# MERCURY



mercurytheatre.co.uk 01206 573948

## Welcome to the theatre

We are beyond excited to bring you the first season in our newly reopened theatre building.

Whilst we had hoped to welcome you back in 2020, the world had other plans, and so we hope we have been worth the wait!

The Mercury Rising transformation of the theatre was a vision for almost a decade and we are so proud of what we can now offer the town and surrounding communities.

We hope to be a beacon of hope and light for Colchester as we emerge from such a challenging year, and we want to welcome everyone through our doors to enjoy our new 'all under one roof' opportunities – world class entertainment on the newly refurbished stage; a more accessible building, outdoor dining on the piazza, a bigger and brighter foyer which will be open all day alongside our new café bar where people can meet, work and eat, a redeveloped auditorium and studio and new rehearsal and community spaces.

Thank you to everyone that supported us on our journey – every donation allowed us to get to this point.

This is your theatre, built by local people for local people, and we cannot wait for you to join us!

Tracey Childs and Steve Mannix



**Tracey Childs**Executive Producer



**Steve Mannix**Executive Director

Our vision for the Mercury Rising project and reopening of the building would not have been possible without the support of Arts Council England, Colchester Borough Council and our collaboration with Colchester Borough Homes.







# We're back!

Let me start by thanking you for all your support while the theatre was closed. Your inspiring messages of goodwill kept us going and were a welcome reminder of the important role the Mercury plays as a cultural hub at the heart of Colchester.

Humans thrive on connection and theatres are where we go to connect; to laugh wildly and weep deeply, to witness stories that are electrifying, spellbinding, celebratory and breath-taking. And we can't wait to throw open the doors to our freshly renovated building and welcome you with an explosive new season of work.

We're kicking off this summer with Baskerville - a madcap comedy version of the much loved classic that pits Holmes and Watson against a demon hound! Hot on its heels is the British premiere of a fierce new version of Antigone - the tale of a young woman rebelling against the State. Then we're taking a magical carpet ride with Aladdin in our rib-tickling Christmas pantomime and in 2022 you can look forward to the world premiere of The Green Mile - our adaptation of Stephen King's best-selling novel.

In the studio we'll be launching our Mercury Originals season - an array of brave and compelling new works by writers from the East of England. At weekends we'll be introducing Lates - a tantalising selection of cabaret and comedy nights in our brand new café bar, funded by Adeste+. And finally, make sure you check out our new programme of Taking Part activities. We've got everything from dance classes to choir groups to social clubs for seniors. There's something for everyone, so come and get involved!

I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Ryan McBryde



**Ryan McBryde**Creative Director

# Keep in touch

Sign up to our mailing list and be the first to hear about our new events: mercurytheatre.co.uk –  $01206\,573948$ 



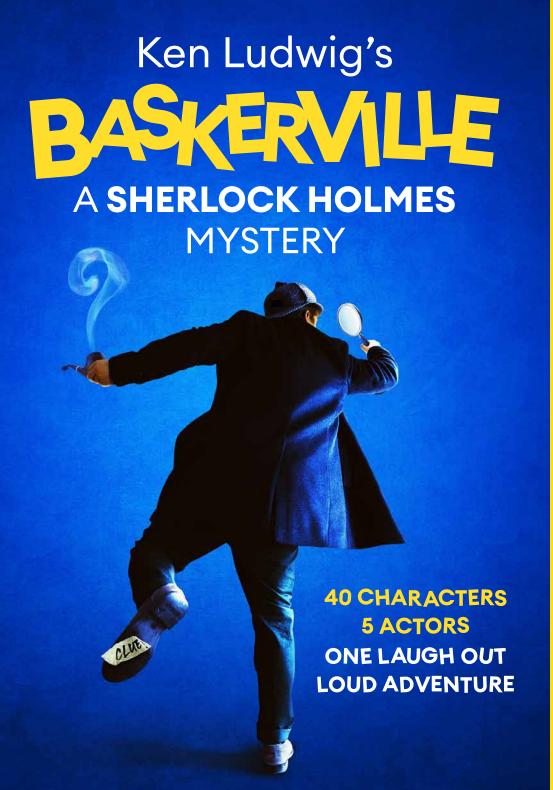








MercuryTheatre



# **Baskerville** Fri 30 Jul - Sun 22 Aug

40 characters. Five actors. One madcap adventure for the world's most famous detective!

