

THE SWALLOW THEATRE
SPRING | SUMMER 2020 BROCHURE

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WELCOME TO SCOTLAND'S SMALLEST THEATRE.

One of the exciting moments of operating a theatre is when, after months of planning, we are able to share the news about the shows and performers who will be appearing in our forthcoming season. This spring and summer we are delighted to be offering a varied programme of events which we hope will appeal to many.

Through the season there will be a selection of high quality drama, historical pieces, new adaptations of classic titles and some laughter-inducing comedies too. We are grateful for support from *D&G Arts Live* and *Puppet Animation Scotland* which enables us once again to bring a leading UK children's theatre company here in the Easter holidays. We are excited to be presenting some world-class music including Blues and Americana from *Brooks Williams* (sold out here in 2019 and we are honoured to be a part of his 30th anniversary tour), traditional folk from Findlay Napier's new show *The Ledger* and flying in from Canada at the start of a UK tour, *Rebecca Perry*, with a show about four of the great female stars of old Hollywood.

We are delighted to be welcoming some returning theatre companies and actors (*Rebecca Vaughan* from *Dyad Productions*, *Mark Farrelly*, *Dominic Goodwin & Chums*, *Hotbuckle Productions* and *Adaptable Theatre*). We have two thought-provoking dramas from actors based in Dumfries and Galloway (*Sue McCormick* and Swallow Theatre co-founder *David Sumner*), and we are looking forward to introducing some new performers

for the first time, including the exciting new talent of *Time & Again Theatre Company* and *Robyn Paterson*.

Whether you are a theatre regular, a first-time visitor, a local resident or are here on holiday, you are very welcome. If you've been thinking about seeing a show here but have not yet made it, then why not make 2020 your year to discover this intimate and magical theatre.

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.

FRIDAY 6 MARCH	7.30PM	WILD AS THE WHITE WAVES
FRIDAY 20 MARCH	7.30PM	A NIGHT AT THE PANTO!
SATURDAY 21 MARCH	2.30PM	
FRIDAY 3 APRIL	7.30PM	FAIL AGAIN, FAIL BETTER: READINGS FROM SAMUEL BECKETT
SATURDAY 4 APRIL	2.30PM	
TUESDAY 7 APRIL	2.30PM	UGG 'N' OGG AND THE WORLD'S FIRST DOGG
MONDAY 20 APRIL	7.30PM	FROM JUDY TO BETTE: THE STARS OF OLD HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY 1 MAY	7.30PM	I, ELIZABETH
SATURDAY 2 MAY	4.30PM	
MONDAY 11 MAY	7.30PM	HOWARD'S END
TUESDAY 12 MAY	7.30PM	THE SILENCE OF SNOW
WEDNESDAY 20 MAY	7.30PM	BROOKS WILLIAMS
FRIDAY 29 MAY	7.30PM	THE LEDGER
THURSDAY 4 JUNE	7.30PM	CLOUDS
FRIDAY 5 JUNE	2.30PM	
FRIDAY 19 JUNE	7.30PM	TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES
SATURDAY 20 JUNE	7.30PM	
FRIDAY 26 JUNE	7.30PM	LOOKING FOR WOLVERHAMPTON'S LATIN QUARTER AND THE CAVALRY TWILL INCIDENT
TUESDAY 14 JULY	7.30PM	CLOUDS
FRIDAY 15 JULY	2.30PM	

WILD AS THE WHITE WAVES

Written and performed by Sue McCormick

'Please give me some good advice in your next letter. I promise not to follow it.'

It is 19th October 1950, at Steepletop, a remote farmhouse in the pinewoods of upstate New York. Through the early hours of the morning, Edna St Vincent Millay drinks and reminisces, sharing the extraordinary highs and lows of her tumultuous life.

The first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, she was an icon for Dorothy Parker and the Greenwich Village set in 1920s New York, an accomplished pianist, a translator of French and Latin verse, a political activist, a drug addict and an alcoholic. Openly bisexual, her poetry celebrated women's sexuality with a new freedom that brought her fame and notoriety.

Interspersed with excerpts from her poetry and letters, Wild as The White Waves is an intimate, witty and moving encounter with a remarkable woman who resonates as powerfully today as she did in her own lifetime.

FRIDAY 6 MARCH : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 12+

Supported by D&G Arts Live

A NIGHT AT THE PANTO!

