BRIGHTON OPEN AIR THEATRE

MAY - SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME TO BRIGHTON OPEN AIR THEATRE'S 2026 SUMMER SEASON

We're delighted to welcome everyone back to BOAT for a summer of fun in the sun. As well as another fabulous programme, we have exciting on-site improvements to enhance the audience experience, in particular our brand new bar. We have also launched our Sponsor A Sleeper campaign, giving people the chance to claim a piece of BOAT history, as well as a scheme offering £12 tickets for theatre shows to under 25s.

As for the programme, it's as jam-packed as ever, with artists travelling from far and wide to deliver thrilling drama, hilarious comedy, powerful spoken-word, enthralling dance, inspiring family shows and so, so much more. Beginning on May bank holiday weekend, we have music, drag, improv and wrestling, all within the first 4 days! Comedy, poetry and dance feature throughout May, in addition to our Brighton Fringe programme ending with Cue Fanfare's hilarious new take on the classic, *Ben Hur.*

In June we have our famous *Summer Comedy Festival*, featuring some of the biggest names in UK comedy, as well as hard-hitting productions of *Jane Eyre* and 'the greatest British play of the century' - *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth. New family show *Circus Calamitous* follows at the end of the month, before numerous touring productions throughout July, including *Around The World In 80 Days, Northanger Abbey* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, in addition to a big production of Noël Coward's classic farce *Noises Off*.

July ends with improvisation comedy kings The Noise Next Door, before our Pride weekend extravaganza with *Drag In The Park* for families and adults alike. Our big summer holiday family event is Quantum Theatre's terrific production of *Peter Rabbit*, in addition to Jane Austen's posthumously-completed *The Watsons* and African Night Fever's *Reggae Party*. BOAT are also delighted to announce a co-production of Arthur Miller's towering classic *A View From The Bridge* with The Conor Baum Company.

We close out in September with some Gilbert & Sullivan, a silent disco, and tons of music. Our full programme is detailed in this brochure, so do read on and ensure you book early to avoid disappointment, as many of these titles will sell out quickly!

Over the past 12 years, BOAT has become rooted in the local community and the wider Brighton & Hove cultural scene. We have our audience to thank for supporting us, and in return we aim to present a summer season bigger and better than the last. We receive no public funding, but rely solely on ticket and bar sales, as well as private donations. If you would like to support BOAT, there are several ways to do so. Please visit our website for more information.

We can't wait to welcome you all through our gates this summer. Pack that picnic, grab that suncream, and we'll see you here!

Large Circle image:
Swing That Music (2025)
Down for the Count
Photo credit: Rachel Hardwick

Small Circle Image:
A Midsummer Night's Dream (2025)
Oddsocks Productions
Photo credit: Donald Mak

ACCESS INFORMATION

BOAT has step-free access throughout the site and an accessible toilet. Wheelchair spaces are available to book for all shows and we can allocate free companion tickets when required. We can also reserve positions for those who are visually impaired, hard of hearing or who have complex mobility issues. Please contact us directly with enquiries.

As an outdoor venue, we are inherently relaxed, and as such can also accommodate those who are neuro-diverse or with additional sensory requirements. Please contact us with any questions or to arrange a pre-show site visit. Full accessibility information is available on our website.

Front Cover Image:
Moby Dick (2025)
Tower Theatre Company
Photo credit: Laurence Tuerk

Top left image:
The 39 Steps (2025)
Cue Fanfare
Photo credit: Laura Miranda

Access Info image:
Swing That Music (2025)
Down for the Count
Photo credit: Rachel Hardwick

FRI 1 MAY

DS:UK

A Tribute to Dire Straits

DS:UK are THE Dire Straits tribute show for true fans of Mark Knopfler's incredible band. The show brings a genuine and unique experience that will bring fans the tracks they love from *On Every Street*, alongside the classic Dire Straits songs you love to hear.

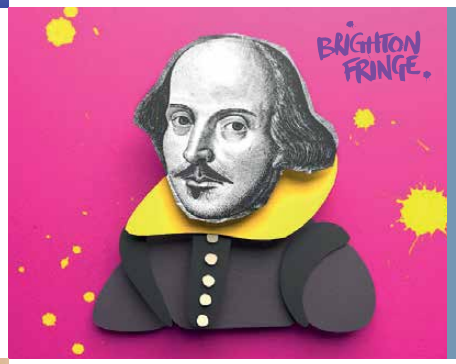
Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs 20 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

IMPROMPTU SHAKESPEARE

Hold onto your doublets, ruffs and trunk hose. The Bard is back! With story and verse improvised in the moment, enjoy a riotous new Shakespeare play every time, performed by a whip smart cast.

"Simply sublime" ★★★★★ Broadway Baby

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 40 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £17 | Conc £16



SUN 3 MAY

MON 4 MAY

MAY DAY MAYHEM

SWF & Kapow Wrestling

SWF and Kapow Wrestling return to BOAT for the first of 2 shows for 2026. *May Day Mayhem* is headlined by an all-women's tag team match featuring 4 of the top stars on the roster, plus a full supporting line-up of Britain's top superstars.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm
Full £17 | Conc £16 | Family of 4 £51

MANIA: THE ABBA TRIBUTE

Handshake Ltd

Direct from London's West End, MANIA is accepted as the world's number one ABBA tribute production. Dig out those platforms, dust down those flares, join in and party to all your favourite hits including *'Mamma Mia'*, *'Dancing Queen'*, *'Winner Takes It All'* & *'Super Trouper'*.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £29 | Conc £27

FRI 8 MAY

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

SAT 9 MAY

LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER

Pinch Punch

Welcome aboard *Locomotive for Murder*, the totally improvised, totally hilarious murder mystery, where killing the cast and cracking the case is in your hands! Using audience stories and suggestions, watch Pinch Punch create a one-of-a-kind, never-to-be-repeated whodunnit.

Age 8+ **Run time** 1 hr 45 mins **Start** 2pm & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

OLD SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

Dad La Soul

Picture the New York block parties that birthed hip-hop in the seventies. Now fast-forward that energy into a family space, without making it soft, worthy, or beige. Expect heavyweight DJs, live singers, MCs, and dance battles. This is part playdate, part social protest.

Age All **Run time** 3 hrs **Start** 2pm
Adult £15 | Child £14 | Family of 4 £45

SUN 10 MAY

THU 14 MAY

PARODY OF THE RINGS

The Production Garden

What happens when a cinema's Lord of the Rings marathon goes terribly wrong? With all copies of the film accidentally destroyed and only the soundtracks left in hand, the team of hapless ushers must somehow improvise an three-film saga in front of a live audience.

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 10 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

OPEN-AIR POETRY SLAM

Hammer & Tongue

For the fifth year, the best spoken word poets battle it out under the stars in the thrilling 2026 final of this legendary poetry slam. Join us for the best in performance poetry from Brighton's longest-running poetry night.

Age 16+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins
Start 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

BRIGHTON FRINGE.

FRI 15 MAY

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SAT 16 MAY

SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ARSÈNE LUPIN Dept. of Ulterior Motives

A new drag crime caper pitting England's famous detective against France's infamous gentleman burglar. Arsène Lupin voyages across the Channel to challenge Sherlock Holmes, with Dr John Watson caught in the middle of a tug-of-war between these literary legends.

