

Artsreach 25th

Toller Porcorum 14 Jan
West Lulworth 23 Jan
FOREST FORGE
'Stardust'

In the dead of night a shooting star falls to earth, and so begins the adventure of a lifetime. Battling witches, sorcery, and fate, our hero finds his heart's true desire in this wonderful adventure for all the family. Full of eccentric characters, hilarious and thrilling moments, with haunting music, magic and mayhem. Recommended 5+
www.forestforge.co.uk



Gillingham 15 January
Lytchett Minster 16 January
Corfe Castle 17 January
Sturminster Newton 18 January
MIRACLE THEATRE
'Dr Livingstone I Presume'



Up the Zambezi without a paddle! Miracle deftly combines its own inimitable style with the wonder of Victorian Music Hall to tell the story of one man's obsession to discover the heart of Africa and transform an entire continent singlehanded - AND of a woman left behind. Both a hurrah to courage and endurance and a swipe at the 19th century ideals of imperialism, chauvinism and hypocrisy, this curious slice of history is served up as a magnificent melange of musicality and melodrama. This entertaining expedition into unknown territories of comedy, excitement and musical gaiety will enthral audiences of all generations. Bravo!

"Eclectic and ingenious" THE STAGE
www.miracletheatre.co.uk

Milb St Andrew 27 Jan
Broadwindsor 23 Jan
PIP UTTON
'Casanova in Love'

So famous (or infamous) is the name of Casanova that it has gone into our dictionaries to describe men who are, for want of a better word, 'popular' with women. In his brand new play Pip plays Casanova and has almost all the dialogue but is joined on stage by a young contemporary French dancer Marguerite Chaigne, who, though few words to say, portrays all six of his conquests. Comic and moving, surprising and beautiful Casanova is a totally entertaining piece of theatre. Welcome to Casanova's memories; his dreams, his conquests and his broken hearts; his highs and his lows, his triumphs and his defeats and, above all, his seduction secrets.
www.pip-utton.co.uk



Piddletrenthide 22 January
Frampton 23 January
Sturminster Marshall 24 January
Durweston 25 January
LADY MAISERY



The voices of Hannah James, Hazel Askew and Rowan Rheingans explore vocal harmony to breathtaking effect through their interpretations of songs and ballads. That all three are musicians as much as singers can be witnessed in their accompanying arrangements for fiddle, harp, banjo, accordion and percussion. Be prepared to be enchanted and blown away as Lady Maisery emerge as one of the most original groups on the UK folk scene. ***** FINANCIAL TIMES
"powerful and enthralling..." SONGLINES
www.ladymaisery.com

Langton Matravers 29 January
Powerstock 30 January
Cranborne 31 January
Buckland Newton 1 February
THE NEW ROPE STRING BAND
'Give 'em Enough Rope' - the farewell tour



The New Rope String Band have come to the end of their tether. The sheer strain of spreading joy around the world for more than 25 years as Old and New Rope has proved too much. Audiences' laughter muscles have been stretched and twanged and they, too, need a rest. But, before these ageing folk-cabaret artistes go their separate ways, heading for new and exciting horizons, they have decided to do a farewell lap of honour, a celebratory extravaganza of their finest routines with some specially-created final flourishes. For diehard audiences it's a chance to laugh once more and say goodbye. For those who've never seen them, wake up, this is your last chance!
"...prodigious musicianship laced with their very own brand of slapstick" THE GLASGOW HERALD
www.newropestringband.co.uk

Melbury Osmond 5 February
Sturminster Newton 6 February
Portsmouth 7 February
Studland 8 February
ALEC DANKWORTH
'World Spirit Quartet'



Award-winning jazz bassist and composer Alec Dankworth has worked with the greatest musicians worldwide, and of course with acclaimed members of his own family. Now, introducing the vocal talents of his daughter, Emily, his new band 'World Spirit' provides a vehicle for him to revisit some of the music showcased in his 'Spanish Accents' programme and also travel further South, exploring melodies from Africa and South America and beyond. World Spirit offers a brilliant evening of global song and instrumental improvisation; please book early to avoid disappointment!
www.alecdankworth.com

Shipton Gorge 7 Feb
MINISTRY OF ENTERTAINMENT
'Normal Service will be Resumed'

