

THE SWALLOW THEATRE

MOSS PARK | RAVENSTONE | WHITHORN | NEWTON STEWART | DG8 8DR

2019 SPRING / SUMMER BROCHURE

Welcome to the 2019 season at Scotland's smallest theatre.

The Swallow Theatre is a fully equipped – but miniature – performing arts space presenting professional drama and music in a beautiful rural setting. Each one of the 36-50 raked seats has a great view. There's nothing quite like being near enough to the stage to see the real tears in an actor's eyes, or to be able to watch the fingers of a superb musician in action.

We are very excited by the variety of productions coming to The Swallow Theatre throughout the spring and summer of 2019. We look forward to welcoming the much loved TV star Jeffrey Holland, top guitarist and singer Brooks Williams, the world renowned Fitzwilliam String Quartet and many other fine actors and musicians. There is thought-provoking drama, two family shows and hopefully something for everyone.

Before the show, join us in our light and airy refreshment room for fair trade coffee or tea, wine, locally brewed beer, interesting soft drinks, and Cream o' Galloway ice cream. You can also take a wander, or sit, in our organic, permaculture-inspired wildlife garden. Whether you are a first-time visitor or a theatre regular, a local resident or a tourist, you are assured of a warm welcome, a magical environment and a high-quality performance. We look forward to welcoming you.

Friends of The Swallow Theatre can enjoy a £1 Early Bird Discount on shows displaying this symbol when booked at least 28 days in advance.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 19 March : 7.30pm	Rouse, Ye Women!
Sunday 31 March : 7.30pm	The Whirlybird
Monday 8 April : 7.30pm	Orlando
Tuesday 9 April : 7.30pm	Orlando
Tuesday 16 April : 7.30pm	Brooks Williams
Friday 26 April : 7.30pm	Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope
Saturday 27 April : 7.30pm	Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope
Thursday 9 May : 7.30pm	Weaver of Grass
Saturday 18 May : 7.30pm	Katie & Pip
Sunday 19 May : 2.00pm	Katie & Pip
Thursday 30 May : 7.30pm	Stewart Hardy & Frank McLaughlin
Friday 7 June : 7.30pm	In Loyal Company
Saturday 8 June : 7.30pm	In Loyal Company
Friday 14 June : 7.30pm	Jane Eyre
Saturday 15 June : 7.30pm	Jane Eyre
Sunday 23 June : 11.00am	Call of Nature
Sunday 23 June : 1.00pm	Call of Nature
Sunday 23 June : 3.00pm	Call of Nature
Friday 28 June : 7.30pm	Eglantyne
Wednesday 10 July : 7.30pm	... And This Is My Friend Mr. Laurel
Thursday 11 July : 7.30pm	... And This Is My Friend Mr. Laurel
Monday 29 July : 7.30pm	Fitzwilliam String Quartet at Isle of Whithorn Church
Tuesday 30 July : 10.00am	Fitzwilliam String Quartet Illustrated Talk at The Swallow Theatre
Tuesday 30 July : 7.30pm	Fitzwilliam String Quartet at Glasserton Church

ROUSE, YE WOMEN!

Townsend Theatre Productions

In 1910 women chainmakers focussed the world's attention on the plight of Britain's low-paid women workers involved in the 'home-working sweated industries'.

Led by the charismatic Glasgow-born campaigner and union organiser Mary Reid Macarthur, hundreds of women laid down their tools to strike for a living wage. The success of the

ten-week strike more than doubled their earnings and helped to make the principle of a national minimum wage a reality.

Through rousing traditional songs and moving ballads written and arranged by John Kirkpatrick (Steeleye Span, Home Service, Richard Thompson Band, and others) and performed by Bryony Purdue, Rowan Godel (Oysterband) and Neil Gore (The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists), Rouse, Ye Women! tells of the workers' stories, their campaigning, and the events that led to a final victory.

"A company making a name for delivering vivid, politically committed theatre" - The Observer

Recommended Age : 11+

Tuesday 19 March : 7.30pm Tickets : **£13.50**

THE WHIRLYBIRD

Eco Drama

A curious creature, ricketie-racketie on ground
But in flight, a wildlife spectacle – a blizzard of wings,
perfect elliptical twirls, a mass of orange and browns
And a cacophony of sound!

The whirlybird cannot fly like the rest of the birds. It's clumsy, it's loud and does not like straight lines!

Everything for the whirlybird happens in circles and twirls, in flips and tumbles. It yearns to fit in and fly smoothly with the flock, experiencing the beautiful sights that the other birds see when soaring through the sky. Encouraged by its friend, the old and wise sycamore tree, the bird starts on a journey to discover its wings, but will it ever find a way truly to fly?

