



Bulletin no. 4
May 2010

Year of the Arts highlights coming up:

Whitley Bay Reggae & Ska Fest
Trojan Rooms, Whitley Bay
Thurs 13 – Sat 15 May, 8pm

The coast's first ever reggae festival brings three days of top roots and ska sounds to Whitley Bay, featuring bands from Edinburgh, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Darlington and Luton. The line-up is Instrument of Jah Sound System and Root One (Thurs), Jamaican Ska Sound System, G-Men and Big Fat Panda (Fri) and Inspirational Sound System plus the Universal Players (Sat). 8pm 'til late each night – tickets are £10 per night or £25 for the whole 3-day festival from www.ticketweb.co.uk or www.ticketmaster.co.uk More info about the venue from www.thetrojanrooms.co.uk

Poetry Boxing
Saville Exchange, North Shields
Saturday 5 June, 7.30pm

Join us ringside as eight of the region's top performance poets battle it out to decide who is the David Haye of the north-east poetry world! Presented by national poetry agency Apples & Snakes in association with Kate Fox's Hyperlexic and North Shields Boxing Gym, as part of North Tyneside's Cultural Olympiad 2012 programme. The full line-up is being finalised and will be circulated as a follow-up to this bulletin soon. Tickets are £7 (£5 concs) from 0191 643 7093. The latest in North Tyneside's distinctive live poetry series, following John Hegley and Beyond Words with five South African poets last year.

Black Umfolosi 5
Playhouse, Whitley Bay
Tuesday 15 June, 7.30pm

World-famous *a cappella* and dance group Black Umfolosi 5 from Zimbabwe will be presenting their spectacular performance which has delighted audiences across the world, including the famous gumboot dances showcasing the traditional style and rituals of southern

African mining regions. Formed in 1982 by schoolfriends in Bulawayo, their performances are energy-driven and completely engaging, mixing a gentleness of spirit and song with exuberant dancing. "Their singing is a marvellous blend of rhythm, melody and harmony welded together with enormous complexity, but ending up with a sound that is natural simplicity." (fROOTS) Tickets £12 from 0844 277 2771 or through

www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk

Seth Lakeman
Playhouse, Whitley Bay
Friday 9 July, 7.30pm

Mercury Prize nominee, and Radio 2 Folk Awards multi-prizewinner, Seth Lakeman makes a welcome return to North Tyneside to launch this year's Mouth of the Tyne Festival. His breakthrough album Freedom Fields took him from the folk club circuit to a whole new audience, and he has developed his sound since – firmly rooted in folk, but with a fuller, rockier sound. Live, the raw energy comes to the fore in a blur of fiddle, acoustic guitar and foot-stomping rhythms, topped off by Seth's emotive story-telling and distinctive vocals. His eagerly-awaited new album Hearts and Minds is released in June. www.sethlakeman.co.uk Tickets £18 from 0844 277 2771 or through www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk The full Mouth of the Tyne Festival programme will be announced very soon – check out

www.mouthofthetynefestival.com

NEW

John Cooper Clarke
Playhouse, Whitley Bay
Friday 22 October, 7.30pm

"(I Married a) Monster from Outer Space", "Beasley Street", "The Day My Pad Went Mad" – just some of the poems which made John Cooper Clarke's reputation as the 'punk poet' and saw him become an essential part of the Manchester post-punk scene with the likes of Buzzcocks, Joy Division and The Fall. In his first heyday he released six albums, and his biting, satirical and very funny verse delivered in a rapid-fire style drew huge crowds to his live performances. After fading from view, he's back, as vital as ever, with new poems attracting a fresh audience as well as his stalwart fans. Acknowledged by Alex Turner as a huge influence on the Arctic Monkeys, John has been enjoying a big revival recently including appearances on BBC2's Culture Show and a cameo (as himself) in the acclaimed Ian Curtis biopic "Control". He'll be coming to Whitley Bay following a week-long stint at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Support will be provided by Kate Fox's Hyperlexic, presenting a quickfire line up of the North East's finest stand up poets. A night not to be missed! Tickets are £15 (£10 concs) from 0844 277 2771 or via www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk

