

NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL

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PRESS RELEASE

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NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL 2019

- NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FIRST EIGHT SHOWS FOR 2019 AHEAD OF FULL PROGRAMME LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY
- INITIAL ARTISTS AND PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE GRAVITY & OTHER MYTHS, A NIGHT WITH CHILLY GONZALES, HIP HOP COMPANY BOY BLUE AND A TRILOGY OF SHOWS IN CELEBRATION OF HOIPOLLOI'S 25th ANNIVERSARY
- 2019 FESTIVAL RUNS FRIDAY 10 MAY – SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019, PUBLIC BOOKING FOR FIRST SHOWS OPENS ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018

With a full programme for 2019 set to be announced in February, **Norfolk & Norwich Festival** have today announced some of the first shows to go on sale for next year's Festival. The 2019 Festival will once again take place over 17 days, this year from 10 – 26 May, with artists from around the world and the region presenting a huge variety of work and events throughout the city and around the county. Last year around 60,000 people attended the Festival's multi-artform programme of music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and outdoor arts across East England.

Adelaide based, internationally renowned contemporary circus company **Gravity & Other Myths** will present their multiple award-winning production **A Simple Space** in Norwich for the first time, having received praise and acclaim for it worldwide. The production sees seven acrobats and a live percussionist push their physical limits to create a performance that is raw, frantic and delicate to headline The Adnams Spiegeltent.

Seminal hip-hop dance company **Boy Blue** will present their universally acclaimed and Olivier Award-nominated **Blak Whyte Gray** at Norwich Theatre Royal. The powerful and political work by the company's founders is a personal response to their experiences and observations of the world.

Other productions at Norwich Theatre Royal include Moliere Award-winner **Victoria Thierrée Chaplin** (*Le Cirque Invisible*) as she brings the UK Premiere of her new production, **Bells and Spells**, a wonderful and strange journey following an incurable kleptomaniac. Grammy-Award winning **Chilly Gonzales** will present an intimate show

performing pieces from his *Solo Piano* album cycle alongside hits and hidden surprises from his repertoire.

To celebrate award-winning theatre company **Hoipolloi's** 25th anniversary the Festival will present a trilogy of story-telling shows with their Artistic Director **Shôn Dale-Jones** (*Floating, Story of a Rabbit, Things I Forgot I Remembered*). Working at the forefront of artistic innovation and social change for a quarter of a century, Hoipolloi are recognised for creating highly imaginative theatre that is both touching and funny, weaving the personal and the political and inspiring audiences with work that is immediately relevant. The Festival will present **The Duke** – the company's hit show that is a mix of fantasy and reality, gently challenging audiences to consider their priorities in a world of crisis and polar opposition, **ME & ROBIN HOOD** comes from its premiere at the Royal Court and follows Shôn Dale-Jones' longstanding relationship with his favourite fictional friend. Completing the trilogy, the Festival will present a Festival commission, **The Ladder**, looking at the way optimism and pessimism affects how we create stories and exploring how the tales we tell influence the lives we lead.

As previously announced, **Thomas Adès and Britten Sinfonia** will return to Norfolk & Norwich Festival following their sell-out performance of Beethoven's Symphonies 1 & 2 in 2017 and 4 & 5 in 2018, concluding their season with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

On the 2019 programme, **Daniel Brine**, Festival Director said: *"I'm thrilled to be announcing some of the first productions for 2019. These are the beginnings of our plans for next year, which is shaping up to be an exciting and varied Festival and I look forward to sharing the full programme at the end of February. In the meantime, we're delighted to be working with Norwich Theatre Royal again to bring some world class acts to the city for special one nighters. Britten Sinfonia will mark the end of their Beethoven Cycle, which has been hugely successful over the past three years, and I'm delighted that we're able to welcome Hoi Polloi and Shôn Dale-Jones to Norwich with a trilogy of shows to mark a quarter of a century of one of the most dynamic creative companies working in theatre."*

Norfolk & Norwich Festival shares exceptional arts experiences across East England. The Festival collaborates with artists – from down the road and around the world – to explore the unique physical and cultural identities of the city and country and to make art which is contemporary, international and audience-centred.

Full information on all Norfolk & Norwich Festival events at nrfestival.org.uk.

For more information contact Maisie Lawrence at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657 or email maisie@thecornershoppr.com.

Gravity & Other Myths
A SIMPLE SPACE

The Adnams Spiegelent
Wednesday 15 – Sunday 26 May

In *A Simple Space* seven acrobats and a live percussionist from Gravity & Other Myths push their physical limits to create a performance that is raw, frantic and delicate for The Adnams Spiegeltent headline show in 2019.

Created and performed by Gravity & Other Myths

Boy Blue

BLAK WHYTE GRAY

Norwich Theatre Royal

Tuesday 14 May, 7.30pm

Blak Whyte Gray is a fierce and affecting hip-hop dance performance reflecting Boy Blue's founders' experiences and observations of the world. The powerful choreography, resonating score and staging make it an image-rich production with political bite.

Presented in partnership with Norwich Theatre Royal. Produced by Boy Blue, co-commissioned and co-produced by the Barbican, supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

CHILLY GONZALES

Norwich Theatre Royal

Wednesday 15 May, 7.30pm

Grammy Award winning Chilly Gonzales is highly regarded for his genre-defying approach to the piano, his showmanship and collaborations with global stars. In this intimate show he performs pieces from his *Solo Piano* album cycle, with hits and hidden surprises from his repertoire.

