



## 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

We greet the latest Covid-19 Response news, as set out by the Prime Minister with *cautious optimism*. There is reason to be **optimistic**, as the Government's roadmap offers dates to which we can start to plan and prepare for a return to indoor theatre which is the best news possible.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** is the date suggested for re-opening indoor venues in-line with social distancing and restrictions. **June 21<sup>st</sup>** is the date the Government have suggested that all restrictions could be dropped and we can return to full audiences.

However, there are reasons to be **cautious** because these dates are dependent on the continued success of the vaccination roll-out and the data produced. The dates are subject to change with one week's notice. Also, the re-opening of indoor theatre shall be based on an Event's Research Programme which is a series of test pilot events the Government have promised shall take place. Currently the industry is calling for clarity on the Event's Research Programme which could help build audience confidence and offer an insight into best practice for re-opening safely.

Caution aside, the latest announcement is tremendously encouraging and if the proposed dates stay in place then the Playhouse shall return with a phased re-opening.

**PHASE ONE** shall start with the re-opening of McKenna's on the ground floor only.

We shall work with our hospitality partners McKennas towards making the foyer area, café and white room safe to patrons who wish to use the café.

Due to the limited foyer space the Playhouse Box Office will not be open in the foyer but it shall remain open online and for telephone enquiries and bookings.

**PHASE TWO** will take place next to re-open the First Floor on evenings. The Playhouse Auditorium will be open on selected evenings with a socially distanced film or streamed programme. Events shall be announced via special newsletters and our website.

Next month, marks a year since the Playhouse was forced into closure in-order to protect lives and help prevent the spread of a global pandemic. It has been a long, difficult year for everyone and this anniversary of closure does not feel like a celebratory event. Instead let's celebrate the success of the UK vaccination programme which has involved thousands of skilled key workers, with an army of dedicated volunteers. Real progress has

been made in the fight against Covid-19 and this tremendous effort will continue until everyone has had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

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## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ELIOT SMITH DANCE - ONLINE AT THE PLAYHOUSE GALLERY

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23rd of February to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Eliot Smith Dance (ESD) is a leading contemporary dance company, founded by critically acclaimed Artistic Director Eliot Smith FRSA. The Company is based in Newcastle upon Tyne and rehearses predominantly in Northumberland. 16th February 2021 heralds the start of their 10th Anniversary year.

This 10th Anniversary Celebration Online Exhibition gives a timeline and insight into the 24 contemporary dance works performed by this successful contemporary dance company over the last 10 years and showcases stunning images from their archives.

The Playhouse Gallery is committed to supporting artists throughout the region and we continue to offer our support, safely, in whatever way we can during these difficult times. While the doors are currently shut, the Playhouse Gallery is still running **ONLINE**.

[Click here to browse the Playhouse Gallery.](#)

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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 The Forty-Year-Old Version. Writer, director and star Radha Blank received critical acclaim and awards at the Sundance Film Festival for this terrifically funny comedy. Playing a fictionalised version of herself, Blank plays a struggling, once lauded playwright, who is approaching middle age and a crisis. Teaching on a school theatre programme and feeling unfulfilled, Radha's midlife slump proves to be the kickstart for an uncomfortable rebrand. Becoming rapper RadhaMUSprime she also embarks on an affair with musician D whilst also being plagued during the day with the rewrite of her latest play. A sly and knowing dig at perceptions of the real-life experiences of Blank as an older black creative, The Forty-Year-Old Version is a refreshing take on love and life - and is utterly hilarious too.

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

## THANK YOU

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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