

www.stablestheatre.co.uk



WHAT'S ON **MAY to AUGUST 2025**



The Stables Theatre and Arts Centre, The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD
Tel 01424 423221. www.stablestheatre.co.uk

MURDER, MARGARET & ME
BY PHILIP MEEKS
OPENS TUESDAY 13 MAY



Sponsored by



Design: Cliff Brooker

BOOKINGS & MEMBERSHIP

BOX OFFICE 01424 423221

See website for opening times, online bookings (no booking fee) and concessions/group discount details:

www.stablestheatre.co.uk

PAYMENT OPTIONS

OFFLINE:

Cash, major debit/credit cards and Stables gift tokens.

ONLINE:

www.stablestheatre.co.uk: major debit/credit cards.

REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Please check the details of your tickets for accuracy. For our refunds or exchanges policy please see the email which accompanies your tickets.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership costs £15 per year (£3 under-18s). Members enjoy a discount of up to £5 on most shows. Full details from the box office.

PARKING

The theatre car park is free to patrons attending the theatre. There is a public car park on The Bourne and on-street parking (regulations apply).

DISABILITY ACCESS (SEE PLAN)

Rows A and B are suitable for disabled people (with mobility, visual or hearing impairments) and their helpers. There are spaces for wheelchair users in row A, which can be accessed without any stairs. There are two steps up to row B. There is a wheelchair-accessible toilet on the ground floor. Platform lifts, for a wheelchair user or one seated person, provide access to the Gwen Watford Gallery and theatre bar.

The Stables Theatre and Arts Centre

The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD

Tel 01424 423221 www.stablestheatre.co.uk Reg Charity No 211361



Information in this publication believed to be correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change.

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Aisle (stepped)



Stage

SUNDAY 27 APRIL

3.00PM

Hastings Chamber Music Festival presents

Rautio Piano Trio

"Performances of real vitality and fizz" *The Strad*

Violinist Jane Gordon, leads her award-winning ensemble, the Rautio Piano Trio, in their debut performance at the Stables Theatre. The Trio is widely recognised as one of the UK's finest chamber ensembles, celebrated for their refined and emotionally powerful performances.

Programme:

Beethoven Piano Trio in G Op.121a

Debussy Piano Trio in G

Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D min Op.49

Jane Gordon (violin)

Victoria Simonsen (cello)

Jan Rautio (piano)



£15; Members/concessions £12

THURSDAY 1 MAY

7.30PM

The very best of

Free and Bad Company

with Stealer and Claire Hamill

Out of the ashes of FREE, Paul Rodgers – regarded as one of the finest blues/rock vocalists in the world – and drummer Simon Kirk formed BAD COMPANY enjoying global success.

Tonight STEALER, a labour of love featuring Pete Prescott, Neil Roberts, David Driver and Pete Billings, play the music of these two iconic bands. They are supported by internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Claire Hamill who knew, and worked with, FREE.

£15; Members/concessions £10



www.stablestheatre.co.uk

FRIDAY 2 MAY

7.30PM

Apollo's Cabinet presents

The Comic Muse

or The Theatrical World of Kitty Clive

Actress, soprano, and stage star Kitty Clive (1711-1785) had a unique command of London's theatre world of the 18th century. Born Catherine Raftor in 1711 and rising to fame as Mrs Clive, she negotiated the raucous, fast-moving, and sometimes unforgiving London scene with intelligence and grace. This show explores her world, shines a light on the vocal genres in which she excelled and celebrates the vibrancy of mid-18th century theatre performances through publications they inspired.



£15; Members/concessions £12

SUNDAY 4 MAY

7.30PM

Presenting music sensation

Toby Barelli & King Size Slim

Over the past decade Toby Barelli has performed his unique rootsy sound across the UK and Europe, North Africa, south-east Asia and the Middle East.

"The band seethe and sway with that kind of easy camaraderie of musical veterans. There is a stripped-down drum kit and a honking, grinding sax adding to the ribald, darkly poetic swing. Barelli has form and his stagecraft is just impeccable."

