

Harrogate Theatre

Annual Review 10/11



ht
HARROGATE
THEATRE

Welcome...



Looking back over 2010/11 it has been another successful and tremendously creative year for Harrogate Theatre. There have been major co-productions with companies as diverse as Tamasha and North Country Theatre, the fantastic BFG production was performed by our every buoyant Youth Theatre, a second Comedy Festival played to sell out houses and our Pantomime, hailed as one of the best in Yorkshire by the critics, continued its trend of breaking all box office records.

However the most dominant feature of the passing year has been the economic state of the country and the subsequent effect on the arts. The cultural industries have been very forthcoming in accepting their fair share of cuts, but it still came as a shock to receive reduced funding of 85% from North Yorkshire County Council without any warning or explanation. However there was an overwhelming response from the public, from all over the district in support of the arts and particular Harrogate Theatre when the news broke... the Theatre clearly contributes significantly to many people's lives.

I am pleased to say there is good news. Harrogate Borough Council has not withdrawn any of their support and has asked us to take on additional responsibility for a new Town Centre Box Office, which is a tremendously exciting development, not just for the Theatre but for Harrogate and District, as

it will allow for easy ticket sales across a range of venues. In addition The Arts Council of England has accepted Harrogate Theatre onto their new three year funding programming as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). So the future looks good. The artistic programme continues to flourish and there is funding from two very strategic sources. However it does become increasingly clear that arts organisations need to become more robust and resourceful in order to strengthen their financial position whilst developing a vibrant artistic programme that attracts a growing audience.

It is with this in mind that I would like to pay tribute to our Chairman Jim Clark, who continues to champion the value of the Theatre within the local economy, attracting new and exciting members onto the Board to strengthen our status in the business communities as an essential facility for the whole of the District.

Lastly I would like to thank all those that contribute to making Harrogate Theatre the success that it is... the thousands of people that attend, the incredible volunteers that help out front of house, the Friends of the Theatre who work tirelessly at fundraising and our amazingly skilled staff that make every day a positive experience.

David Bown
Chief Executive

A Year in Review

10/11 at Harrogate Theatre: OVERVIEW

Harrogate Theatre's Economic Impact on the District

Artistic Achievements

Education & Outreach Achievements

A geographic breakdown of all Harrogate Theatre attendees for 10/11

347 performances at Harrogate Theatre
100,955 tickets allocated which equates to
70% of the overall capacity

A visit to the Theatre has a knock on effect for the local economy.

Using the widely acknowledged 'economic impact' calculation devised by Arts Council, England, Harrogate Theatre's contribution to the economy of the District in 2010/11 is

£7,301,271.

6 in-house productions with **6** creative producers

97 venues visited on tour

321 performances nationwide

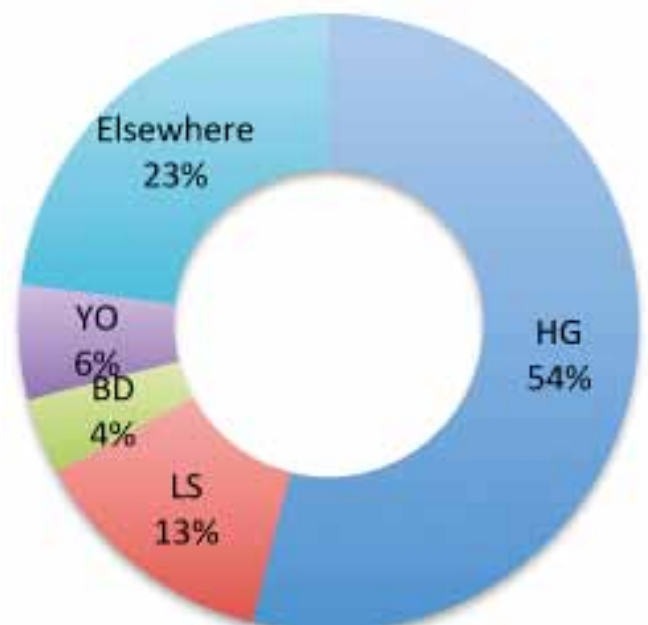
79,612 people attended

241 members of Harrogate Youth Theatre

270 Harrogate Youth Theatre workshops

155 children worked with on after-schools clubs

430 people have been on a backstage tour





Dick Whittington



Made In Harrogate

**6 in-house
productions**

6 creative partners

97 venues on tour

**321 performances
nationwide**

**79,612 audience
members
nationwide**

2010/11 was one of Harrogate Theatre's most creative and diverse years with an expansion of the number of co-producers which enabled its work to travel further than ever before and be seen by more people.



