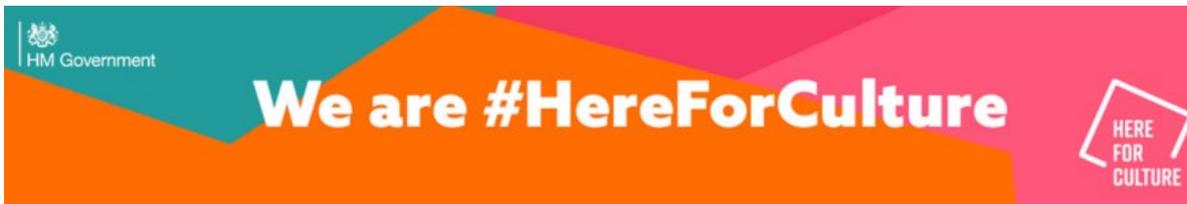




IN THE LOOP!

This newsletter brings you the latest Playhouse news, developments and offerings. A bi-weekly update to help keep you In The Loop until we can welcome you back into the building.



INDUSTRY UPDATE

This year has been a challenging year for everyone. We are all living and working in difficult times with COVID-19 impacting on every aspect of our lives. The arts have been affected by the global pandemic since March 2020 with very few venues able to open since the spring. The situation in Northumberland mirrors this global pattern. It was hoped that the Playhouse could have opened for Christmas however with the second National lockdown and Northumberland being placed in Tier Three, it has not been possible. Our aspiration now is to return with a Phased re-opening in the New Year when it is safe for us to do so and we shall continue to update you with a Christmas and New Year, In the Loop.

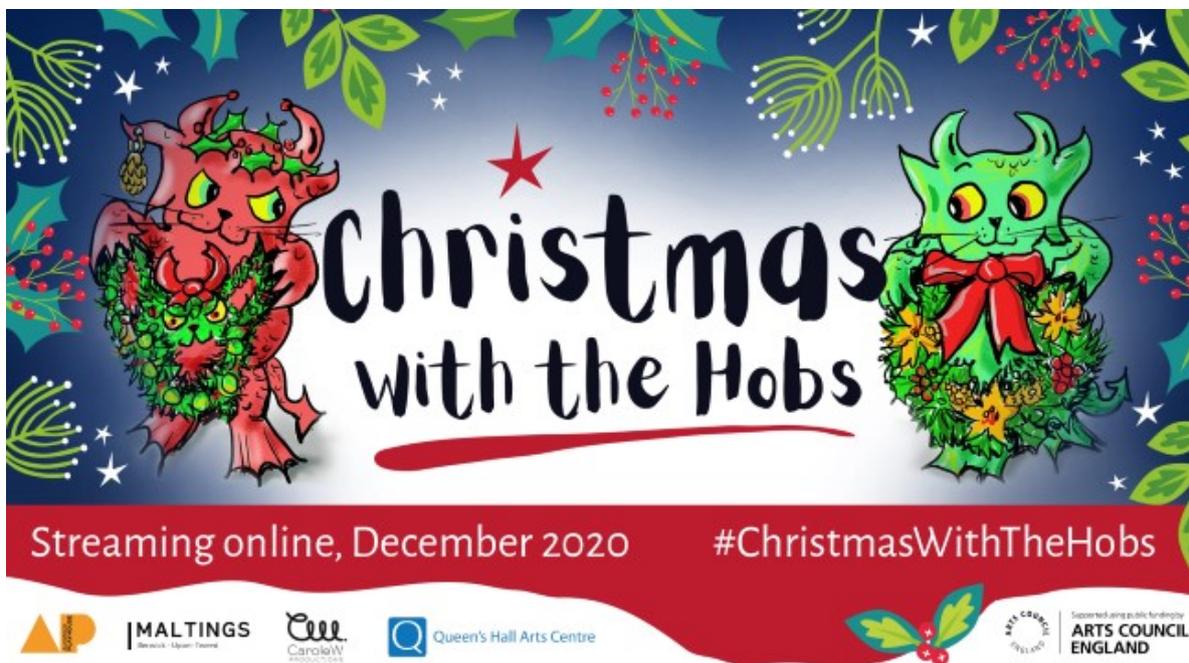
Looking forward positively, last month the Playhouse was successful in our application for emergency funding from Arts Council England, so although the doors shall remain closed we have been investing in new ways of working towards a Christmas digital offer for our audiences to enjoy.

