

A Season on the Stage

Performance takes on a true international flavour this season with cutting edge artists from around the world bringing characters old and new to life in our city.

When We Dead Awaken

Supported by Liverpool Culture Company for Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008

October 23 - November 1
Unity Theatre

Unity with Riksteatern and Vasterbottensteatern from Sweden present an international co-production of *When We Dead Awaken*, the final dramatic work from Henrik Ibsen, one of Scandinavia's greatest playwrights, in a unique collaboration for 2008.

The story follows Arnold Rubek and his beautiful young wife Maja. Arnold is an aging sculptor who has lost all interest in the world around him. In spite of his wealth, his fame, and the attentions of his wife, he can find no joy in his existence.

Suddenly he is jolted out of his stupor by an unexpected reunion with Irene, a model who once posed for him and whom he idolized. Maja meanwhile finds herself drawn to Ulfheim, a brutal hunter who contrasts sharply with her cold, withdrawn husband.

They journey into the mountains, hoping the raw and harsh environment will bring some kind of reconciliation.

A cast and production team of English and Swedish artists have been working together under the direction of Unity patron Josette Bushell-Mingo. Josette has worked as a director and actor with the Royal National Theatre, RSC, Manchester

Royal Exchange, and Young Vic as well as Théâtre de Complicité, Black Mime Theatre Company and Lumiere & Son. She was also nominated for an Olivier Award for the role of Rafiki in the UK premier of the *Lion King* and is currently artistic director of the National Deaf Theatre of Sweden.

Co-founder of PUSH, the festival celebrating contemporary Black arts and Black artists, Josette's achievements have been recognised through the Woman of the Year Craymer Prize 2004 for Enterprise, and she was the recipient of the South Bank Show's decibel award 2005 for her commitment to diversity. In 2006 she was named OBE.

Directing *When We Dead Awaken* as an international project is the fulfilment of an ambition for Josette. Her flare for a strikingly visual, total theatre style provides the opportunity to approach this uncompromising, honest and rarely performed play as a new text.

Following its UK premiere at Unity *When We Dead Awaken* will tour Sweden.

For bookings contact Unity Theatre on 0151 709 4988 or visit www.unitytheatreliverpool.com

King Lear

October 30 - November 29

Liverpool Everyman

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Pete Postlethwaite returns to the Everyman in the greatest role in the English Language.

A tragic tale of a father and his daughters, King Lear is packed with emotion - it sees families divided, loyalties questioned and battles fought and lost.

No stranger to Liverpool, Pete Postlethwaite - the former Royal Shakespeare Company actor - spent his early days in the 60s and 70s at the Everyman. Born in Warrington he has also enjoyed success on the big screen, with an Oscar nomination for In the Name of the Father in 1994 and other titles in his long filmography including Brassed Off, The Lost World: Jurassic Park and The Usual Suspects.



King Lear is presented by Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and Headlong Theatre. This intimate and provocative staging of Shakespeare's most elemental tragedy by acclaimed Director Rupert Goold, will capture the spirit and atmosphere of an extraordinary city and

a unique theatrical space.

Limited availability: 12 seats available from 12 noon in person on each performance date at the Everyman Box Office
5-9 Hope Street, Liverpool.



Romanian Connections

Radu Stanca Theatre Tour in Liverpool

November 18 and 20

The Contemporary Urban Centre,
41-51 Greenland Street, Liverpool

ProFusion: International Creative Consultancy brings to Liverpool two extraordinary productions of the prestigious Radu Stanca National Theatre of Sibiu, Romania.

The first production, Beckett's Waiting For Godot, starring two of Romania's most remarkable actors, is directed by the internationally renowned Silviu Purcarete, whose work featured at Glyndebourne Festival 2008.

The other production, The Ball, is a tragi-comic tour de force directed by young director Radu Nica relating the history of 20th Century Romania in a couple of hours.

The two productions work together to offer an overview of the recent cultural and social changes within this new EU member state.