The House of Bilquis Bibi

By Sudha Bhuchar

Adapted from Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*

A Tamasha & Harrogate Theatre Production

TUE 14 – SAT 18 SEPT 2010

NATIONAL TOUR

4 Venues

42 performances

6,608 attended

Following its opening at Hampstead Theatre, London highly acclaimed theatre company **Tamasha** worked with **Harrogate Theatre** to present the World Premiere of a passionate new interpretation of Federico García Lorca's 1936 masterpiece, *The House of Bernarda Alba*.

Set in modern-day Pakistan **The House of Bilquis Bibi** told a personal, yet subtly political story of small town lives with global ties. Exploring class, honour, propriety and complicated matters of the heart this brand new compelling and powerful drama captivated audiences.

Leading an all-female cast of nine was the popular Indian singer and actress Ila Arun who has starred in numerous Bollywood blockbusters and *West is West*, BBC Films' sequel to *East is East*. The cast also featured Indira Joshi who will be familiar to TV audiences from *The Kumars at No. 42*.

"For powerful, thought-provoking drama, Tamasha clearly triumphs every time"

London Theatre Guide



A Blood Wedding In Wensleydale

Written by Nobby Dimon

Adapted from Lorca's *Blood Wedding*

A North Country & Harrogate Theatre Production

WED 29 SEPT – SAT 2 OCT 2010

NATIONAL TOUR

33 venues

40 performances

4,159 attended

Harrogate Theatre teamed up with the originators of the award-winning West End and Broadway Hit, *The 39 Steps*, to present the World Premiere of **A Blood Wedding in Wensleydale** – Lorca's tale of feuding families re-imagined a little closer to home in the farming communities of the Yorkshire Dales. Following its opening at **Harrogate Theatre**, the show toured rurally throughout the region.

Founded in Richmond, North Yorkshire, by Artistic Director **Nobby Dimon**, **North Country Theatre** has been delighting audiences and critics with their witty adaptations and hilarious spoofs for over fifteen years. Renowned for their tongue-in-cheek humour and theatrical invention they have toured to rural communities locally, regionally and nationally to great acclaim.

A Blood Wedding in Wensleydale saw **Nobby Dimon** return to **Harrogate Theatre** after 15 years. He has previously spent 8 successful years there as Education Director.

"Outstanding theatre" The Stage



Dick Whittington

Written by Phil Lowe & David Bown

A Harrogate Theatre Production

FRI 26 NOV 2010 – SAT 15 JAN 2011

71 performances
31,369 attended

The 2010 production of **Dick Whittington** was the pinnacle of the Theatre's 110th birthday celebrations as it was the first pantomime to be performed at **Harrogate Theatre** in 1900 and the historic year went out on a high as the show broke all box office records. Over 31,000 people saw **Dick Whittington** which is the highest ever attendance for a **Harrogate Theatre** production in the modern era and was the sixth year in a row that panto patron numbers have risen.

Retaining all the hallmarks of Harrogate's truly traditional pantomime this festive feast of family entertainment once again proved why people travel from all over the region to experience a **Harrogate Theatre** pantomime and why the Theatre is gaining an unrivalled reputation for Christmas entertainment.

This year the pantomime welcomed a very special guest, **Sir Ian McKellen**, who came along to watch the show while he was in the town. He spent time with the cast after the performance and hailed it as one of the best pantos he had seen.

"The Lord Mayor of Yorkshire pantomimes"
York Press



Kala Kahani: Artistic Tales

A Kala Sangam & Harrogate Theatre Production

JUN 2010, FEB 2011 & MAR 2011

3 performances
159 attended

Harrogate Theatre were delighted to welcome back for the second year running musicians, dancers and storytellers from the highly regarded South Asian arts organisation **Kala Sangam** for a series of 3 performances exploring South Asian cultural practice and folklore. The Studio Theatre provided the backdrop for evenings of Indian classical dance, storytelling, song and traditional music.