Louder Than War

"King Size Slim practically set the venue on fire with their headline slot at the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival. Real music delivered with no fuss. Exactly what was required to round off a great week of music."

Edinburgh What's On

£19

SATURDAY 3 MAY

7.00PM

The Ashburnham English Song Awards

Masterclass & Concert

With Louise Winter

Participants in today's masterclass will also sing in an evening concert featuring Louise Winter.

Louise has appeared on some of the world's great opera stages including the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Glyndebourne.

For ENO she sang the title role in *Carmen*, directed by Jonathan Miller, and in Handel's *Xerxes* in Nicholas Hytner's acclaimed production. In 2023 she sang the roles of Frugola and Zita in Sir David McVicar's new production of Puccini's *Il Trittico*.

Audience tickets £15

Includes masterclass 11am-5.30pm



TUE 13 TO SAT 17 MAY

7.30PM

The Stables Theatre presents

Murder, Margaret and Me

by Philip Meeks

Agatha Christie, "the Queen of Crime", is not thrilled that her dearest creation, Miss Marple, is to be played by "the funniest woman alive", Margaret Rutherford. Rutherford, meanwhile, is mortified at the prospect of being involved with any film which depicts murder.

So what, Christie wonders, is the secret that Rutherford hid to ensure that her reputation remained intact? The two women form an unlikely friendship, helped along the way by a stranger who bears more than a passing resemblance to a certain detective.

Suitable for ages 12 and over.

The play will be performed in the round.

Directed by Aisling Teodorescu

£13.50; Members/concessions £8.50

80 seats each performance (unreserved)



The Stables Theatre presents

Unstabled

A Night of Improv Comedy

Sit! Stables Improv Team presents our second performance "Unstabled". Come to the Stables and see our comedy team on stage for 75 minutes of non-stop fun and laughter. Audience suggestions will be taken throughout the performance! The Stables bar will be open both before and after the show.



£7.50; Members/concessions £5

THU 29 TO SAT 31 MAY

7.30PM

Same Stage Productions and Stables Theatre present

Tales from Wales

by Neil Faulkner**adapted by Gareth Brighton and Richard Lock**

From the team that brought you *A Chorus of Disapproval*, this dark comedy follows an unlikely couple on a camping holiday in Wales.

June and Martin are used to their all-inclusive holidays in 5-star resorts. Kevin and Lucy are more than happy on a long weekend at Butlins. But when they agree to go camping together it doesn't take long until things start to unravel.

As the story unfolds we find out nothing is quite as it seems.

Adult themes & language 14+

£15; Members/concs £12.50



Two for the price of one!
The Stables Theatre presents

The Cagebirds

by David Campton

The Cagebirds explores the effect of female stereotyping through the eyes of six characters. They are women. They are birds. They are prisoners of the Mistress. Self-absorbed, insular and isolated, they are reduced to caricatures to be feared and ridiculed. Their imprisonment has restricted them, divided them and left them without power. But the status quo is disrupted by the new addition of "The Wild One".

Directed by Vanessa Coatz

White Lead

by Jessica Siân

According to the Tate Gallery, 78% of galleries in London represent more men than women, while only 5% equally represent men and women.

White Lead is a short play exploring the expectations and responsibilities of being an artist and a woman. It was first performed at Hampstead Theatre, London, in 2016, as part of the *Women Centre Stage* festival, produced by Sphinx Theatre to demonstrate the range and richness of women's writing for the stage. In this play, power and vulnerability collide, as three women share their innermost thoughts over dinner: a dinner that no-one actually eats.

Adult themes 14+

Directed by Jane Midwinter

£13.50; Members/concs £8.50 • 80 seats each performance (unreserved)



Home Live Art Giddy Up presents

Walking Each Other Home

by Stacy Makishi

This interactive event welcomes you just as you are – especially the imperfect, messy, awkward, shy, “not good enough” parts of you.



Over the course of the three hours you can observe, exit and enter the space as you wish and take breaks with light refreshments.

Walking Each Other Home is part of Giddy Up, a programme bringing daring performance from LGBTQ+ artists to the stages of Hastings.

