

**Northern Stage**  
May - Dec 2016

Box Office: 0191 230 5151  
Website: [www.northernstage.co.uk](http://www.northernstage.co.uk)

At Northern Stage, diversity and equality are embedded in the heart of our thinking. We are committed to promoting these values through our artistic programme, workforce, participation projects and the services that we offer our community.

**Guide Dogs**

Guide, hearing and all working dogs are welcome at Northern Stage.

**Chat to our Box Office staff**

If there isn't an Audio Described Performance available on the show you would like to see, or perhaps it doesn't assist your needs, talk to a member of our Box Office team and we will be able to advise where the best place for you to be seated in our auditorium is to give you a better view of the action on stage.

**Mailing List**

If you would like to be added to our Access Performance Database to receive news on future Accessible Performances, please tell someone at Box Office, or email [info@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:info@northernstage.co.uk)

**NORTHERN STAGE**  
THEATRE MADE IN NEWCASTLE  
Jan - Jul 17

DRAMA, FAMILY, DANCE, COMEDY

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**2 Shows for £30 or 3 Shows for £45**

We've handpicked three brilliant dramas in our SPRING 17 season and if you buy tickets for all of them you can save yourself a packet. Top price seats without shelling out top price cash. All you need to do is book your tickets in the same transaction to enjoy the deal.

Dr Frankenstein + Hedda Gabler = £30

And/Or

Dr Frankenstein + Hedda Gabler + East is East = £45

WHY NOT MAKE A NIGHT OF IT? The bar is open for drinks before and after the show, and you can pre-book your interval drinks when you arrive to beat the rush later. McKenna's restaurant is open all day – book your pre-show meal by calling 0191 242 7242.

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**THEATRE MADE IN NEWCASTLE**

The new year sees us delve into great female narratives through our Queens of the North season. Stories by women, about women, about humankind through the eyes of women. We'll be remoulding classics, creating new stories and rediscovering lost works as well as welcoming a host of inspiring female creatives. Our headline shows Dr Frankenstein and Hedda Gabler broach big ideas with fresh tellings of stories we know and love. In April we present East is East – a classic comedy that examines the nature of cultural extraction and assimilation with both hilarity and gravity. I'm also glad to reveal a packed programme for our newly renovated Stage 3. The space has undergone an amazing transformation and is now a modernised space in which to experience our favourite performers on an intimate scale. I look forward to welcoming you to Northern Stage very soon. Lorne Campbell, Artistic Director

## **GETTING HERE**

We're located just on the edge of the Newcastle University campus, but you don't have to be a student to visit us. We're at the top of the ramp, nestled in between Blackwell's Bookstore and the King's Gate building, just along from Haymarket Metro. The theatre is fully accessible, has a charming café bar and there's a grassy lawn for drinks in the sun. Our neighbours include Great North Museum: Hancock, Hatton Gallery and Exhibition Park, so we're in good company for a great trip out. Northern Stage, Barras Bridge, Newcastle, NE1 7RH

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## **THE STORYTELLER**

FROM SAT 7 JAN FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

Join Chris Bostock, The Storyteller, on the first Saturday of the month to hear some of the stories he has collected from all around the world. Be ready to travel to the bottom of the sea or even to the stars, to meet interesting people, wonderful animals and see extraordinary sights.

Sat 7 Jan

## **THE CAT OF DOVREFJELL**

Tales of new beginnings with a folk tale from Norway and some Schnitzel, Schnitzel and Schnootzle from Austria.

Sat 4 Feb

## **GONG GONG AND THE DRAGON**

Welcome the Chinese new year with the story of a boy who liked rice cakes and a rooster story... from Spain.

Sat 25 Feb - Special storytelling for Under 5s

## **LITTLE RABBIT'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE**

What could go wrong? Little rabbit was busy all morning making her own birthday cake, when she went outside into the garden... oh oh! ... the door to her house slammed shut and she couldn't get back in. There will need to be lots of participation from everyone to help her sort things out!

AGES 5–8

Sat 4 Mar

### **STORIES FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE**

Stories from far and near – a puzzle to solve, a dream to share and a new story to make.

Sat 1 Apr

### **FOOLISH JACK AND OTHER STORIES**

How April foolish can you be? As foolish as Jack? Well come and see – and meet some other fools... in stories!

Sat 6 May

### **THERE'S A GOAT IN MY HOUSE!**

Stories about getting out of trouble. Will Mrs Tidysweep ever get back into her house? Will the mosquito make anyone happy? You'll have to come and hear to find out!

Sat 3 Jun

### **TALES FROM ACROSS THE POND**

Stories from America. Find out how Brer Rabbit helped Grandpa Raccoon and how Gluskapi found the wind eagle.

MEZZANINE

**Performance times:** 10.30am & 12pm Tickets: £4 per person Running time: 1hr

**Recommended age:** 5–8 and their grown ups

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MON 16 – TUE 17 JAN

Cardboard Citizens

## **CATHY**

Settled... until suddenly you're not... Candid, poignant and intimate, this new play by award-winning playwright Ali Taylor offers a timely reflection on the social impact of spiralling rents and forced relocation. Acclaimed theatre company Cardboard Citizens presents this powerful and emotive show, provoking discussion and debate, inspired by Ken Loach's pioneering drama, Cathy Come Home. "Cardboard Citizens is a theatre company that must surely rank as being amongst the most genuinely life-changing in the UK" What's On Stage

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Post-show discussion:** Mon 16 Jan Tickets: £14 | £12 (concs)

**Running time:** 2hrs 35mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

FRI 27 – SAT 28 JAN

ZENDEH

## **TRANSIT**

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

QUEENS OF THE NORTH

"The weight of this sad time we must obey; Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say." King Lear by William Shakespeare For the first time in ten years Darya and her father, Roger, meet in the transit lounge of Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. She is living through trauma; he is blinded by privilege. As they reach out to one another, an event a world away impacts their reconciliation.