More Year of the Arts events at four different venues across North Tyneside:

NEW

Factory Night
Oceana Business Park, Wallsend
Wednesday 12 May, 6pm

Rednile Projects bring their current Factory Nights programme to North Tyneside. These are free working sessions for creative people – visual artists, photographers, poets, musicians, writers, performers and cultural thinkers – which provide an opportunity to come together in an unusual and inspiring venue to share ideas and create new work. This latest Factory Night is happening at the Oceana Business Park in Wallsend with a focus on the historic PAMETRADA building, once the centre for cutting edge engineering research, now being developed as an arts resource. Spaces are limited and must be pre-booked at info@rednile.org Check out www.rednile.org for more details about the Factory Nights programme, which will be back in North Tyneside in September with a session at the Dove Marine Laboratory in Cullercoats.

NEW

“Make Way for Lucia”
Tynemouth Priory Theatre
Mon 31 May – Sat 5 June

Adapted from EF Benson’s ever-popular pre-war tales of social manoeuvring in the fictional south coast town of Tilling. Miss Elizabeth Mapp is the established *grande dame* of the town, but her position is threatened with the arrival of the elegant and wealthy Lucia and her dapper friend Georgie. The battle of wills between the two ladies is conducted with witty, sparkling dialogue in this charming comedy presented by the theatre’s own company. Tickets £7 (£5 for 31 May performance only) from 0191 292 9292 ansaphone service or email priory.bookings@sky.com - include your contact details and ticket requirements.

Whitley Bay International Jazz Festival
Village Hotel, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside
Fri 9 – Sun 11 July

The 20th year of what is widely regarded as one of the top jazz festivals in the country will feature as always the very best in classic jazz, from Ragtime to Swing. This year there is wider geographical coverage than ever before, to illustrate the festival theme of ‘from Africa to the world’ - the worldwide spread of jazz as a musical common language for millions of fans and musicians around the globe. The featured bands come from USA, Japan, Australia, Chile, Hungary, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden as well as the UK. Full festival information and how to book from www.whitleybayjazzfest.org

Helen Edling “Act 2, Scene 1” The Bridge, Tynemouth Station

The most unusual exhibition space in the region houses a new installation by artist Helen Edling, a former MA student at Newcastle University. A displaced forest world is created above the railway tracks, conjuring up a sense of magic. Continues until mid-June – viewable 24 hours a day. More about the artist at www.helen-edling.info

And four new productions by North Tyneside schools and voluntary arts groups taking place at the Playhouse:



NEW

“Our House” Playhouse, Whitley Bay Wed 12 – Sat 15 May, 7.30pm

The regional premiere production of the Olivier-award winning musical, presented by North Tyneside Music Service's stage musicals group TALENT. Based on the music of Madness, and written by Tim Firth (“Calendar Girls”, “All Quiet on the Preston Front”), the show zips along from start to finish, featuring all the hits including “Baggy Trousers”, “Wings of a Dove”, “Our House” and “Driving in My Car”. The storyline is the tale of Joe, who on his 16th birthday takes the love of his life Sarah on a date. Trying to impress her, Joe breaks into a building site owned by a local property developer – the police turn up, at which point his life splits into the ‘good Joe’ who stays to face the music, and the ‘bad Joe’ who flees. The plot follows both Joes through their lives and what happens as the result of his decision that night. TALENT first appeared at the ‘old’ Playhouse in 2005 with “Les Miserables”, and followed that up in 2007 with “Return to Forbidden Planet”. For most of the cast of 12-19 year-olds this is their first production, but the two leads are played by veterans of the 2005 performances. Tickets are £10 (£8 concs) from the Playhouse box office – but there is a special Buy One Get One Free offer for the Saturday performance – quote “Madness” when booking.