Pyramus and Thisbe Productions

Theatre favourites Dominic Goodwin, Bromwyn Jennison, Amelia Gillen and James Potter return to The Swallow Theatre with a laugh out loud show celebrating that great British institution: the pantomime.

Last Panto in Little Grimley centres on a fading amateur dramatic group, The Grimley Players, who, due to dwindling audiences, decide to stage a risqué pantomime. A series of calamitous happenings through the rehearsal period make the opening night predictably hilarious.

A Pantomime is one of a series of stories written by the actor and writer Peter Jones, known for his appearances in many comedy movies of the 60s and 70s as well as TV's The Rag Trade and radio's Just a Minute. Jones created J Kingston Platt, a theatre impresario, for BBC Radio 4 in the 1980s. This tall tale was first broadcast in 1985.

We are most grateful to the cast for performing this event as a fundraiser for The Swallow Theatre roof appeal. Don't miss this hilarious show!

FRIDAY 20 MARCH : 7.30PM

SATURDAY 21 MARCH : 2.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 12+

FAIL AGAIN, FAIL BETTER: READINGS FROM SAMUEL BECKETT

Performed by Charles Bell and David Sumner

The writings of Samuel Beckett (1906-1989) are often thought of as very bleak and pessimistic. But there is in fact a rich vein of humour running through his work, humour that is sometimes mordant and often quirky.

Actors Charles Bell and David Sumner, both with a long-standing interest in Samuel Beckett, will read extracts from his work which demonstrate the rich variety of this great writer.

Charles Bell is an actor, writer and director. He won the Cultural Sparks 2010 award for outstanding achievement in the Scottish cultural sector.

David Sumner is the co-founder of The Swallow Theatre. He performed Krapp's Last Tape by Beckett at the theatre in 2016.

Directed by Jacquie Crago, an actor, director and voice coach who has worked extensively with the RSC and the National Theatre.

FRIDAY 3 APRIL : 7.30PM

SATURDAY 4 APRIL : 2.30PM

TICKETS : £10

Recommended Age : 12+

Supported by D&G Arts Live

UGG 'N' OGG AND THE WORLD'S FIRST DOGG

Theatre Fideri Fidera

Can you imagine life without dogs?

No? Well, no worries, because Ugg 'n' Ogg are here to save us from a life of doglessness.

Set thousands of years ago in the fresh, sparkling world just after the last ice age, this new play uses a rich mix of physical theatre, clowning, storytelling, puppetry, music and song to tell the extraordinary tale of how two young intrepid Yorkshire hunter-gatherer heroes Ugg 'n' Ogg befriend wolves Tooth 'n' Nail and embark on a fun-packed adventure to invent our best friend the dog.

“Vastly entertaining for both adults and children ... heartfelt and engaging.” ★★★★★ New Perspective

“A brilliant mix of story, song, and puppeteering.”

★★★★★ Families Edinburgh

Theatre Fideri Fidera is one of the UK's leading children's touring companies. They return to The Swallow Theatre following their sell-out visit with Oskar's Amazing Adventure in April 2017. Buy a ticket for both concerts at the same time

TUESDAY 7 APRIL : 2.30PM

ADULT : £5 | CHILD £3

Recommended Age : 3+ (babies & infants welcome)

Supported by Puppet Animation Festival and D&G Arts Live

FROM JUDY TO BETTE: THE STARS OF OLD HOLLYWOOD

Created and performed by Rebecca Perry

Judy Garland. Lucille Ball. Bette Davis. Betty Hutton.
Trailblazers who refused to be “just another ingénue” during
Hollywood’s Golden Age.

Weaving scandalous headlines, famous songs and comedy
gold, Rebecca Perry brings all that she admires in the legends
of yesteryear’s unusual lives and ground breaking careers to
the fore; embracing the

humour these women used to excel in an industry set against
them, and performing room-rousing renditions of iconic songs
and comedic skits. Performed in over 25 cities worldwide so far,
this solo musical is created and performed by triple Broadway
World award-winner Rebecca Perry.

"An unadulterated, five-star show. A bona fide star giving a
powerhouse performance." - ★★★★★ MusicalTalk

“An absolutely perfect homage to days gone by ... spectacular ...
glorious entertainment.” - ★★★★★ Culture Fix

MONDAY 20 APRIL : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 9+

I, ELIZABETH

Dyad Productions

From the award-winning creators of Austen's Women, Christmas Gothic, Dalloway, Orlando, The Time Machine, and Jane Eyre: An Autobiography. 1568: At a vital but volatile crossroads in history a young queen steps from the shadows to reveal her thoughts on marriage, succession, religion, war and the recently arrived Mary, Queen of Scots, onto English shores. But time is against her...