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Post-show discussion:** Fri 27 & Sat 28 Jan

**Tickets:** £15.50 | £13.50 (concs)

**Running time:** 1hr (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 12+

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FRI 3 FEB – SAT 11 MAR

A Northern Stage and Greyscale co-production

## **DR FRANKENSTEIN**

MADE IN NEWCASTLE QUEENS OF THE NORTH

Based on the novel by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Adapted by Selma Dimitrijevic  
Directed by Lorne Campbell

Victoria Frankenstein is a brilliant, visionary young woman born into a world not ready for her. The industrial revolution is dawning and the British Empire circles the globe. It's an age of enlightenment, a time when old orders begin to crumble and everything seems possible. Provided of course, that you are an English man. Women are not allowed to study medicine in England, so Victoria travels to Ingolstadt, Bavaria to fulfil her destiny and become Dr Frankenstein. Convinced that there is no magic, no god, only undiscovered science, Victoria's experiments lead her to the very brink of human knowledge: the secret of life itself. In the dark of night, a creature is given life. There is violence, there is anger, there is fear. There will be consequences. This psychologically disturbing new version of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's Frankenstein tells a story of power and powerlessness, of fear and revenge, of the creative possibility and terrible destructive power of humans.

STAGE 1

**Performance Tickets:** Tue–Fri eves and Sat Matinees: £25 | £20.50 | £15.50 Sat eves: £26 | £20.50 | £15.50 Students & U21s: £13 Previews (Fri 3 – Tue 7 Feb): all tickets £15.50

**Recommended age:** 14+ (contains adult themes and some scenes that younger audiences may find distressing)

### **February**

Fri 3 7.30pm P

Sat 4 7.30pm P

Mon 6 7.30pm P

Tue 7 7pm

Wed 8 7.30pm

Thu 9 7.30pm

Fri 10 7.30pm

Sat 11 7.30pm

Thu 23 7.30pm

Fri 24 7.30pm

Sat 25 2pm 7.30pm

Tue 28 2pm 7.30pm

### **March**

Wed 1 6pm PSD

Thu 9 7.30pm

Fri 10 7.30pm

Sat 11 2pm 7.30pm

QUEENS OF THE NORTH: A SEASON OF GREAT FEMALE STORIES AND GREAT FEMALE STORYTELLERS The two headline shows Dr Frankenstein and Hedda Gabler have been created simultaneously and will be performed by the same ensemble of actors. See both shows for just £30 or combine with East is East to see 3 shows for £45 (see page 2). 2 SHOWS FOR £30

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THU 16 FEB – WED 8 MAR

A Northern Stage and Greyscale co-production

### **HEDDA GABLER THIS IS NOT A LOVE STORY**

By Henrik Ibsen

A new version adapted and directed by Selma Dimitrijevic

This married life is not what Hedda Gabler signed up for. She is the daughter of a general; a gun-toting, horse-riding, partythrowing siren. Then, with one little ring on a finger, she's supposed to turn into the quiet, predictable wife of an academic. When promises are broken, an old flame comes to town, blackmail and scandal are threatened and other, braver women start to occupy the limelight, Hedda has to decide: must she submit, settle down and knuckle under, or is it possible to stand up, take control and tear it all down? Hedda Gabler is Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece, possibly the greatest stage role ever written for an actress. This funny, shocking and powerful play opens up the desperation and absurdity of trying to live as a thing that you are not. Hedda Gabler: my house, my rules.

## STAGE 1

**Performance Tickets:** Tue–Fri eves and Sat matinees: £25 | £20.50 | £15.50 Sat eves: £26 | £20.50 | £15.50 Students & U21s: £13 Previews (Tue 17 – Thu 19 Feb): all tickets £15.50

**Recommended age:** 12+

## February

Thu 16 7.30pm

Fri 17 7.30pm

Sat 18 7.30pm

Mon 20 7.30pm

Tue 21 7pm

Wed 22 7.30pm

## March

Thu 2 7.30pm

Fri 3 7.30pm

Sat 4 2pm 7.30pm

Tue 7 2pm 7.30pm

Wed 8 6pm PSD

MADE IN NEWCASTLE QUEENS OF THE NORTH

QUEENS OF THE NORTH: A SEASON OF GREAT FEMALE STORIES AND GREAT FEMALE STORYTELLERS The two headline shows Dr Frankenstein and Hedda Gabler have been created simultaneously and will be performed by the same ensemble of actors. See both shows for just £30 or combine with East is East to see 3 shows for £45 (see page 2). 2 SHOWS FOR £30

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THU 23 FEB – SAT 4 MAR

Curious Monkey in association with Northern Stage

## **LEAVING**

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

QUEENS OF THE NORTH

By Paddy Campbell

Leaving home for the first time is a step into the dark. A whole new life. If you're leaving the care system, the reality hits even harder. Leaving is a new play by Paddy Campbell (Wet House). It tells the real stories of care leavers and their experiences at the pivotal moment when they leave care. It also gives a voice to those working within the system, from staff in children's homes to MPs and policy makers. Using the young people's own words, an ensemble of actors and an award-winning creative team will test the boundaries of verbatim theatre to bring these real voices to the stage. Leaving will create an immediate, immersive experience that will change the way you think about young people in care.

Curious Monkey is a theatre company based in Newcastle, founded by Artistic Director Amy Golding, with the aim of bringing to life stories that deserve to be told.