NEW

“Fawlty Towers” Playhouse, Whitley Bay Wed 2 – Sat 5 June, 7.30pm

Four timeless episodes from the iconic BBC comedy presented by Whitley Bay Theatre Company, following their successful and very popular live performances of Fawlty Towers in

2006 and 2007. Two of the most enjoyable episodes are reprised – “Communication Problems” and “Basil the Rat” – along with two previously unperformed episodes, “The Hotel Inspectors” and “The Builders”. Tickets are £12 – a limited number are available for each performance from www.whitleybaytheatrecompany.com with a reduced booking fee; otherwise book via the Playhouse box office. Whitley Bay Theatre Company will be back at the Playhouse in November with “Noises Off”, Michael Frayn’s classic farce – tickets on sale now from the WBTC website or through the Playhouse.

NEW

“The Gondoliers”
Playhouse, Whitley Bay
Wed 9 – Sat 12 June, 7.30pm

Tynemouth Gilbert and Sullivan Society make their debut at the new Playhouse with one of the most best-loved Gilbert and Sullivan operettas – a tale of baby-swapping, republicanism and royalty, as two modest gondoliers of Venice discover that one of them is in truth the King of Barataria - but which one? Featuring a host of the best known G & S songs, including 'Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes', 'When a Merry Maiden Marries', and 'From the Sunny Spanish Shore'. Tickets are £10 (£8 concs for 8 June performance only).

NEW

“Jesus Christ Superstar”
Playhouse, Whitley Bay
Tues 20 – Sat 24 July, 7.15pm (& 2.15pm, 24 July)

The first show at the Playhouse by Day 8 Productions is the ground-breaking Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice musical, which first came to public attention 40 years ago. Telling the story of Jesus’ last seven days – his entry into Jerusalem, his betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pontius Pilate and the crucifixion – this is one of the most popular and captivating musicals of all time. Featuring numbers such as “I Don’t Know How to Love Him”, “Pilate’s Dream”, “Everything’s Alright” and the title track. Tickets are £13.50 (£10.50 for 20 & 21 July performances) - £1 discount for bookings before 31 May - available from 0191 253 0466 or via the Playhouse box office. Day 8 return to the Playhouse in November with the classic “Bugsy Malone” – tickets on sale now. More about the company at www.day8productions.org

Tickets for all these events from the Playhouse box office 0844 277 2771 or via www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk

NEW

“From Segedunum to the Spanish City”

A recently published book shines the spotlight on some of North Tyneside’s most interesting historic buildings. “From Segedunum to the Spanish City” is a mix of historical facts, archive and newly-commissioned photographs, and prose and poetry. Compiled by writer and poet Keith Armstrong, from Whitley Bay, and designer and photographer Pete Dixon, who lives in North Shields, the high-quality book retails at £7 and is on sale at local libraries, Segedunum, St Mary’s Lighthouse and Keel Row Books in North Shields. It was funded through Awards for All and the Council’s heritage and arts budgets. Heritage attractions included are: Wallsend Town Hall, Dial Cottage, Segedunum, St Mary’s Island & Lighthouse, Clifford’s Fort, Burradon Tower, Backworth Hall, the Spanish City, Tynemouth Priory & Castle, Willington Viaduct & Mill, Cullercoats Watch House, Collingwood Monument, the Grand Hotel, Master Mariners’ Homes, Maritime Chambers, Knott’s Flats, Tynemouth Station, and St Alban’s Church in Earsdon.

North Tyneside’s Year of the Arts is a celebration of the range and diversity of the arts in the borough, continuing until July 2011. The aims of this initiative are to profile the borough’s arts development strategy, increase engagement and participation in the arts, showcase the local arts offer, promote local arts organisations and arts practitioners, and provide new artistic experiences for residents and visitors. In this regular bulletin we are highlighting upcoming events and initiatives, and providing signposts to more information. For more about the arts in North Tyneside including links to more than 40 local arts organisations, go to www.northtyneside.gov.uk/arts



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