This event will be BSL-interpreted.

There will be themes of grief, loss and “belonging”. Age guidance 16+

£17; Members/concs £14
60 seats only (unreserved)

STARTING MONDAY 9 JUNE

TIMES VARY



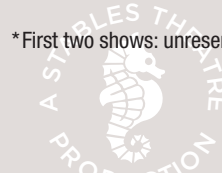
This festival presents 10 days of industry-based workshops, both creative and technical. All welcome (under-12s to be accompanied by parent or guardian).

These workshops will include:

Mon 9	Evening	Storytelling	Led by Helen Black
Tue 10	Evening	Poetry Writing	Led by Yellow & Green
Wed 11	Evening	Photography	Led by Rachel Kiley
Thu 12	6.00pm	Scriptwriting	Led Katie Duncan
Fri 13	Morning	Improvisation	Led by Liv Long
Sat 14	Afternoon	Memoir Songwriting	Led by Bev Lee Harling
Sun 15	Afternoon	Art	Led by Caroline Macey
Tue 17	Evening	Dance Body Release	Led by Jemima Bowler
Wed 18	Evening	Clowning	Led by Alison Stockford
Sat 21	Evening	Final Performance	

This final performance will explore the work developed by some of the participants and leaders of the many workshops that have taken place during the festival.
For full details and timings visit www.stablestheatre.co.uk

*First two shows: unreserved seating



Thursday 12 June, 8pm in the round **The Ultimate Diva Concert**

Helen Ward Jackson

A night of power, passion and pure vocal magic with the greatest divas of all time! Featuring the incredible Helen Ward-Jackson, this show will take you on a journey through legendary hits from Cher, Whitney, Celine, Tina, Adele, and more!

£13.50; Members/concs £8.50 · 60 seats only*

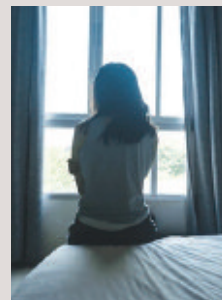


Friday 13 June, 7.30pm in the round **Refuge**

Katie Duncan · Director Jess Barton

Three women find themselves side by side in a women's refuge. Challenging journeys towards freedom and independence await, helped along the way by the refuge manager and a health and safety devoted housekeeper. Adult themes.

£13.50; Members/concs £8.50 · 60 seats only*



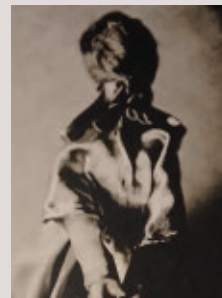
Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm

In the Attic

Rowan Lennon

In the Attic dramatically recreates the wild imaginings of Mrs Rochester, the mad woman in the attic from Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre*. It explores her relationship with her carer Grace Poole and her brother Richard. Adult themes 16+

£13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Friday 20 June, 7.30pm

Behind the Washing Line

Bev Lee Harling

Bev reveals the stories behind her show *Ploughing the Salt Sea*, featuring rare interview footage and special guest musicians. *Ploughing* was a one-woman love letter to the women of Hastings Old Town that took a whole community to create.

£13.50; Members/concs £8.50



The Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra
L'Histoire du Soldat
 Igor Stravinsky

Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra performs one of Stravinsky's masterpieces in a staged production of *L'Histoire du Soldat* directed by Marcio da Silva.

The production will tell Charles Ferdinand Ramuz's story using stage acting, puppeteering and a minimalist set.

It will be performed in English and French with English surtitles.

HPO Ensemble
 Joseph: Marjorie Lemos
 Puppeteer: Orlando Bishop
 Conductor: Marcio da Silva

£17.50; Members/concs £12.50

Chris New presents
Follow The Eyes

by Chris New

Presenting a work-in-progress World Premiere.