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 45 mins **Start** 2pm & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

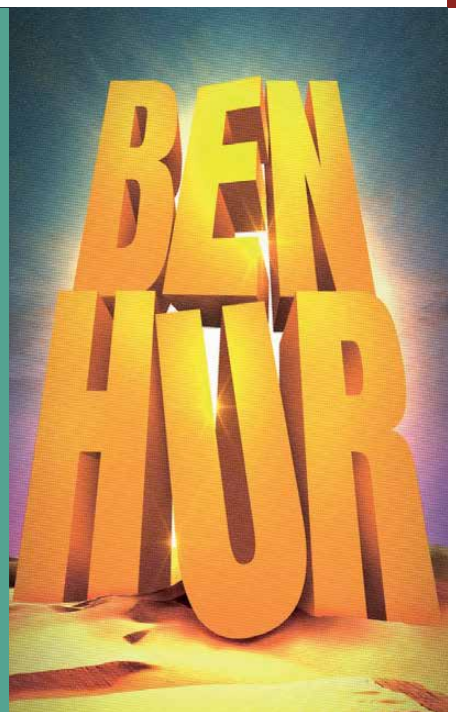
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Let's All Dance

Come and join Alice as she enters the curiouser and curiouser world of the White Rabbit, Queen of Hearts and Mad Hatter. Stunning dancing, much loved characters and super costumes bring the famous tale to life in this magical ballet production. Don't be late for this very important date!

Age All **Run time** 45 mins **Start** 11am & 2pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

SUN 17 MAY

WED 20, THU 21, FRI 22 & SAT 23 MAY



BEN HUR
Cue Fanfare

They said it was unachievable! They said it couldn't be done! And yet …

The greatest book ever penned is brought to the stage by the towering team who produced *One Man Two Guvnors, The Ladykillers, Brief Encounter* and last year's smash hit *The 39 Steps*… and with just four actors!

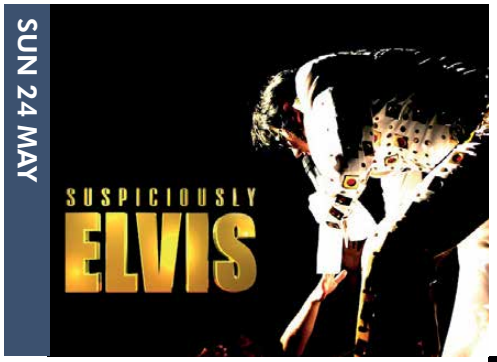
Complete with a bona fide chariot race, an authentic sea battle and a decadent Roman orgy (suitable for all ages), *Ben Hur* is The Greatest Story Ever Told.

Wed 20, Thu 21, Fri 22 & Sat 23 May
Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

BRIGHTON FRINGE.

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

SUN 24 MAY



SUSPICIOUSLY ELVIS

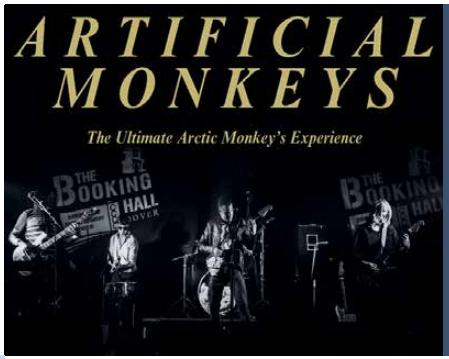
He's back! Join us in the afternoon sunshine as Suspiciously Elvis and his full live band return to perform the King's biggest Rock'n Roll classics. All the hits, all the theatricality … this is the greatest Elvis show this side of Vegas.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

ARTIFICIAL MONKEYS

The UK's premier tribute to the iconic AM-era Arctic Monkeys, faithfully recreating the energy, attitude, and sound from 2006 to the legendary AM album. No gimmicks. No fillers. Just four musicians fully locked in, channelling the era fans fell in love with.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50



MON 25 MAY

WED 27 MAY

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER Troubadour Stageworks

A blustering theatrical blunder through brine, blood and ballads. Framed around the themes of Coleridge's famous epic, two troubadours fumble their way through a number of short stories, songs and poems on a quest to find the emotional truth of the sea.

Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr 50 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

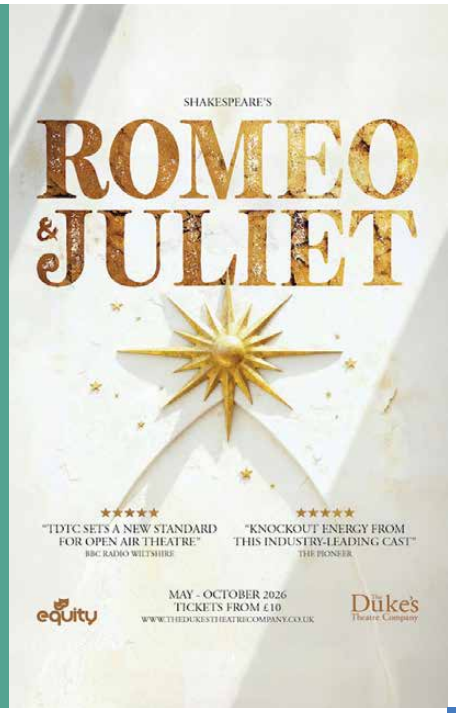
GERSHWIN'S 'PORGY AND BESS'
Chris Coull

Trumpeter Chris Coull and his all-star quartet bring Gershwin's Porgy and Bess to life in a thrilling jazz suite for the 21st century. With rich narration, hard bop grooves, Latin rhythms and sumptuous ballads, this concert reimagines Gershwin's masterpiece with both authenticity and invention. An evening of world-class jazz.

Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr 45 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

THU 28 MAY

FRI 29, SAT 30 & SUN 31 MAY



ROMEO & JULIET

The Duke's Theatre Company

Two hearts. One fate. A timeless love reborn.

The Duke's Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, a bold reimagining of the iconic tragedy, directed by Joseph Pitcher. Pitcher's acclaimed credits include *Gypsy* (UK Theatre Award for Best Musical Production), *My Fair Lady* at The Mill at Sonning, and *Macbeth* at the Salomons Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Also featuring original music by composer Rob Millett (Rambert Dance Company, The Royal Opera House, The National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe).

Blending dynamic staging, evocative sound, and the enduring power of Shakespeare's verse, this retelling illuminates the passion, peril, and youthful intensity at the play's core, inviting audiences to rediscover the world's most famous star-crossed lovers.

Fri 29, Sat 30 & Sun 31 May
Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm & 7pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

SUMMER COMEDY FESTIVAL

Funny That Comedy

Funny That's 7th season at BOAT is bursting at the seams with the best comics around! Grab your picnics and prosecco and make sure not to miss this fantastic week of comedy in Brighton's most beautiful outdoor venue.

And as always, there's also U-rated comedy for all the family - suitable for kids, grownups and grandparents alike. Just like the legendary evening shows, but with less rude bits!

Check our website for line-ups.

Mon 1, Tue 2, Wed 3, Thur 4, Fri 5,
Sat 6 & Sun 7 June

Age 14+ (8+ family shows)
Run time 1 hr - 1 hr 45 mins
Full £12 - £20 | Conc £10 - £17

MON 1, TUE 2, WED 3, THU 4, FRI 5, SAT 6 & SUN 7 JUNE

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

WED 10, THU 11, FRI 12 & SAT 13 JUNE

JANE EYRE

Brighton Little Theatre

The attic burns with secrets untold!