The performances fascinated all, from those new to South Asian cultural practice to those familiar with the art forms and perhaps even those who came to last year's performances and wished to develop their understanding.

Kala Sangam aims to deliver high quality South Asian arts through innovative collaborations accessible by people of all ages. Through its work the company notably values diversity and aims to bring communities together by promoting cultural understanding and mutual respect and ensuring fair access to the arts.

"A feast for the eyes and ears and a treat for the imagination" Audience Member



Hamlet Prince of Denmark

Written by William Shakespeare

An Icarus & Harrogate Theatre Production

TUE 1 – SAT 5 FEB 2011

NATIONAL TOUR

54 venues

115 performances

23,221 attended

Icarus Theatre Collective joined forces with **Harrogate Theatre** on a fresh and exciting new production of Shakespeare's classic masterpiece **Hamlet**.

Icarus Theatre Collective have a reputation for punchy and vibrant productions of contemporary and classical theatre. Since the outset, their productions have won countless accolades including Time Out's Critics Choice, as well as receiving great praise from critics and audiences alike. Over the years, the company have worked with a wide range of writers, practitioners and performers both nationally and internationally.

Blending inventive physical theatre techniques, a modern soundtrack and innovative design, this streamlined and subversive production which director and **Icarus Theatre** founder Max Lewendel described as "surreal, extreme and like a nightmare exploding out of Hamlet's mind and onto the stage" was perfect for people new to **Hamlet**.

"Compelling acting... the performance was thoroughly enjoyable with its versatility being the key to its success." The Byre Newspaper



Private Lives

Written by Noël Coward

Harrogate Theatre & Oldham Coliseum in association with Anvil Arts, Basingstoke

THUR 24 FEB – SAT 12 MAR 2011

NATIONAL TOUR

4 venues

50 performances

14,096 attended

Following the huge success of **Absent Friends** **Harrogate Theatre** once again produced with **Oldham Coliseum** and **Anvil Arts** to present Noël Coward's witty and sophisticated comedy – **Private Lives**.

Following 2009's production of **Blithe Spirit**, director **Robin Herford**, returned to the helm with this classic Coward. Robin is best known as the director of the West End smash hit **The Woman In Black** which is still running after 20 years. He was also Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough in the mid 1980s.

The play revolved around the glamorous, rich and reckless, Elyot and Amanda who have been divorced from each other for five years. When they discover they are honeymooning in the same hotel with their new spouses, their insatiable feelings for each other are immediately reignited. Without a care for scandal they hurl themselves headlong into love and lust – but will their volatile relationship run smoothly second time around?