Written by comedic genius **Ken Ludwig** (Lend Me a Tenor) this is a thrilling new look at Sherlock Holmes.

On the murky moors of Devonshire, heirs to the Baskerville name are being killed, one by one.

Some say it's a family curse. Some say it's a murderous hellhound. Some say it's a load of old nonsense.

A case like this can be solved by only one man...or...actually...two - so don your deerstalkers because Holmes and Watson are on the case!

This fast-paced, laugh out loud comedy sees our intrepid duo try to crack their most notorious case with the help of a tangled web of clues, silly accents, disguises and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters.

Will our heroes discover the truth in time? Will they fall foul of the demon hellhound? Will they get all the costume changes right?

Join us on this murderously funny adventure to find out.

Presented by arrangement with **Concord Theatricals Ltd.** on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. concordtheatricals.co.uk

**Captioned Performance** 

Design: Amy Jane Cook Lighting Design: Johanna Town Video Design: Louise Rhoades-Brown

Sound Design: Steve Mayo

Fri 20 Aua

Wed 18 Aua Relaxed 2.30pm Thu 19 Aug 1.00pm **Touch Tour** Thu 19 Aug 2.30pm **Audio Described** 

7.30pm

Supported by:

Eves 7.30pm

Sun mats 3pm

available

Wed, Thu, Sat mats 2.30pm,

Prices from £15 | See diary for

pricing details | Concessions





#### **Rock for Heroes**

7.30pm | £15, £23.50

#### Rock for Heroes music, laughter & a rockin' night out!

The incredible Rock for Heroes is back for 2021 bringing the perfect combination of your favourite rock songs and fundraising in support of Help for Heroes. Performed by a full, live rock band and incredible singers with music from artists like Queen, The Eagles, Guns N Roses, AC/DC, Dire Straits and more, this is a night out unlike any other!

**Presented by Total Productions** 



#### **Grayson Perry**

7.30pm | £24, £34 | 16+

Award-winning artist, Bafta-winning TV presenter, and bestselling author, **Grayson Perry** is a normal person asking the big questions.

Let Grayson take you through an enlightening and eye-watering evening in which this kind of existentialism descends from worthiness to silliness, in an evening sure to distract you from the possible meaninglessness of life.

Presented by Fane



#### **Arthur Smith: Syd**

3pm | £15, £23.50 | 16+

The story of an ordinary man who lived through extraordinary times. Syd Smith fought at El Alamein, became a POW and ended the war in the notorious Colditz Castle in Germany. In the 1950s, PC Syd patrolled London's South Bank and met a gallery of characters whom he tried his best not to arrest. Arthur tells this 20th-century story with laughter, music reflections and a hilarious photo.

A touching and funny tribute to Arthur Smith's own father.

Beautiful - \*\*\*\*\* Young-Perspective.net



Thu 2 Sep

#### **RUSH A Joyous Jamaican Journey**

7.30pm | £15, £24.50

Join us for this entertaining and informative show as we tell the story of reggae music and the Windrush generation. With the music of Desmond Dekker, Bob Marley and many more played live by the JA Reggae Band.

This is a fantastic show, informative, hugely entertaining & the music - WOW!!! The two vocalists were outstanding & gave me chills with their amazing voices - Audience member



Fri 3 Sep

#### Klub Kids Goes To Chicago

8pm | £15, £30 | Meet and Greet £60 | 18+

Featuring Rupaul's Drag Race stars Brooke Lynn Hytes and Nicky Doll.

Join us as we take you to Chicago with this brand new drag show, created and produced by Klub Kids UK.

Featuring all the songs you know so well from the musical with an added story, comedy and razzle dazzle fierceness. This is Chicago as you've never seen it before!

Presented by KlubKids UK



Tue 7 & Wed 8 Sep



#### The War of the Worlds

Tue 7.30, Wed 2.30 & 7.30 | £15, £20, £25, Schools £11.50

Originally Commissioned by **New Diorama Theatre** 

Co-produced by **Brighton Festival and HOME** 

Supported using public funding by **Arts Council England** 

"No-one would have believed in the early years of the twentieth century that this world was being watched..."

But we did believe.

We believed that Martians landed in New Jersey. We believed a water tower was an alien war machine. We believed a man walked on the moon. We believe everything the internet tells us and now the end of the world is being broadcast live...

