

THE SWALLOW THEATRE

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

2019 SUMMER | AUTUMN | WINTER BROCHURE

The Swallow Theatre is a fully equipped – but miniature – performing arts space presenting professional drama and music in a beautiful rural setting. We have just 36-50 seats, depending on the event.

We feel honoured that so many superb performers accept our invitation to come here, and then choose to return year after year.

Summer treats include a first visit by much loved TV star Jeffrey Holland, concerts by the world renowned Fitzwilliam String Quartet, outdoor Shakespeare, a benefit evening of comedy reminiscences in aid of the theatre roof, television character actress Alison Skilbeck in a laugh out loud comedy and a return visit from the Budapest Café Orchestra. When we announced to our email newsletter subscribers that BCO were returning, tickets sold out in just four days. We've added in an extra show, but hurry, these are going fast too!

This autumn we present four different plays as part of this year's Wigtown Book Festival, and we end the season with a choice of two festive offerings from the great nephew of Richard Burton, the award winning Guy Masterson.

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 to Scotland's smallest professional theatre.

MATINÉE PERFORMANCES

As a result of audience requests, several of the events are matinées. Please give us your feedback on this, as we will only be able to continue scheduling afternoon shows if there is a demand for them.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The theatre is open from one hour before each show. At other 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 requirements.

We have a foyer/bar area selling a small selection of wine, locally- produced beer and ice-creams, farm-produced soft drinks, fair-trade tea and coffee and books connected with the season's shows. You are welcome to explore our organic, permaculture-inspired, wildlife garden. The auditorium opens about 10 minutes before the show starts.

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.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

We try to operate in an environmentally friendly manner. Power supply for the whole site is on a renewables tariff. Our takeaway cups for hot and cold drinks are biodegradable and are composted on site . We use cornstarch biodegradable bin bags. Our published brochure is printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable oil based eco inks.

2019 SUMMER | AUTUMN | WINTER PROGRAMME

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 : 10.30am	Fitzwilliam String Quartet Illustrated Talk at The Swallow Theatre
Tuesday 30 July : 7.30pm	Fitzwilliam String Quartet at Glasserton Church
Thursday 8 August : 6.30pm	The Play's The Thing
Friday 9 August : 2.00pm	The Play's The Thing
Thursday 29 August : 7.30pm	Robert Ross : A Funny Way To Make A Living
Monday 9 September : 7.30pm	Are There More Of You?
Tuesday 10 September : 2.00pm	Are There More Of You?
Sunday 15 September : 3.00pm	Budapest Café Orchestra
Sunday 15 September : 7.30pm	Budapest Café Orchestra
Saturday 28 September : 7.30pm	Lily
Sunday 29 September : 7.30pm	Lily
Monday 30 September : 7.30pm	A Substitute For Life
Tuesday 1 October : 7.30pm	A Substitute For Life
Wednesday 2 October : 7.30pm	Author, Composer, Soldier-of-a-sort
Thursday 3 October : 7.30pm	Author, Composer, Soldier-of-a-sort
Friday 4 October : 7.30pm	The Turn Of The Screw
Saturday 5 October : 7.30pm	The Turn Of The Screw
Monday 9 December : 7.30pm	A Child's Christmas in Wales and other Dylan Thomas
Tuesday 10 December : 2.00pm	A Christmas Carol
Tuesday 10 December : 7.30pm	A Child's Christmas in Wales and other Dylan Thomas

Box Office : 01988 850368
www.swallowtheatre.co.uk

...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*

Wednesday 10 July : 7.30pm

Thursday 11 July : 7.30pm

Recommended Age : 12+

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

THE PLAY'S THE THING

THE GLOBE PLAYERS

Join us in the garden...and don't forget to bring a picnic.

The Play's the Thing is Shakespeare as Shakespeare intended, performed in the open air...packed with comedy, romance, tragedy...full of life! Mistaken identity, magic, trickery, murder, tyranny and treachery, love and laughter. Shakespeare for everyone!

This delightful and engaging show contains selected scenes from many of Shakespeare's most popular works including Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and more.

The performances will be held on the front lawn of The Swallow Theatre. Please bring a camping chair or rug, and appropriate clothing. Picnics welcome: our usual range of hot and cold drinks will be available for purchase from the theatre bar.

In the event of bad weather the performance will move into the theatre.