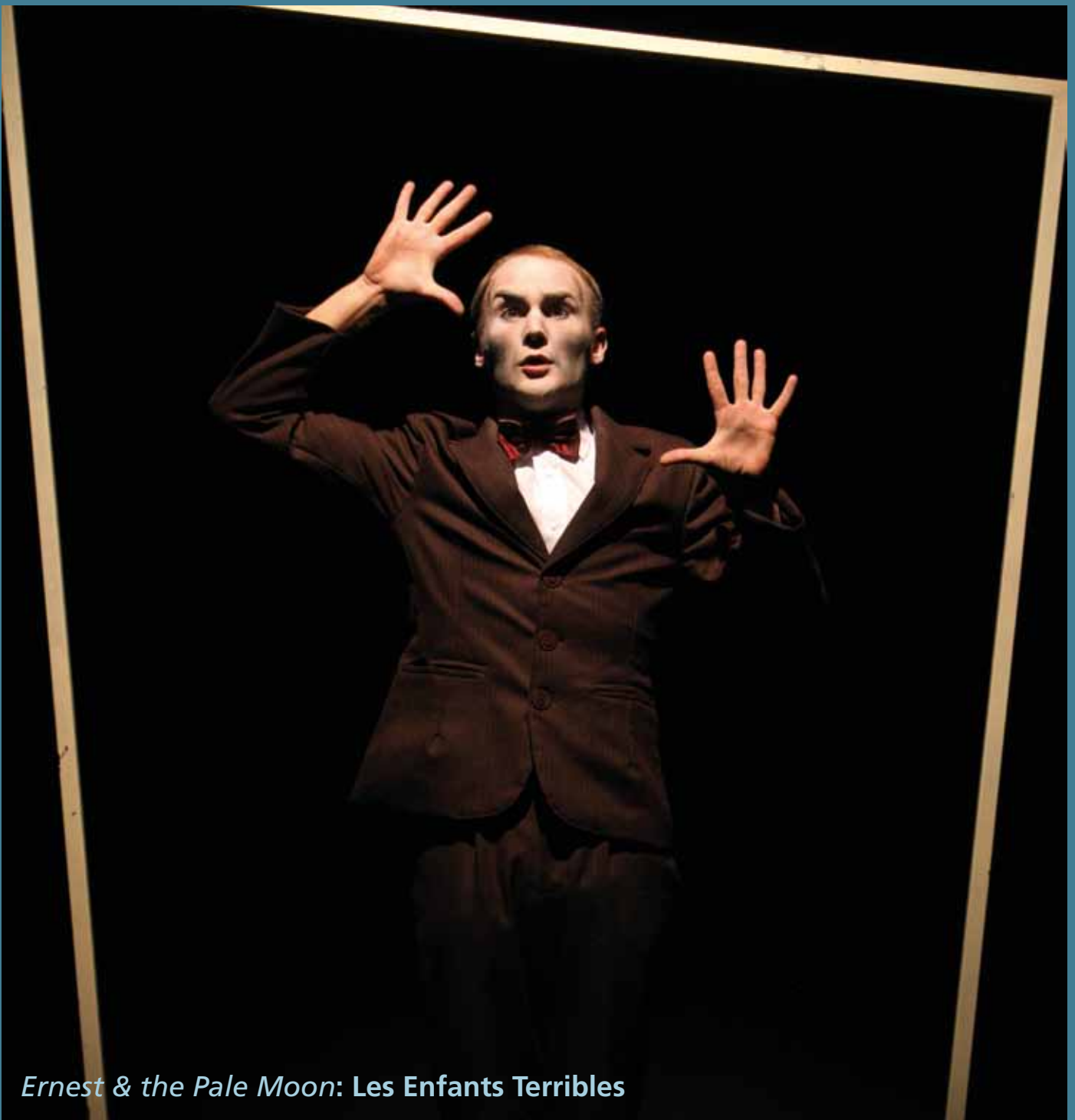
"It still carries the air of mad dash and reckless passion... beautifully realised, exquisite timing. A splendid revival" The Stage

Played In Harrogate

To complement our produced work Harrogate Theatre also presented a rich and varied programme of shows from some of the most acclaimed theatre companies and performers in the country.

Our flourishing artistic programme saw us develop our commitment to showcase productions that stimulate audiences, push boundaries and above all entertain.

45 different shows from 42 different companies
106 performances



Ernest & the Pale Moon: Les Enfants Terribles

FAMILY

Entertainment for younger audiences and families was once more at the heart of the **Harrogate Theatre** programme, with shows for all ages taking place in both auditoria, with companies using a wide range of storytelling techniques to keep the little ones entertained.

The Main Auditorium saw some of the best-loved pre-school characters from children's TV present a theatrical and musical extravaganza in **The Little Big Club** (April). The classic children's book **Guess How Much I Love You** (October) was brought to life by children's writer David Wood OBE and stars of the hit BBC TV series **Charlie & Lola** entertained packed houses in their **Best Bestest Play** (March).

The Studio Theatre played host to a range of children's theatre companies with shows suited to the more intimate setting, perfect for young first time theatre-goers. The mesmerizing tales from **Arabian Nights** (April) were recreated by renowned puppetry company **Theatre of Widdershins** while **Scratchbuilt Productions** transported audiences to faraway places in **How to be a Hero** (June). A playful interpretation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears by **Freehand Theatre** featuring beautiful puppets delighted audiences in **Who's Been Sitting in My Chair?** (February)

DRAMA

This year proved to be an exciting bumper season of drama and theatrical performance, inventive takes on classic work from acclaimed performers to innovative new work from emerging companies.

2010-2011 saw two shows from comedy duo **LipService Theatre** with the splendidly silly Sherlockian spoof **Move Over Moriarty** (April) and **Desperate to be Doris** (July) – an outrageous homage to musical icon Doris Day, complete with a 30-strong Harrogate chorus specially recruited for the production. Audiences flocked in their hundreds to watch **Original Theatre Company**, **Icarus Theatre & Anvil Arts** compelling production of R.C. Sherriff's classic play **Journey's End** (April) while an unusual love story inspired by films of Fellini and Charlie Chaplin was brought to life in **Dolce Via** (May). One of the UK's best loved and most entertaining personalities **Rodney Bewes**, returned to Harrogate with his one-man version of Jerome K Jerome's comedy classic **Three Men in a Boat** (September).