To give the audience a taste of Romanian culture, the theatre shows are accompanied by film screenings, a foot-stomping and hip-swinging concert of Eastern European magnitude, a debate on relevant contemporary issues, and a special Romanian guest at Tate Liverpool.

For more information see www.romanianculturalcentre.org.uk and www.liverpool08.com or call 0151 708 3510.

The Quiet Little Englishman

Commissioned by Liverpool Culture Company for Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008

Zho Visual Theatre supported by Unity Theatre



October 15 - 19
October 22 - 26
7.45pm

First feature at The Park Palace, on the corner of Park & Mill Street, Dingle, Liverpool

From a Liverpool dockside, one man dreamed about far away shores... and ended up changing the face of cinematic history.

The Quiet Little Englishman tells the little known true story of sound engineer George Groves who followed his heart to the USA where he developed the technology that gave us talking movies. An ordinary man, whose pioneering ideas spanned the century from the recording of the first spoken words for the Jazz Singer in 1927, which earned him an Oscar, through to the soundtrack for the film of the Woodstock Music Festival in '69.

This October, appropriately set in the beautiful Park Palace, once variety hall and kinematodrome, Zho will take you on an illuminating journey through the history of cinema. Using live music, film, theatre, and sound installation The Quiet Little Englishman will evoke the hopes, aspirations and achievements of this son of Liverpool and the amazing New York world he inhabited.

The Quiet Little Englishman is written by Esther Wilson, directed by Paula Simms with music composed by Andy Frizell.

Tickets: £10 full / £7 concession. To book, call Unity Theatre Box Office on 0151 709 4988 or visit www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

For more information see www.zhotheatre.co.uk or www.parkpalace.co.uk

Eric's

September 19 - October 11
Liverpool Everyman

One man's lifeline. The heartbeat of a generation.

Liverpool-born author of the hit musical Taboo and the BBC's Liverpool Nativity turns his attention to the celebrated Liverpool club which sparked a cultural revolution and inspired a generation.

This new musical specially commissioned for Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year, tells the story of one man's fight for survival as he draws on the spirit of Eric's: do it yourself and do it your way.

Eric's was the crucible for an extraordinary array of musical talent (Big in Japan, Bill Drummond, Echo and the Bunnymen, Holly Johnson, Ian Broudie, Pete Burns, Pete Wylie and the Mighty Wah, The Teardrop Explodes and many more).

www.everymanplayhouse.com



Babul and the Blue Bear

by 20 Stories High

Commissioned by Liverpool Culture Company for Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008

September 29 - October 18

Various venues across Liverpool
(National tour: October 20 - November 7)

Babul and the Blue Bear, produced by 20 Stories High, takes a fresh approach to theatre using hip hop, masks and puppets to explore the themes of cultural identity, divided loyalties, racial tension and a sense of belonging in a multi-cultural Britain.

Produced in association with Manchester's Contact Theatre, Babul and the Blue Bear is written and directed by Keith Saha of theatre company 20 Stories High, based at METAL arts space in Liverpool.

The two-person show has brought in the talents of a diverse team of artists and designers.

Suitable for ages 13+, Babul and the Blue Bear will be touring Liverpool venues before embarking on a national tour.

For bookings contact Valley and Unity Theatre on 0151 709 4988/ Southport Arts Centre on 01704 540011/ The Space, Bootle on 0151 944 1509 or www.20storieshigh.org.uk



Homotopia

November 1 - 30

Homotopia celebrates its fifth year as Liverpool's homegrown LGBT leading arts festival and presenter and producer of lesbian, gay, transgender and queer theatre, art, dance, debate, literature and performance.

Fusing eclectic international programming and Liverpool artists, the festival is building a new and forward-thinking perspective on the diverse nature and experiences of LGBT life.

With over 60 events this year the festival introduces a new and hugely expanded strand devoted to art and will be presenting five major exhibitions throughout the fifth Biennial.