It's 1962 and East and West are about to collide over Cuba; but the real trouble is brewing deep underground in the BBC emergency wartime studio, where cleaner Skippy Catford, and heartthrob presenter Stanton Drew are trapped with nothing but a pair of coconut shells and a swanee whistle to keep themselves amused. MoE bring their songs and comic theatre to bear on the Cold War; *"Listen With Mother"* will never be the same!
"Another magical piece..." THE STAGE
www.ministryofentertainment.co.uk



Ibberton 7 Feb
KATE LISSAUER
'Sonic Silents'

Three top American country musicians provide live musical accompaniment to some of the earliest short films to have emerged from Hollywood by pioneering director Frank Borzage. A score of original and traditional music by Kate Lissauer (Buffalo Gals) is performed on fiddle, banjo, guitar, percussion and vocals by Kate, John Whelan and Jason Titley. The films offer an absorbing and poignant glimpse of a bygone time. The music ranges from lively to melancholic and is always evocative, bringing the films fully to life.
www.katelissauer.com



Broadmayne 7 Feb
FINDING THE WILL
'Bard Heads'

Taking an updated look at the best-loved characters from some of Shakespeare's most popular plays, 'Bard Heads' imagines what might have happened next. *The Dust Behind the Door*: Hermia (A Midsummer Night's Dream) is twenty years on from that strange night in Athens Wood, and having a mid-life crisis in her kitchen. *The Whirligig of Time*: Malvolio (Twelfth Night), Chief Steward to Lady Olivia, swears to take revenge on those he believes publicly humiliated him.
"beautifully written, brilliantly acted... breathtakingly innovative" SWAN THEATRE, WORCS
www.findingthewill.com



Wootton Fitzpaine 12 February
Marnhull 13 February
Halstock 14 February
Hinton Martel 15 February
DAVE MYNNE
'Dracula'

Beware. He is coming. Keep your windows locked and gather in the garlic. Blood and bats. Garlic and gore. Lunatics and flies. Sexy lady vampires. Coffins, crypts and the Count himself. They're all here in this brand-new adaptation of Bram Stoker's gothic pot-boiler. Be warned: this monstrous, disturbing and completely batty tale of dark deeds and the Un-Dead, will thrill and seduce you! Suitable 12+
"mesmerising and joyful... Faultless" EXETER IGNITE
www.rabbittheatre.com



Sand Orcas 15 Feb
Thorncombe 16 Feb
H'bury Bryan 17 Feb
Stur Marshall 17 Feb
Cerne Abbas 18 Feb
Durweston 18 Feb
Gillingham 19 Feb
ANGEL HEART
'Cirkus Spectakular'

From the lands to the east where the Mountain is King and the Forest is Queen they come... Cirkus Spectakular! Led by the mysterious Baba Kalina it is a colourful, topsy-turvy world played out in a wandering marquee of dreams. But for one little boy it becomes more than just a magical show: Cirkus Spectakular offers Pavlo the chance to prove himself and at last to feel like he belongs. Drawing colours and sounds from Eastern Europe, Cirkus Spectakular explores what it means to be 'outside the box', yet how we can all find a way to be a part of a circle. Zany and hilarious, yet tender and touching this is a show for all the family to share. Recommended 4+
www.angelhearttheatre.com



Morden 19 Feb
Stur Newton 20 Feb
P'trenthide 21 Feb
Evershot 22 Feb
PUPPETCRAFT
'Monkey'

Using stunning string puppets, antique shadow puppets and live music, Artsreach favourites PuppetCraft tell the story of the birth and comic escapades of the much loved trickster and super-hero Monkey. Hatched from a stone egg the mischievous Monkey can fly on a cloud, turn invisible and transform into anything...! Monkey is the main comic character in China's great classic story 'Journey to the West'. Inspired by this, his comic adventures are brought to life by one of Britain's top puppet companies, with a script written by poet Michael Rosen, Children's Laureate 2007 to 2009. Recommended 4+.
ASSOCIATED WORKSHOPS ALSO AVAILABLE.
"Nothing less than bewitching" THE STAGE
www.puppetcraft.co.uk



Chetnole 26 Feb
Milb St Andrew 27 Feb
Martinstown 28 Feb
AMALTHEA
'Flute & Harp Fantasia'

Compositions from different continents and various cultures highlight Amalthea's programme, bringing together music from past and present. The combination of baroque works with, amongst others, Ravel's and Debussy's impressionism, the mysticism of an Indian Raga, the energetic and melancholic character of Piazzolla as well as Hovhaness' s haunting beauty gives these programmes their exceptional originality.
www.klioblonz.com