Plays by BAFTA award-winning playwright **John Godber** were well represented this year with **Hull Truck Theatre's** revival of **Men of the World** (June) which amused audiences and **Reform Theatre's** touching piece about the holiday memories of a Yorkshire couple in **September in the Rain** (September).

Award-winning theatre company **Les Enfants Terribles** presented their spine-chilling tale of obsession **Ernest and the Pale Moon** (May) following a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, while

Apples



Swan Lake



Total Theatre Award nominees **Gonzo Moose** staged the spooky **Is That a Bolt in Your Neck?** (September).

As part of an epic international tour **Daniel Kitson** stopped off in Harrogate to perform his critically acclaimed play **The Interminable Suicide of Gregory Church** (February). A company at the forefront of digital performance **Analogue** brought their award-winning show **Beachy Head** (March) to the stage while in the Main Auditorium Bertolt Brecht's morality masterpiece **The Caucasian Chalk Circle** (March) was revived on stage by **Blackeyed Theatre**.

The **Harrogate Theatre Studio** continued to host inventive work from companies with burgeoning reputations in the field of performance. One of the UK's most exciting young companies **The Paper Birds** brought two devised shows to Harrogate, both of which garnered praise from audiences and critics alike at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In a **Thousand Pieces** (May) told the tale of a young Eastern European girl and her journey to England, while **Others** (February) was a piece based on a six month exchange of letters and emails with three very different women.

Also in the Studio **Reform Theatre** returned with their hilarious production of **Mark Whiteley's** highly acclaimed black comedy **Thick as Thieves** (September). New work and theatrical firsts from Northern writers and companies included the world premiere of a new stage adaptation of **Richard**



Guess How
Much I Love
You?



Mugenkyo

Milward's remarkable novel **Apples** (July), a co-production between **Northern Stage and Company of Angels**.

Award-winning actor and writer **James Hyland** offered the perfect alternative to the pantomime season with his chilling adaptation of **A Christmas Carol** (December), told from the perspective of Scrooge's deceased business partner, Jacob Marley and Harrogate born and bred actress **Rachael Halliwell** brought her hilarious new show based on an obsessive fan of Coronation Street's iconic character Deirdre Barlow, **Deirdre & Me** (March) back to her hometown.

MUSIC

Harrogate Theatre offered its most diverse selection of live music to date with acclaimed performers bringing accomplished performances from a wide range of musical genres.

This year boasted performances from some of the leading exponents of the art of cabaret performance with Olivier Award-winning cabaret trio **Fascinating Aida** (April) delighting audiences once again. The Godfathers of alternative cabaret **The Tiger Lillies** (April) arrived direct from a sell-out London West End run and Edinburgh Festival and Olivier Award-nominated kings of music cabaret **Kit & the Widow** (October) entertained a packed house with a collection of their newest songs, plus a few old favourites.

Irish musician **Duke Special** (May) performed from his new album and world renowned jazz star **Stacey Kent** (May) returned to Harrogate. A modern take on the traditional swing style was offered by a unique collaboration between Radio and TV personality **Nicky Campbell** and actor **Mark Moraghan** in **Moonlight's Back in Style** (May) while Harrogate favourites **The Counterfeit Stones** (June) rocked a sold-out auditorium with their outrageous new show. A programme of traditional Brass Band music, classical sounds and film themes was offered by the **Hammonds Saltaire Band** (July) as well as one of the most successful and best loved British jazz musicians of all time, **Acker Bilk** (July).

In September there was an evening of heart-pounding entertainment from the foremost exponent of Japanese drumming – the **Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers** (September) while **The Definitive Blues Brothers Concert** (October) recreated the classic hits of Jake and Elwood for an electrifying evening of entertainment. **The Nick Ross Orchestra** (February) brought the Big Band sound of the 1940s to **Harrogate Theatre** in a spectacular concert.