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 8pm Post-show discussion: Wed 1 Mar Tickets: £15.50 | £13.50 (concs)

**Running time:** 1hr 40mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

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THU 2 FEB

Richard Bucknall Management presents

**ANDREW LAWRENCE: THE HATE SPEECH TOUR**

The UK comedy scene's most bigoted scumbag presents an all new show of morally repugnant material all for the sake of a cheap laugh. Come, bring a friend who's easily offended, and be sure to take everything at face value. Star of BBC1's Live at The Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Roadshow and Dave's One Night Stand, as well as the hugely successful self-penned BBC Radio 4 series, There Is No Escape. 'He is in a class of his own.' ★★★★★ Edinburgh Evening News

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £15.50

**Running time:** 1hr 40mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

TUE 7 FEB

MLA Talent presents

**ASHLEY BLAKER: MESHUGA FRUM**

Meet Ashley Blaker, the UK's only Orthodox Jewish comedian and the producer who unleashed the phenomenon that is Little Britain. Following his sell-out show, Unfiltered, Ashley returns with his hysterical take on what it means to be Meshuga Frum (crazy religious). Secular or religious, there are big laughs for everyone from the comedian described as 'The Haredi Michael McIntyre'. "Hilarious. An ideal night of Jewish comedy." The Jewish Chronicle

STAGE 2

**Performance time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £20

**Running time:** 1hr 50mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

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WED 15 FEB

Lakin McCarthy presents

### **DR PHIL HAMMOND: DR PHIL'S HEALTH REVOLUTION**

Phil Hammond – NHS doctor, BBC broadcaster, Private Eye journalist and whistle-blowing comic – combines both of his 2016 sell-out ★★★★★ Edinburgh Fringe shows in one unforgettable evening. Laugh, sort your life out, stay sane, plan your death and save the NHS – all in only 99 minutes. “If Dr Phil were a medicine, you should swig him by the litre.” ★★★★★ The Times “One of the most entertainingly subversive people on the planet.” The Guardian

STAGE 2

**Performance time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £16 | £12 NHS staff

**Running time:** 1hr 50mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

MON 6 MAR

Lakin McCarthy presents

### **SUSAN CALMAN: THE CALMAN BEFORE THE STORM**

You may have seen or heard her on shows like QI, Have I Got News For You, News Quiz, Listomania or Mock the Week. Now you have the opportunity to see her in person, life-size, if you will. For information Susan is taller than a borrower but shorter than the average thirteen year old child. The show? Well she's ready to create a storm, to set the record straight, to give it to the man (whoever he is). Incidentally she would also like to be Batman. Seriously. It's going to be epic.

STAGE 1

**Performance time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £16.50

**Running time:** 1hr 50mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 16+ (contains some strong language)

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THU 16 MAR

Lakin McCarthy in association with West Yorkshire Playhouse

**MARK THOMAS: THE RED SHED**

Multi-award-winner Mark Thomas returns to where he first started to perform, a red wooden shed in Wakefield, the Labour Club, to celebrate its 50th birthday. The show will involve the audience (in a nice way) to recreate the shed and its inhabitants. Part theatre, stand up, journalism, activism, it's the story of the battle for hope and the survival of a community in a small wooden shed. "Evocative... hard to resist."

★★★★ The Sunday Times

STAGE 1

**Performance time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £16.50

**Running time:** 1hr 15mins (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 16+

SUN 26 MAR

Avalon presents

**BRIAN CONLEY: ALIVE AND DANGEROUS**

The multi-talented and irrepressible Brian Conley returns to the stage in this all-new show. Brian will perform brand-new comedy, sketches and songs, alongside some of his best-known and loved retrospective material from the screen and onstage.

"The performance of the decade." The Mail on Sunday "It takes a star to play a star." The Daily Express

STAGE 1

**Performance time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £22.50

**Running time:** 1hr 50mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 12+

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MON 8 MAY

Richard Bucknall Management in arrangement with IMWP presents

### **MITCH BENN: DON'T FEAR THE REAPER**

It's been a morbid time for "the country's leading musical satirist" (The Times). He's turned 46, his personal life is in turmoil, and his childhood heroes are dropping like flies. At times like these, a man feels the Reaper creeping up on him... But is death anything to fear? And is it really the end? (Yes. Yes, it is, sorry!) Mitch confronts his – and YOUR – mortality with hilarious (and tuneful) consequences. The Now Show aside, Mitch performs Mitch Benn is the 37th Beatle and presents Spank the Plank on BBC Radio 4.

STAGE 2

**Performance time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £15 | £13 (concs)

**Running time:** 1hr 40mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

### **PRIVATE HIRE**

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[hiresandevents@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:hiresandevents@northernstage.co.uk)

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TUE 21 – SAT 25 MAR

Curve and Rose Theatre Kingston

### **THE TWITS**

Adapted by David Wood Director Mark Webster

“Mr. Twit was a twit. He was born a twit. And, now at the age of sixty, he was a bigger twit than ever.” The Twits really are the most spiteful and revolting couple you could ever hope to meet. They spend their days playing wicked tricks on each other and mistreating Muggle-Wump monkeys. They also have a particularly sticky trick to catch Roly-Poly birds for their bird pies. But not for much longer because the monkeys have a cunning plan to teach those terrible Twits a lesson.

## STAGE 1

March

Tue 21 6pm

Wed 22 10.30am 6pm

Thu 23 10.30am 6pm

Fri 24 6pm

Sat 25 2.30pm 6pm

**Post-show discussion:** Tue 21 Mar

**Tickets:** £20 | £16 | £12 Students & U21s: £16 | £12 | £8

**Running time:** 1hr 50mins (including interval)

AGES 6+

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THU 30 MAR – SAT 1 APR

## **GECKO: THE WEDDING**

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

We are all married, bound by a contract. But what are the terms of this relationship and can we talk about divorce? In a blur of wedding dresses and contractual obligations, an extraordinary ensemble guides us through the struggle between love and anger, creation and destruction, community and isolation. We want to believe in our journey but where are we heading? Is it too late to stop, to go back, to fall in love, to start again? Co-commissioned by Northern Stage and developed here in Newcastle, we are proud to host the first chance to see this new show from acclaimed physical theatre company Gecko. Gecko's emotionally charged and spectacular performances have been wowing audiences since their first visit to