Elizabeth I: Queen at 25, political phoenix and famously unmarried – but who was the woman beneath the crown?

Using only Elizabeth's words adapted from letters, speeches and writings, Rebecca Vaughan explores the queen's struggle to reconcile the desires of womanhood with the duties of sovereignty.

Written & performed by Rebecca Vaughan. Directed by Olivier Award winner, Guy Masterson. Winner of the Three Weeks Editors' Award.

"A definite must see for history and theatre addicts" -

★★★★★ Hairline "A truly breathtaking experience" -

★★★★★ Fringe Review

FRIDAY 1 MAY : 7.30PM

SATURDAY 2 MAY : 4.30PM

TICKETS : £14.50

Recommended Age : 10+

HOWERD'S END

Performed by Simon Cartwright & Mark Farrelly

Frankie Howerd was one of Britain's most loved comedians for half a century. But he had a secret. And the secret's name was Dennis.

Frankie Howerd was the first stand-up to dispense with conventional punchlines and slick patter, instead he crafted stumbling, surreal streams of insecurity, based on his sense of inadequacy, disappointment and sheer unsuitability to the very job of being a comedian.

This brand new play takes you to the heart of Frankie and Dennis' clandestine relationship, which lasted from the 1950s until Frankie's death in 1992. It also affords a glorious opportunity to encounter Frankie in full-flight stand up mode.

Packed with laughter, but unafraid of truth, Howerd's End portrays two humans' journey through the things that make life worth living. Come and say farewell to a legend... and learn the art of letting go.

"I knew Dennis, and I wrote for Frankie – and this play is brilliant" – Barry Cryer

MONDAY 11 MAY : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 14+

THE SILENCE OF SNOW: THE LIFE OF PATRICK HAMILTON

Written and performed by Mark Farrelly

Following his much-acclaimed performance of Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope at The Swallow Theatre last year, Mark Farrelly returns with his riveting, kinetic solo show portraying one of the great English writers of the inter-war years.

Patrick Hamilton was a dazzling success in his twenties, producing hit plays Rope (filmed by Hitchcock)

and Gaslight, and classic novels Twenty Thousand Streets Under The Sky, Hangover Square and The Slaves of Solitude.

But Hamilton was also an alcoholic, whose wit darkened as his inner and outer worlds collapsed. Covering the entire sweep of Hamilton's thrilling life and writing, The Silence of Snow entertains and challenges in equal measure, asking audiences: why do so many of us get through life without feeling we ever truly knew another person?

This performance supports MIND, the UK's leading mental health charity.

TUESDAY 12 MAY : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 14+

**BOOK BOTH HOWARD'S END AND
THE SILENCE OF SNOW AND SAVE £2**

BROOKS WILLIAMS

January 2020 marks thirty years since Brooks Williams' first album (North from Statesboro) came out. Thirty years since the Washington Post's glowing review of that album. Thirty years since National Public Radio's Noah Adams interviewed him about that album. It's where it all began.

The subsequent twenty-eight recordings, the countless miles on the road and hours in the studio, the numerous international tours and festival appearances. Catch the master guitarist and singer-songwriter on his 30th Anniversary Tour.

Brooks is a skilled interpreter of the standards, with a style that is unmistakably his own. He's also a soulful singer, who writes and delivers his own great songs (new favourites!) alongside old ones. The groove he sets up on his battered Atkin J-43 is second to none in acoustic music.

Brooks' show here at The Swallow Theatre last year sold out, and was such a fun night, we immediately invited him back and we are

delighted he accepted.

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 12+

THE LEDGER

Every week in the late 50s and early 60s The Scotsman published a traditional Scottish folk song: lyrics and melody alongside an explanatory article.

Findlay Napier's grandfather, Findlay Cumming, cut them out and pasted them into an old ledger. These articles, by folklorist Norman Buchan, were later published as 101 Scottish Songs and as The Scottish Folksinger.

These have become two of the most influential books on the Scottish folk scene past and present.

Featuring songs that became the core material for artists such as Dick Gaughan and Barbara Dickson and bands like The Battlefield Band and The Tannahill Weavers, The Ledger is a time capsule of the fledgling Scottish and UK folk scene and is brought to life by singer- guitarist Findlay Napier, fiddle player/ singer Gillian Frame and multi- instrumentalist Mike Vass.

