR

AGE 4+

Fri 14 – Sat 15 Aug
**THE ALMOST COMPLETE
HISTORY OF BRITAIN**

The Pantaloons

Join the Pantaloons Theatre Company on a breathless race through the centuries in this delightfully inventive show that tells the story of Britain. Featuring live music, audience interaction and wild historical inaccuracy.



OUTDOOR

ALL AGES

OUTDOOR SHAKESPEARE

Join us in the Sir Ken Dodd
Performance Garden

Wed 17 – Thu 18 Jun THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Festival Players

Comedy, chaos, quick changes and confusion. The Festival Players are back bringing farce, fast paced story telling and original music to William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors.



ALL AGES

Fri 26 – Sat 27 Jun ROMEO & JULIET

Oddsocks

Oddsocks return with Romeo & Juliet. Will Romeo escape with Juliet? Will the Nurse think of a better plan than the Friar? Will the audience help the lovers elope? Find out in this dramatic tragedy.



AGE 7+

Thu 16 – Sat 18 Jul HAMLET

A Place for Us Theatre

Experience Hamlet like never before! A Place for us 70-minute outdoor version of Shakespeare's masterpiece, brings intrigue, suspense and tragedy to Shakespeare North Ken Dodd Performance Garden this summer.



AGE 9+

AGE 8+



Fri 24 Jul AS YOU LIKE IT

The HandleBards

Fantastically funny, bicycle-powered! In the Forest of Arden the stage is set for wooing, hilarious mistaken identity and the odd wrestling match.

Thu 6 Aug – Sat 8 Aug

SUMMER OF LOVE: LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST + MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Shake Scene Shakespeare

Shake Scene Shakespeare are back by popular demand for a third summer residency in the Sir Ken Dodd Performance Garden.

The cast prepare from their own lines & cues only – not the whole play. Why? Because that's how the original players played it!

Book for a wild rollercoaster ride through love and relationships – there's plots, there's joy, there's misunderstandings galore...



Thu 27 Aug A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Folksy Theatre

Love, laughter, and lunacy - enter a world where fairies meddle, lovers quarrel, and magic runs wild! Join Folksy Theatre for a breathtaking open-air performance of Shakespeare's beloved comedy.

FAMILY



WHAT'S ON **STUDIO**

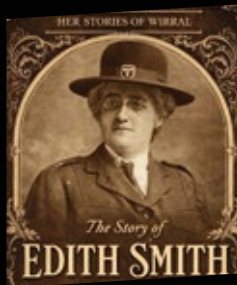
Tue 23 & Wed 24 Jun **OUT THE WOODWORK**

Out the Woodwork follows divorcee Pat who lives on a Huyton council estate. After winning £30million on the lottery Pat's life is turned upside down. Part of Prescott Festival of Music and Arts.



Fri 18 Sep **THE STORY OF EDITH SMITH** **BY PAULINE FLEMING**

Edith Smith was Britain's first female police constable given the powers of arrest. Serving in Grantham during WWI, she redefined women's roles in policing and community care.



Fri 2 Oct **ALEX STRINGER:** **HAPPY HOUR**

Alex got sober in 2017 when she was 23. This is a show about what it's like once you get sober and discovering who you are without substances. Come and spend a happy hour.



Thu 15 & Fri 16 Oct **THE HAMMER & HELENA**

ArtsGroupie

Innsbruck, 1485. A witch trial sees Helena become the obsession of a religious zealot. The consequences would doom women for centuries.



Sat 17 Oct **OFF GRID**

Sam Danson

Imagine being dragged into a wild camping trip with your politically outspoken Uncle, with no technology allowed, just beer, fishing rods and jerky. Combining theatre & stand-up comedy.

Thu 26 – Sat 28 Nov **SELECTED WORKS:** **TABLE TOP SHAKESPEARE**

Forced Entertainment

In Selected Works two performers create condensed versions of some of Shakespeare's most iconic plays on a table-top stage, using ordinary everyday objects for the cast.



Sat 10 Oct **HAUNTED SHADOWS:** **THE GOTHIC TALES OF** **EDITH NESBIT**

Monkey with Cymbals

A gripping insight into the darker side of author Edith Nesbit, through three of her best Gothic tales, In The Shadow, The Pavilion and A Strange Experience.



Tue 1 – Thu 3 Dec **GHOST STORIES** **FOR CHRISTMAS**

ArtsGroupie

In its anniversary year, Ghost Stories of Christmas past meet chilling tales of Christmas present. Join us for the show that revived a time-honoured tradition.