Finding inspiration in nature and the wonder of flight, this charming, ecologically-driven ugly duckling tale, told through storytelling, music and puppetry and set in a beautiful birds' nest made of willow, celebrates the differences which make us unique.

Suitable for ages : 3 to 7

Sunday 31 March : 2.00pm Adult : **£5** / Child : **£3**

ORLANDO

Dyad Productions

From the award-winning creators of Jane Eyre: An Autobiography, Dalloway, Christmas Gothic, The Time Machine and Austen's Women.

Orlando: Who is she? Who is he? Who are we? Find out in the life-affirming, comedic tale of an immortal poet, whose gender cannot be pinned down, whose spirit cannot be caged, and whose irreverent, romantic adventures across British history – from the 1500s to the present day – provide a magic-realist exploration of human identity: personal, sexual and national. Based on the satirical 1928 novel by Virginia Woolf.

Drawing on a decade's worth of critically-acclaimed theatre-making, Dyad Productions – performer Rebecca Vaughan and writer/director Elton Townend Jones – explore what it means to find our place in the world whilst remaining utterly true to who we are.

Recommended Age : 8+

Monday 8 April : 7.30pm Tickets : **£15**

Tuesday 9 April : 7.30pm Tickets : **£15**

BROOKS WILLIAMS

Brooks Williams' music is the love-child of country-blues and Americana.

Ranked in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, Brooks is a mean finger-picker and a stunning slide guitarist. Plus, "he has a beautiful voice that you just melt into" says Americana UK.

Brooks Williams has worked stages worldwide for close to thirty years, touring constantly in the US, Canada,

UK and Europe. Audiences are often heard asking, how can one guitar and one voice sound like a full band? The San Antonio Light says that Williams is a "fret monster who has to be seen to be believed!"

He's prolific as a songwriter, and has an impeccable ear for a good cover. "Williams' original songs are typically sophisticated musically, and yet sound immediately familiar – a sign of a skilled songwriter", writes Down At The Crossroads.

Williams is at the top of his game. His tour schedule has never been busier and we were thrilled when he agreed to play at The Swallow Theatre. Join us for what promises to be a very special evening.

Recommended Age : 12+

Tuesday 16 April : 7.30pm Tickets : **£13.50**

QUENTIN CRISP: NAKED HOPE

Written and performed by Mark Farrelly,

Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope is a gloriously uplifting salute to a true one-off, and a timely reminder of the urgent necessity to live every day as your real self ... no matter what they say.

Naked Hope depicts the legendary Quentin Crisp at two distinct phases of his extraordinary life. Firstly in the late

1960s in his filthy Chelsea flat. Quentin spent decades being beaten up on London's streets for his refusal to be anything less than himself. His courage, and the powerful philosophy that evolved from those experiences, inspire to the present day.

The second phase of the story takes us to New York in the 1990s. Here a much older Quentin regales with his sharply-observed, hard-earned philosophy on how to have a lifestyle: "Life will be more difficult if you try to become yourself. But avoiding this difficulty renders life meaningless. So discover who you are. And be it. Like mad!"

Recommended Age : 12+ (contains mild sexual references)

Friday 26 April : 7.30pm Tickets : **£13.50**

Saturday 27 April : 7.30pm Tickets : **£13.50**

WEAVER OF GRASS

The extraordinary life and work of Angus MacPhee told in music and poetry.

Award winning poet Chrys Salt with internationally acclaimed harper Wendy Stewart weave the extraordinary story of Angus MacPhee, a crofter from South Uist who went off to war in 1939, fell ill with a form of schizophrenia and was then

sent to Craig Dunain Mental Hospital outside Inverness. For the next 50 years Angus chose to remain almost totally silent, but went about weaving hundreds of garments from the grass and leaves he harvested from the hospital grounds.

A rich and enthralling exploration of mental health, the creative process, human frailty and ancient traditions.

"... This is a sequence of boldness and of sympathy; as unlikely as it may seem – and as mysterious – we may call it a meeting of imaginations." Tom Pow: Poet

"This wonderfully touching true story". The Sunday Herald

Thursday 9 May : 7.30pm Tickets : **£10**

KATIE & PIP

Tin Can People

Katie & Pip celebrates the relationship between Katie, a Type 1 diabetic teenager and Pip, her pet border collie trained by Katie to save her life on a daily basis.

On a journey of extreme highs and lows, performance-duo Charlotte Berry and Rob Gregson (Katie's older brother), alongside Katie and Pip, embrace the unpredictability of flailing blood sugar levels and dangerous symptoms with the aim of staying alive, staying in the smiley zone and making this invisible disability visible.

A true story which began in Scotland, this performance celebrates freedom and living life to the full, with help from a live dog. Watch humans be dogs, and dogs be humans as this chaotic and unpredictable collision of youth unfolds.