The festival reaches new audiences with an exciting and colourful Grand Vogue Ball in The Adelphi (see page 54) and there will be the groundbreaking anti-homophobic bullying play FIT which will tour Merseyside schools throughout November.



An Evening with Holly Woodlawn

October 8, 8pm

Contemporary Urban Centre,
Greenland Street, Liverpool

Tickets £10/£8 concs available from Unity Theatre on
0151 709 4988

Grab a chance to meet one of the legends of queer culture, the Warhol superstar and Stonewall rioter, Miss Holly Woodlawn. As Lou Reed sang, "Holly came from Miami FLA" - but now she's come all the way from her home in Los Angeles to Liverpool, to celebrate the exhibition of portraits of her by Sadie Lee, and to share a lifetime on the frontline in an evening of conversation and screenings. Rupert Smith talks to the legend herself in a special guest appearance at the festival.

Jackie Kay

November 5, 8pm

the Bluecoat,
School Lane

Tickets £10/£8

Share an evening with multi-award-winning author Jackie Kay, MBE, whose work *The Lamplighter*, a long poem to commemorate the abolition of the slave trade, was published in September by Bloodaxe. Her most recent collection of short stories, *Wish I Was Here* won the Decibel British Book Award. She has won the Guardian Fiction Prize for her novel *Trumpet*, and a Forward Prize for her collection of poetry *The Adoption Papers*.



Tom of Finland

September 20 - November 30

1 - 5pm

Contemporary Urban Centre,
Greenland Street, Liverpool

Over 80 illustrations by legendary gay artist Tom of Finland are on show in this major retrospective of work, presented in partnership with Tom of Finland Foundation.

Touko Laaksonen, aka Tom, was born in Finland in 1920. This exhibition celebrates his early drawings, from 1944 to 1984.

Originally appearing in commercial settings such as magazine illustration, posters and advertising, Tom's work was the first to connect masculinity and homosexuality, portraying gay men as confident, macho and assertive.

This had a defining impact on the way gay men were perceived and more importantly, how they perceived themselves.

For information call 0151 233 6753 or 0151 708 3510 or visit
www.homotopia.net

Tom of Finland
No1508-1973TM
Tom of Finland
Foundation
2008



Drama Queen

by Shaun Duggan

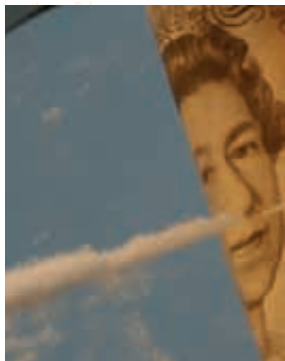
A Homotopia commission
WORLD PREMIERE

November 13 - 15,

8pm

Unity Theatre

£10/£12



It's the early hours in a Liverpool city centre apartment. Carl, the promoter of a top Liverpool gay club, and some fellow clubbers have just finished celebrating the club's 12th birthday.

A transsexual door whore, a Queen Elizabeth II looky-likey and a 17-year-old glass collector end up back at his best friend's flat. The night starts out on a massive high but it soon becomes apparent that 12 hedonistic years at the top are starting to take their toll. Could the party be coming to an end for 'poor little Carly'?

Shaun Duggan started writing for theatre in 1986 when his first play William won the Royal Court Young Writers' Festival. '

Lavender Girls

November 11

Unity 2, Unity Theatre

£8/£10

Lavender presents a night of lesbian comics. Bursting onto the comedy circuit in 2004, leading UK comedy talent Zoe Lyons won the prestigious Nivea Funny Women competition and reached the final of Channel

4's So You Think You're Funny in the same year. Zoe is joined by local talent Rosie Wilby, Lavender Scratch 2007 contender Jane Townend and MC Emma Bowley.



An Audience with April Ashley

Presented in partnership with The Gender Trust

November 15, 7.30pm

St George's Hall Small Concert Room

£8 / £6

Join Liverpool's first lady April Ashley as she returns to her native roots for a rare and long overdue appearance.