Northern Stage in 2011 (The Overcoat, Missing, Institute). “Bravery and physical distinctiveness has always distinguished Gecko’s work.” The Guardian

## STAGE 1

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Post-show discussion:** Fri 31 Mar

**Tickets:** £25 | £20.50 | £15.50 Students & U21s: £13

**Running time:** 1hr 20mins (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

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THU 6 – SAT 8 APR

Co-produced by Sadler’s Wells in association with artsdepot

## **BALLETBOYZ: LIFE.**

BalletBoyz® are back! Following the triumphant premiere in London, Life. is performed by an all-male company of ten amazing dancers and features two works by internationally acclaimed choreographers – Rabbit by Pontus Lidberg and Fiction by Javier de Frutos. Life. takes an elegant, powerful and provocative look at life and death presented in the inimitable BalletBoyz style. Come and find out why BalletBoyz have generated thousands of fanatical dance fans across the globe with their inventive, vivid and memorable shows. “The fur flies – and hops, skips and pirouettes – in an inspired and funny programme... Compelling.” ★★★★★ The Guardian

## STAGE 1

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Post-show discussion:** Fri 7 Apr

**Tickets:** £25 | £20.50 | £15.50

**Students & U21s:** £13

**Running time:** 1hr 20mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 7+

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THU 30 MAR

Pilot Theatre and York Theatre Royal

## **THE MACHINE STOPS**

EM Forster is best known for his exquisite novels, but his short story masterpiece published in 1909 is astoundingly prophetic and poignant in 2017: a chilling prediction and exploration of our increasingly complex relationship with technology. In a dystopian world where humans have retreated far underground, Kuno alone questions their now total dependency on technology to live and communicate with each other, but in his struggle to break out can he reach the Earth's surface before the Machine stops? "Chilling and claustrophobic." ★★★★★ The Stage

STAGE 2

**Performance time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £15.50 | £13.50 (concs)

**Running time:** 1hr 25mins (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 11+

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TUE 4 – SAT 8 APR

## **NATIONAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS**

National Theatre Connections is a celebration of young people, theatre-making and the importance of access to the arts. Each year we commission ten new plays for young people to perform, bringing together some of the most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of tomorrow. With 29 local festivals taking place across the country, National Theatre Connections is an unforgettable feast of theatre made by and for young people.

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 7pm

**Tickets:** £6 | £4 (concs)

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THU 20 – SAT 22

Full House Theatre

## **THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER**

### **EASTER TREAT**

In this topsy-turvy re-telling of The Elves and The Shoemaker we meet Geoff, a lovable retired shoemaker. One day at the bottom of his garden he is visited by two magical friends who help him to recall the old days in the shoe shop, reliving the hard times, the good times and the magic! The show features original toe-tapping music, laugh out loud characters, puppetry and even a little bit of real magic!

### **STAGE 2**

**Performance times:** Thu: 1.30pm & 3.30pm; Fri & Sat: 10.30am & 1.30pm

**Tickets:** £12.50 adults | £9.50 children

**Running time:** 55mins

**AGES 4+**

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THU 27 – SAT 29

Futures Theatre Company

## **OFFSIDE**

### **QUEENS OF THE NORTH**

It is 1881. It is 1921. It is 2017. Four women from across the centuries live, breathe, and play football. Whilst each of them face very different obstacles in pursuing their dream profession, the possibility that the beautiful game will change their futures – and the world – is tantalisingly close. Offside is told through lyrical dialogue, poetry, and punchy prose, placing the audience on the touchline of the game of a lifetime.

### **STAGE 2**

**Performance times:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £15.50 | £13.50 (concs)

**Running time:** 70mins (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

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## **EAST IS EAST**

By Ayub Khan-Din Directed by Suba Das

TUE 18 APR – SAT 13 MAY

A Northern Stage and Nottingham Playhouse co-production

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

A brand new production of the Olivier Award-winning comedy that went on to become a BAFTA-winning film sensation. Chip shop owner George has his work cut out as head of the Khan household. Back in George's homeland Pakistan, a father rules the house; but in 1970s Salford, as Britain evolves and rebels, his teenage children are proving quite the challenge. Sajit still has his 'tickle-tackle' and refuses to take his parka off. Saleem, is meant to be studying engineering but is in fact drawing nude women as part of a Foundation Art course. And Abdul and Tariq are doing everything they can to avoid marrying the wealthy Mr Shah's... hefty... daughters. Amidst chain smoking and rounds of tea, George's English wife Ella tries to keep the peace between the man she loves and the children who are desperately trying to find their own way in a rapidly changing world. Will Sajit ever come out of the coal shed? Can curry powder really hide the smell of contraband bacon? And what has really happened to George and Ella's eldest son, Nazir? This modern comedy classic shares the joy, chaos and love of family life.

**Tickets:** Tue–Fri eves and Sat matinees: £25 | £20.50 | £15.50 Sat eves: £26 | £20.50 | £15.50 Students & U21s: £13 Previews (Tue 18 – Wed 19 Apr): all tickets £15.50

**Running time: approx.** 2hrs 30mins

**Recommended age:** 14+

STAGE 1

**April**

Tue 18 7.30pm P

Wed 19 7.30pm P

Thu 20 7.00pm

Fri 21 7.30pm

Sat 22 7.30pm

Tue 25 7.30pm

Wed 26 7.30pm

Thu 27 7.30pm

Fri 28 7.30pm

Sat 29 2pm 7.30pm

## **May**

Tue 2 6pm PSD

Wed 3 2pm 7.30pm

Thu 4 7.30pm

Fri 5 7.30pm

Sat 6 2pm 7.30pm

Mon 8 7.30pm

Tue 9 7.30pm

Wed 10 2pm 7.30pm

Thu 11 7.30pm

Fri 12 7.30pm

Sat 13 2pm 7.30pm

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THU 4 – SAT 6 MAY

Mind the Gap

## **CONTAINED**

Hot on the back of the critically acclaimed 2015 and 2016 tours, groundbreaking learning-disability theatre company Mind the Gap present Contained, a vibrant, compelling and personal production. Nine interwoven true stories about family and friendships, love and loss, the everyday and the extraordinary. Combining live performance, film, photography, music and dance, Contained explores those small moments in life that suddenly become meaningful: moments that teach us about ourselves, and the world that we live in. "...defiantly and joyously trashing any idea of lives diminished and less fully lived." Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Alongside the performances of Contained is a series of workshops, performances and activities aimed at sharing and advancing learning disability arts. Full details can be found online at [northerstage.co.uk](http://northerstage.co.uk)

Performance Platform Thu 4 May, 7pm A series of guest performances by integrated companies who make work with learning-disabled performers at an advanced level.

