

Hull New Theatre

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Tickets sell out for The Royal Ballet event at Hull New Theatre, but thousands more available at 10am tomorrow for special live screening in Queens Gardens

Following the sell-out of tickets for Opening the New, The Royal Ballet event on 16 September to officially reopen Hull New Theatre, thousands more tickets will go on sale tomorrow morning for a live screening of the event in Queens Gardens, enabling even more people to be part of the event.

5,000 tickets are being made available for the live screening in Queens Gardens, with tickets costing Â£6 and being released at 10am tomorrow on the Hull 2017 website (www.hull2017.co.uk/royalballetscreening).

Organised by Hull 2017, this additional event is being supported by Hull Culture and Leisure, which runs the theatre on behalf of Hull City Council. There will be a festival atmosphere at the screening with bars selling drinks and snacks and a few surprises specially arranged for the screening event.

Opening the New takes place on Saturday, September 16 and follows a Â£16 million rebuilding programme at the theatre.

Specially curated by The Royal Ballet's Hull-born director Kevin O'Hare, it is part of a day of celebration of dance in Hull's city centre that will be one of the highlights of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 programme.

Around 300 free tickets have been set aside to enable young people in Hull, who are studying dance or have a special interest in it, to attend the performance at Hull New Theatre.

A further group of young people from across Hull are also being invited to enjoy the live screening in Queens Gardens for free, as part of the ongoing commitment to ensure youngsters in every part of the city have the opportunity to participate in this City of Culture year.

Earlier in the day there will be two performances of Take Flight, a newly commissioned dance piece by The Royal Ballet and Hull 2017, which will take place in Trinity Square in front of the recently designated Hull Minster. These will be free to attend.

Opening the New launches a diverse autumn season at Hull New Theatre, which includes the National Theatre productions of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre and Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler; the Opera North residency The Little Greats; Northern Ballet's new The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas; and the world premiere of John Godber's The Kings of Hull

Janice Wincott, Theatre and Halls manager, Hull Culture and Leisure, said: "It's fantastic to see the support for the theatre as we complete our final preparations before opening. The Royal Ballet performance will set the scene for the world-class productions we are going to be welcoming in the coming weeks, months and years and we look forward to audiences coming to enjoy the new venue and seeing its transformation."

For press queries about The Royal Ballet event in Hull New Theatre, please contact Natalie Murphy at Hull Culture and Leisure: Natalie.murphy@hcandl.co.uk / 01482 614297

For press queries about the live screening in Queens Gardens, please contact Ben McKnight at Hull 2017: ben.mcknight@hull2017.co.uk / 07718 100793.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Event: Opening the New "The Royal Ballet

Venue: Hull New Theatre, Kingston Square, Hull HU1 3HF

Date: Saturday 16 September 2017

Time: Performance starts at 7.30pm

Price: £40

Website: www.hulltheatres.co.uk

Event: Opening the New Royal Ballet performance "LIVE SCREENING

Venue: Queens Gardens, Hull, HU1 2AG

Date: Saturday 16 September 2017

Time: Gates open 6:30pm (screening has a short delay)

Price: £6

Website: www.hull2017.co.uk/royalballet

Event: Take Flight

Venue: Trinity Square, Hull, HU1 1RR

Date: Saturday 16 September 2017

Price: FREE

Website: www.hull2017.co.uk/royalballet

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Diana Vickers to star in Son of a Preacher Man

Heart-warming new musical features music of 1960s icon Dusty Springfield

X Factor finalist Diana Vickers will create the role of Kat for the 2017 tour of heart-warming new musical Son of a Preacher Man.

Diana first came to public attention as a semi-finalist on the X Factor and made her professional acting debut in the title role of The Rise and Fall of Little Voice in 2009 (West End, Vaudeville Theatre).

Since then her theatre credits have included The Duck House (West End, Vaudeville Theatre), Hatched ~™™ Dispatched (Park Theatre), The Rocky Horror Show (UK Tour).

Her film and television credits include The Perfect Wave, Awaiting, To Dream, Give Out Girls and Top Coppers.

Featuring the soulful music of Dusty Springfield, with a book by Warner Brown and directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, this new show embarks on a national tour this year, arriving at Hull New Theatre in November.

Three broken hearts, one Soho hang-out, and the only man who could ever help them!

Welcome to the Preacher Man, the swinging 1960s Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love, while the legendary owner, The Preacher Man himself, dispensed advice to cure the loneliest of hearts.

Only that was a long time ago and all that remains are the memories, the stories and the myths.