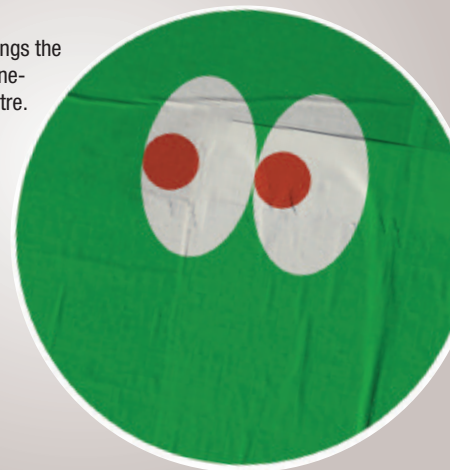
Writer and actor Chris New brings the first outing of his brand new one-man show to the Stables Theatre.

Building on the success of his solo works *Dig* and *Dog Song* and company productions *Harvest*, *The Power of Love* and *The Glass Menagerie*, *Follow The Eyes* promises an evening of truly captivating storytelling and another of the author's exceptional shows.

A must-see event!

Adult themes 16+

£13.50; Members/concessions £8.50



HASTINGS THEATRE FESTIVAL

TIMES VARY



Tuesday 24 June, 7.30pm
Anne Boleyn's Mother

Heather Leach

Jane Seymour has given birth to a son. But Elizabeth, Countess of Wiltshire, is still keenly feeling the loss of her daughter Anne Boleyn and struggles to find cause for celebration. £13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Wednesday 25 June, 7.30pm
Square Peg
 Simeon Morris

The complexities of manhood in a time of changing gender roles are seen through humour, vulnerability, midlife crises, emotional trauma and the quest for self-discovery. £13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Thursday 26 June, 7.30pm
What a Gay Day
 Luke Adamson

Shut That Door! From the team that brought you *The Eagle and the Seagull*, *The Importance of Being Frank*, and *Chet Baker - Let's Get Lost*, Luke Adamson stars as Larry Grayson. £13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Friday 27 June, 7.30pm
Becoming Maverick

Heather Alexander

Inspired by Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca*, this tale of twisted karma is the tense, imagined backstory of a young Mrs Danvers and her life before she arrives to work at Manderley. £13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Saturday 28 June, 7.30pm
Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde
 Mark Stratford

This gripping play presents a compelling and faithful adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, Gothic tale of good and evil whose publication caused such a sensation. 12+ £13.50; Members/concs £8.50



Sunday 29 June, 3.00pm
Ten Minute Tales
 Hastings Writers Group

This year, HWG, founded in 1947, is supporting the Hollington Youth Centre – a lifeline for young people navigating adolescence while facing the challenges of high deprivation. £13.50; Members/concs £8.50

Different Theatre presents

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

From the director of *Meet Me At Dawn* and featuring Ben Baeza, Morgan Corby, Ross Gurney-Randall and Nancy Logan, this absurdist tragicomedy is a bold, contemporary take on the ill-fated courtiers from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

This exhilarating new version will present the play with just four actors, in an inimical rollercoaster of humour and poignancy.

An amateur production brought to you by award-winning Different Theatre. Supported by The Cotton Theatre Trust.

Directed by Sam Chittenden

£13.50; £8.50 Members/concessions

1066 Youth Theatre presents

Penny Dreadfuls

Tales of mystery and adventure!

1066 Youth Theatre returns with an exciting, original show taking the audience into the dramatic world of the popular Penny Dreadful stories of the Gothic era.

Here are tales of crime, passion and demons, all told with the vibrancy audiences have come to expect from the 1066 Youth Theatre that consistently creates outstanding performances. This year's production will once again showcase the excellent skills and storytelling techniques of the talented cast.