"As heart-warming as it is unsettling. It tends to itself in a controlled and affectionate way ... jagged around the edges a lot of the time, balancing between fun and fear; a bit like life for Katie and Pip".
Exeunt Magazine

Recommended Age : 8+

Saturday 18 May : 7.30pm

Tickets : **£10**

Sunday 19 May : 2.00pm

Tickets : **£10**

STEWART HARDY & FRANK MCLAUGHLIN

We are delighted that fiddle virtuoso Stewart Hardy and superb Scottish guitarist/piper Frank McLaughlin will be returning to The Swallow Theatre following their very well-received concert here in May 2017.

Stewart and Frank possess a rare musical kinship, delighting audiences with their interplay as they explore music rooted in the traditions of Scotland, the Borders and Northumberland. In performance, they exemplify the very best of partnerships between fiddle and guitar.

"... Be it in The Pilgrim's Way's Spanish dance steps or in the brilliantly mobile Irish set that culminates with Paddy Fahey's Reel, Hardy brings a terrific range of colourful expression to his playing, ... McLaughlin is both an imaginative accompanist and an assured tunesmith, often transferring his piper's phrasing to the guitar strings". Rob Adams, The Herald

A fun night out is guaranteed.

This event is presented as part of the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival

Thursday 30 May : 7.30pm Standard : £12 / Under 26 : £6

IN LOYAL COMPANY

In Loyal Company tells the incredible true story of a missing World War II soldier and prisoner of war, written and performed by his great-nephew, the actor David William Bryan.

May 1941. Hitler's bombs rain on Liverpool. Local packer, Arthur Robinson, joins up becoming a private in the 18th reconnaissance division. Deployed to Singapore, his ship is destroyed by Japanese dive bombers on arrival. Arthur is declared missing. This extraordinary true story of survival is a tour-de-force and enjoyed a sell-out run at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

"Not only a masterpiece of war storytelling but also a masterpiece of storytelling in general" - ★★★★★ Broadway Baby

"... In Loyal Company is rooted in the humanity of its characters ..."
★★★★★ Breaking The Fourth Wall

"A must see show" - ★★★★★ Southside Advertiser

Recommended Age : 10+ (occasional swear words, gunshots, explosions, and war content)

Friday 7 June : 7.30pm Tickets : **£12.50**

Saturday 8 June : 7.30pm Tickets : **£12.50**

JANE EYRE

Hotbuckle Productions

Supported by The Swallow Theatre Association

Hotbuckle Productions (previous shows include Wuthering Heights, Far From The Madding Crowd, Emma, David Copperfield and Les Misérables) return to The Swallow Theatre with their trademark ensemble theatrical treatment of another literary favourite.

This year it is Jane Eyre that is presented in a new adaptation by writer, director and actor Adrian Preater.

Charlotte Brontë's classic novel tells of the passionate love between the orphan Jane Eyre and the brilliant, brooding, and domineering Rochester. The loneliness and cruelty of Jane's childhood strengthens her natural independence, courage and spirit. This proves invaluable when she takes a position as a governess at Thornfield Hall. After she falls in love with her sardonic employer, her discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice.

Expect humour, emotion, live music and expert characterisation.

Friday 14 June : 7.30pm

Tickets : **£13.50**

Saturday 15 June : 7.30pm

Tickets : **£13.50**

CALL OF NATURE

Tenterhooks

This event is presented by Dumfries & Galloway Arts Live

Two expert fools take an audience on an outdoor adventure, and journey of discovery, in search of a rare egg.

Join The Institute of Eggsperts and shape what happens during this field trip into the unknown.

A performance that puts its young audience in the driving seat and responds to their decisions using character clowning, improvisation and puppetry.

Tenterhooks performs captivating immersive theatre, and creates work inspired by wildness and adventure. Their interactive performances offer people creative opportunities to play together. "Brilliant, imaginative, inventive, responsive and thoughtful" - Audience Comment

"She was so excited. It was very different, very inventive. She talked about it for weeks afterwards." - Audience Comment

This performance takes place outdoors whatever the weather.
For 'Eggsperts' aged 5-8 and their grown up assistants.

Sunday 23 June 11.00am / 1.00pm / 3.00pm

Adult : **£8** / Child : **£4** / Family : £20 (2 adult+2 children)

EGLANTYNE

Supported by The Swallow Theatre Association

2019 marks the centenary of Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton founding Save The Children.

In this inspiring one-woman show, New Zealand born writer and performer Anne Chamberlain explores the extraordinary life of this courageous, charming, passionate humanitarian, social reformer and human rights activist. In 1923

Eglantyne drafted the Rights of the Child which evolved into the current United Nations Convention.