Contained: A Workshop for Actors and Performers Fri 5 May, 10am Led by Alan Lyddiard (Director of Contained), Joyce Lee (Mind the Gap Resident Director) and alongside performers from the Ensemble, this workshop explores the ideas and methods that were used in the creation of Contained.

Tea & Trailers Fri 5 May, 3.30pm For people interested in sharing and finding out about disability arts.

A Day of Workshops and Sharing Sat 6 May, 10am–5pm A series of exploratory workshops and activities for everyone.

## STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 7.45pm and Fri 5 May, 1pm

**Post-show discussion:** Thu 4 May

**Tickets:** £15.50 | £13.50 (concs)

**Running time:** 1hr 40mins (including interval)

**Recommended age:** 11+

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THU 18 – FRI 19 MAY

MEI Theatrical

## THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

The timeless classic makes its way off the page and onto the stage. Featuring a menagerie of 75 lovable puppets, faithfully adapting four of Eric Carle's stories, The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse, Mister Seahorse, The Very Lonely Firefly and of course The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by author and illustrator Eric Carle has delighted generations of readers since it was first published in 1969, selling more than 41 million copies worldwide. Carle's well-known books captivated readers with his iconic, colourful, hand-painted tissue paper collage illustrations and distinctively simple stories, introducing generations of children to a bigger, brighter world – and to their first experience of reading itself.

STAGE 1

**Performance times:** Thu: 1.30pm Fri: 10am

**Tickets:** £12.50 adults | £9.50 children

**Running time:** 1hr (no interval)

AGES 3+

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MON 22 – TUE 23 MAY

Frozen Light in association with New Wolsey Theatre

## HOME

Exploring a new and unknown world, Home immerses audiences with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) in a multi-sensory story of discovery. Home is the latest bold and exciting production from Frozen Light. The world is not how they remember it. Where are they now and where is their home? Scarlet and Olive must learn how to survive and create a future together in an environment that is full of surprises. Will the stars shine on this unexpected friendship? And how will they face the challenges that lie ahead? “a sophisticated, caringly crafted mixture of music and other sensory elements... rather magical.”★★★★ The Herald Scotland

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** Mon: 1.30pm & 6pm; Tue: 11am & 1.30pm

**Tickets:** £15.50 audience member with learning disabilities plus carer. £5.50 additional carers

**Running time:** 1hr (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 13+ (for audiences with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities)

WED 31 MAY – SAT 3 JUN

## NORTHUMBRIA PERFORMING ARTS @ NORTHERN STAGE

MADE IN NEWCASTLE

Northumbria University Performing Arts presents a festival of exciting and high quality theatre and performance, play readings and workshops. Graduating students take this opportunity to showcase and celebrate their achievements as final year

students, and to announce themselves as emerging young artists in this region and beyond. NPA courses include BA (Hons) Drama (Acting and Performance), BA (Hons) Drama (Applied Theatre), BA (Hons) Drama (Scriptwriting), MA Theatre and Performance.

## STAGE 2

**Performance time:** check schedule online

**Tickets:** £10 | £7

**Recommended age:** 12+

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FRI 26 – SAT 27 MAY

Mark Murphy's V-TOL

### **MARK MURPHY'S V-TOL: OUT OF THIS WORLD**

Out of this World is genre-defying action packed theatre from acclaimed writer and director Mark Murphy. Set within a world of projected film and animation, it combines his signature mix of ground breaking aerial choreography, original text and explosive special effects in a show that is both intense psychological thriller and heart-rending medical drama. This is the story of a woman's woozy descent into the depths of a medically induced coma. Once safely cocooned, her crashed imagination takes over the show – creating a vivid inward cinema in which she reviews her life. But after discovering a shocking truth, and with the medical team moving in for the kill, she must escape her subterranean safe house in a very real fight for life.

## STAGE 1

**Performance times:** 7.30pm

**Post-show discussion:** Fri 26 May

**Tickets:** £25 | £20.50 | £15.50 Students & U21s: £13.50

**Running time:** 80mins (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

Contains flashing lights and strobe effects

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THU 1 – SAT 3 JUN

## **DINOSAUR WORLD**

A brand new dino-mite adventure! Dare to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World in this interactive new show for all the family. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures, including every child's favourite flesheating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Triceratops, Giraffatitan and Segnosaurus, to name a few! Book now for this entertaining and mind-expanding jurassic adventure, live on stage!

STAGE 1

**Performance times:** 11am (excl. Thu) & 2pm

**Tickets:** £16 danger seats\* | £13.50 (\*dare to get right up close to the creatures)

**Running time:** 50mins (no interval) + 15mins post-show meet and greet with the dinosaurs!

AGES 3+

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## **MOVING PARTS: NEWCASTLE PUPPETRY FESTIVAL**

THU 30 MAR

Death Puppet Klezma Jam

### **MIRTH & MISERY**

A cabaret line-up of puppet characters interact, transform and expire to the skeletal rhythms, rotten dances and bone jangling beats of four-piece klezma band Benny and the Cheese grinder. "An exciting, stylish performance without a dull moment."  
Animations Online

STAGE 3

**Performance times:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £8 | £6

**Running time:** 1hr (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 8+

SAT 1 APR

Stephen Mottram

### **THE SEAS OF ORGANILLO**

The ancient seas of Organillo are warm and mysterious. This is where babies are made. Stephen Mottram conjures up a beautiful world to tell the oldest of all stories.