Inspired by H.G. Wells' sci-fi novel and Orson Welles' classic radio play, this legendary science fiction thriller is reimagined for our era of Fake News and 'alternative facts'.

Presented by Rhum and Clay Theatre Company and written with Isley Lynn



**ONLINE EVENTS** 

#### **TILTED**

#### Have you ever finished a book and been left wanting more?

Tilted Sessions offer you an intimate peek beyond the pages with your favourite authors. Over the course of an hour or two, these sessions will offer an exclusive insight into what inspires them and their processes, and what sparks their imagination and creativity. We will also take you on location with our authors, allowing you to see and experience a landscape close to their heart, which has influenced their writing. Wherever you are in the world, you can join us via live stream and have the opportunity to get your most burning questions answered live.

See website for full programme of events, dates and prices



#### Tell Me on a Sunday

Fri 10 7:30pm, Sat 11 2:30pm & 7:30pm, Sun 12 3pm | 10+ £33.50. £17.50

Returning to the stage following her acclaimed performance in the National Theatre's production of *A Taste of Honey*, **Jodie Prenger** stars as 'Emma', in **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Don Black**'s classic musical, *Tell Me on a Sunday*.

Charting the romantic misadventures of an English girl in New York during the heady days of the 1980's, this iconic musical features Andrew Lloyd Webber's wonderful score including the chart-topping *Take That Look Off Your Face* and title track *Tell Me on a Sunday*. Previously performed by iconic musical theatre stars **Marti Webb** and **Sarah Brightman**, this new production directed by Paul Foster includes an intimate post-show chat with Jodie charting her life, love and experience playing the role of 'Emma'.

GLORIOUS - \*\*\* The Stage

\*\*\* WhatsOnStage



#### Musical Hits Through Time

Fri 7.30pm Sat 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Sun 3.00pm £16.50

#### Presented by CO2

Time seems to have stood still but no longer! Come and join Colchester Operatic Society Second Edition (CO2) on their journey of **Musical Hits Through Time**.

Starting in biblical times (Jesus Christ Superstar) we travel through to 1830s France (Les Misérables) moving through the 1900s, finishing Act I in the late 1930s (The Sound of Music).

As we open Act II, we pay tribute to the hey-day of musicals, the 1950s (*La La Land*) through to the 1980s (*FAME*) and finish 300 years in the future (*We Will Rock You*)!



#### Ian Waite and Vincent Simone...Act Two

7.30pm | £34, £28 | 12+

VIP Info – The VIP meet and greet is at 6pm. Meet and greet ticket holders need to arrive by 5:50pm | VIP tickets are strictly limited to 32

The Ballroom Boys double act Ian Waite and Vincent Simone are set to return with their brand new show - Ian Waite and Vincent Simone....Act Two, after the roaring success of their 5 star 2019 tour! The fabulous Strictly Come Dancing stars promise another wonderful evening of old-fashioned variety - dance, comedy and song!

With beautiful costumes, gorgeous lighting and world class routines, including the Viennese Waltz, the Foxtrot, the Rhumba... and of course... there has to be another incredible Argentine Tango routine by the master! The boys will be joined by their stunning dance partners and a world class singer. If you enjoyed The Ballroom Boys, then make sure you don't miss the hilarious dancing duo when they bring you....Act Two!

A hugely entertaining night out - \*\*\*\* Crawley Observer What a show! - \*\*\*\* Elementary Whats On

Presented by Strictly Theatre Co



Wed 22 Sep

#### **Lucy Worsley - A Very British Murder**

7.30pm | Post Show Book signing | £15, £26.50

An illustrated tour through our fascination with murder, with renowned historian **Lucy Worsley**. Here she shares its secrets and explores the history of this phenomenon in forensic detail, examining not only the crimes themselves but also how murder became a form of middle-class entertainment through novels, plays, artefacts and the press. From a Regency serial killer to Agatha Christie, this is the story of how crime was turned into art.

Presented by Clive Conway Productions

# Gift Vouchers

Looking for a great gift idea for the theatre-goer in your life? Mercury Theatre Gift Vouchers can be purchased for any amount and redeemed against all shows and backstage tours at the theatre, or even used to buy UK-wide Theatre Tokens. We're able to add a message of your choosing onto the voucher, to add a personal touch to your gift. Gift vouchers last for two years and can be purchased online, or in person at the theatre. See our website for more details or speak to a member of our customer experience team.