In Polly Teale's vibrant adaptation, Bertha Mason - the infamous "madwoman in the attic"- steps from the shadows and emerges as the living embodiment of Jane's suppressed longings and rage.

Dive into Jane's inner world and unearth the psychological battles between passion and restraint, duty and desire. Arresting and emotionally charged, this adaptation breathes raw, urgent life into one of literature's most enduring heroines - a Jane Eyre like no other.

Wed 10, Thu 11, Fri 12 & Sat 13 June
Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

FEARLESSLY TAYLOR

Want to sing along to all the classic hits or discover some of Taylor's more hidden gems? This Eras Tour-inspired show delivers both. Whether you're a devoted Swiftie or seeing Fearlessly Taylor for the first time, this is guaranteed to be a standout theatre experience.

Age All **Run time** 1 hr 50 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

SUN 14 JUNE

SUN 21 JUNE

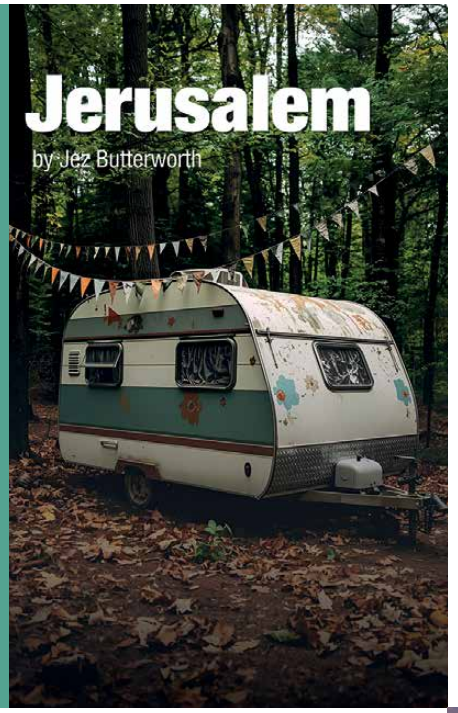
MUSIC FOR MIDSUMMER

Richard Durrant

A wonderful live music event for acoustic and classical guitar lovers, indie-classical composer & concert guitarist Richard Durrant brings his original, haunting guitar music back to BOAT for another edition of Music for Midsummer. As heard on BBC Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4 & 6 Music.

Age All **Run time** 2 hrs 10 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

WED 17, THU 18, FRI 19 & SAT 20 JUNE



JERUSALEM
Tower Theatre Company

St. George's Day. An old caravan sits at the edge of the Wiltshire woods, an eviction notice pinned to its door.

Johnny "Rooster" Byron – a former daredevil and local outlaw – offers stories, sacraments and sanctuary to Flintock's runaways and misfits, as he stands defiant against the bulldozers of Kennet and Avon County Council.

Following its debut in 2009 at the Royal Court, *Jerusalem* has been hailed by critics as "the greatest British play of the century". Both magical and haunting, this irreverent hymn to myth, mischief, and England's lost wildness beats its drum against the relentless march of modernity.

Wed 17, Thu 18, Fri 19, Sat 20 June
Age 16+ **Run time** 2 hrs 45 mins
Start 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

OPERA AT SUNSET 2
Simon Gray

A new programme of operatic highlights from the world's favourite operas, plus some less well-known pieces. Performed by a cast of more than 30 experienced opera singers who have appeared at Glyndebourne, The Royal Opera House & English National Opera, amongst others.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

THU 25 JUNE

FRI 26 JUNE

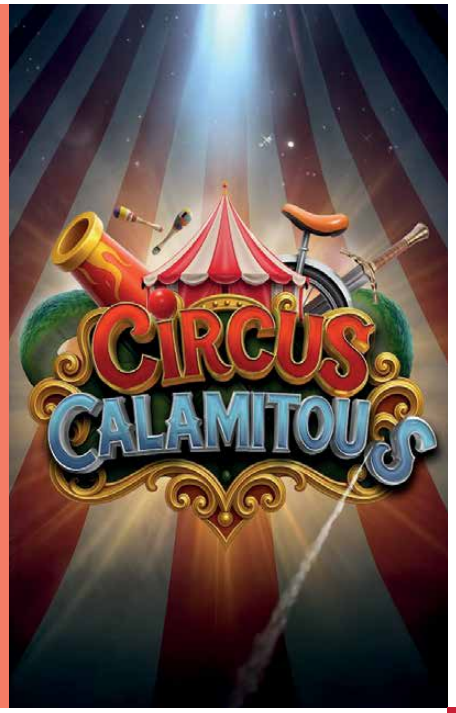
THE ALTER EAGLES

The Alter Eagles are delighted to return to BOAT with their concert-length tribute to one of the greatest bands of all time. Featuring note-for-note recreation of songs such as *Hotel California, Lyin' Eyes, New Kid in Town, Take it Easy, Life in the Fast Lane* and many more.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs 20 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

SAT 27 & SUN 28 JUNE



CIRCUS CALAMITOUS

The 'World's Greatest Showman' (his words) Rex Bartholomew brings his internationally-renowned award-winning world-famous circus to the grandest of venues. Except that he doesn't, because a clerical error means the circus performers have gone to the wrong address and are 100 miles away.

The only people left in the company are Rex himself and his put-upon stagehand Darren...so the two of them will have to put on the show themselves! Expect mishaps, squirting water, custard pies, audience participation and a cameo from the only member of the circus troupe that remained on site.....Leslie the Lion.

Drawing on traditions of circus, pantomime and classic comedy, it's a circus that goes very wrong. Written by BAFTA nominated TV Comedy writer Justin Sbresni and Stewart Wright.

Sat 27 & Sun 28 June
Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr **Start** 2pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL
Ha Hum Ah

Three actors tear through revolutions, opera houses, seedy Dover pubs and glittering ballrooms using nothing but a mountain of wigs and sheer nerve. Expect quick-fire gags, high-octane multi-roleing in this modern, theatrical retelling of Baroness Orczy's swashbuckling classic.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

WED 1 JULY

THU 2 JULY

THE IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE SHOW
ShakeItUp Theatre

Shakespeare hasn't written anything new for an age. Enter ShakeItUp Theatre! Using his language, your audience suggestions, and their overactive imaginations, watch as they create a brand new Shakespeare play live on stage, with laughs, drama, & plenty of Bard-based bedlam!

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 45 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £19

FRI 3 JULY

FUNKY MOTOWN SOUL SHOW

The Blunter Brothers

The Blunter Brothers started playing live in 1989 and have become established as one of the premiere 'Revue' acts in the country. The band covers all the hits from artists such as James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Ray Charles, Curtis Mayfield, EW&F and many more.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

KASPAR PRINCE OF CATS

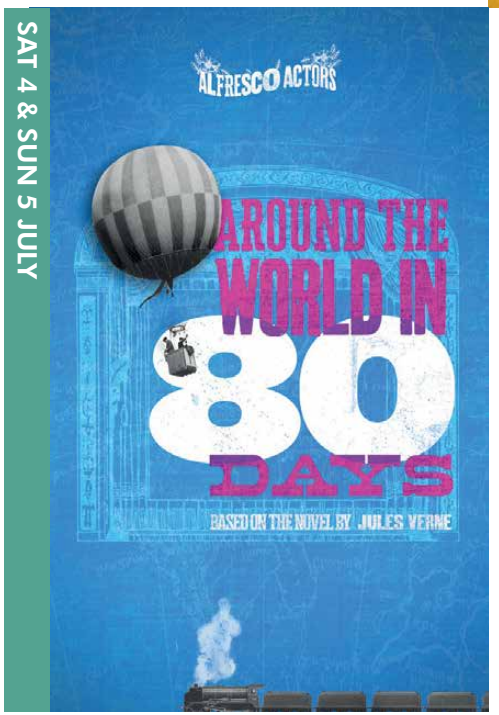
Alfresco Actors

Follow Johnny and Lizziebeth as they form an unlikely bond with the extraordinary cat Kaspar. Their journey takes them across oceans, in a story of friendship, courage and survival. A magical family adventure brought to life through enchanting puppetry, original music and vivid storytelling.

