



## 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.

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### INDUSTRY UPDATE

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It has not been a great start to Year 2021 with National lockdown number three ahead of us ! However we have no choice other than to stay positive and keep looking forwards towards the rest of the year when this pandemic will finally be behind us.

In the coming months we shall hold off our re-opening plans until further notice. Re-opening plans for the Playhouse is still planned to happen in stages and start firstly with the ground floor only with our hospitality partners McKennas in operation.

The Playhouse Box Office is still open 24/7 online and reduced hours for telephone enquiries and bookings. We are continuing to move shows from original dates which are now re-scheduled, we shall be in touch with ticket holders in due course and thank everyone for their patience.

# REWIND ONE YEAR AGO

As we start a new year, with not the best news of another lockdown we thought it fitting to reflect on the huge achievement of the Playhouse Development and highlights from the opening programme.

## WELCOME



The closure of the Playhouse has allowed this well-loved arts centre to be restored and repaired to the highest of standards, bringing the whole building back to life.

On the ground floor you will find the Playhouse Box Office is now joined by the Library and Visitor Information. There is an improved café space run by McKenna's, promising honest food with Northumberland charm.

On the first floor there is a newly renovated Auditorium & Gallery space which leads onto the beautifully refurbished Playhouse Bar.

We trust our new and improved Playhouse will continue to entertain generations for years to come.

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### GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th January 10am each morning, late into the evening.

Join us for a weekend programme of events from free drop in activities to ticketed talks, tours and workshops. Events are delivered in partnership with the Alnwick Forum, Northumberland County Council Library, Visitor Information and McKenna's.

**We look forward to seeing you all at the Playhouse!**

### PLAYHOUSE BUILDING TOURS

Friday 3rd January 10am – 10.55am / 11.15am – 12.10noon / 12.30 – 1.25pm  
 Sunday 5th January 10am – 10.55am / 11.15am – 12.10 noon

**Main House**

Join members of the Playhouse staff for a short film presentation followed by a guided tour behind the scenes of the Playhouse with a Q & A session.  
 £2 per ticket. Limited tickets available

### EXHIBITION OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

10am - 4pm Every day  
**Library**  
 Free entry

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### HELEN FAY - SOLO EXHIBITION

10am – 4pm Every day  
**Gallery**

A graduate of the Royal College of Art, London with an M.A. in Natural History Illustration and a B.A. Hons. Fine Art. Printmaking from Sunderland University, Helen has been a full-time artist and printmaker since 1997. **See page 38** for full details.

Free entry

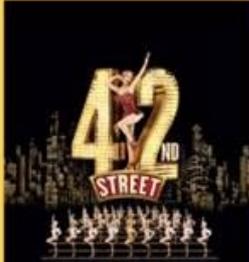
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### STORYTELLING, ARTS & CRAFTS DROP IN SESSIONS

Friday 3rd & Sunday 5th January  
 Between 10am – 12noon & 2pm – 4pm  
**Studio/Hub**

A rolling timetable of storytelling and craft sessions designed for families.  
 Free Entry

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[alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)



### 42ND STREET THE MUSICAL

Friday 3rd Jan 2pm  
**Auditorium**

**See page 30** for full details of this live broadcast of the legendary Broadway musical theatre classic. Starring national treasure Bonnie Langford as Dorothy Brock and featuring iconic songs 42nd Street, We're In The Money and Lullaby Of Broadway, this is pure musical magic on the big screen.

### PLAYHOUSE SPRING SEASON PREVIEW

Friday 6pm – 7pm  
**Main House**

Join Playhouse staff as we look ahead at some of the exciting shows coming up in our Spring season with the help of some special guests.  
 £2 per ticket. Free to Playhouse Front Row, Friends & Volunteers



### CATS

Friday 3rd January 7.30pm  
 Saturday 4th January 12noon  
 Sunday 5th January 4.30pm  
**Main House**

**See page 36** for full details of this cinematic version of the classic musical starring Idris Elba, Ian McKellen, Judi Dench, Taylor Swift.

### ALNWICK FORUM SPECIAL DROP IN DAY

Saturday 4th January, 10am – 4pm

The Alnwick Forum look forward to welcoming you to our special drop in day.

### THE PLAYHOUSE, ALNWICK FORUM AND NCC KEY STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

Saturday 10am – 11am  
**Main House**

An opportunity to hear in more detail about the aims, objectives and challenges for the Playhouse as we embark on a new year in our new building.

Open to all Playhouse supporters and general public.  
 Tickets Free must be pre-booked.

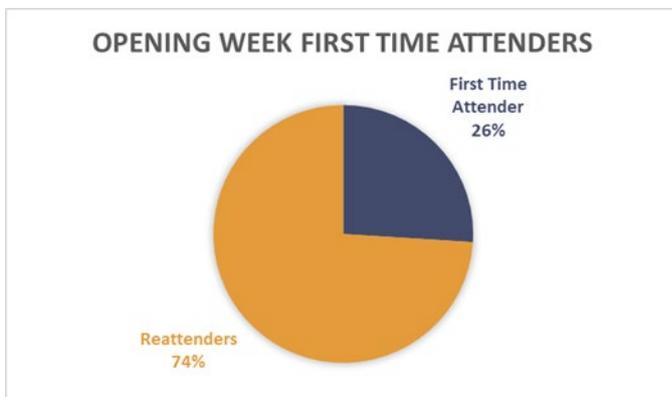
Box Office 01665 660550
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## Audience Figures

Opening week

2672 tickets to events

699 First time attenders



## Opening Weekend Figures

**300** people on the public tours which were delivered by Playhouse Manager Jo Potts with key staff. The tours included a short time-lapse film documenting the auditorium development.