#### **Simon Amstell: Spirit Hole**

8pm | £26.50, £36.50 | 15+

With his first stand up tour since the release of internationally acclaimed feature film - 'Benjamin' and Netflix special 'Set Free', **Simon Amstell** brings 'Spirit Hole' to The Mercury Theatre. 'Spirit Hole' is a blissful, spiritual, sensational exploration of love, sex, shame, mushrooms and more. If you yearn for a night of unprecedented joy and laughter book now and avoid regret.

The real deal - The Guardian

Presented by Mick Perrin Worldwide Ltd



Fri 24 Sep

#### Elton John: It's a Little Bit Funny

7.30pm | £15, £23.50

It's A Little Bit Funny tells the incredible story of **Elton John**'s rise and fall (and rise again) as one of the most successful singer/songwriters ever..

**Martin Kaye** (star of Million Dollar Quartet) is the biggest Elton John fan ever – so who better to sing and play Elton's greatest songs and narrate this tall tale of an unforgettable celebrity encounter with the man himself.

Presented by Aria Entertainment



Sat 25 Sep

# Come What May – The Ultimate Tribute to Moulin Rouge

7.30pm | £15, £29

We present to you an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza as you enter the secret world of one of the greatest movie-musicals of all time. Featuring the sensational Britain's Got Talent Winner Jai McDowall and a cast of top West End performers. Bursting with timeless classics including Come What May, Your Song, Diamonds Are A Girls Best Friend and Lady Marmalade plus hit songs from The Greatest Showman and other iconic movie musicals.

Presented by Sweeney Entertainments and Sisco Productions

# Adopt a seat

We can't promise your name in lights, but the next best thing is to adopt a seat in our newly refurbished auditorium! Whether it is for yourself, a present for a theatre lover or to honour a loved one, monthly or one off payment options are available.

Visit mercurytheatre.co.uk/adopt or speak to a member of our customer experience team to find out more!



#### Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None

Eves 7:30pm Mats Wed, Thu, Sat 2:30pm

Tue - Thu £15, £35 Fri - Sat £15, £37.50

Ten strangers are lured to a solitary mansion off the coast of Devon. When a storm cuts them off from the mainland, the reason for their presence on the island becomes horribly clear.

"We are all being hunted"

Directed by Lucy Bailey (Witness for the Prosecution, Love from a Stranger), this brand-new production of the bestselling crime novel of all time will keep you on the edge of your seat... Genuinely terrifying....

Gripping enterteinment- \*\*\* The Times on Lucy Bailey's Love From A Stranger

Bailey turns the screw with every scene - \*\*\* WhatsOnStage on Lucy Bailey's Gaslight

Presented by Fiery Angel and Royal & Derngate, Northampton



**Tue 26 - Wed 27 Oct** 

#### **An Evening with Pam Ayres**

7.30pm | £15, £30

**Pam Ayres** has been making the nation laugh for over 40 years. Funny and warm, her charming understated manner belies a rare comic precision.

Recent TV appearances include Springwatch, Celebrity Mastermind, Celebrity Antique Road Trip, and Women at War: 100 Years of Service. Recent Radio broadcasts include Just A Minute, I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue, and Pam's 2nd appearance on Desert Island Discs.



Thu 28 Oct

#### We Love Little Mix

2.30pm | £15, £17.50

If you love **Little Mix**, you are going to L.O.V.E this show! Featuring four fantastic performers who capture the look, sound and dance moves of one of the UK's best loved airl bands.

We Love Little Mix features all-live vocals, breath-taking costumes and an impressive light and video show. This non-stop, high-energy show is packed with all your favourite Little Mix songs including DNA, Wings, Salute, Shout out to my ex and more.

Presented by Sweeney Entertainments

# Written by Merlynn Tong (after Sophocles)

# **Antigone**Fri 1 – Sat 16 October

British premiere

A city which belongs to just one man is no true city

In a war-torn city, two brothers lie dead: one hailed and buried a hero, the other denounced as a traitor, his body to be displayed as a warning to anyone daring to defy the new leader Creon, who is ruthless in her grip on power.

A grieving, defiant Antigone strikes out against Creon's brutal regime in a furious act of civil disobedience which will have devastating consequences for them both.

The conflict between these fierce, bold women forces them, and those around them, to question their ideas of family and morality, as well as the nature of justice and leadership.