BELLS AND SPELLS - UK PREMIERE

By Victoria Thierrée Chaplin

With Aurelia Thierrée

and Jaime Martinez

Norwich Theatre Royal

Friday 17 May, 7.30pm

Bells and Spells, a UK premiere from Victoria Thierrée Chaplin follows Aurelia Thierree's peculiar journey as an incurable kleptomaniac who is at the mercy of the objects that she steals. Using ethereal imagery, unpredictable props and enchanting dance, the performance blends the wonderful with the strange.

Britten Sinfonia

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9 WITH THOMAS ADÈS

Thomas Adès conductor

Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm
St Andrew's Hall

Gerald Barry *The Eternal Recurrence**
Beethoven Symphony No. 9 (choral)

Claudia Boyle soprano*
Britten Sinfonia Voices
Eamonn Dougan Britten Sinfonia Voices director

Thomas Adès and Britten Sinfonia return to Norfolk & Norwich Festival, following their sell-out performance of Beethoven's Symphonies 1 & 2 in 2017 and 4 & 5 in 2018. The season concludes with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Amongst the finest of all symphonies, Beethoven's masterful celebration of the human race is paired in this concert with Gerald Barry's *The Eternal Recurrence*, a brilliant, feverish setting of texts from Nietzsche's philosophical novel, *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

To celebrate award-winning **Hoipolloi's** 25th anniversary Norfolk & Norwich Festival present a trilogy of story-telling shows. Hugh Hughes presents Shôn Dale-Jones in *The Duke*, *ME & ROBIN HOOD* and *The Ladder*.

THE DUKE

Wednesday 15 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 11am
Oxfam, Magdalen Street

The Duke playfully mixes fantasy and reality, taking audiences on an imaginative and touching journey, which gently challenges us to consider our priorities in a world full of crisis.

Produced by Hoipolloi, PBJ Management, Theatre Royal Plymouth in association with The Pleasance Theatre Trust in aid of Save the Children's Emergency.

ME & ROBIN HOOD

By Shôn Dale-Jones in collaboration with Hamish Pirie

Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 3pm
Shirehall Courtroom, Norwich Castle

ME & ROBIN HOOD is a show about Shôn Dale-Jones' longstanding relationship with his favourite fictional friend, questioning the value of art and the power of story while looking at the direction our world is heading in.

A Hoipolloi & Royal Court co-production in association with Pleasance, PBJ Management and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

THE LADDER

Friday 17 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm
Norwich Playhouse

The Ladder looks at the way optimism and pessimism affect how we create stories. It explores how the stories we tell influence the lives we lead and wonders about the stories we don't tell.

Commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival, in association with Theatre Royal Plymouth. Supported by Cambridge Junction.

ENDS

LISTINGS

Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2019 will run from 10 – 26 May.

Tickets are on sale to the public from 9:30am on Thursday 15 November with priority booking opening at 9:30am on Thursday 8 November.

Box Office 01603 766400, online nffestival.org.uk or in person at Norwich Theatre Royal Box Office.

Concessions and Under 26s discounts available

Gravity & Other Myths

A SIMPLE SPACE

Wednesday 15 – Sunday 26 May

The Adnams Spiegel tent

Tickets: £20, £22, £24

Boy Blue

BLAK WHYTE GRAY

Tuesday 14 May, 7.30pm

Norwich Theatre Royal

Tickets: £10, £18, £22, £26

CHILLY GONZALES

Wednesday 15 May, 7.30pm

Norwich Theatre Royal

Tickets: £10, £21, £31, £36

BELLS AND SPELLS

With Aurelia Thierrée

By Victoria Thierrée Chaplin

Friday 17 May, 7.30pm

Norwich Theatre Royal

Tickets: £10, £18, £22, £26

Britten Sinfonia

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9 WITH THOMAS ADÈS

Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm

St Andrew's Hall

Tickets: £10, £15, £25, £30, £35

In celebration of Hoipolloi's 25th anniversary Norfolk & Norwich Festival present a trilogy of show. Hugh Hughes presents Shôn Dale-Jones in *The Duke, ME & ROBIN HOOD* and *The*

Ladder.

THE DUKE

Wednesday 15 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 11am

Oxfam, Magdalen Street

Tickets: £10

ME & ROBIN HOOD

Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 3pm

Shirehall Courtroom, Norwich Castle

Tickets: £10

THE LADDER

Friday 17 May, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm

Norwich Playhouse

Tickets: £14

Joint ticket for all three shows on Saturday 18 May: £30

NOTES TO EDITORS

www.nrfestival.org.uk

Norfolk & Norwich Festival shares exceptional arts experiences across East England. We lead and support celebration, creativity and curiosity in our community to make our part of the world a great place to live, work and play. The Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May. The programme is multi-artform, contemporary, international and audience-centred. The Festival is distinctive because we collaborate with artists – from down the road and around the world – to explore the unique physical and cultural identities of our place and to make art which is meaningful to the lives of our audiences. The organisation has been an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation since April 2012 and is one of 10 Bridge Organisations with a mandate to develop arts and cultural opportunities for children and young people in the East of England. Norfolk & Norwich Festival is funded and supported by Arts Council England, Norwich City Council and the generous support of other sponsors and donors. Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2019 runs from 10 - 26 May.

Principal Funders



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