Eglantyne Jebb was one of the most influential women of the 20th century and yet one of the least known.

"... Not only is this a great show, it's also a really important story of an incredible life. A love letter to a woman that changed the lives of so many around the world, and whose legacy continues to do good ..."
The Reviews Hub, London

"... Do not miss seeing this ..." The Plus Ones, Melbourne

Ticket proceeds will be donated to the Wigtownshire Branch of Save the Children

Recommended Age : 12+

Friday 28 June : 7.30pm Tickets : **£12.50**

... AND THIS IS MY FRIEND MR. LAUREL

We are delighted to welcome Jeffrey Holland (Hi-de-Hi!, You Rang, M'Lord, Oh Dr Beeching and numerous other television, radio and stage roles) to The Swallow Theatre with his critically acclaimed one-man show about the life of Stan Laurel.

Set in Oliver Hardy's bedroom, the action takes place as Laurel pays a visit to his sick friend, recounting their past

success as cinema comic duo Laurel and Hardy.

Fulfilling a long held desire to pay tribute to his hero there are times it is difficult to remember it isn't the real Stan Laurel on stage, the voice and mannerisms are so accurate. Co-written by Jeffrey Holland and award-winning playwright Gail Louw, this is a wonderful, humorous and touching look at one of the great cinematic partnerships of the last century.

"Spellbinding and magically, timelessly funny" - ★★★★★ The Stage
"Simple, smart and sublimely performed" - ★★★★★ Broadway Baby

Recommended Age : 12+

Wednesday 10 July : 7.30pm Tickets : **£15**

Thursday 11 July : 7.30pm Tickets : **£15**

FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET

Presented and sponsored by The Swallow Theatre Association

In their 50th anniversary year, the quartet play music by Mozart, Schubert, Shostakovich & Haydn

The Swallow Theatre Association are delighted to welcome back the Fitzwilliam String Quartet. The quartet, named after Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, gave their first performance 50 years ago. This makes them one of the longest established string quartets in the world – and possibly unique in having reached this milestone with an original player still on board! An extensive diary of celebratory events started in 2018 and continues till 2020. Last October the quartet were appointed quartet-in-residence at University of St Andrews Music Centre.

The Quartet will be presenting three events during their visit :

Monday 29 July : 7.30pm

Isle Of Whithorn Church Concert Tickets : **£14**

SCHUBERT Sehnsucht, D.636

Quartet in C minor, D.703 (with Andante completed by Brian Newbould)

SHOSTAKOVICH Quartet No.14

HAYDN Quartet in D minor, Op.76/2 (Fifths)

Tuesday 30 July : 10.30am

The Swallow Theatre Tickets : **£5**

(includes tea / coffee. Event Duration : Approximately 90 minutes)

An illustrated talk on Schubert's Quartet in G major, D.887 which will be performed at Glasserton during the evening concert.

Tuesday 30 July : 7.30pm

Glasserton Church Concert Tickets : **£14**

MOZART Ave Verum Corpus, K.618

Quartet in D major, K.575 (Prussian)

SCHUBERT Quartet in G major, D.887

Buy a ticket for both concerts at the same time and SAVE £3

Page 16 of 17 Box Office : 01988 850368 | www.swallowtheatre.co.uk

For the very latest news about forthcoming productions please visit our website at www.swallowtheatre.co.uk.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased online at www.swallowtheatre.co.uk or by phone on 01988 850368. We accept credit and debit cards and there are no additional booking charges. We encourage you to book early. Any remaining tickets can be purchased on the door.

OPENING TIMES AND PARKING

The theatre is open from 1 hour before each show. Outside performance times the theatre is closed, as it is located in the owners' private garden.

Parking is a short walk from the theatre. A small amount of accessible parking and ground floor seats in the theatre are available. Please call us in advance to let us know your requirement. Useful information about your visit to the theatre can be found on our website.

FRIENDS OF THE SWALLOW THEATRE

You can show your support for our 'wee gem' of a theatre by becoming a Friend. For just £15 for a household (£12 for an individual) you'll receive brochures mailed to your home, Early Bird ticket discounts and other benefits. To join as a Friend, please fill in the form on our website or phone us for a paper application form.

THE SWALLOW THEATRE ROOF APPEAL

The theatre building is now 22 years old and its agricultural-style roof is coming to the end of its life and is in need of major repair or replacement. We have started a fundraising campaign to help cover the cost. We are most grateful for donations of any amount to help towards this project. See our website or join our mailing list to be kept in touch with developments.

VENUE HIRE

The theatre, Swallow House self-catering cottage, Sumner Room (the light and airy meeting room) and gardens are available to hire for meetings, small conferences, workshops, creative retreats and private events. Please contact us for more details.