This modern retelling of the classic Greek tragedy is a powerful thriller whose poetic passion transcends time.

Adapted by Merlynn Tong, after Sophocles had its World Premiere at Queensland Theatre

Eves 7.30pm

Thu, Sat mats 3.30pm, Sun mat 3pm

Prices from £15 | See diary for pricing details | Concessions available



**Merlynn Tong** 



**Dawn Walton OBE** 

RP Wed 13 Oct

2.30pm

Relaxed

Thu 14 Oct

1.00pm Touch Tour

(AD)

Thu 14 Oct

2.30pm Audio Described

CAP

Fri 15 Oct

7.30pm

Captioned Performance

# Café Bar



Our brand new all-day café bar offers a warm friendly welcome to everyone – whether you're coming in to book tickets, watch a show or visiting the town, day or evening. We serve a wide selection of cakes, pastries, snacks and light meals, alongside a range of teas, coffees, alcoholic and soft drinks, including options sourced from local suppliers and prepared by our in-house kitchen.

We are accessible and have a stylish outdoor piazza to take in the historic surroundings that Balkerne Gate has to offer. You can also sample our new signature Mercury cocktail, an aromatic and refreshing drink featuring handcrafted Jumbo Gin, distilled in Colchester.

Whether it's a business meet, drinks with friends or bringing the children for an ice-cream, we've act it all.

Mobile ordering is quick and easy, and you can pay from your table with no need to queue. Simply scan the QR code displayed at your table to view and order from the menu.

Oh, and the WiFi is free!

#### **Opening Times**

Tue-Thu 10am – 11pm Fri-Sat 10am – 12am Sun 10am – 7pm



### Interval Ordering

You can beat the queues and order your interval drinks from our cafe bar on arrival or book online. We'll have your drinks, ice cream or snacks ready for you to enjoy mid-show in our upstairs bar where you can take in our historic surroundings.



# PULLOUT & KEEP!



**Ticket Sales** 

mercurytheatre.co.uk tickets@mercurytheatre.co.uk 01206 573948

| JULY         |                  |                         |       | Thu 16 | 7.30pm | Musical Hits Through        | Time           |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Fri 30       | 7.00             | Davidson (III.)         |       | Fri 17 | 7.30pm | Musical Hits Through        |                |
| Sat 31       | 7.30pm           | Baskerville Baskerville |       | Sat 18 | 2.30pm | Musical Hits Through        |                |
| 30131        | 7.30pm           | buskerville             |       |        | 7.30pm | Musical Hits Through        |                |
| AUGUST       |                  |                         |       | Sun 19 | 3pm    | Musical Hits Through        |                |
| Wed 4        | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Tue 21 | 7.30pm | Ian and VincentAct          |                |
| Thu 5        | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Wed 22 | 7.30pm | Lucy Worsley                |                |
| 1110 5       |                  | Baskerville             |       | Thu 23 | 8pm    | Simon Amstell: Spirit H     | Hole           |
| Fri 6        | 7.30pm<br>7.30pm | Baskerville             |       | Fri 24 | 7.30pm | Elton John: It's a Little E |                |
| Sat 7        |                  | Baskerville             |       | Sat 25 | 7.30pm | Come What May               | ore r drilling |
| <u>3ut /</u> | 2.30pm<br>7.30pm | Baskerville             |       | 00120  | 7.00pm | Come what hay               |                |
| Sun 8        | · ·              | Baskerville             |       | ОСТОВЕ | R      |                             |                |
| Wed 11       | 3pm              | Baskerville             |       | Fri 1  | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| wean         | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Sat 2  | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Th 10        | 7.30pm           |                         |       | Tue 5  | 7.30pm |                             |                |
| Thu 12       | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Wed 6  | •      | Antigone                    |                |
| F : 10       | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       |        | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Fri 13       | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Thu 7  | 2.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Sat 14       | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | F.: 0  | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
|              | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Fri 8  | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Sun 15       | 3pm              | Baskerville             |       | Sat 9  | 2.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Wed 18       | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             | (RP)  | 0 10   | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
|              | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       | Sun 10 | 3pm    | Antigone                    |                |
| Thu 19       | 1pm              | Baskerville             | (TT)  | Tue 12 | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
|              | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             | AD    | Wed 13 | 2.30pm | Antigone                    | (RP)           |
|              | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       |        | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Fri 20       | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             | CAP   | Thu 14 | 1pm    | Antigone                    | (11)           |
| Sat 21       | 2.30pm           | Baskerville             |       |        | 2.30pm | Antigone                    | (AD)           |
|              | 7.30pm           | Baskerville             |       |        | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Sun 22       | 3pm              | Baskerville             |       | Fri 15 | 7.30pm | Antigone                    | CAP            |
| Fri 27       | 7.30pm           | Rock for Heroes         |       | Sat 16 | 2.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Sat 28       | 7.30pm           | Grayson Perry           |       |        | 7.30pm | Antigone                    |                |
| Sun 29       | 3pm              | Arthur Smith: Syd       | (16+) | Tue 19 | 7.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
|              |                  |                         |       | Wed 20 | 2.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
| SEPTEMB      | ER               |                         |       |        | 7.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
| Thu 2        | 7.30pm           | RUSH A Joyous Jamai     | can   | Thu 21 | 2.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
|              |                  | Journey                 |       |        | 7.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
| Fri 3        | 8pm              | Klub Kids Goes To Chic  | cago  | Fri 22 | 7.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
| Tue 7        | 7.30pm           | The War of the Worlds   |       | Sat 23 | 2.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
| Wed 8        | 2.30pm           | The War of the Worlds   |       |        | 7.30pm | And Then There Were         | None           |
|              | 7.30pm           | The War of the Worlds   |       | Tue 26 | 7.30pm | An Evening with Pam A       | Ayres          |
| Fri 10       | 7.30pm           | Tell Me On a Sunday     |       | Wed 27 | 7.30pm | An Evening with Pam A       | Ayres          |
| Sat 11       | 2.30pm           | Tell Me On a Sunday     |       | Thu 28 | 2.30pm | We Love Little Mix          |                |
|              | 7.30pm           | Tell Me On a Sunday     |       |        | 8pm    | Sirens                      |                |
|              |                  |                         |       |        |        |                             |                |