STAGE 3

**Performance times:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 **Running time:** 55mins

**Recommended age:** 12+

FRI 31 MAR Theatre Témoin

### **THE MARKED**

After acclaimed sell-out runs in London and Edinburgh The Marked returns; spinning together mask, puppetry and physical theatre to navigate a haunting, mythical wonderland inspired by stories of homelessness.

“Wondrous, magical... a marvellous journey.” ★★★★★ ThreeWeeks “A powerful visual world” ★★★★★ The Scotsman

STAGE 2

**Performance times:** 8pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8

**Running time:** 1hr (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 12+

MULTIBUY Get all 3 shows for £20

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### **STAGE 3 AT NORTHERN STAGE**

A small-scale, high quality venue in the heart of the city. The very best performers from the North East and beyond. Theatre, music, comedy, poetry and everything

else you can possibly think of. Keep an eye out for the latest listings, as events are always being added.

STARTING FRI 13 JAN

### **CINEMA POLITICA**

A monthly film and documentary screening followed by stimulating debates led by experts with knowledge on the film topic.

Fri 13 Jan: Animal (De)liberation

Fri 17 Feb: Children 404

Fri 10 Mar: Radioactivists & Women of Fukushima

See [northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk) for details.

**Performance times:** 6pm

**Tickets:** pay what you can – suggested price £2

THU 26 JAN

### **BEFORE (THE LINE IS LOST)**

Holly Gallagher

QUEENS OF THE NORTH

A one woman show about Cosplay and growing up on the internet. It addresses the world of comic conventions and consent both in reality and online.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

THU 2 FEB

### **CANARY**

Fun in the Oven

QUEENS OF THE NORTH

When an air raid on their shell shop rocks their world, these Munitionettes embark on a cordite fuelled journey through euphoric emancipation, forbidden friendships and anarchic dreams.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

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TUE 14 – WED 15 FEB

### **FUEL PRESENTS: FICTION**

David Rosenberg & Glen Heath

An anxious and thrilling sound journey in complete darkness from director David Rosenberg (Electric Hotel, Shunt) and writer Glen Neath (The Outgoing Man and Romcom by Rotozaza).

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

WED 22 & SAT 25 FEB

### **PRESENT TO PAST: RECLAIMING WORK BY WOMEN**

Forgotten texts by 17th Century female writers are brought back to life. Script in hand readings of two great plays with introductions by academics and supported by Newcastle University. See details of the texts online.

**Performance time:** 6.30pm

**Tickets:** £5 | £2 with a ticket to Hedda Gabler or Dr Frankenstein

FRI 3 MAR

### **GATESHEAD COLLEGE**

In our annual residency project with Gateshead College, the 2nd Year performance students will perform a contemporary play in Stage 3. See the fruits of their labour on 3 March

**Performance time:** 7pm

**Tickets:** £5

THU 9 MAR

**SOPHIE WILLAN: ON RECORD**

Join one of comedy's most exciting rising stars. As a foster child she explores who she is today through the eyes of the numerous experts who assessed her growing up. "An exceptional new talent" The Herald

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

TUE 14 – WED 15 MAR

**FUEL PRESENTS: PORTRAIT**

Racheal Ofori

A frank, fun and provocative look at the trials and tribulations of modern life seen through the eyes of a young black woman.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

TUE 21 MAR

**BUTTERFLY**

Little Cog

**QUEENS OF THE NORTH**

Awaiting the outcome of a forced mental health assessment, Beatrice becomes the unlikely heroine in a story of not-so-everyday survival, tasked with setting the record straight.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

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THU 23 MAR

DRAG ME TO LOVE

Bonnie and The Bonnettes

Golden stilettos, ripped fishnets, and white bobs. It's Sheffield, 2009. This autobiographical, three person show combines drag performance with theatrical storytelling to build the world of Bonnie Love and her Bonnettes.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

TUE 28 – WED 29 MAR

**JONNY & THE BAPTISTS: EAT THE POOR**

Three quarters of MPs are millionaires. A third of the UK lives below the poverty line. Now's the time for a riotous new musical comedy about inequality. "Wickedly amusing" ★★★★★ The Times

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

TUE 11 – WED 12 APR

**HEADS UP**

Kieran Hurley

A city. Just like this. Right now. Multi award-winning writer and performer Kieran Hurley weaves a picture of a familiar city at its moment of destruction. Fringe First Award Winner 2016

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

TUE 25 – WED 26 APR

## A MACHINE THEY'RE SECRETLY BUILDING

Proto-type

Two people speak up, speak out, blow the whistle and lift the veil on the insidious machine of surveillance. #AMTSB

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

THU 27 APR

## GREAT NORTHERN SLAM

Sixteen of the best slam poets in the North have three minutes each to wow the audience with words as they battle to become the Great Northern Slam Champion.

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £9

WED 3 MAY

## LETTERS TO WINDSOR HOUSE

Sh!t Theatre

With songs, politics, dodgy landlords and detective work, this national housing crisis gets personal for the multi-award winning duo Sh!t Theatre in a show for Generation Rent. Fringe First Award Winner 2016

**Performance time:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £10 | £8 (concs)

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## SUPPORT NORTHERN STAGE

Northern Stage is a registered charity and we fundraise all year round. Your support helps us to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in life changing experiences at the theatre, in schools and in community settings across the region. With First Steps for tiny tots and script reading for the over 60s, our Young Company

participation programme and our highly regarded formal education projects, Northern Stage staff share their expertise and enthusiasm throughout the year to help individuals develop skills, confidence and creativity.