The festive season is upon us when across the country homes and town centres are starting to be adorned with twinkling lights. This year the Playhouse is joining in this light filled celebration by lighting up the wonderfully restored building every evening from 4.30pm to 6.30pm over Christmas. We are also bringing some of our downstairs windows to life for the first time, using back projection and sound to create a festive scene which includes Santy working busily in his grotto. We would like to thank Alnwick Gardens for their support in kind for location access to filming. The light up starts on 4th

December and we hope it shall put everyone in the festive mood as they enter and exit Alnwick to enjoy more Christmas lights.

Also we are delighted to be working in partnership with Queen's Hall, Hexham and Berwick, Maltings to create a wonderful new animation for Christmas. The venues have teamed up with CaroleW Productions to create *Christmas with the Hobs*, a brand new festive animation made in Northumberland which will be streamed from December 12th for audiences everywhere to experience at home, in schools, and in hospitals and care homes. It is open for booking now online with an accompanying pack full of fun, festive activities for families to try at home.

OUR GIFT TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS...



Written by **Becci Sharrock**, *Christmas with the Hobs* is illustrated by **Sheila Graber** who animated the children's TV series *Paddington* in the 1980s, with original music by North East singer songwriter **Bridie Jackson**. The cast are **Joseph Casling**, **Jude Nelson**, **Lewis Jobson**, **Viktoria Kay** and **Jacqueline Phillips**, who will also direct.

The tickets are free with a suggested donation. All donations shall be invested into future commissions and creative projects in Northumberland, employing freelance performers, practitioners, technicians and artists. As we know creative professionals have really struggled while venues have been closed, and many people have been unable to access government financial support so it's vital to help.

[BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET HERE](#)

To see the full Playhouse Christmas digital programme visit the website www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

LET'S GET DIGITAL

This year as we cannot welcome you through the doors we are offering a CHRISTMAS DIGITAL PROGRAMME of events for you to enjoy from the comfort of your home. Alongside our new digital offering we want to hear from you. We have a new ambition to develop staff skills and technology to explore a Playhouse digital offer through the creation of digital content to share and engage with audiences online reaching beyond the Playhouse stage and into the community.

We really need to hear your thoughts on the current situation and how you feel about attending digital events and engaging with arts and culture online so we can better understand who our digital audiences are and how digital audiences are engaging with arts and culture online.

It should take no longer than five minutes to complete. Anything you tell us will be kept confidential, is anonymous and will only be used for research purposes. Information will be held by us and The Audience Agency, who are running the survey on our behalf. Your data will be stored securely and used in compliance with GDPR.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE PART](#)

FILM INDUSTRY UPDATE



With the news of the vaccine and the potential for many cinemas around the UK in tiers 1 & 2 to now reopen, there's been lots of great news for film this week. The release calendar is still busy with independent films and event cinema, and many movies that had been removed from the calendar are now dated for February 2021 onwards. Two films we were particularly looking forward to screening, Colin Firth drama Supernova and family favourite Peter Rabbit 2 are now dated to open in March and February respectively, but the big news is this week's announcement that Wonder Woman 1984, the latest blockbuster superhero film from DC/Warner's, will be released in cinemas on December 16th -

just a week and a half away. We can't wait to safely welcome you back and are plotting our programmes for 2021 as well a digital offer starting in the New Year!