THURSDAY 8 AUGUST : 6.30PM

FRIDAY 9 AUGUST : 2.00PM

Suitable for all the family

Adult : £12

Child (Age 4-16) : £6

Under 4 : £2

ROBERT ROSS : A FUNNY WAY TO MAKE A LIVING

Robert Ross is Britain's foremost comedy historian. He is a frequent guest broadcaster on radio and television, and is the author of over twenty books on comedy. He is the official consultant for the Carry On franchise, and has written several scripts for the Doctor Who audio collection.

Robert has been writing about the history and stars of British comedy for over twenty years, and in that time he has worked with and interviewed such heroes as Frankie Howerd, Rik Mayall, Norman Wisdom, Bob Monkhouse, all three

Goodies, and most of Monty Python to name but a few.

More used to interviewing famous people, the spotlight is now turned on Robert as he will be in conversation with Rebecca Vaughan, star of acclaimed sell-out solo shows Dalloway, Orlando, Christmas Gothic, Austen's Women and Jane Eyre: An Autobiography.

In this special fundraising event for The Swallow Theatre roof appeal (see page 11), Robert will share fond and frank stories and memories of some of Britain's comedy greats.

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST : 7.30PM

Tickets : £8

ARE THERE MORE OF YOU?

HINT OF LIME PRODUCTIONS

"If you lay yourself open, people will jump in with both feet, won't they?"

In her own one-woman comedy drama, Alison Skilbeck (whose previous shows Mrs Roosevelt Flies to London, and The Power Behind the Crone have sold out at The Swallow Theatre) tells the linked tales of four women, Claire, Sophia, Sara and Sam, with only a postcode in

common. Painful, scary, hilarious, and heart-warming, the stories chart each wildly different character's search for love and happiness. The show sold out for its run at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe. Skilbeck's television credits include Sherlock Holmes, Soldier Soldier and Call The Midwife among others.

"Go see how character comedy acting is done" - MIRANDA HART

"Laugh out loud funny" - ★★★★★ BROADWAYBABY.COM

★★★★★ *THREE WEEKS*

★★★★★ *BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS*

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 12+

Tickets : £12.50

THE BUDAPEST CAFÉ ORCHESTRA

The Budapest Café Orchestra demonstrate immense skill and profound musicianship in a hugely entertaining show.

They deliver Balkan and Russian traditional gypsy and folk music in their own surprising way and are also known for their artful reworkings of masterpieces by the great Romantic composers.

This four piece band is led by celebrated jazz violinist, composer and bandleader Christian Garrick. Christian performs internationally and he is a professor of jazz and non-classical violin at three of London's major music conservatoires.

Accordionist champion Eddie Hession has accompanied many world famous opera performers and pop singers, and played with many symphony, theatre, television and film orchestras.

Adrian Zolotuhin masterfully strums domra, balalaika and guitar and plays at venues such as the Royal Opera House and Glyndebourne. Fourth member, veteran bass-man Kelly Cantlon is a former member of Jimmy James and the Vagabonds.

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER : 3.00PM

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

Tickets : £16

LILY

Lily is the protagonist of Edith Wharton's 1905 novel of New York high-society, *The House of Mirth*. And also Lily is a thirty-year-old with a dead-end job who's starting to panic that it's 2019 and the party is over.

A fast-paced new drama inspired by a literary classic, *Lily* is a story of ambition, independence, and feeling like you're drowning in a tank.

Lily is the latest play from director Phil Bartlett and performer Sarah MacGillivray, the team behind the darkly comic fringe hit *Marie*, which won the Scottish Arts Club Bright Spark Award.

Praise for *Marie*:

"Deft direction and nimble acting...mark out the company as one to watch"
- *THE TIMES*

"Punchy piece...with a killer sting in the tail" - *THE STAGE*

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 14+

Tickets : £12.50

This show is presented as part of The 2019 Wigtown Book Festival

A SUBSTITUTE FOR LIFE

'Books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for real life.'

Robert Louis Stevenson's words resonate for Francis Kenworthy.

Born to affluence in the middle of the nineteenth century, Francis has always used books as a means to insulate himself from real life. Books

can make him forget about the brutalities of his Victorian upbringing, but books can't protect him when a family accident forces him to face reality and his responsibilities. The seeds of tragedy have been sown long ago; a violent outcome is inevitable.

Tim Hardy plays Francis Kenworthy in Simon Brett's riveting dark Victorian thriller, directed by Alison Skilbeck.

Hardy's one man *Trials of Galileo* by Nic Young received five star reviews in Edinburgh 2015 and was performed at The Swallow Theatre in 2017.

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER : 7.30PM

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 14+

Tickets : £12.50

This show is presented as part of The 2019 Wigtown Book Festival

AUTHOR, COMPOSER, SOLDIER-OF-A-SORT

A celebration of the friendship between the First World War poet and composer Ivor Gurney, and Marion Scott, musician, writer and pioneering woman critic.