Born George Jamieson at Smithdown Road Hospital in 1935, she grew up in North Liverpool. In 1960 she was one of the first transsexual people to undergo gender confirmation surgery in Morocco. She developed a successful career as a model (appearing in Vogue), a restaurant hostess, and appeared in the film The Road to Hong Kong starring Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

She was 'outed' as a transsexual person by the Sunday People in 1961. Her marriage and subsequent divorce in 1970 removed the ability of trans people to acquire full legal status in their acquired gender and it was not until the passing of the Gender Recognition Act in 2004 that this was satisfactorily resolved.

Living for many years in the South of France, she is looking forward to re-visiting her home city.

The Gender Trust and Homotopia are delighted to give this distinguished personality the opportunity to recount stories from her life back in her home city of Liverpool. A once in a lifetime event, not to be missed.

Tickets are available from Unity Theatre,

call 0151 709 4988 or

News From Nowhere bookshop, Bold Street, Liverpool



October

> October 3 - 4

Lola

Lola Montez, the infamous 19th Century Spanish dancer, stormed her way through life in a tumultuous journey of seduction, sorrow and success. In Trestle's new show, Lola prepares for the very last performance of her famous spider dance.

Unity Theatre,
1 Hope Place, Liverpool
0151 709 4988
tickets@unitytheatre.co.uk
www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

> October 3 - 18

Shankly Show

The show embraces the myth and epic stature of the man as well as his wit, politics and footballing genius.

Royal Court Theatre,
1 Roe Street, Liverpool
08707871866
info@footballinglegends.com
www.royalcourtiverpool.com

> Until October 4

For the Love of Mrs Brown

Here we go again...the latest antics of the irrepressible Mrs Brown starring Brendan O'Carroll and Mrs Brown's Boys.

Liverpool Empire,
Lime Street, Liverpool
0844 847 2525
www.LiverpoolEmpire.org.uk

> October 5

Wicked Spirit

Over 150 participants with ages ranging from 2 to 72 years will take part in Wicked Spirit, a celebration of Liverpool culture through dance and drama using music from our city and our time. The cast is local children and students who study at the Bluebell Dance Academy.

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall,
Hope Street, Liverpool
0151 709 3789
www.liverpoolphil.com

> October 9 - 11

"Time"

"Time" brings together Croatian visual artist, Dusko Sibl, filmmaker Robin Rice, and Liverpool's Winterbourne & Blaster and Momentum Theatre. "Time" is a collision of theatre, visual art, electro funk and film. The result of each unique performance will be three or more paintings on canvas amongst other things....

Unity Theatre,
peter@hope-street.org
www.hope-street.org
See first listing for venue details

> October 10 - 11

Wearing Colours

In 1985 Liverpool and Juventus contested the European Cup Final in Brussels. Events off the pitch that night rendered the match meaningless.

Southport Arts Centre,
Lord Street, Southport
01704 540011
marketing@seftonarts.co.uk
www.seftonarts.co.uk

> Until October 11

Eric's

Award-winning Liverpool writer Mark Davies Markham, author of the hit musical Taboo and the BBC's Liverpool Nativity, turns his attention to the celebrated Liverpool club which sparked a cultural revolution and inspired a generation.

Liverpool Everyman
Hope St, Liverpool
See feature on page 24

> October 12 - 13

Steve Coogan

Echo Arena Liverpool,
Monarch's Quay, Liverpool
0844 8000 400
www.accliverpool.com

> October 14 - 15

Mighty Boosh

Echo Arena Liverpool
See first listing for venue details

> October 14

Beyond Measure

Beginning where Shakespeare's Measure for Measure ends, Beyond Measure is a provocative multi-media production. Fiery, feminine and fiercely inventive, this is theatre at its most engaging... and you don't need to know Measure for Measure to love it!