B'windsor 27 Feb
Wint Stickland 28 Feb
Child Okeford 1 Mar
SERIOUS KITCHEN
'Whispering Road'

Bubbling with vivid imagery and thrilling music, 'The Whispering Road' is a story you'll never forget. Leaping between song, music and the spoken word, expect an electrifying performance taking you on a fantastical journey to a land where every bird and beast has power, and every encounter a deeper purpose. Brought to life with traditional Scandinavian music played on the nyckelharpa, kohorn, accordion and guitar, and with close harmony singing, Serious Kitchen are Nick Hennessey, Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer. Recommended 8+
www.seriouskitchen.co.uk



Lytchett Minster 5 March
Durweston 6 March
LITTLE SOLDIER
'Don Quixote of La Mancha'



The famous and most extravagant dreams and adventures lived by the knight of the sorrowful figure re-enacted as never before by a fat Spanish lady, another with a moustache and an English gentleman lost in translation. Inspired by Don Quixote's wanderings, two feisty senioritas and a downtrodden Englishman embark on a journey through medieval Spain taking on one of the most accomplished works of fiction ever written. Accompanied only by a flamenco guitarist whose presence there makes no sense whatsoever, they will lead you to joy, pain and ultimate wisdom. Little Soldier presents an imaginative and provocative adventure of epic proportions, to be taken with a pinch of salt and a handlebar moustache.
"impeccably timed physical theatre" THE STAGE
www.littlesoldierproductions.co.uk



Halstock 11 Mar
Portsmouth 12 Mar
Morden 13 March
W Lulworth 14 Mar
T Gunville 15 Mar
LIVING SPIT
'Elizabeth I: Virgin on the Ridiculous'

1558. England. A country divided by religion and politics, teetering on the brink of civil war. The hopes of the nation lie with one Woman.
2015. England. A country divided by those who enjoy plays featuring men in dresses and those who don't. The hopes of the nation lie with two Bristolian actors. With more live original music, silly songs, smutty shenanigans, perfunctory props, and hysterically historical horseplay, this promises to be (another) poorly researched lesson in Tudor history that you'll never forget. Suitable 14+. Please book early!
"A glorious celebration of silliness" THE STAGE
www.livingspit.co.uk

Litton Cheney 12 March
Broadoak 13 March
Nether Compton 18 March
Briantspuddle 21 March
Langton Matravers 22 March
BEN OSBORNE
'Himalayan Journeys'



The ancient kingdoms of Ladakh and Zandskar are effectively cut off from the outside world in winter by heavy snowfall and temperatures down to -30c. They are also politically sensitive, being right on the border between China and India. Searching for snow leopards and other animals, award-winning wildlife photographer Ben Osborne (Jurassic Journey) trekked up frozen rivers, crossed mountain passes, travelled through uninhabited valleys, strayed into military zones, camped in caves and visited ancient monasteries. This show tells the compelling story of two journeys with, as ever, stunning images and entertaining commentary from Ben.
www.benosbornephotohraphy.co.uk



Burton Bradstock 14 March
Buckland Newton 20 March
CARTOON DE SALVO
'The Powercut Compendium'

A fashionable theatre company, fresh from the city, begin their high-tech show when the room is plunged into sudden darkness. Is it a blow-out? Or is it something more mysterious? How will audience and performers keep one another entertained until light returns? One of the UK's best loved touring companies, Cartoon de Salvo explore what happens when we have only storytelling left to keep the night at bay. For adults and brave children who aren't afraid of the dark. Suitable 8+
www.cartoondesalvo.com

Wootton Fitzpaine 20 March
Winfrith 21 March
OLIVER MEECH
'When Magic and Science Collide'



Oliver meddles with forces we barely understand, in a comedy magic show for the Q! generation. With a fun-filled fusion of magic, mirth and mind reading, expect amazing tricks inspired by astounding science. It's the Natural Selection! No knowledge of science required, just a mind that's open and a jaw that's ready to drop!
"could rival Derren Brown" THEATRE WALES
www.magicmeech.com

Sturminster Marshall 21 March
FOREST FORGE
'Leaves on a Line'

Using a range of theatrical styles and storytelling devices, this quirky and playful ensemble piece tells the story of our relationship with the past as well as the constantly changing nature of our hopes and dreams. The abandoned railway lines, stations and their platforms of Hampshire and Dorset history form the backdrop to this arresting new play from Forest Forge, which charts human lives alongside that of our much loved local railways.
"bringing true quality professional shows to tiny villages" THE STAGE
www.forestforge.co.uk