Age 3+ **Run time** 1 hr **Start** 2pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

SAT 4 JULY

SAT 4 & SUN 5 JULY



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Alfresco Actors

Pack your bags and hold onto your hats - the race is on! Join a fearless troupe of actor-musicians as they hurtle across continents in this riotously entertaining, globe-trotting show inspired by Jules Verne's much-loved classic.

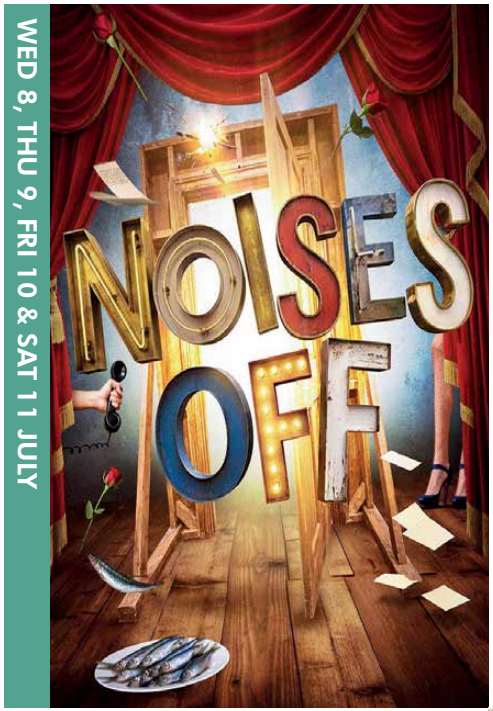
With the clock ticking, Phileas Fogg and his quick-thinking companions attempt the impossible: travelling around the world in just 80 days.

Expect dazzling live music, outrageous characters and inventive storytelling as London, Bombay and beyond burst into life. Featuring trains, boats and plenty of theatrical mayhem, this joyful open-air adventure is packed with fun, flair and surprise at every turn.

Sat 4 & Sun 5 July
Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

WED 8, THU 9, FRI 10 & SAT 11 JULY



NOISES OFF

Cue Fanfare

The funniest farce ever written!

With technical brilliance and split-second timing, *Noises Off* takes us behind the scenes with a company of actors in a hilarious and heartfelt tribute to the unpredictability of life in the theatre.

Hailed as one of the funniest plays of all time, this Olivier Award-winning script is brought to BOAT in an exuberant new production by the team behind *The Ladykillers, One Man, Two Guvnors, Don't Dress for Dinner* and last year's smash hit *The 39 Steps*.

Wed 8, Thu 9, Fri 10 & Sat 11 July
Age 10+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins
Start 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

THE PICKWICK PAPERS

Rain or Shine

In the delightfully chaotic Victorian world of *The Pickwick Papers*, misadventure and merriment collide in a whirlwind of Dickensian absurdity. With fast-paced wit, slapstick, mayhem and a cast of larger-than-life characters, Dickens has never been this unpredictable!

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

WED 15 JULY

THU 16 JULY

THE GHOST OF ACHILLES

Troubadour Stageworks

Odysseus has come home, but the war still burns within. The ghost of Achilles lingers, whispering of pride, rage, and glory. Odysseus now faces his truest battle: to return in spirit, not just in body. Inspired by the Greek classics, this is a story of homecoming and healing.

Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr 50 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

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FRI 17 JULY

NORTHANGER ABBEY

Moving Parts Theatre

The power of stories. The power of the imagination. This summer, Moving Parts Theatre Company brings you a brand new adaptation of Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey. A thrilling Gothic tale of dark deeds… or a heartwarming Regency romance. Let's find out, shall we?

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

OH WHAT A NIGHT

Handshake Ltd

Head back in time on a musical journey through the career of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. Featuring songs; *Sherry, Let's Hang On, Big Girls Don't Cry, Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, and many more. Don't miss the ultimate celebration of the world's greatest Rock & Roll band!

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £29 | Conc £27

SAT 18 JULY

SUN 19 JULY

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Four Forty Theatre

Desire, enchantment and theatrical chaos collide! Four Forty Theatre reimagine Shakespeare's comedy with fast-paced character-swapping, bold theatricality, and gleeful irreverence. Lovers are bewitched, fairies quarrel, and Bottom's metamorphosis is more delightful than ever.

Age 7+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

JEKYLL & HYDE

National Production Company

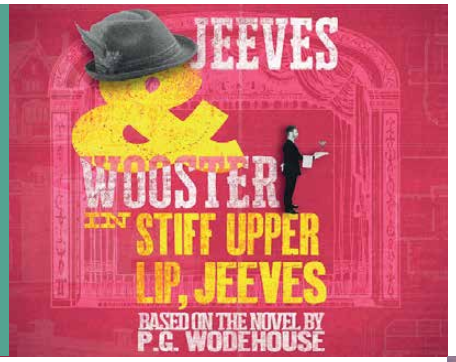
Step into the shadowy, fog-drenched streets of Victorian London, where Dr. Henry Jekyll embarks on a scientific quest to unlock the mysteries of human nature... and promptly makes a complete mess of it. With plenty of mind blowing transformations and edge-of-your-seat tension!

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 10 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

WED 22 JULY

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

THU 23 JULY



JEEVES & WOOSTER

Alfresco Actors

Enter the whimsical world of Bertie Wooster, an affable young gentleman with a penchant for getting himself in the most outlandish predicaments. Thankfully, he has his razor-sharp valet, Jeeves, to rescue him from mishaps. Featuring live jazz music, a jolly good time awaits!

Age 7+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

SAUCY SONGS AT SUNSET

Simon Gray

A selection of hilarious songs from a wide range of musicals, as well as comedic songs by Victoria Wood, Richard Stilgoe, Tim Minchin and more. All performed by a cast of professional musical theatre performers. Not suitable for children, or the easily offended!

Age 16+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

FRI 24 JULY

BOAT FULL SUMMER SCHEDULE

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Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

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£12 THEATRE TICKETS FOR U25's

We're delighted to offer tickets at just £12 to selected theatre shows for under 25s. Simply proceed through the booking process as normal on our website and select the relevant ticket type.

Online only, subject to availability, exclusions may apply, ID required on arrival.

SAT 25 JULY

IMPROVISED COMEDY AT BOAT

The Noise Next Door

At last! A comedy show that the whole family will enjoy. Bring kids, grandparents and your grumpy uncle Kevin... EVERYONE is going to laugh. Prepare for an afternoon of crazy characters, stupid stories and glorious gags all made up on the spot by Britain's best improvisers.

Age 3+ **Run time** 1 hr 15 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

LIVE IN BRIGHTON!

The Noise Next Door

Comedy YOU control. The undisputed kings of improvised comedy are back with a round of off-the-cuff laughs. There aren't many comedy shows that ask you what you want to see... And no matter what you come up with, The Noise Next Door will transform it into something hilarious.