Until now, that is, when three random strangers, generations apart but all in need of help with their hopeless love lives, are inexplicably drawn to the site of the original venue.

The Preacher Man is long gone, but his son, with help from the wonderful Cappuccino Sisters, might just find it in himself to channel the spirit of The Preacher Man and once more give these three lovesick strangers the look of love.

Featuring the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, including The Look Of Love, I Only Want To Be With You, Spooky and of course, the classic Son Of A Preacher Man, this sparkingly funny and sweetly touching new musical play will have you laughing, crying and singing your heart out to some of the greatest songs ever written.

Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood said: 'I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue.

'I hope that audiences in Hull will come to love this warm-hearted and uplifting new musical as much as I do.'

Warner Brown works internationally and is well known for his work in musical theatre and plays, encompassing both traditional and avant-garde forms.

He wrote the arena production *Walking With Dinosaurs*, dubbed "the most popular family show of all time", creating an entirely new genre of theatrical presentation and winning many international awards.

Warner is currently working on multiple developing projects, including the Broadway musicals *The Gold Room* and *The Thomas Crown Affair*, both with composer Michael Feinstein; the opera *Empty Spaces*, with composer Joshua Schmidt, for Florentine Opera in the USA; the musical *A Little Danger*, with composer Michael Reed, for the St Petersburg Theatre in Russia; and the screenplay for the movie *A Minute To Midnight* for Bill Kenwright Films.

Writing credits include *Half A Sixpence* (UK Tour), *The Biograph Girl* (Phoenix Theatre), *Cinderella* (London Palladium), *The Black and White Ball*, which opened in London and for which The Cole Porter Trusts granted Warner stage rights to the songs of Cole Porter, *Flickers* (Broadway's Circle-In-The Square Theater), *The House on the Corner* (Edinburgh International Festival) and *Tallulah For A Day and Sleep With Friends*.

Plays include *Laughing Dove*, *Wavelength* and *The Prospero Suite*, directed by John Doyle.

Warner has worked extensively in Europe, most recently writing the musical *Garbo*, with music by Meat Loaf rock legend Jim Steinman. He also has extensive writing credits for the BBC and was script associate of the BBC Classic Musicals Series, for which he adapted 14 musicals featuring many international stars.

Craig Revel Horwood is a well-known face on television in the UK and now internationally for his role as a judge on all 15 series of BBC One's *Strictly Come Dancing* and for directing and appearing as a judge in the show's live tour.

Craig's recent credits as director and choreographer include the current UK tour of *Sister Act*, the previous UK tours *Brother Love Travelling Salvation Show* and *Chess*; for television, *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?* and *Just the Two of Us*; and for film, *Paddington 2*.

In addition, he recently directed the all-star concert version of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* at the Royal Albert Hall.

Other credits as a theatre director and choreographer are: *West Side Story* (Prince Edward), *Miss Saigon* (Drury Lane), *Hey, Mr Producer!* (Lyceum), *Spend Spend Spend!* (Piccadilly Theatre; Olivier nomination for Best Choreography), *Pal Joey* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Guys and Dolls* (Sheffield Crucible), *Paradise Moscow* (Opera North), *Carmen* (Holland Park), *My One and Only* (Piccadilly Theatre; Olivier nomination for Best Choreography), *Beautiful and Damned* (Lyric Theatre), *Arms and the Cow* (Opera North), *The Ballet Boyz: Yumbo Vs Nonino* (Festival Hall, Sadler's Wells, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), *The Hot Mikado* (Watermill Theatre and UK Tour; Martin Guerre (Watermill Theatre), *Sunset Boulevard* (Watermill Theatre and Comedy Theatre, West End), *Spend Spend Spend!* (Watermill Theatre and UK Tour) and *Copacabana* (Watermill Theatre).

He recently returned to his roots as a performer in musical theatre, starring as Miss Hannigan in the UK national tour of *Annie*, and in Christmas 2016 as Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley.

For more information, visit <http://www.sonofapreachermanmusical.com/>

Tickets for *Son of a Preacher Man* at Hull New Theatre from November 7 to 11 2017 are from £15.50 with concessions available.

Book at the Hull City Hall box office or call 01482 300 306. Visit our new website www.hulltheatres.co.uk to book online.

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Vampires Rock Ghost Train at Hull New Theatre

Night of mischief and mayhem at venue on Saturday, January 13 2018

The Vampires Rock Ghost Train rides into Hull New Theatre in January next year.

The creative force behind the shows, Steve Steinman, has ramped up the vamp for this spectacular sequel to the phenomenally successful Vampires Rock.