Unity Theatre
See first listing for venue details

> October 15 - 26

The Quiet Little Englishman Commissioned by the Liverpool Culture Company for '08

A world premiere celebrating the life, work and legacy of George Groves, Oscar winning sound engineer and son of Liverpool who changed the cinematic experience forever. Audiences will experience multiple platforms of expression including film, theatre and sound installation.

Zho Visual Theatre,
The Palace of Dreams,
Mill Street, Liverpool
0151 709 4988 for tickets
zho@madasafish.com
www.zhotheatre.co.uk
See feature on page 25

> October 15 - 16

Babul and the Blue Bear

Commissioned by the Liverpool Culture Company for '08

Unity Theatre
See feature on page 25

> October 22 - 23

Forgotten

This acclaimed production by a top Irish award-winning theatre company explores the forgotten elderly.

Unity Theatre
See first listing for venue details

> October 22 - 24

They Were All Some Mothers' Sons

Following the true life memories of German prisoners of war that were interned in Huyton and the children that befriended them during World War II.

Liverpool Lighthouse,
Oakfield Road, Anfield, Liverpool
0151 4762342 - 07880 876249
www.liverpoolighthouse.com

> October 23 - November 1

When We Dead Awaken

The story follows Arnold Rubek and his beautiful young wife Maja. Arnold is an aging sculptor who has lost all interest in the world around him.

Unity Theatre
See feature on page 23

> October 23 - November 2

Southport Comedy Week

Eleven days of rib-tickling humour from the best of the comedy circuit, locally, regionally and nationally. Ticket prices vary. Southport Town Centre and surrounding areas.

01704 540011
nia.valerio@tourism.sefton.gov.uk
www.visitsouthport.com/comedy

> October 25

Brand New World

The retelling of the story of Aladdin, with original soulful score and exciting street dance.

Royal Court Theatre
08707871866
impactP4@aol.com
www.positiveimpactuk.com
See first listing for venue details

> October 28 - November 1

Anybody Home

A spine-tingling new drama based on true events about two girls living in an apartment block in the city.

36 Seel Street, Liverpool
0151 709 9034
www.theliverpoolactorsstudio.com

> October 28 - November 1

Anything Goes

One of the all time great musicals, with that swinging Cole Porter score and the comedy genius of a P.G. Wodehouse script.

The Brindley,
High Street, Runcorn
0151 907 8360
boxoffice@zaos.org.uk
www.zaos.org.uk

> October 29 - November 1

Capital Nights Dance Festival

A new festival exploring European influences in contemporary dance, highlighting companies from previous European Capitals of Culture, MDI are presenting four evenings of work that are both classical in nature but also very experimental.

Merseyside Dance Initiative,
24 Hope Street, Liverpool
0151 708 8810
info@mdi.org.uk
www.merseysidedance.co.uk

October

> October 29 - November 1

Momix presents Lunar Sea

Following a sensational season at Sadler's Wells, internationally renowned American dance company Momix comes to the Empire Theatre for the first time especially for the European Capital of Culture celebrations with Lunar Sea - a magical monochrome world where swimming through space is as easy as walking on the ground.

Liverpool Empire Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> October 30 - November 29

King Lear

Perhaps the greatest play ever written in the English language, starring one of the greatest and most popular actors of our time.

Liverpool Everyman,

Hope Street, Liverpool

See feature on page 24

> October 30

Merseyside Black History Month: Similarities and Differences

Joint event promoting the history and culture via dance and music of the Black and Irish communities in Merseyside.

St George's Hall, Liverpool

07746 065 516

info@mbhmg.com

www.mbhmg.com

> October 30 - November 1

After Eight: An Evening with Billie Holiday

Originally commissioned for Black History Month (2007), this one woman show set in a small jazz club takes the audience on an intimate and personal journey, from Billie's misspent youth in Baltimore through to the crazy jazz joints of 1920s Harlem.

Doors open at 8pm, artist will start performance at approximately 8:30pm.