The **Studio Theatre** provided the perfect environment for two more 'up close and personal' musical performances, both of which sold out: guitarist extraordinaire **Preston Reed** (February) and gypsy jazz and Eastern European swing three-piece band **Trio Gitan** (March).

FAMOUS FACES

A whole host of well-known faces graced the **Harrogate Theatre** stage this year, to provide a little insight into their lives and work. As part of a limited national tour, **Rory Bremner** (April) brought his show to the stage, complete with surprise guests and political banter in his first live tour in 5 years. Springwatch star **Chris Packham** (July) gave a fascinating insight into the people, places and creatures he had encountered throughout his travels accompanied by an exhibition of his photographs around the Theatre. Things got a little wilder still with the new live show from hugely popular TV wildlife expert **Steve Backshall** (February) and his selection of weird and wonderful animals. Celebrated actor **Tom Courtenay** (March) presented a highly personal portrait of poet Philip Larkin in the revival of his one-man West End hit, **Pretending to be Me**.

OPERA

One of the UK's leading company's **English Touring Opera** presented a rare new revival of the classic English opera **The Duenna** (November) to a sold out auditorium of people as well as a very popular pre-show talk for those who were eager to learn more about the work.

DANCE

A highlight of this year's programme was a performance of classic ballet **Swan Lake** (October) performed by the **Rudolf Nureyev Russian State Ballet Academy**, which featured stunning choreography performed by world-class dancers.



COMEDY AT HARROGATE THEATRE

This year boasted more stand-up comedy gigs than any other in Harrogate Theatre's history. Some of the most acclaimed performers on the national and international comedy circuit performed and they were enjoyed by record audience numbers, many of whom were attending the Theatre for the first time.

Sell-out shows this year included performances by TV comedy personality **Sean Lock** (April), **Ruby Wax** (April) prior to a West End run, world renowned **Paul Merton's Impro Chums** (June), **Sarah Millican** (February), comedy duo **Punt & Dennis** (February), Just a Minute regular **Gyles Brandreth** (February), Sheffield's finest **John Shuttleworth** (February) and star of Mock the Week - **Milton Jones** (March).

Other comedy highlights this year included appearances from some of the most prominent and successful female comedians, with Radio 4's **Jo Caulfield** (April), **Katy Brand** (May), **Lucy Porter** (May) and Grumpy Old Woman **Jenny Éclair** (November).

One of Britain's finest comic poets **John Hegley** (June) brought his new volume of poems to the stage, while showbiz legend and SONY award-winning **Count Arthur Strong** (March) returned once more to Harrogate. **Jim Jeffries** (November) thrilled audiences with his unique brand of comedy while another comic not afraid to court controversy - **Richard Herring** (March) revived his first solo show. Award-winning comedian and activist **Mark Thomas** (March) returned with his brand new show while commentator and stand-up comedian **Mark Steel** (March) unleashed his brilliant comic musings.

The **Studio Theatre** offered a plethora of up and coming comedy acts including the Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee **Andrew Maxwell** (April), the You Tube sensations: **Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre** (April) and the live show from the hit BBC3 programme **Lee Nelson's Well Good Show** (November).

Harrogate's longest running monthly comedy club, the Hyena Comedy Club, entered its seventh year and boasted appearances from **Michael Smiley** (April), **Rob Rouse** (May), **Jon Richardson** (June), **Chris Ramsey** (December), **Tom Stade** (January), **Tom Wrigglesworth** (February) and **Craig Campbell** (March).

HARROGATE COMEDY FESTIVAL

The festival has become a rising fixture in the comedy circuit attracting top comedians wanting to perform in the intimate environment of **Harrogate Theatre**. This year over 30 comedians performed live over 24 events running across 17 days in October, with over 6,500 people coming through the doors.

Sold out shows this year included performances from **Stewart Lee**, Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee **Kevin Bridges**, **Chris Addison**, the exciting double bill from **Shappi Khorsandi & Jon Richardson**, **Sarah Millican**, comedy legend **Barry Cryer** and star of Father Ted **Ardal O'Hanlon**.

Other highlights in this year's Comedy Festival included live performances from familiar faces from television such as **Greg Davies** (The Inbetweeners), **Alun Cochrane** (Mock The Week) **Russell Kane** (Edinburgh Comedy Award Winner). Often heard on radio on such shows as I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue, **Jeremy Hardy** delighted audiences with his live show and British institution **Arthur Smith** was yet another highlight. Multi award-winning Irish superstar comic **Tommy Tiernan** completed the bill in the Main Auditorium, with the **Hyena Comedy Club Closing Gala** featuring 4 comedians to end the Comedy Festival in style with a bumper night of comedy.