However, the road ahead for cinemas and the cultural sector is going to be a tough one, so we are very grateful for the launch of the UK Cinema Association's #KeepTheMagicAlive campaign this week. The campaign is designed to lobby the UK Government to provide focused support for cinemas in this difficult time. Helping our cinemas survive Covid-19 means helping our communities too – help us spread the word and #KeepTheMagicAlive. Find out more at www.cinemauk.org.uk/magic

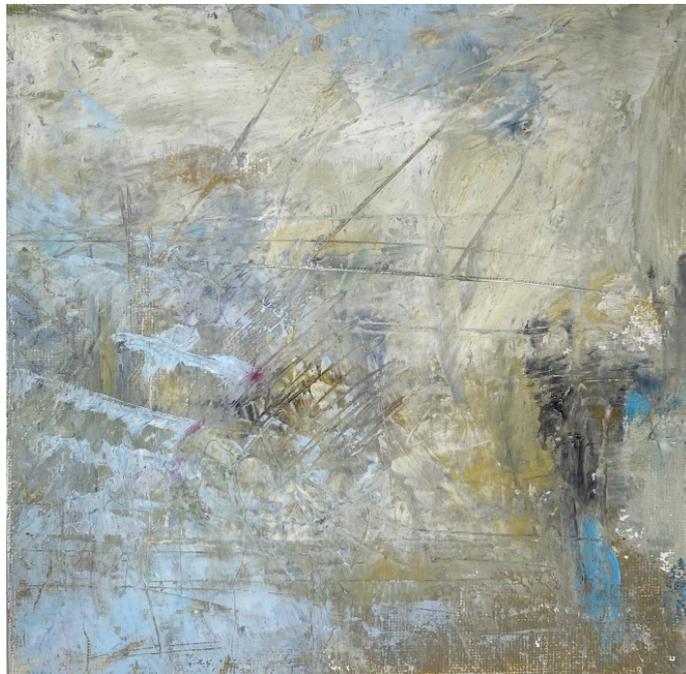
PLAYHOUSE GALLERY ONLINE

Nicola Stevenson - Landscape Painter

5th December - 18th January

Nicola Stevenson is a contemporary landscape painter originally from Ireland and now based here in Northumberland. She has been developing her practice over the past few years, exploring new mediums and ways of working and progressing her 'plein air' pieces on a much larger scale. The main focus of her work over the past year has been about immersing herself in her surroundings, surf and underwater painting.

Featured here 'Sea Spray'
Oil and cold wax on canvas board
20cm x 20cm



You can view the exhibition online [HERE](#)

Find out more about Nicola's work at www.nicolastevensonart.co.uk and [@nicolastevensonart](https://www.instagram.com/nicolastevensonart)

LIBRARY SERVICES



Unfortunately, the library bore the brunt of the damage in the recent flood. The drying out process is under way and some shelving will have to be replaced. Library staff are not currently on site but they will restore the library service as soon as they can. If you have books that are due to be returned, please don't worry. Fines are suspended so please keep the books at home or return them to another library if you wish.

There are still a great range of library services for you to access online, from ebooks and e audiobooks to family history resources. You can explore these services at mylibrary.co.uk

Updates can be found via the library website and social media:

Website: mylibrary.co.uk

Facebook: [Northumberland Libraries](https://www.facebook.com/NorthumberlandLibraries)

Twitter: [@NlandLibs](https://twitter.com/NlandLibs)

Instagram: [@NlandLibs](https://www.instagram.com/NlandLibs)

THIS WEEKS WATCHLIST

After the popularity of our earlier watchlists from our film programmer Jonny (pictured left), here is another selection of great films currently streaming online on Netflix, Amazon Prime, All4 and BBC iPlayer for you to explore over the next two weeks.



This weeks watchlist features *Made Up*. Starring rising UK star Molly Windsor, *Make Up* is the beautifully unsettling story of Ruth, who arrives at an out of season Cornish caravan park to see her boyfriend Tom. After finding traces of lipstick and red hair on his clothing Ruth begins to ask questions as she spends her long days on the park, gradually descending into obsession... Director Claire Oakley is a terrific new voice, and pairing up with Windsor, who is set to be a major talent, she elegantly weaves an air of mystery, paranoia and quasi-horror as Ruth spirals out of control...

[Click here to view this weeks Watchlist.](#)

THANK YOU

Our thanks to everyone for their continued messages of support and actions such as re-joining of Playhouse membership schemes, Front Row, Friends, donating online, or buying a seat or step. Your continued support for the Playhouse during this crisis is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading In The Loop.



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