Age 16+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

SAT 25 JULY

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

SUN 26 JULY

HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

The Pantaloons

A brand-new riff on the fiendishly famous case. Will Holmes and Watson discover the deadly secret of the Baskerville family curse? Or are they barking up the wrong tree? Find out in this delightfully inventive show that'll have you yelping with excitement and howling with laughter.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 4pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

DRAG IN THE PARK: FAMILY

Alfie Ordinary

Dust off those sparkles and warm up those singing voices, Brighton's best family-friendly Drag event is back! Get ready to boogie on the dancefloor and sing along to your favourite pop and Disney songs, as some of the UK's biggest Queens deliver an inclusive and inspiring show.

Age All **Run time** 1 hr 30 mins **Start** 2pm
Adult £15 | Child £14 Family of 4 | £45

FRI 31 JULY

SAT 2 MAY, SAT 27 JUNE, FRI 31 JULY & FRI 4 SEPT

DRAG IN THE PARK

Alfie Ordinary

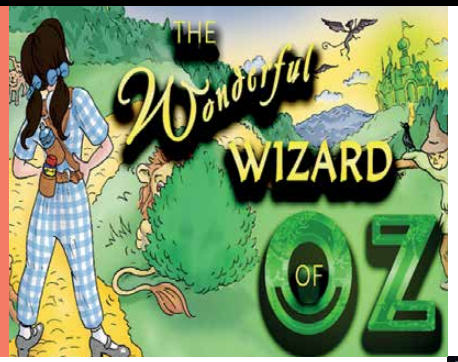
BOAT's infamous Drag in the Park returns for 2026, with 4 huge shows with bigger and better line-ups than ever before!

Hosted as always by local legend Alfie Ordinary, expect the usual raucous fun from some of the top Drag Queens in the UK. With shows in May, June, September and the bombastic Pride Edition, we've got you covered throughout the whole summer.

Line-ups will be confirmed online in due course, but make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Sat 2 May, Sat 27 June, Fri 31 July & Fri 4 Sept
Age 16+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 - £19 | Conc £16 - £17.50

WED 29 - THU 30 JULY



THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

IK Productions

Join Dorothy, the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and Toto as they encounter munchkins, witches, winged monkeys, enchanted slippers and a Wonderful Wizard! Expect the unexpected in this comedy for all the family.

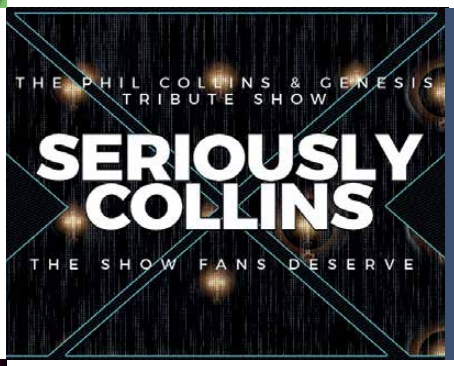
Age All+ **Run time** 1 hr 40 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

SERIOUSLY COLLINS

Get ready to be transported back in time to relive the legendary hits of Phil Collins and Genesis! Seriously Collins is an electrifying journey through the music that has touched hearts and defined an era. The energy, charm, and charisma of the original band is recreated impeccably.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

SAT 1 AUGUST



SUN 2 AUGUST

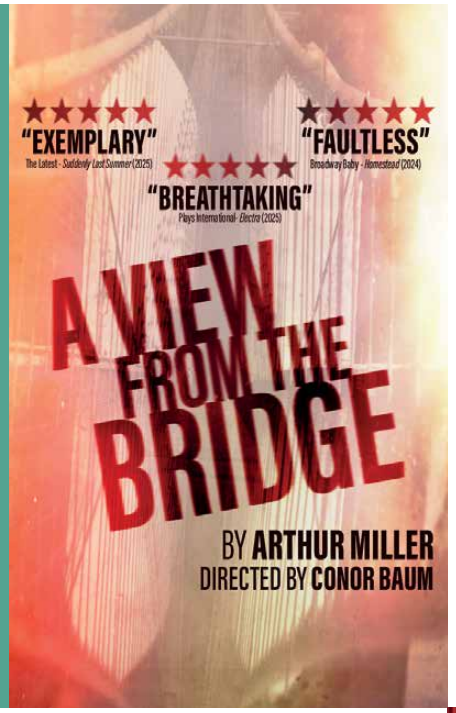
THE VOX BEATLES

The Vox Beatles are the UK's top Beatles Tribute. Their passion, enthusiasm and superb musicianship captures their famous counterparts with aplomb, with authentic instruments and costume changes to complete the look. This show will guarantee to have you singing along to those great Beatles songs we all know and love!

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

WED 5, THU 6, FRI 7 & SAT 8 AUGUST



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

BOAT & The Conor Baum Company

A longshoreman stands on the Brooklyn docks, the skyline glittering beyond him. The law is watching - and inside his own home, boundaries are already eroding.

In this visceral new outdoor production of A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller's gripping tragedy pulses with urgent contemporary relevance. Eddie Carbone shelters two undocumented cousins chasing work and survival, but as fear of deportation spreads and suspicion seeps through the tenement walls, loyalty becomes dangerous currency.

In a world shaped by immigration debates and toxic masculinity conversations, this bold new co-production asks what we owe our families - and who has the right to belong?

Wed 5, Thu 6, Fri 7 & Sat 8 Aug
Age 14+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins
Start 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

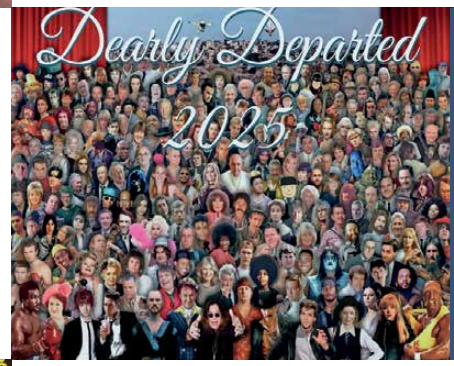
DEARLY DEPARTED

The Brighton Beach Boys

Dearly Departed honours the musical talents who passed on in 2025, including Brian Wilson, Sly Stone, Roberta Flack and Jimmy Cliff. The show will mark their passing and offer a musical tribute to those who have left iconic songs behind for the generations to come.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

SUN 9 AUGUST



WED 12 & THU 13 AUG

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Changeling Theatre

Shakespeare's famous romcom gets a gothic makeover. Glitz, glamour and scandal hit Messina in Changeling's revival of Much Ado About Nothing. Think decadent costume balls and devious misdemeanours, in a play where love's a battlefield and the gossip never stops.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 30 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

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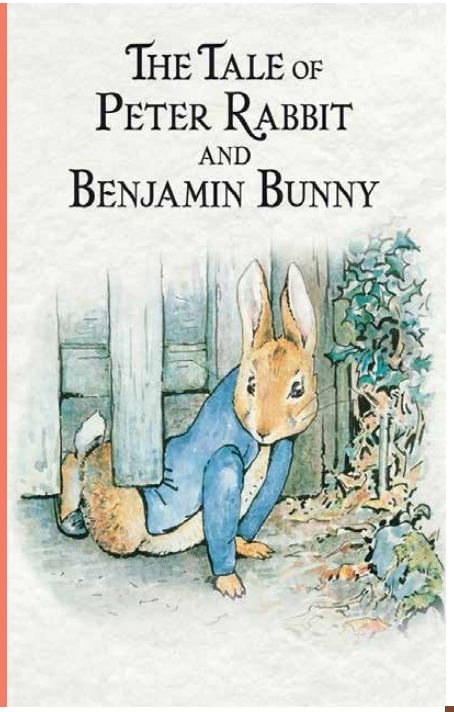
SAT 15 & SUN 16 AUGUST



PETER RABBIT

Quantum Theatre

Peter and his naughty cousin Benjamin know very well that they are not to go into Mr McGregor's garden, but they cannot resist and soon they find themselves in all sorts of scrapes; caught in a net, trapped by a snarling cat and face to face with Mr McGregor himself!