The **Studio Theatre** played host to an expanded line-up for this year's Festival with the best of emerging talent alongside shows which have been drawing acclaim at Comedy Festivals around the world. Transformed into a seventies-inspired comedy lounge complete with flock wallpaper, flying ducks and a fully working bar, there were performances from Peep Show star **Isy Suttie**, BBC3's **Lee Nelson**, Edinburgh Comedy Award-winner **Josie Long**, stand-up comedy trailblazer **Robin Ince** and International Comedy Festival sensation **The Boy with Tape on his Face** to name but a few.

Education & Outreach

Education & Outreach is at the heart of everything that happens at Harrogate Theatre and through this department the Theatre aims to provide opportunities for people from all over the District. From after school clubs to work experience and workshops, people of all ages were given the chance to interact and experience every aspect of the Theatre.



Harrogate Youth Theatre

Harrogate Youth Theatre has 241 members and runs weekly term-time workshops in two satellite venues based in Harrogate and Knaresborough. During 2010/11 270 workshops were held for Youth Theatre members. Also a brand new group was launched for 6-8 year olds.

In Performance

2010/11 saw Harrogate Youth Theatre performing all over the District in a wide variety of locations from Harrogate Theatre's Main Auditorium to the Central Library and the Valley Gardens.

The annual Summer show returned to Harrogate Theatre's Main Auditorium with a major new production of **The BFG** directed by the Theatre's pantomime director Phil Lowe. The cast also got the chance to work with Tom Peters, a professional actor who took the lead role of The BFG. 1,664 people attended the show over 4 performances.

23 Members performed in The BFG

Harrogate Youth Theatre once again helped Henshaws College for the Blind raise much needed money by donating their services for the annual Halloween walk. This took place in Harrogate's Valley Gardens and HYT performed an adaptation of William Shakespeare's **Macbeth**. Over £1,000 was raised toward Henshaw's ongoing fundraising efforts.

34 Members performed in the Halloween Production

In December HYT helped celebrate the re-opening of Harrogate's Central Library with a unique site-specific piece entitled **(Re) Discovery**. This promenade piece took audience members around all areas of the Library as cast members played iconic literary figures.

38 Members performed in (Re) Discovery

In March the **12-14 year old group** brought three of the magical **Grimm Tales** to life in the Harrogate Theatre Studio. With puppets made by the **Knaresborough Youth Theatre** this production had audiences spell-bound.

21 Members performed in Grimm Tales

The **15-18 year old group** took audiences behind the scenes of a cinema with **Multiplex**. The play by Christopher William Hill looked at the lives of a group of teenage cinema ushers and what happens far away from the glare of the silver screen. Due to demand two productions were staged with two different groups.

30 Members performed in Multiplex





Educational Support

Harrogate Theatre's Education & Outreach Department liaises closely with educational establishments around Harrogate & District providing customized workshops, resource packs and backstage tours.

3 pantomime workshops at **Killinghall Primary School** for over 70 children.

9 workshops on the subject of authors at **Starbeck Primary School** for 260 pupils.

9 workshops for Y8 students on **The Blitz** for 180 pupils at **St. John Fisher's High School**.

Summer 2010 saw the launch of **After Schools Workshops**. Over the past year we have worked with 155 children, which culminated in 14 performances in the **Harrogate Theatre Studio**, participants came from:

Meadowside CP School, Knaresborough; Aspin Park School, Knaresborough; St. Mary's School, Knaresborough; 2 groups at Saltergate CP School (2 clubs); Beckwithshaw Primary School; Pannal Primary School and Grove Road Primary School.