Steinman has delighted fans with a series of live shows since his success on TV's Stars in Their Eyes more than two decades ago as Meat Loaf.

He and his crew have returned to stages across the country night after night and delivered exhilarating performances that are packed with energy, fabulous dance routines, spectacular special effects and amazing music that has everyone up on their feet.

As well as Vampires Rock and Vampires Rock Ghost Train, Steve's hit shows include The Meat Loaf Story, Bat Symphony and Iconic: The Show.

Throwing just the right amount of fun and humour into his scripts ensures that Steinman always has the audience up on their feet and roaring with laughter.

This rock-tastic and hilarious musical concert lives up to its rocking reputation with a tongue-in-cheek story, spellbinding cast, guitar gods and sexy vampettes taking you on a ride through some of the greatest classic rock anthems ever.

Including tracks from Queen, AC/DC, Meat Loaf, Journey, Bon Jovi, Guns n Roses and many more. Prepare for a night of mischief and mayhem on the Vampires Rock Ghost Train.

Tickets for Vampires Rock Ghost Train on Saturday, January 13 2018 are from £25.50. They go on sale at 10am on Friday, May 12.

Book at the Hull City Hall box office or call 01482 300 306. Visit our new website www.hulltheatres.co.uk to book online or use this link .

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The Royal Shakespeare Company bring Hamlet to Hull New Theatre

Acclaimed production starring Paapa Essiedu at venue in February 2018

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will bring its acclaimed production of Hamlet, originally seen in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2016, to Hull New Theatre in February next year.

Directed by Simon Godwin, the production will see RSC Associate Artist Paapa Essiedu reprise his award-winning performance in the title role as one of Shakespeare's most famous tragic heroes.

RSC Executive Director, Catherine Mallyon, said: "I am so pleased that we will be visiting Hull New Theatre in February 2018, soon after the theatre's exciting refurbishment."

“We had a wonderful time working with Hull Truck and Hull UK City of Culture 2017 on *The Hypocrite*, which enjoyed successful runs in both Hull and Stratford-upon-Avon.”

“I can’t wait to share the experience of our fantastic production of *Hamlet* with audiences at the New Theatre.”

Janice Wincott, Theatres and Halls Manager, Hull Culture and Leisure, welcomed the return of the world famous company, which last performed at Hull New Theatre in 2013.

She said: “We are delighted to welcome the acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company to Hull New Theatre with their national tour of *Hamlet* in February next year.

“Hull New Theatre is one of only five venues outside of London to receive this tour and it offers a fantastic opportunity for audiences to experience first class drama locally.

“Following the theatre’s major refurbishment, hosting this production continues to highlight Hull New Theatre as a world class venue and builds on the success of Hull’s UK City of Culture year and the city’s ambition to continue to expand its cultural provision.”

Paapa Essiedu won Best Performance in a Play at the UK Theatre Awards in 2016 for his role as *Hamlet*.”

Paapa’s other RSC credits include *Edmund* in *King Lear*, *Fenton* in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Mouse and his Child*. Additional theatre credits include *King Lear* (National Theatre) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Tobacco Factory).”

He played *Demetrius* in Russell T Davies’s adaptation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for BBC1 (2016).

Further casting for *Hamlet* to be announced.

Simon Godwin’s work as a director includes *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RSC), *Richard II* (Shakespeare’s Globe), *Twelfth Night*, *Man and Superman*, *The Beaux’ Stratagem* and *Strange Interlude* (National Theatre).

He is Associate Director of the Royal Court Theatre and was Associate Director at Northampton Royal & Derngate between 2001-04.

Simon said: “I’m delighted that *Hamlet* will be touring in 2018. Paapa Essiedu is British with Ghanaian heritage.

“When Paapa and I talked about the production, I realised how radical it might be to see Denmark through the lens of a completely different culture, a culture that Paapa himself had experienced.”

“I began to imagine a Denmark re-conceived as a modern state influenced by the ritual, traditions and beauty of west Africa. So our setting is full of the colour, emotional intensity and passion associated with that part of the world.”

“As *Hamlet*, Paapa is intelligent, youthful and charismatic, with a contemporary wit. But Paapa’s portrayal is also mercurial with an element of danger.”

“Part ghost story, part family tragedy, part dark comedy, *Hamlet* is an urgent and gripping thriller. I can’t wait to see how audiences respond to it around the country.”