WHAT'S ON MUSIC

Wed 24 Jun AFTERNOON OPERA: CLASSIC ARIAS

OUTDOOR



Join us for a celebration of some of opera's most beloved music at Afternoon Opera: Classic Arias, a captivating 60-minute recital, forming part of the 22nd **Prescot Festival of Music & the Arts**.

Wed 15 Jul THE EASY ROLLERS

To celebrate their 10th anniversary, The Easy Rollers are heading on tour! Experience the spirit and virtuosity of today's British jazz scene as this fabulous septet celebrate the musical roots of Jazz.



Thu 16 Jul GET BLUE: A TRIBUTE TO THE FAB FOUR

Experience the timeless tunes of The Beatles with a Cool Cat Twist and join us for an unforgettable evening, as top-notch jazz musicians breathe new life into your favourite Beatles classics!



Fri 17 Jul THE KATE BUSH SONG BOOK

Celebrating a musical genius - don't miss your chance to join the finest tribute to the music of Kate Bush for a magically intimate evening in appreciation of 'this woman's work'.



Sat 18 Jul OASIZ

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Oasis' record-breaking Knebworth shows, OASIZ are embarking on a tour, paying homage to the most memorable parts of this tour, including all the hits and career spanning anthems.



Sat 1 Aug TOSCA Flat Pack Music

Puccini's Tosca comes to the Sir Ken Dodd Performance Garden: a gripping tale of love, power and sacrifice, reimagined in a dystopian future where tyranny and defiance collide.

OUTDOOR



Wed 28 Oct JOHN LYDON

To coincide with the publication of his book, *I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right*, John Lydon, aka Johnny Rotten, is touring the UK. Join as Lydon discusses life, his extraordinary career, and takes audience questions.

SEE IT FIRST HEADING NORTH FRINGE FESTIVAL

Thu 18 Jun - Fri 10 Jul

You don't have to head "up North" to see the best of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. See exclusive previews of new and award-winning work here in Prescot!

Thu 18 – Fri 19 Jun
LAMBSLAUGHTER

Deep dive into girlhood, power and survival!

Wed 1 – Thu 2 Jul
**CHARLES DICKENS:
THE HANGED MANS BRIDE**

Perfect for Charles Dickens fans!

Sat 4 - Sun 5 Jul
**ONE MAN POE:
THE BLACK CAT & THE RAVEN**

Enjoy two tales from the Godfather of Gothic horror.

Tue 7 – Wed 8 Jul
THE PERFECT MATCH

A fun new musical about love and life.

Thu 9 – Fri 10 Jul
IT HAPPENED ON A TUESDAY

From LIPA to performing on our stages, enjoy this murder mystery!



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.**

GET INVOLVED

There are lots of ways to take part at Shakespeare North Playhouse, with projects, activities and groups happening regularly, including one-off specials and weekly workshops: find out what's currently on offer via our website!



COMMUNITY GROUPS UNDER 5S SESSIONS
POETRY EVENINGS WELLBEING WORKSHOPS
YOUTH THEATRE HOME EDUCATION LESSONS
ADULT ACTING CLASSES COMEDY CLUBS
CREATIVE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES CREATIVE
YOUTH CLUBS AND MORE...

Ever wondered how you can be a part of Shakespeare North Playhouse?

There are lots of ways to get involved, with something for all ages. Whether you're a family, a local, a summer visitor, an aspiring performer or potential playwright – find out how we can support your creativity at our venue.

From Shakespeare and poetry to wellbeing and personal development, everything we do is aimed at growing our communities.



SOCIAL CONNECTION. CONFIDENCE BOOSTER. GROW NEW SKILLS. REFINE YOUR TALENTS. MEET NEW PEOPLE. GET CREATIVE. CONNECT WITH ARTISTS. SPEAKING & LISTENING. TRAINING. LEARN ABOUT THE ARTS. EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS.

Warm, supportive, welcoming activities lead by experts here at Shakespeare North.

All of our events can be found online with booking and sign-up information. Check back regularly as activities are added throughout the year!

To learn more about our activities, email: learning@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN TAKE PART:



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 21 May

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.



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

Ensuring bright futures is the focus on our giving. Your donation:

- 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.



Take the next step – join the Cockpit Circle and become part of our community of regular 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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**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METRO MAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION



**Knowsley
Council**