**JOIN OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS SCHEME** Join our Corporate Partners scheme and receive year-round benefits. As the largest producing theatre in the North East we will work with your business to develop an exciting partnership and help you deliver your corporate objectives. Choose one of our supporter packages, or mix and match to create your own bespoke offer, with opportunities including networking events, corporate entertaining, employee engagement and community support. Packages from £1,500 + VAT.

**GET CLOSER TO NORTHERN STAGE** Join our Supporters scheme and get closer to Northern Stage and find out more about the work we do. Supporters receive regular newsletters and invitations to events and behind the scenes visits, from just £5 a month.

**THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SUPPORTERS** STAGE ONE Lucy Armstrong Jonathan and Julia Brown Laura Collier Wendy Dale and Michael Worthington Jo Darby Kate Denby Edwards Commercial Cleaning Services Ltd Simon and Julie Elliott Lynn Pearson Yvonne and David Richardson Elizabeth Tilling Sue Wilson STAGE TWO Tim Bailey Dr Patrick Belshaw Ann Gittins Wendy Harris Alan Mawston Linda McGowan Keith Proudfoot Caroline Theobald Linda Tuttiett Jean Pierre van Zyl And our other supporters who wish to remain anonymous

For further information visit [northernstage.co.uk/support-us](http://northernstage.co.uk/support-us) or contact Jane Hall, Development Manager, on 0191 242 7224 or email [jhall@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:jhall@northernstage.co.uk)

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## **YOUR NORTHERN STAGE**

Northern Stage proudly welcome the following performances and events to our stages in Spring 17. If you would like to hire our three performance spaces, bar or meeting rooms – for everything from shows and festivals, to conferences and receptions – contact Jonathan Bailey to find out more: 0191 242 7204 or [jbailey@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:jbailey@northernstage.co.uk)

Download our Event Hire guide from [northernstage.co.uk/venue-hire](http://northernstage.co.uk/venue-hire) to find out about all the possibilities for creating your perfect wedding, unique conference, fabulous party and much more at Northern Stage.

THU 19 – SAT 21 JAN

Newcastle High School for Girls

### **WEST SIDE STORY**

The talented Performing Arts team returns with one of the best musicals ever, West Side Story. Set in 1950s New York, two star crossed lovers find themselves between warring gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. With a heart-wrenching storyline, unforgettable dance numbers and songs such as Tonight, Maria and I Feel Pretty, prepare to be swept along on a wave of emotion as the musical reaches its dramatic conclusion. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.

STAGE 1

**Performance times:** Eves 7pm; Sat matinee 2pm

**Tickets:** £15 | U18s £10 | Family ticket £46 (2 adults, 2 children)

FRI 17 – SAT 18 FEB & MON 6 – WED 8 MAR

Newcastle University Theatre Society

### **NUTS SPRING SHOWS**

Newcastle University Theatre Society (NUTS) bring a musical and a drama to Stages 2 and 3 this season. NUTS is one of the largest and most successful student theatre societies in the UK, staging 18 productions a year.

STAGES 2 & 3

**Performance times:** 7.45pm; Sat 18 Feb, 2pm

**Tickets:** £9 | £6 (concs)

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TUE 14 MAR

### **MATHS INSPIRATION**

Maths Inspiration is one of the largest maths enrichment programmes for teenagers in the UK. It's a chance for Year 11 and Sixth Form students to experience the UK's most inspiring maths speakers live. School / college bookings only.

## STAGE 1

**Performance times:** 9.45am & 1pm

**Ticket prices:** £9 Find out more and book at [mathsinspiration.com](http://mathsinspiration.com)

FRI 24 – SAT 25 MAR

Straw Bear

### **BLUE / ORANGE**

BY JOE PENHALL

Christopher thinks oranges look blue. And he believes he is the son of former Ugandan president Idi Amin. Does he have schizophrenia, or is he just culturally misunderstood? Should he be kept as a psychiatric inpatient, or is he better off going home? Who gets to decide? Straw Bear presents Joe Penhall's extraordinary play about race, mental illness, medicine and power. Presented for Brain Awareness Week in association with the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University.

## STAGE 3

**Performance times:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £12 | £8 (concs)

TUE 9 – WED 10 MAY

Newcastle College

### **THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR**

As part of Live Across Newcastle 2017 Newcastle College FdA Acting and Performance Practice present Gogol's comic masterpiece The Government Inspector. In a small backwater Russian town the Mayor receives a letter warning him of the imminent arrival of a Government Inspector traveling incognito. There is a flurry of activity to cover up the corruption in the government when the supposed 'Government Inspector' arrives with comic results.

## STAGE 3

**Performance times:** 7.45pm

**Tickets:** £8 | £5 (concs)

FRI 12 – SAT 13 MAY

## **NEWCASTLE POETRY FESTIVAL**

The 2017 Newcastle Poetry Festival will be a showcase of poetry from the UK and abroad, including Carolyn Forché, David Harsent and Alice Oswald and many more.

STAGES 2 & 3

Find out more and book at [newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk](http://newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk)

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### **TAKE PART**

There's so much more going on than what's on the stage – talks, workshops, tours and projects – get involved!

**YOUNG COMPANY** This year our Young Company will perform as part of a large community cast in a new adaptation of *A Song for Ella Grey* by David Almond in August. Aged 16+ and love performing? Come and join us for weekly evening sessions starting in January 2017.

**OPEN STAGES** Our popular Saturday sessions are back for Spring. Join one of our three groups for performing and movement skills for a fun and accessible introduction to theatre. Starts on 4 February, 7 sessions with a performance on 1 April. 10am – 11.30am: 5 – 7 years old 12pm – 1.30pm: 8 – 11 years old 2pm – 3.30pm: 12 – 15 years old £55 full price, £40 concessions

**READ THROUGH** An informal script reading group for over 60s. Read a selection of texts in relaxed company with tea and cake. We recommend booking in advance. Every two weeks from 19 January. £5 per session.