How will they ever escape? Can Old Mr Bunny come to the rescue in time? And whatever will Mr McGregor make of all those footprints in the flower beds?

Grab the kids, a blanket and a picnic, and join Peter and Benjamin on their hair-raising adventures - a magical afternoon of fun for all the family.

Sat 15 & Sun 16 Aug
Age 2+ **Run time** 1 hr 30 mins **Start** 1pm & 4pm
Full £15 | Conc £14 | Family of 4 £45

REGGAE PARTY

African Night Fever

African Night Fever brings the irresistible joys of the Caribbean to BOAT for an evening of dance, food and happiness. Sample the delicious African Caribbean cuisine from the Soul Food Sisters, sip on the Rum and sway to the beats of Roots Reggae.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs 20 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

FRI 14 AUGUST

SUN 23 AUGUST

BEE GEES GOLD

This spectacular production brings the legendary harmonies, iconic falsettos, and timeless hits of the Bee Gees to life like never before. Sing along to classics like *Stayin' Alive, Night Fever, How Deep Is Your Love,* and *More Than a Woman* as Bee Gees Gold delivers an unforgettable afternoon.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

WED 19, THU 20, FRI 21 & SAT 22 AUGUST

THE WATSONS

Brighton Little Theatre

When Jane Austen forgets the ending, the characters write it themselves...

Emma Watson is 19, new in town, and newly cut off by her wealthy aunt. Sent back to the family home, she and her sisters must marry - and quickly. Otherwise, they face poverty, spinsterhood, or worse: a lifetime trapped with their boorish brother and his dreadful wife.

So far, so Austen. But here's the twist - Jane Austen never finished The Watsons. Who will write Emma's happy ending now?

Brimming with wit, mischief, and a touch of theatrical magic, this sparkling play peeks under the bonnet of Austen's world and asks: What can characters do when their author abandons them?

Wed 19, Thu 20, Fri 21 & Sat 22 Aug
Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm (Sat) & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

KING ARTHUR & THE HOLY FAIL

The Three Inch Fools

In a land of daring quests and dashing knights, there lived a would-be hero; Arthur. When Camelot is rocked to its core, Arthur is thrust into the quest of a lifetime. Destiny awaits, chivalry calls, and the quest to end all quests begins. Saddle up - its about to get legendary.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

WED 26 AUGUST

THU 27 AUGUST

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

DOT Productions

DOT Productions presents a sparkling revival of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, brimming with wit, charm, and comedic flair. This nimble five-actor adaptation brings Wilde's razor-sharp dialogue and social satire to life with inventive staging and playful character doubling.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs 10 mins **Start 7pm**
Full £17 | Conc £16

FRI 28 AUGUST

JOLENE: THE DOLLY PARTON EXPERIENCE Country Music Superstars

Endorsed by Dolly herself on the BBC's *The One Show*, this is Europe's premiere Dolly Parton tribute. From the very opening song the hits keep coming; *9-5, I Will Always Love You, Here You Come Again, Coat Of Many Colours, Jolene, Applejack* and many, many more.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

THE GREAT GATSBY
This Is My Theatre

Step into the roaring 1920s, where the champagne flows, the trumpet blows, and the American Dream gleams with irresistible allure. This electrifying stage adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's timeless novel brings Jay Gatsby's world to life - a place of opulence, obsession, and heartbreak.

Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr 45 mins **Start** 2pm & 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

SAT 29 AUGUST

SUN 30 AUGUST

SUMMER SUPLEX
SWF & Kapow Wrestling

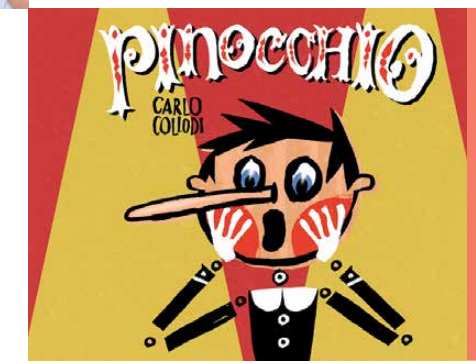
In this extravaganza, the main event is a Lumber Jack Match, where 2 competitors fight it out for the title with other superstars surrounding the ring. If any star exits the squared circle, they instantly get thrown back in! Plus tag team and solo action.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 2pm
Full £17 | Conc £16 | Family of 4 £51

PINOCCHIO
Illyria

A wooden puppet runs away yearning for adventure, but instead finds cruel bosses, con-artists and exciting attractions which always contain hidden dangers. How can he become a real boy when the lies he tells to cover up awkward truths are as plain as the nose on his face?

Age 5+ **Run time** 1 hr 35 mins **Start** 4pm
Full £17 | Conc £16 | Family of 4 £51



MON 31 AUGUST

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

THU 3 SEPTEMBER

DRACULA
British Touring Shakespeare

When celebrated vampire hunter Mina Harker is invited to speak at a Victorian scientific society, their aim is to belittle and discredit her ridiculous claims. But as they hear the tale of her fight with the sinister Count Dracula, they are chilled to the bone by a story they will never forget.

Age 12+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
Illyria

Frederick, apprenticed to Pirates until his 21st birthday, learns that he was born in a leap year on 29th February. Will he be tied into piracy until he is 84? Will his sweetheart, Mabel, wait for him that long? Join Illyria for an evening of silliness, satire and glorious music.

Age 6+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

SAT 5 SEPTEMBER

SUN 6 SEPTEMBER

THE CARPENTERS EXPERIENCE

The UK's leading Carpenters show, featuring the incredible voice of Maggie Nestor and a band full of top-class musicians, captures the sights and sounds of the amazing talents of Richard and Karen Carpenter. *The Carpenters Experience* is coming to town for an afternoon of non-stop hits - it's yesterday once more…

Age 6+ **Run time** 1 hr 40 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

MACBETH
The HandleBards

Forget the tears and tragedy, this Macbeth is chock full of mishaps, mayhem and mirth. A hilariously high-octane production of Macbeth like you've never seen before! The HandleBards are an intrepid troupe bringing environmentally sustainable Shakespeare to UK venues.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £19 | Conc £17.50

THU 10 SEPTEMBER

FRI 11 SEPTEMBER

HUSH BOAT DISCO

Hush Beats

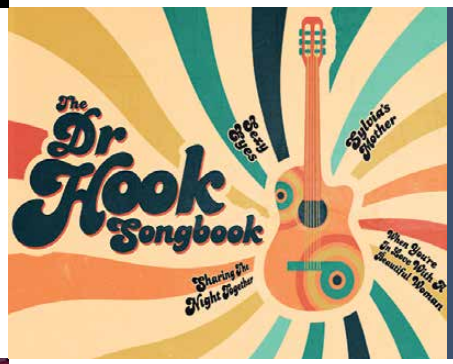
It's BOAT's Battle of the Beats! 3 legendary Brighton DJs vie for dominance of the Astroturf Dance Floor. Choose your colours, tune into your tribe or channel-hop, but whatever you choose, bring your dancing shoes! Feat. pop classics, drum 'n' bass, indie dance-floor-fillers, and more.