Rodewald Suite,

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

See first listing for venue details

November

> November 1 - 29

Council Depot Blues

Following the amazing success of Brick Up The Mersey Tunnels and Lost Soul, Dave Kirby's brand new comedy will have you laughing until you cry once again. A hilarious story about mates, hard slog and the light at the end of the tunnel all set to a stone cold blues soundtrack.

Royal Court Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 4 - 5

Shadow Companion

A fearless examination of prejudice and friendship between rival communities in 21st Century Britain. Suitable for 14+

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

November

> November 6 - 7

Liverpool is Burning

Liverpool Is Burning explores the cat fights, the drama and humour of the vogue dance phenomenon that was a major influence in gay subculture over a decade ago.

Unity Theatre

See feature on page 54

> November 7 - 8

Miracle

Sexual politics collide in this urban fairy tale asking the questions that have never been asked. Never has morality and mortality been so controversially entwined.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 11

Lavender Girls

Join in the frolics and fun as Lavender presents a night of lesbian comics featuring Zoe Lyons.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 12

Lavender Club

Lavender returns for a bumper packed programme of comedy, poetry and music.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 13 - 15

Drama Queen Part of Homotopia

A tale of success and excess by acclaimed playwright Shaun Duggan focuses on Carol, the promoter of a top Liverpool gay club.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 14 - 15

Horsemeat

Horsemeat boldly confronts love, life, sexuality and becoming 25.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 18

Funeral Games

A tale of tea stains, stiffs and brotherly love.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 18 - 20

"Romanian Connections"

ProFusion:International Creative Consultancy brings to Liverpool two extraordinary productions of the prestigious Radu Stanca National Theatre of Sibiu, Romania.

Contemporary Urban Centre

See feature on page 24

> November 21 - 22

Anima - The world of dreams ...

By Momentum Theatre

Anima explores the distorted dynamics between the conscious and subconscious, revealing the conflict and harmony within us all. A stunning mix of lighting, projection, aerial elements and an original soundtrack, this unique production is a theatrical experience.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> November 22 and December 19

The Potting Shed

Cabaret evenings on board Walk the Plank's theatre ship in Canning Dock.

www.walktheplank.co.uk/pottingshed

> November 25 - 30

Sleeping Beauty - English National Ballet

Join English National Ballet's internationally acclaimed company of 64 dancers and full orchestra for this dazzling ballet.

Liverpool Empire

See first listing for venue details

December

> December 2 - January 17

The Emperor's New Clothes

The Emperor's New Clothes continues Unity's 21 year passion for traditional stories told in an untraditional way and follows the success of Pinocchio and The Tinder Box.

Unity Theatre

See first listing for venue details

December 11 - January 4

Cinderella

Britain's No. 1 pantomime is coming to Liverpool! The one and only Cilla Black plays the Fairy Godmother alongside Jennifer Ellison as Cinderella, Les Dennis, Nick Pickard, Ted Robbins, Pete Price and Roy Brandon also star.

Liverpool Empire

See first listing for venue details

> December 11 - January 17

Night Collar

It's Christmas Eve, the snow is falling and the meter is ticking. A cabbie is cruising the streets looking for the next paying punter to brighten his night and fill up his wallet. But this is Liverpool so he is guaranteed to get more than he bargained for. Furlong and Power's classic scouse comedy is back in its spiritual home.

Royal Court Theatre

See first listing for venue details

> December 13 - 14

A Down to Earth Christmas

With the Archbishop of York, a cast of 300 local people, and set in the grounds of Merchant Taylors' Boys' School in Crosby celebrate a truly memorable Christmas 2008. Free admission.

Performances at 4.30 and 6.30pm.

Merchant Taylors, 186 Liverpool Road, Crosby
0151 489 7047 www.inanotherplace.com

> December 27

Vampires Rock Christmas

This year Christmas gets a lot darker and a lot more fun.

Echo Arena Liverpool

See first listing for venue details

> December 29 - 30

The Ken Dodd Happiness Show

The funnyman from Knotty Ash returns to the Phil for his annual show.

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

See first listing for venue details