



## 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

Lockdown changes due to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August have been delayed with only a few hours notice from the Government. The pilot scheme to restart socially distanced indoor performances on 1<sup>st</sup> August as part of easing lockdown measures has been delayed for two weeks and shall be reviewed on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The delay to the pilot scheme is totally understandable as it comes in response to an increase in Covid -19 cases in certain areas of the country. Indoor theatres want nothing more than to begin welcoming artists and audiences back however the safety of artists and audiences must come first and all indoor theatres have a part to play in preventing the spread of Covid -19.

The Playhouse shall continue to plan to reopen safely in November and will follow the latest Government pilot scheme to test social distancing in selected theatres with great interest. When the pilot scheme eventually does take place, we shall be able to learn from the outcomes and welcome this as a move in the right direction. This scheme will enable the Playhouse to plan successful social-distancing measures which have been tried and tested on selected audiences. However there is no 'one size fits all' in terms of social distancing for a Theatre, a lot depends on the physical layout of the building, such as how wide and how many entrances, exits, staircases and toilets the building has.



Covid-19 continues to impact on the industry however less so in summer, as summer is the season which historically is considered the quiet or dark period for theatre with low audience engagement, especially noticeable in Northumberland which is the jewel in the crown of the North East Coast attracting thousands of visitors to enjoy the beautiful scenery and great outdoors. Most of the Autumn's touring dance, theatre and music productions have already cancelled or transferred to next year so November 2020 is the focus for opening.

The phased re-opening of cinemas across the UK. continues with social-distancing in place however for those cinemas opening their doors early in the hope of having customers return for summer there came disappointing Industry news last week. The film which was the focal point of an industry restart, Christopher Nolan's Tenet, has been delayed by Warner Bros. who have sensibly cancelled plans for a blanket global release. Mulan, Disney's biggest forthcoming title, has been taken out of the release calendar altogether! These big titles are crucial to cinemas hoping for audiences to return, but the delays are totally understandable as the safety of audiences must come first. It highlights that a more cautious approach to opening in November will not mean our audiences miss out on new titles.

We are communicating regularly with other Northumberland venues, Queens Hall Arts, Hexham and The Maltings, Berwick to make tentative plans towards the re-opening of all Northumberland venues in November. Together the three venues are planning a special Northumberland Christmas project for audiences to reflect on the challenges of the past year and celebrate looking forward to the next.

We shall continue to work behind the scenes, this closure has been an unwelcome interval in the industry but at least for the Playhouse and other Northumberland venues, it is only an interval and not the final curtain.

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## **NEW SHOWS FOR 2021**

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We look forward to a diverse programme of fantastic entertainment for our audiences and trust the interruption to our programme shall be over in Spring 2021. However no one has a crystal ball, so we will continue to offer the quick and efficient options of refund, exchange or donate for any interruption to the planned programme in 2021, allowing everyone to book with confidence.

### **PRIORITY BOOKING FOR FRIENDS AND FRONT ROW UNTIL 7TH AUGUST**

To become a Friend or Front Row Member and take advantage of priority booking click [here](#).

## BEN HART: WONDER - THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2021 7.30PM



Britain's Got Talent 2019 finalist, West End star and multi award-winning magician Ben Hart is embarking on his debut solo tour.

Described by David Walliams as 'the living embodiment of magic', Ben has recently played to royalty, heads of state and celebrities, in West End theatres, international arenas and on dozens of UK and international TV appearances (including his own series on BBC Three, The One Show and BBC One's "Now You See It").

Expect his most mind-blowing and exciting magic in a show that shines a light on magic, life, the universe and the darkest corners of your imaginations. With the simplest of props, using the objects and minds of the audience, Ben Hart conjures an altogether new kind of magic.

**Full Price: £19.00 | Concessions: £17.00 (Premier seating available for an additional £1.00 per ticket)**

[BOOK HERE](#)

**CAVERN BEATLES - THURSDAY 15TH & FRIDAY 16TH APRIL 2021  
7.30PM**



The show is a *Magical History Tour* through the complex works of the greatest pop music phenomenon, The Beatles. Replicating, in both sight and sound, the excitement and energy of Beatlemania, the psychedelic era of Sgt. Pepper, and the creative masterpieces of The White Album and Abbey Road.

A special feature of the show will be a recreation of the Savile Row "rooftop concert" of 29th January 1969.

Full Price: £25.50 (Premier seating available for an additional £1.00 per ticket)

[BOOK HERE](#)

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## THIS WEEKS WATCHLIST

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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 the 2017 film Sicilian Ghost Story. Based on the chilling real-life Mafia abduction of 12-year-old Giuseppe Di Matteo in 1993, Antonio Piazza and Fabio Grassadonia's Sicilian Ghost Story is a dark fairy tale of teenage romance set in a small Sicilian village at the edge of a forest.

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

Thank you for reading In The Loop



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