|               | 8pm     | Sirens                      | Thu 9      | 10.15am        | Aladdin                               |
|---------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sat 30        | 2.30pm  | The Three Musketeers        |            | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 3pm     | Sirens                      |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 7.30pm  | The Three Musketeers        |            | 2pm            | Aladdin                               |
|               | 8pm     | Sirens                      |            | 7.30pm         | Scummy Mummies                        |
| Sun 31        | 3pm     | The Three Musketeers        | Fri 10     | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | - Op    |                             |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| NOVEME        | BER     |                             |            | 2pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Tue 2         | 7.30pm  | Boy's Khaya                 |            | 7pm            | Aladdin                               |
|               | 8pm     | Sirens                      | Sat 11     | 11am           | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Wed 3         | 8pm     | Sirens                      |            | 1pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Thu 4         | 7.30pm  | The Wedding                 |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 3pm     | Sirens                      |            | 5pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Fri 5         | 7.30pm  | The Wedding                 | Sun 12     | 11.30am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 8pm     | Sirens                      |            | 12pm           | Aladdin (RP)                          |
| Sat 6         | 3pm     | Sirens                      |            | 2pm            | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 7.30pm  | Tubular Bells Live!         |            | 4pm            | Aladdin                               |
|               | 8pm     | Sirens                      | Tue 14     | 10.15am        | Aladdin                               |
| Tue 9         | 7.30pm  | Dracula                     | 10017      | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Wed 10        | 2.30pm  | Dracula                     |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| WCG 10        | 7.30pm  | Dracula                     |            | 2pm            | Aladdin                               |
| <br>Thu 11    | 7.00pm  | Dramafest                   | Wed 15     | 10.15am        | Aladdin                               |
| Fri 12        | 4.30pm  | Dragons and Mythical Beasts | vved 15    | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Sat 13        | 1lam    | Dragons and Mythical Beasts |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| 30113         | 2pm     | Dragons and Mythical Beasts |            | 2pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Sun 14        | 11am    | Dragons and Mythical Beasts | <br>Thu 16 | 10.15am        | Aladdin                               |
| 341114        | 2pm     | Dragons and Mythical Beasts | 111010     | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Sat 27        | 2pm     | Aladdin                     |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| <u>3ut 27</u> | 7pm     | Aladdin                     | <br>Fri 17 | 10.45am        | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 7 pm    | Alddill                     | 11117      | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| DECEMB        | ER      |                             |            | 7pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Wed 1         | 10.15am | Aladdin                     | Sat 18     | 11am           | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Thu 2         | 10.15am | Aladdin                     | 30110      | 1pm            | Aladdin                               |
| Triu Z        |         |                             |            | 1.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| <br>Fri 3     | 2pm     | Aladdin<br>Aladdin          |            |                | Aladdin                               |
|               | 2pm     |                             | Sun 19     | 5pm<br>11.30am | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| C=+ 4         | 7pm     | Aladdin                     | <u> </u>   |                | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| Sat 4         | 1pm     | Aladdin                     |            | 12pm           | Aladdin The Jelly Christman Postmann  |
| C             | 5pm     | Aladdin                     |            | 2pm            | The Jolly Christmas Postman  Aladdin  |
| Sun 5         | 12pm    | Aladdin                     | T 01       | 4pm            |                                       |
|               | 4pm     | Aladdin                     | Tue 21     | 11am           | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
| Wed 8         | 10.15am | Aladdin                     |            | 2pm            | Aladdin                               |
|               | 10.45am | The Jolly Christmas Postman |            | 2.30pm         | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |
|               | 1.30pm  | The Jolly Christmas Postman |            | 7pm            | Aladdin                               |
|               | 2pm     | Aladdin                     | Wed 22     | 11am           | The Jolly Christmas Postman           |