Gurney sent Scott his music and poetry from the trenches. The horror of the Great War, contrasted with his love for his native Gloucester, coloured his writings. After he was gassed at

Passchendaele, Gurney's friendship with Scott, despite their different backgrounds, withstood war, illness and despair, as well as triumph, madness and joy.

Written and performed by Jan Carey and directed by Michael McCaffery, the story is brought to life through the rich material of Ivor Gurney and Marion Scott's memories, poems and letters, interweaved with some of Gurney's most loved songs from the recordings of Ian Partridge, tenor and Jennifer Partridge, piano.

"Heart-breaking" - ★★☆☆★ *THE STAGE*

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER : 7.30PM

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 12+

Tickets : £12.50

This show is presented as part of The 2019 Wigtown Book Festival

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

BOX TALE SOUP

"Nobody but me, till now, has ever heard. It's beyond everything. Nothing at all that I know touches it."

Award-winning Box Tale Soup present a new adaptation of Henry James' disturbing story, featuring puppetry and a haunting original soundtrack.

At an isolated estate, a young governess arrives. Before long she fears there is something darker in the

depths of Bly House, and battles to save the children from the mysterious figures who seek to corrupt them.

Don't miss this Edinburgh Fringe 2018 sell-out show. "They are wonderful."

- THE TIMES

"...their shows feel like collectors' items." - THE STAGE

"...beautifully crafted..." - ★★☆☆☆☆ FRINGE GURU

Previous performances at The Swallow Theatre include NORTHANGER ABBEY and THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY.

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER : 7.30PM

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 12+

Tickets : £13.50

This show is presented as part of The 2019 Wigtown Book Festival

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES & OTHER DYLAN THOMAS

THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

We are delighted to welcome Guy Masterson back to The Swallow Theatre this December with a festive Dylan Thomas short story and other pieces.

Centred around Dylan's seasonal masterpiece, A Child's Christmas In Wales, the varied programme may also include A Visit To Grandpa's or Holiday Memory plus a selection of his greatest verse including Fern Hill, Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night and Death Shall Have No Dominion.

Masterson's command of Thomas's wordplay is remarkable, akin to his great uncle, the late Richard Burton. He won The Stage Award for Best Actor in 2001 for this performance. Come and experience the richness and magic of the English language at its very best!

"Sheer unadulterated pleasure! A simply unmissable offering."

- SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY

MONDAY 9 DECEMBER : 7.30pm

Tuesday 10 December : 7.30pm

Recommended Age : 7+

Tickets : £14.50

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

ANOTHER CHANCE TO ENJOY THIS PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREAT!

Following two sell-out performances here in 2018 we are delighted that Olivier Award winner Guy Masterson is returning with his one-man adaptation of Dickens' classic festive fable. Famed for bringing multiple characters to vivid life, Masterson recreates Scrooge, Marley, the Fezziwigs, Tiny Tim et al. in an enchanting performance that will dazzle and linger long in the memory.

If you missed it last year or you want to see it again, this is your opportunity. A Christmas Carol is guaranteed to get you into the Christmas spirit - in many more ways than one!

"Masterson's production is an understated warning and a celebration of the hope for human kind. In short, it is A Christmas Carol for our time."

- PUBLIC REVIEW

"Just when you thought you'd seen enough Christmas Carol's to guide you to the grave, along comes one of the best yet!" - BBC RADIO

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER : 7.30PM

Recommended Age : 7+

Tickets : £14.50

WINTER PLAY READINGS

These enjoyable afternoons are great for anyone who wants to share in reading a script, read different character parts, or, if you prefer, simply listen and learn a little about the background to the play. Sessions are led by Friends of The Swallow Theatre and a warm welcome is offered to all.

No need to book, just turn up. All welcome.

We meet once a month at 2.00pm on a Sunday afternoon throughout the winter. Dates and play titles will be published on our website and in our email newsletters.

SUGGESTED DONATION : £3 INCLUDING TEA & COFFEE.

Suitable for ages 16+

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

To keep up with all the latest news from The Swallow Theatre why not sign up for our email newsletter at www.swallowtheatre.co.uk.

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 has an agricultural-style roof which is coming towards 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.

The Swallow Theatre is privately owned and operated and receives no regular funding from government or arts organisations. We rely on ticket sales, venue hires, sponsorship of particular events and donations to help cover our costs. We are very grateful to Friends, donors, sponsors and helpers for their support.