FRIDAY 29 MAY : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

This performance is presented as part of, and supported by
Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival

CLOUDS

Time & Again Theatre Company

The year is 1913 and women are rising

up...

Amidst the flock of pioneers fighting to rule the skies, Winifred Baxter is determined to become the first Englishwoman to enter an air race, learning to fly amidst the chaos of the suffragette movement, a glorious garden party and far too much nephology: the study of clouds.

Winner of the Oldham Coliseum Pick of the Fringe award, Clouds is a new play from Laura Crow. Featuring a cast of five, the play combines the suffocating society of pre-war Britain with a touch of comedy, early feminism, and pure vintage flair!

"A wonderfully atmospheric play, Clouds is an interesting snapshot – and reminder – of the battles that women fought, indeed are still fighting, in having a fair and equal world" -

★★★★★ Edinburgh Guide

★★★★★ Ed Fringe Review | ★★★★★ Feminist fringe ★★★★★
North West End | ★★★★★ Theatre Weekly

THURSDAY 4 JUNE : 7.30PM

FRIDAY 5 JUNE : 2.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 8+

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

Hotbuckle Productions

“Why didn’t you tell me there was danger? Why didn’t you warn me? Ladies know what to guard against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks; but I never had the chance of discovering in that way;”

Thomas Hardy’s masterpiece, Tess of the D’Urbervilles, traces the life of the young country girl Tess Durbeyfield. Driven by family poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D’Urberville family, the innocent Tess crosses paths with her ‘cousin’, the dissolute Alec, and the gentleman, Angel Clare, with tragic results. Hardy’s heroine is one of the most moving in all of literature, and her story is hauntingly brought to life in this new version adapted by Adrian Preater.

Previous adaptations by Hotbuckle Productions include Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights and Far from the Madding Crowd.

"...they managed quite brilliantly to create atmosphere, suspense, comedy and clear, believable characters." - Maidenhead Advertiser

"It's Hotbuckle at their very best." - Virtual Shropshire

FRIDAY 19 JUNE : 7.30PM

SATURDAY 20 JUNE : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 12+

LOOKING FOR WOLVERHAMPTON'S LATIN QUARTER & THE CAVALRY TWILL INCIDENT

Adaptable Theatre

Ian Pearce and Tim Knight of Adaptable Theatre (Double Dickens) return with an evening of dramatised storytelling packed with poignancy, nostalgia and laughter.

LOOKING FOR WOLVERHAMPTON'S LATIN QUARTER

A funny, self-deprecating account of growing up in 1970s Wolverhampton. Ian looks back at his deluded teenage years. Being a trainee butcher at the Co-op is only a temporary situation before he reveals his true artistic talents. A world of awkward romantic relationships, The Sex Pistols and Angel Delight.

THE CAVALRY TWILL INCIDENT

A generally light-hearted, though occasionally poignant, tale of personal reminiscence. Tim introduces us to his family, examining his parents' relationship and illustrating the often conflicting emotions and frictions which lie at the heart of family life. Centred on an unforgettable event from Tim's youth, this is storytelling which is both entertaining and thought provoking.

FRIDAY 26 JUNE : 7.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 12+

THE SOUTH AFREAKINS

Written and performed by Robyn Paterson

Helene and Gordon are stuck in South Africa and in their same rut.

One longs to get out and experience everything retirement has to offer, while one won't leave his milk tart. When they finally immigrate to New Zealand, the result is heart-breaking and hilarious as they discover it's hard work to find "home".

A dark comedic solo show about leaving everything you've ever known and starting over again.

"Paterson takes us on this journey with wit and emotional insight." - ★★★★★ Sunday Express

"[Paterson] has the audience right in the palm of her hands." ★★★★★ The Mortal Fool

"A two-hander expertly performed by a single actor ... really very good indeed" - ★★★★★ Bouquets & Brickbats

"Razor-sharp [and] achingly poignant" - ★★★★★ The Stage "A tour de force performance" - ★★★★★ One 4 Review

TUESDAY 14 JULY : 7.30PM

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY : 2.30PM

TICKETS : £13.50

Recommended Age : 14+

FOR THE LATEST NEWS

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 or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram (@SwallowTheatre).

THE SWALLOW THEATRE ROOF APPEAL

The theatre building has an agricultural-style roof which is coming towards the end of its life and the outer skin 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.

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.

VENUE HIRE

The theatre, Swallow House self-catering cottage, Sumner Room (the light and airy foyer/bar area) 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.