**ARTS AWARD Discover in a Day** – Open to schools and groups who would like to create a play in a day at the theatre and achieve Discover Arts Award in the process. Our workshops, tours and shows can also support schools and individuals to achieve Arts Award at Explore, Bronze and Silver. Get in touch for more details.

**ARTS MARK** Need a cultural partner to support the development of your school's arts and cultural programme? We have worked with schools across the region to achieve their Arts Mark at all levels – let us be part of your Arts Mark journey!

For all enquiries please contact: [takepart@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:takepart@northernstage.co.uk) or 0191 242 7244  
Find out more at: [@TakepartNS](http://northernstage.co.uk/take-part)

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## **DROP THE ACT**

We believe that everyone has significant abilities which are often locked inside them. Our DROP THE ACT workshops are designed to tap into what's great about you and build your practical skills. Skills workshops are suitable for corporate groups and individuals and we offer open courses (one day and half day), bespoke in-house sessions and coaching in the following areas:

- Communication: engaging hearts and minds – How to connect with your audience to get your message across
- Creative Leadership: inspiring and motivating others – How to develop leadership in yourself and others to get the most from your team
- Speaking Power: finding your voice – How to increase your vocal potential and public speaking confidence
- Building Resilience: practical approaches to boost wellbeing – How to identify and overcome challenges before they limit your potential
- Advanced Presentation skills: Masterclass – for those progressing from our Communication skills workshop

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS**

Northern Stage and Mortal Fools present

★★★★★ “ It was great to develop skills and build confidence in such a dynamic environment.” Participant, Bond Dickinson “ Best training I have ever been on! I have already recommended to colleagues and friends.” Participant, Newcastle University

For more information visit: [northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk) To book a workshop contact Jonathan Bailey on: [jbailey@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:jbailey@northernstage.co.uk) or 0191 242 7204

Our workshops will help you build practical skills and confidence through doing and we hope will be unlike any training you have done before.

**NORTHERN STAGE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY** Registered charity number 700055

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## **INFORMATION**

**PARKING** Newcastle University campus is car-free, but there are lots of car parks close by. The nearest is on Claremont Road (near the main entrance to Exhibition Park). Council-run city centre car parks are free after 5pm.

**ALIVE AFTER FIVE** Newcastle city centre is now open later. Nip to the shops after work, join us for dinner at McKenna's and then enjoy a show. With more evening buses and Metros and lots of free city centre parking after 5pm, it's never been easier to make a night of it. [www.getintonewcastle.co.uk](http://www.getintonewcastle.co.uk)

**DIRECTIONS** Northern Stage, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RH Two minutes walk from Haymarket Metro, opposite the Civic Centre, behind the Newcastle University building (King's Gate). King's Road is now pedestrianised.

**BOOKING Box Office:** 0191 230 5151 Opening hours: On performance days from 10am and until 15 minutes after the last performance begins. On non-performance days, Mon–Fri 10am to 6pm and Sat 10am to 4pm. Reservations will be held for a maximum of 3 days and cannot be made 48 hours prior to a performance. Book online at: [northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk) with our secure 24-hour online booking system.

**ACCESS** All three stages are wheelchair accessible, we are guide dog friendly and there is an infrared loop system.

We offer a free carer/companion ticket for all shows. Our Box Office is familiar with calls received via Text Relay. Please inform the Box Office of any access requirements when booking. Visit our website for more details. Information can be made available in large print or in an audio format on request.

**PREVIEWS** Enjoy a bargain ticket to one of the first performances of certain shows. Always £15.50 or less. Eligible performances are listed on show pages, and marked with P in the diary.

**TICKETS** Ticket Prices: See individual shows for prices, which may vary by performance date. Students and Under 21s: £13.50 or less. Applies to Classic and Saver seats only. Excludes some peak performances. Concessions: Discount available for seniors, those in receipt of benefits, Equity members and those with disabilities (you will be asked to show ID as proof of discount entitlement). No concessions on premium seats for Saturday night performances of East is East, Dr Frankenstein and Hedda Gabler. Published ticket prices include a £1 contribution which is invested back into the organisation, helping to maintain Northern Stage and the variety of community services that are enjoyed all year round.

**2 SHOWS FOR £30 3 SHOWS FOR £45** 2 tickets for £30 is available on Dr Frankenstein and Hedda Gabler only. 3 tickets for £45 is available on Dr Frankenstein, Hedda Gabler and East is East only. Tickets for both shows must be purchased to qualify for the offer. Tickets must be bought in one transaction and

cannot be added retrospectively. Tickets may be exchanged up to 2 hours before a performance but can only be swapped for a different performance of the same show.

**RUNNING TIME** Many of the shows at Northern Stage are brand new productions being created as we put this brochure together. This can sometimes mean we don't know the running time before the brochure is printed. Where possible we have included or estimated how long it is so you can plan your evening better.

**SCHOOLS & YOUTH GROUPS** For most shows, we offer tickets for £9.50 in Stage 1 and £6.50 in Stage 2 for schools and youth groups (groups of under 16s) attending in parties of 10+, and every 11th ticket is free.

**GROUPS** We love it when groups visit us. We can organise catering, hospitality, theatre tours or just drinks and ice creams at the interval. Groups 10+ £3 off per ticket Groups 20+ £3.50 off per ticket and organiser free Groups 30+ £4 off per ticket and organiser free For more information call the box office or email [info@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:info@northernstage.co.uk) Discounts only available on top two price bands.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** For full terms and conditions visit [northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk)

At Northern Stage, diversity and equality are embedded in the heart of our thinking. We are committed to promoting these values through our artistic programme, workforce, participation projects and the services that we offer our community.

All details in this brochure are correct at time of going to press, errors and omissions excepted. Northern Stage reserves the right to alter programme details without prior notice.