**102** members of the public attended the NCC stake-holders event hosted by Playhouse Manager, Jo Potts, guest speakers including NCC's leader, Peter Jackson, Councillor Gordon Castle, Alnwick Town Mayor, Linda Wearn and Chris Sayers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Alnwick Playhouse Trust.

**82** Friends & Volunteers attended our first ever Spring Preview event which previewed highlights of the forthcoming Playhouse Spring programme.

**250** people attended the North East Archive cinema event and talk to see with Julie Ballands.



## Audience Feedback from social media

"Really enjoyed the two shows we went to all looks fab x." Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

"Well done... lots of work in there and the theatre looks terrific !" Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

"Wonderful to attend on it's opening day to see 42nd Street - which was awesome 🙌🙌  
What a bonus to Alnwick 🥳." Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

"We are so delighted to have Alnwick Playhouse open again. It looks wonderful. Thoroughly enjoyed Cats this afternoon x." Jan 5<sup>th</sup>

"Attended three completely different shows on three consecutive days. Fantastic and so glad you're back in business 🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🙌🙌." Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

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## FAST FORWARD ONE YEAR

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In February 2022 we shall be presenting *The Monocle*, a brand-new dance piece inspired by the secretly notorious 1930's Parisian lesbian club Le Monocle and will be performed by seven dancers who identify as female or non-binary. Performed by **Rendez-Vous Dance** a company which creates projects to tell past and present stories of LGBTQ+ communities.

Dance City has announced **Rendez-Vous Dance** as the recent recipient of a £25,000 'Made In The North East' (MITNE) commission. This is the first MITNE commission by a consortium of nine North East venues which includes Alnwick Playhouse who together will support the creation of new work and a region-wide tour of *The Monocle*.

*Image: Artistic Director of Rendez-Vous Dance, Matheiu Geffré. Credit: Matt Pear.*



**Rendez-Vous Dance** was established in 2019 by award-winning choreographer Mathieu Geffré, who now lives in Newcastle. During his 15-year career as a performer he collaborated with some of the most celebrated artists in the world including Itzik Galili, Christopher Bruce, Didy Veldman, Angelin Preljocaj and Johann Inger.

Looking forward to exciting new projects in 2022 will help us get through this period. Dance audiences have been developing at the Playhouse, especially with our Pay What You Decide Scheme, there is an

energy and anticipation on these evenings which is tangible before curtain up. This electric atmosphere of anticipation is what discovering new work is all about and it is fantastic to be able to develop our dance audiences, our relationship with Dance City and venues who want to make the North East a place where great dance is made.

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## LET'S GET DIGITAL

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One of the only positives to come from the lockdown of theatres has been the advancement of technology which venues, theatre makers and practitioners have embraced in-order to continue to reach audiences at home and online. This jump in technology is at-least likely to prove a valuable legacy and also increases the opportunities to reach those audiences who struggle to come into venues. We had a fantastic response to our first digital online animation with over 900 people tuning in with Alnwick Playhouse and more viewers tuning in with Queens Hall, Hexham and the Maltings, Berwick.

The project allowed us to work with a fantastic creative team who have played a huge role in the success of Christmas with the Hobs - our first ever Digital Christmas Show.

Written by Becci Sharrock, Illustrated by Sheila Graber, Original Music by Bridie Jackson

Cast: Joseph Casling (Tyler), Jude Nelson (Eliza), Lewis Jobson (Naughty/Dad), Viktoria Kay (Nice)  
Jacqueline Phillips (Grandma).



**Some of the feedback on social media for the project;**

“Mum and I both enjoyed it. Well done to all involved. Brought a smile to our faces.”

“I have just watched Christmas with the Hobs. I so enjoyed the story, the animations , the music and the singing.”

“May your hobs be always with you.”

"Thank you from a very grateful Humad."

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## OUR NEW ONLINE FILM PROGRAMME

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Support us by watching film at home

Following on from our In The Loop film recommendations, next week we will begin presenting new films which you can rent online. Rather than renting direct from Apple or Amazon or other home entertainment platforms, the movies we present for online rental will directly benefit the Playhouse, meaning that half of your payment will come straight to us. We will present four new films each month, specially curated for the Playhouse's audience and we can't wait to see what you think.

We're thrilled to be able to offer this whilst we plan for welcoming audiences back to the building, and hope that you enjoy the films we present.

Watch out for more information next week!

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## THIS WEEK'S WATCHLIST

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After the popularity of our earlier watchlists from our film programmer Jonny, 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 Slow West. Michael Fassbender and Kodi Smit-McPhee star in this ace western set in 1800s Colorado. Fassbender is grizzled bounty hunter Silas Selleck, who is employed by naive Scottish teenager Jay as he searches for his lost love Rose, who fled Scotland with her father after an incident made her a fugitive from justice. However, Silas is on his own mission to find Rose and as they trek through America's wild frontier he must hide his true motive, all the while being pursued by rival bounty hunter Payne (Ben Mendelsohn again), who is also on Rose's trail.

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

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## THANK YOU

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Our thanks to everyone for their continued messages of support. Your continued support for the Playhouse during this crisis is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading In The Loop.



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Not following us yet?

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[www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)



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