Hamlet is designed by Paul Wills with lighting by Paul Anderson. Music for the production is composed by Jamiroquai percussionist Sola Akingbola. Sound is by Christopher Shutt. Movement by Mbulelo Ndabeni. Fights by Kev McCurdy.

Hamlet will be performed at Hull New Theatre from February 13 to February 17, 2018.

The performance on Wednesday, February 14 will be a captioned performance. The performance on Friday, February 16 will be a signed performance.

Tickets are from Â£15 with concessions available. They go on sale at 10am on Friday, May 12.

Extras members receive a Â£10 discount on the top three ticket prices, including premium seats, on the opening night and a Â£4 discount on the top three ticket prices, including premium seats, on Wednesday to Thursday shows.

Extras members also receive 24-hour priority booking which opens at 10am on Thursday, May 11.

Book at the Hull City Hall box office or call 01482 300 306. Visit our new website www.hulltheatres.co.uk to book online.

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Russian State Ballet of Siberia

Acclaimed company to perform five ballets at Hull New Theatre in January 2018

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia will perform five ballets at Hull New Theatre in January as part of a UK tour.

The acclaimed company, formed in 1981, will present The Snow Maiden, Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, The Nutcracker and Cinderella, all accompanied by live orchestra.

Each show will feature multimedia sets combined with superb soloists and corps de ballet who never fail to delight audiences with their breath-taking physical ability and dazzling costumes.

Sergei Bobrov is artistic director of The Russian State Ballet of Siberia, which has quickly established itself as one of Russia's leading ballet companies and built an international reputation for delivering performances of outstanding quality and unusual depth.

He said: "It is always a pleasure to bring the unique traditions of Russian ballet to British audiences.

"Touring across the UK with a full company of dancers as well as highly-skilled musicians is always exciting and for me, it is very special to have the power of a symphony orchestra bringing the choreography to life on stage."

The ballets will be performed from January 23 to January 27 2018 and the programme is as follows ":

The Snow Maiden(Tuesday, January 23 at 7.30pm

Protected from the outside world by Father Frost, the exquisite Snow Maiden plays innocently amongst the dancing snowflakes in the enchanted Land of Frost. Based on a traditional folk-tale, set in the snow covered landscape of rural Russia, this seasonal sparkler follows the Snow Maiden as she dances into the human world. Captivated by the colourful village and the people who live there, she ventures too far and is swept up by feelings of love, temptation and betrayal. When finally she surrenders herself completely and warms to love, her heart melts in a tragic embrace.

Romeo and Juliet(Wednesday, January 24 at 7.30pm

Shakespeare's tale of primal passion and timeless tragedy is brought to life by Prokofiev's soaring score, set in bustling Renaissance Verona and with an emotionally charged choreography that befits the world's greatest love story. From the grandeur of the masked ball to the intimacy of the lovers' balcony, this star-crossed story of duels, bitter family feuds and love that cannot be, is unmissable.

Swan Lake(Thursday, January 25 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

The greatest romantic ballet of all time is brought to life by Tchaikovsky's haunting and unforgettable score. From the impressive splendour of the Palace ballroom to the moon-lit lake where swans glide in perfect formation, this compelling tale of tragic romance has it all. From Odile, the temptress in black tulle as she seduces the Prince by spinning with captivating precision to the spellbound purity of the swan queen, Odette as she flutters with emotional intensity, the dual role of Odette/Odile is one of ballet's most unmissable technical challenges.

The Nutcracker(Friday, January 26 at 7.30pm

This most famous of fantasy ballets for all the family begins as night falls on Christmas Eve. As snowflakes fall outside, the warm glow of the open fire sends flickering shadows across the boughs of the Christmas tree and all the presents beneath. When midnight strikes we are swept away to a fairy tale world where nothing is quite as it seems, toy dolls spring to life, the Mouse-king and his mouse-army battle with the Nutcracker Prince and we travel through the Land of Snow to an enchanted place where the magic really begins.

Cinderella (Saturday, January 27 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm (

The world's favourite rags to riches fairy-tale where dreams can come true is a magical mix of Prokofiev's energetic score, lively choreography and colourful costumes. Whilst her mad/bad stepmother and her ill-mannered daughters prepare for the Royal Ball, graceful Cinderella can only dream of dancing with the dashing Prince. Later that evening, her rags become a glittering gown and she is swept magically to the Ball. From that very moment the Prince is smitten, midnight strikes and one lost crystal slipper later, he must now embark on a journey to find his lost love.

Tickets for the Russian State Ballet of Siberia are from £19.50 with concessions available.