10 students experienced a work placement at Harrogate Theatre from the following schools: **Ashville College, Leeds Trinity University College (6 week placement), Ripon Grammar School, Queen Mary's, Boroughbridge High School, King James' School, Knaresborough, Roundhay High School, Harrogate High School and St Aidan's & St John Fishers Associated 6th Form.**

23 Backstage tours to approximately 430 people from 14 organisations including: **Pannal Brownies, Harrogate Civic Society, St Marks Beavers, Hookstone Chase School, Grove Road Gifted and Talented Pupils, Ashville College, Mercer Art Gallery, St Peters Rainbow Guides, Coppice Valley Primary School, Brimham Cubs and 1st Scriven Cubs.**



Community Outreach

Community Productions

Harrogate's local amateur performing companies have once again demonstrated their consistent enthusiasm and incredible passion for theatre, by offering an assortment of classic, modern and original productions across both theatre spaces. Each group has contributed greatly to the diversity and variety of the Theatre's successful programme.

In total 11 Amateur Companies performed 13 productions for a total of 59 performances.

Choir

Having been specially recruited for the July 2010 production of LipService Theatre's *Desperate to be Doris*, the Harrogate Theatre Choir was born out of a desire to carry on singing as a group and engage with the Theatre and its programme through music.

15 Choir Members

FOH Volunteers

Harrogate Theatre's entire Front Of House operation relies on a dedicated team of hardworking volunteers. In 2010/11 **120 people** gave their time to ensure all patrons had a fantastic time at each show.

Access Performances

During 2010/11 there were **8 assisted performances** which allowed patrons with hearing or sight impairment to access Harrogate Theatre productions.



Moving Forward...



With another successful year behind it Harrogate Theatre already has many exciting plans and projects to ensure that it continues to play a pivotal role in the life of the District and the region during the year to come.

Box Office Development

In July 2011 Harrogate Theatre Box Office took over the responsibility for the ticketing provision of the Harrogate International Centre and Royal Hall. It is planned that the newly titled Harrogate Box Office will become a Box Office for the District and from its town centre location sell for multiple events across the region. Harrogate Theatre is proud to be working together with partners across the District to develop this service and play an important part in the cultural offer of the town.

Associate Companies

2011/12 will see two emerging organisations join Harrogate Theatre as Associate Companies. Thunder Road and Reform Theatre will be nurtured by Harrogate Theatre and will open their brand new productions in Harrogate prior to national tours.

Education Department Expansion

The work of the education and outreach department will continue to grow throughout the year ahead with the addition of another member of staff. This will allow the team to work with more young people, educational establishments and disadvantaged areas of the community.

Harrogate Theatre: In Print

2011 saw a brand new book published on the history of Harrogate Theatre. 'Harrogate White Rose Players: The First Fifteen Years' was written by Derek Mills whose family ran the historic White Rose Players when they were first established in the 1930's. The book allows us to celebrate the unique history of the building.

Christmas 2010

Huge snow falls caused chaos for the District during December 2010 but at Harrogate Theatre the old theatrical saying "The show must go on" was never more true. Cast, crew and audiences of all ages braved the blizzard conditions to make it to the Theatre safely to enjoy the heart-warming fun of the pantomime.



What our audiences said...

"Yesterday my partner and I had the pleasure of attending the performance of Hamlet. In the past I have seen many of Shakespeare's plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company which have not given me any more pleasure."

Audience Member

"It was a joy to watch a performance in such a delightful theatre as the traditional design enhances the performance."

Audience Member

"My son attends Harrogate Youth Theatre and he has benefited from the experience. He has the opportunity to perform drama which improves self confidence and presentation skills as well as his creativity."

Parent of Youth Theatre member

"My baby son was in hospital over the Christmas period and the staff and people who visited were fantastic. Thanks for making their Christmas special."

Audience Member via Facebook after pantomime cast visited Harrogate District Hospital

"It is a great opportunity for anyone who thinks they cannot sing. Once you gain confidence it is so invigorating to sing in chorus and blend your voice with others."

Choir Member

"It is a huge privilege to have such a vibrant and creative Theatre that offers so much. The staff are always friendly, approachable and knowledgeable. The resource of Harrogate Theatre in our community is invaluable."

Audience Member

"I wanted to pass on all our thanks for a really splendid show last night. Some of our families have been to shows in previous years and continue to tell me that this one was the best yet! Our new families were equally impressed. It is amazing how you manage to keep all ages so enthralled for the whole evening, well done to you all. Please pass on our thanks to all the cast and to all the staff behind the scenes (especially the creator of those fantastic dame dresses!!) for making a very memorable evening."

Fostering & Adoption Team

Harrogate Theatre gratefully acknowledges support from



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