Age 12+ **Run time** 3 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £12 | Conc £10

THE DR HOOK SONGBOOK

The songs of American country rock band, Dr. Hook, are timeless classics. Who can forget *Sylvia's Mother, When You're in Love With A Beautiful Woman* and *Sexy Eyes*. The Dr Hook Songbook breathes new life into the Dr. Hook catalogue with their sensational live concert.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 15 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £25 | Conc £23



SAT 12 SEPTEMBER

SUN 13 SEPTEMBER

SIMON & GARFUNKEL

Through The Years

A "*masterpiece*" (BBC Radio) in musicianship, which recreates the sound of Simon & Garfunkel, and has toured in the UK, Europe, Australia and USA. Featuring the iconic songs, including *The Sound of Silence, Mrs Robinson, The Boxer* and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*..

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 50 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £23 | Conc £21.50

DORIAN GRAY

Don't Go Into The Cellar

What awful secret is stored inside the attic? Only the eternally youthful and charming Dorian Gray knows. But as his appetite for sin leads to ever greater acts of wickedness, Gray will stop at nothing to make sure no one discovers the dreadful truth.

Age 12+ **Run time** 1 hr 30 mins **Start** 7pm
Full £17 | Conc £16

THU 17 SEPTEMBER

Theatre Comedy Family Music Other

FRI 18 SEPTEMBER

THE TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE

This incredible show features hit after hit from Take That's incredible career, from classic 90s floor-fillers to their most recent triumphs, inc. *Pray, Relight My Fire, Patience, Shine, Rule The World* and more, plus the one and only "Robbie Williams" performing his solo hits *Rock DJ, Candy, Angels* and more.

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs **Start** 7pm
Full £25 | Conc £23

SWING THAT MUSIC

Down For The Count

Join the UK's hardest swinging band Down for the Count All-Stars for "one hellova celebration of vintage music" (TimeOut London.) This 10-piece mini big band recreate the music of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Nat 'King' Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and more!

Age 8+ **Run time** 2 hrs 20 mins **Start** 2pm
Full £27 | Conc £25

SUN 20 SEPTEMBER

AT LONG LAST WE HAVE MERCHANDISE!

Treat yourself or a loved one to a t-shirt, babygrow or bespoke print, featuring an exclusive design from award-winning artist, Alej Ez. Available online or in person during events.

For more information head to our website.

WWW.BRIGHTONOPENAIRTHEATRE.CO.UK

THE BAR AT BOAT

OPEN FOR REFRESHMENTS BEFORE & DURING EVERY SHOW

Skip the queue and pre-order online when booking your tickets!

WINE
Red, White & Rose (125ml) £4
Wine by the bottle £20

BOTTLE OF FIZZ
Specially selected by BOAT (750ml) £25

BEER & CIDER
Lost Pier Brewing Deckchair Cruiser (Lagerbier Helles 440ml) £5
Lost Pier Beach Session IPA (330ml) £4.50
Silly Moo Cider (330ml) £4.50
Peroni 0% (330ml) £3

HOUSE COCKTAILS
All served with ice and a slice £7

The Lime of the Ancient Mariner
50ml Bacardi rum, Coca Cola & lime juice

Pickwick Paper Pimms
50ml Pimms Original No. 1, lemonade, frozen strawberry & fresh mint

Reggae Party Rum Punch
50ml rum, lime & pineapple juice, nutmeg

Hush BOAT Disco Classic
25ml Brighton Gin & Folkington's Tonic Water

JUICE & WATER £2
Folkington's Summer Berries Juice (250ml)
Folkington's Cloudy Pear Juice (250ml)
South Downs Still or Sparkling Water (330ml)

SODAS £2
Coco Cola, Diet Coke, Lemonade, Rhubarb, Elderflower, Ginger Beer

HOT DRINKS £2
Tea, Coffee, decafs, Herbal Teas, Hot Chocolate, Vegan Hot Chocolate

BOOZY HOT STUFF £4.50
Coffee or Hot Chocolate: choose from Jamaican (Rum), French (Brandy) or Irish (Baileys) (25ml) with optional whipped cream

ICES
Summer flavours non/dairy ice cream £3.50
Moments Choc Ice Milk/White Choc £3.50
Blackcurrant or Orange Ice Pop £3

LIGHT SNACKS £2
Crisps, Nuts, Brownies, Nut Bar, Flapjack, Smarties, Minstrels & Fruit Pastilles

PICNICS
You are welcome to bring your picnic to enjoy as part of your BOAT experience. Please help our sustainability mission, take your litter and recycling home with you.

All BOAT drinks are served in Vegware compostable cups and lids. Please pop your used cup into the pink "BOAT Cups" bin to help grow flowers for next year.

BYO CUP 50P OFF

Image design: Sarah Arnett

FAQs

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?
We get wet! Shows go ahead in all weather, so come prepared with raincoats, umbrellas, sun cream and shades. We will only cancel a performance if the conditions are considered dangerous to performers or audience, which is incredibly rare. If ever in doubt, the show will almost always be going ahead.

ARE DOGS ALLOWED?
No dogs are allowed on site, except for assistance dogs.

WHAT COUNTS AS A CONCESSION?
Concession tickets are available to: over 65s, under 16s, students, people with disabilities, blue light card holders, Equity members and the unemployed. ID may be required upon entry.

HOW DO I RECEIVE MY TICKETS?
You will be emailed your tickets - this email will come from Ticketsolve, our ticket provider.

IS THERE ALLOCATED SEATING?
No - you may sit anywhere you like. Rest assured you get a great view from everywhere!

Full FAQs on our website

ARE YOU A CASHLESS VENUE?
Yes we are, though you can put cash into our donation buckets.

WHAT FACILITIES DO YOU HAVE?
We have unisex toilets, a disabled access toilet and baby changing facilities on site.

WHY DO YOU CHARGE A BOOKING FEE?
The booking fee is charged by our ticketing provider - Ticketsolve - and covers the costs of using their service.

DO YOU HAVE A CLOAKROOM?
No, so do bear this in mind.

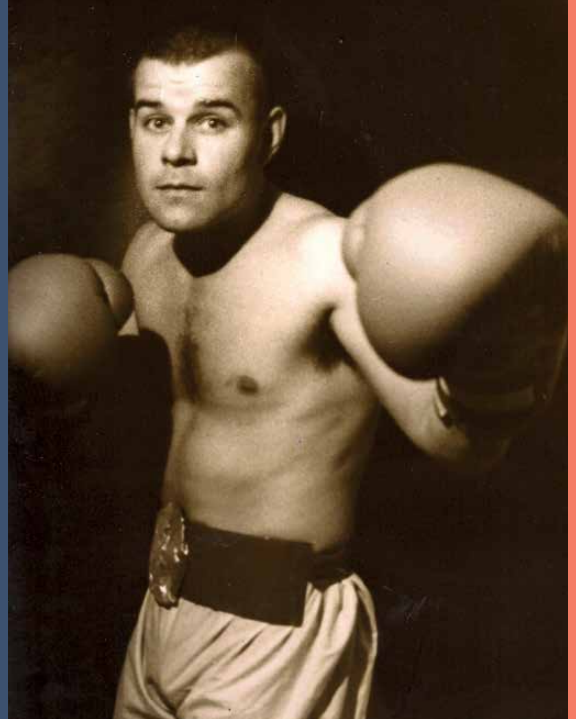
CAN I BRING MY CHILD OR BABY TO A SHOW?
Of course - but we recommend checking the age recommendation of each show. Babes in arms (those that will not need their own seat) do not require a ticket.