Book two or more ballets at the same time and save £5 per ticket on each ballet (offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount).

Extras members receive a £10 discount on the opening night and a £4 discount on Wednesday to Thursday shows on the top three prices bands, including premium seats.

Tickets go on sale at 10am on Friday, June 9. Extras members receive 24-hour booking from 10am on Thursday, June 8.

Book at the Hull City Hall box office or call 01482 300 306. Visit our new website www.hulltheatres.co.uk to book online or use this link.

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Sunset Boulevard at Hull New Theatre

Award-winning West End hit arrives in 2018

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award winning masterpiece *Sunset Boulevard*, starring Ria Jones, will be performed at Hull New Theatre next year.

Based on Billy Wilder's legendary film, with Don Black and Christopher Hampton's book and lyrics, *Sunset Boulevard* arrives at Hull New Theatre for one week only from Monday, April 30 2018.

One of the all-time great musicals, *Sunset Boulevard* is a compelling story of romance and obsession.

In her mansion on *Sunset Boulevard*, faded silent-screen goddess Norma Desmond lives in a fantasy.

Impoverished screen writer Joe Gillis, on the run from debt collectors, stumbles into her reclusive world.

Persuaded to work on Norma's masterpiece, a film script that she believes will put her back in front of the cameras, seduced by her and her luxurious lifestyle.

Joe becomes entrapped in a claustrophobic world until his love for another woman leads him to try and break free, with dramatic consequences.

Ria received standing ovations every night in the role of Norma Desmond at the London Coliseum.

With its much-loved score, including *Sunset Boulevard*, *With One Look*, *The Greatest Star Of All* and *The Perfect Year*, performed with full orchestra, this production promises to be a spectacular one.

Tickets for *Sunset Boulevard* at Hull New Theatre from Monday, April 30 to Saturday, May 5 2018 are from £19.50 with concessions available.

Extras members receive a £10 discount on opening night and a £4 discount on Tuesday to Thursday performances on the top three price bands only, including premium seats.

Tickets are on sale at 10am on Friday, June 9.

Extras members receive 24-hour priority booking from 10am on Thursday, June 8.

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Awful Auntie at Hull New Theatre

Stage adaptation of bestselling David Walliams book at venue in May 2018

A stage adaptation of David Walliams's™ bestselling book, Awful Auntie, will be performed at Hull New Theatre in May next year.

It will be presented by the Birmingham Stage Company and follows their record-breaking tour of David Walliams's™ Gangsta Granny.

Awful Auntie was published in September 2014 and went to No.1 in the children's™ book chart for seven weeks.

The paperback was published in February 2016 and sold 212,000 copies, making it the best-selling children's™ paperback of the year.

Combined sales of the hardback and paperback have reached more than a million copies and its success has helped to make Walliams one of the country's™ best-selling children's™ authors.

Walliams said: "The Birmingham Stage Company's Gangsta Granny is truly brilliant, so I'm™ hugely excited that they're™ now bringing Awful Auntie to the stage.

It promises to be a thrilling show and a total hoot - Wagner the owl and I can't™ wait to see it!

Awful Auntie tells the story of Stella who, when she sets off to visit London with her parents, has no idea her life is in danger.

Waking up from a coma three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell Stella what has happened.

But not everything Aunt Alberta tells her turns out to be true and Stella quickly discovers she's™ in for the fight of her life against her very own awful auntie.

David Williams's™ amazing tale of frights, fights and friendship features a very large owl, a very small ghost and a very awful Auntie!

The world premiere of Awful Auntie will open at The Capitol Theatre in Horsham in September prior to an 18-month UK tour which arrives at Hull New Theatre on May 17 until May 20.

Awful Auntie will mark the Birmingham Stage Company's™ 25th anniversary.

Starting life at The Old Rep Theatre in Birmingham, the company's productions now regularly visit Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Dubai and Singapore and for 12 years they have produced all the Horrible Histories stage shows which now regularly feature in the West End.

Families across East Yorkshire will not want to miss their production of Awful Auntie, which promises to be awfully thrilling fun for everyone over five!

Tickets for Awful Auntie at Hull New Theatre from Thursday, May 17 to Sunday, May 20 2018 are from £15.50 for adults or £13.50 for under 16s. Family tickets are from £50. They go on sale at 10am on Friday, June 16.

Extras members receive a £3 discount on tickets for the Thursday shows only and can access 24-hour priority booking from 10am on Thursday, June 15.

Book at the Hull City Hall box office or call 01482 300 306. Visit our new website www.hulltheatres.co.uk to book online.