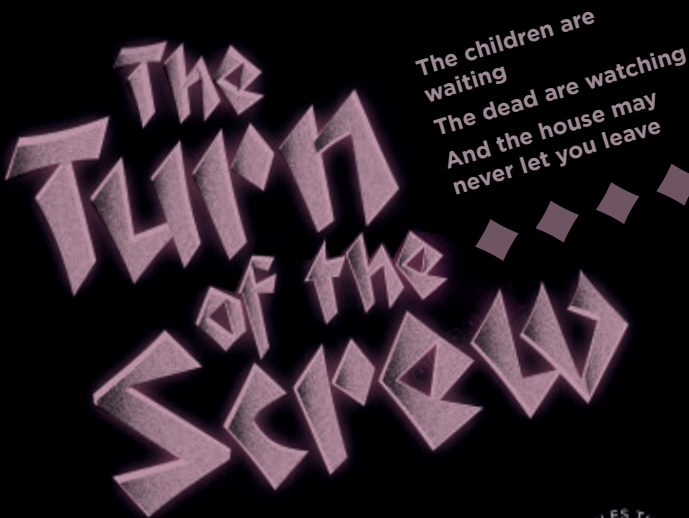
£13.50; £8.50 Members/concs



WED 16-SAT 19 JULY & WED 29 JULY-SAT 2 AUG

7.30PM; MATINEE SAT 2 AUG AT 2.30PM

The Stables Theatre presents



By Henry James

Adapted and directed by Timothy Blackwell



A young man arrives at an isolated country house to be tutor to two angelic orphans. But the house holds dark secrets and evil threatens the children.

The disturbing, enigmatic heart of this tale continues to inspire generations of artists to produce adaptations – notably Benjamin Britten's 1954 opera and Jack Clayton's 1961 film, *The Innocents*.

Stephen King described *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson, as the only two great supernatural works of horror in a century.

Scenes some may find upsetting 12+

Henry James completed this gothic novella in 1898 while living at Lamb House in Rye.



£13.50; £8.50 Members/concs

Prologue Opera presents

Becoming Tosca

Have you ever seen a show and wondered about its characters' backstories? *Becoming Tosca* is a unique piece of drama, presenting the former lives of the characters, with every song and every word of dialogue bringing whole new insights into their backgrounds and choices.

Welcome to an evening of revolution, romance and tragedy, combining fresh music with a tango flavour and an abridged version of Puccini's sumptuous score. From the opening chords to the dramatic finale it will challenge your preconceptions of both the original piece and the art form of opera itself.

£15; £13 Members/concs

FRI 29 TO SUN 31 AUGUST

7.30PM

Ellen Terry Barn Theatre presents

A Midsummers Night Dream

by William Shakespeare

Reality blends with fantasy in this timeless tale of love, magic, and mischief.

It features original music from Steve Rivington plus a cast including Louise

Kimber, Peter Charles Miller, Daisy Abrahams, Charlie Abrahams, Tamara Leggett, Matt Turpin, Bella Griffith, Susannah Mayor, Zo Biba Leonard and Peter Mould.

£13.50; £8.50 Members/concs

Stables Theatre Art Gallery

The Stables Art Gallery is free to enter and is open Monday to Saturday, 10.30am to 1pm and prior to performances.

Until 31 May

Mike Hatchard: Billies Bounce

Though better known as a musician, Mike Hatchard's artwork has been enjoyed in *Private Eye*, *Viz*, *Local Government Chronicle* and *Homes and Gardens*.



In the Stables bar 13 to 17 May Group Exhibition

Accompanying the Stables production of *Murder, Margaret and Me*, Agatha Christie-inspired paintings and prints by four artists will be for sale in the bar.

Tessa Thonett: Young Agatha



5 to 21 June Female Heroes

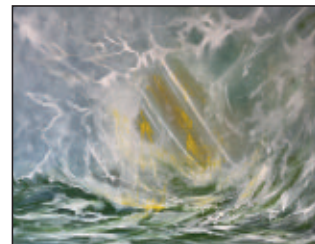
This exhibition will accompany the Stables Scene & Heard Festival's 10 days of industry-based workshops (see page 8-9).



23 June to 2 Aug Group Exhibition: Supernatural

A group exhibition to accompany the production of *The Turn of the Screw*.

Ingrid Solan: Supernatural



4 August to 28 September Christie Cassisa

Christie Cassisa grew up in Hastings and now lives in London. Christie creates both portraits and fantasy themes in oil, acrylic, graphite and charcoal, and mixed media.

Christie Cassisa: Reflections