CAN CHILDREN ATTEND SHOWS WITHOUT AN ADULT?
Children aged 15 or under must be accompanied by an adult and have their own ticket.

THE BOAT STORY

BOAT is the vision of Brighton playwright, showman and construction manager, Adrian Bunting, who died from pancreatic cancer in May 2013, aged 47. In his final days Adrian threw his efforts into realising a long held ambition; the creation of a permanent open-air theatre for the city he loved.

BOAT was launched by Adrian's Mother, Isobelle Bunting, on the 9th May 2015, almost two years to the day after Adrian passed away. Now celebrating our twelfth year and a well-established part of Brighton's cultural landscape, BOAT is committed to protecting Adrian's legacy so it can be enjoyed by all for years to come.



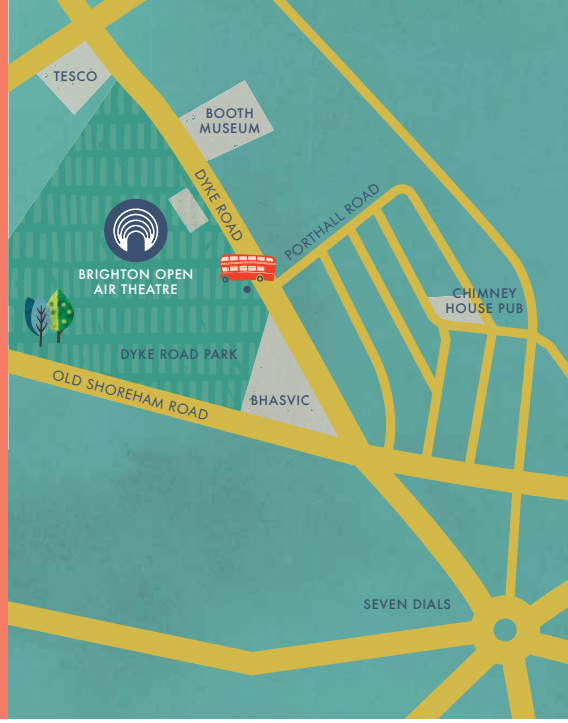
BOAT WOULD LIKE TO THANK

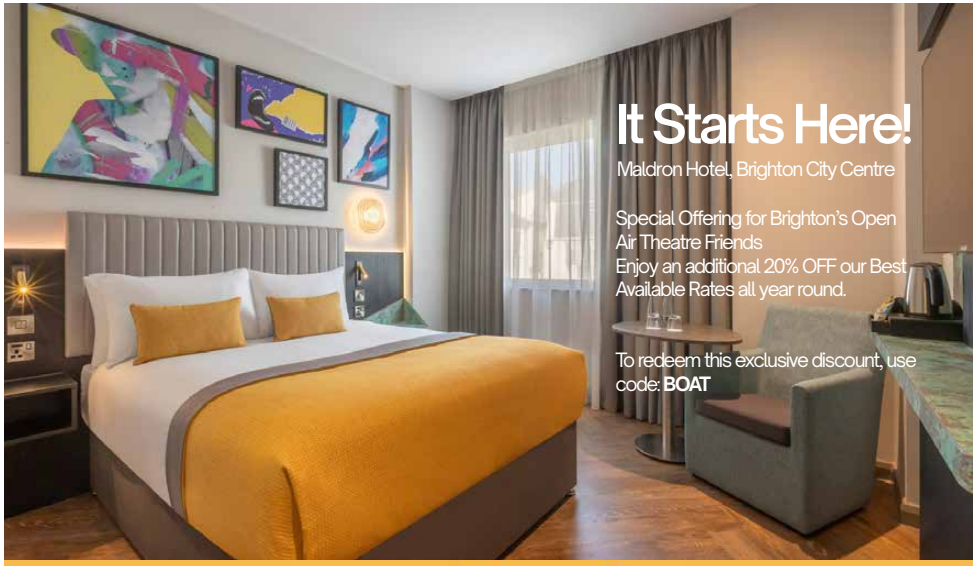
Adrian's family, Brighton and Hove City Council and the Parks Team, Friends of Dyke Road Park, Amanda and Brian Ogilivie, Friends of BHASVIC Field, Beverley Grover, Ben Gander and L&S Printing. Most importantly, our amazing team of volunteers, without whom none of this would be possible.

If you would like to donate to BOAT, there's a button on the homepage of our website. We also accept cash and card donations after performances. Thank you!

BOAT is a registered charity (no. 115605)

All listings are correct at time of print and are subject to change. Please check our website for the most up to date information.





More Information:
sales.brighton@maldronhotels.com
+44 1273 435105

maldron HOTELS

Where to find us:
31 Cannon Pl, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN1 2FB

FIND US

BOAT is located in Dyke Road Park on Dyke Road. We are a 5-minute walk from Seven Dials roundabout, and opposite the Booth Museum. Our postcode is BN3 6EH.

BY FOOT BOAT is 20 minutes from central Brighton.

BY BIKE There are cycle lanes leading to the park from the city centre. We have a bike rack in the theatre.

BY TRAIN BOAT is a 20-minute walk from Brighton station and a 15-minute walk from Preston Park station.

BY BUS The 27 and 77 buses stop at the park.

BY CAR BOAT is 5 minutes from the A27 and the A23. Limited pay and display street parking is available on Dyke Road and surrounding streets. No free parking.

CONTACT US

ENQUIRIES hello@brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk

BOX OFFICE boxoffice@brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk

PHONE 07391 357542 (4pm - 6pm, Mon - Fri)

HOW TO BOOK

ONLINE www.brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk

BY PHONE 07391 357542 (4pm - 6pm, Mon - Fri)

IN PERSON If a show is not sold out tickets are available at the gate from the time of doors open. We accept card only - no cash except for donations.

THE BOAT TEAM

Trustees: Dominic Boon, Graeme Hawkins, Steve Turner, Jane Waller and Lisa Wolfe.

General Manager: Will Mytum

Operations Manager: Tanya Macleod

Marketing Co-Ordinator: Hattie Snooks

Duty Managers: Rachael Dodd, Emma Howarth, Laura Mukabaa, Will Parish, Adam Self and Jamie Smith

FOH: The Amazing BOAT Volunteers

Brochure Design: Laura Danby

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Sponsor A SLEEPER AT BOAT

SPONSOR A SLEEPER

New for 2026, we are delighted to launch our Sponsor a Sleeper campaign. Whether it's a gift, in memory of a loved one, or simply to show your support, there are numerous reasons why sponsoring a sleeper might be the right choice for you.

When you sponsor a sleeper, we will instal a plaque with a message of your choice onto your chosen sleeper. You will also receive a digital certificate of thanks. This is a unique opportunity to claim a piece of BOAT for yourself, and to have a lasting impact for all to see.

Visit our website for full details.

WWW.BRIGHTONOPENAIRTHEATRE.CO.UK