|        | 2pm     | Aladdin                     |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------|
|        | 2.30pm  | The Jolly Christmas Postman |
|        | 7pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Thu 23 | 11am    | The Jolly Christmas Postman |
|        | 2pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        | 2.30pm  | The Jolly Christmas Postman |
|        | 7pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Fri 24 | 10.15am | The Jolly Christmas Postman |
|        | 12pm    | Aladdin                     |
|        | 12.30pm | The Jolly Christmas Postman |
|        | 4pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Sun 26 | 2pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        | 7pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Tue 28 | 2pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        | 7pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Wed 29 | 1pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        | 5pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Thu 30 | 1pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        | 5pm     | Aladdin                     |
| Fri 31 | 12pm    | Aladdin                     |
|        | 4pm     | Aladdin                     |
|        |         |                             |

#### **JANUARY 2022**

| Sat 1  | 2pm     | Aladdin |               |
|--------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Sun 2  | 12pm    | Aladdin |               |
|        | 4pm     | Aladdin |               |
| Thu 6  | 10.15am | Aladdin |               |
|        | 2pm     | Aladdin | RP            |
| Fri 7  | 7pm     | Aladdin | CAP           |
| Sat 8  | 11.30am | Aladdin | (TT)          |
|        | 1pm     | Aladdin | AD            |
|        | 5pm     | Aladdin |               |
| Sun 9  | 12pm    | Aladdin |               |
|        | 4pm     | Aladdin |               |
| Wed 12 | 7.30pm  | Aladdin | (18+)         |
| Thu 13 | 7.30pm  | Aladdin | (18+)         |
|        |         |         | $\overline{}$ |

| Fri 14 | 7.30pm | Aladdin (18+)               |
|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 15 | 1pm    | Aladdin                     |
|        | 5pm    | Aladdin                     |
| Sun 16 | 12pm   | Aladdin                     |
|        | 4pm    | Aladdin                     |
| Thu 27 | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
| Fri 28 | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
| Sat 29 | 2.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
|        | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
| Sun 30 | 3.00pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
|        |        |                             |

#### **FEBRUARY 2022**

| Tue 1        | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Wed 2 7.30pm |        | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
| Thu 3        | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
| Fri 4        | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
| Sat 5 2.30pm |        | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
|              | 7.30pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
| Sun 6        | 3.00pm | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |  |  |
| Tue 8        | 7.30pm | The Ballad of Maria Marten  |  |  |
| Wed 9        | 2.30pm | The Ballad of Maria Marten  |  |  |
|              | 7.30pm | The Ballad of Maria Marten  |  |  |

#### **MARCH 2022**

| Fri 25 | 7.30pm | Janey Godley |
|--------|--------|--------------|
|        |        |              |

#### **APRIL 2022**

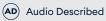
| Fri 8 | 8pm | Reginald D Hunter |
|-------|-----|-------------------|
|       |     |                   |

#### OCTOBER 2022

| Wed 26 | 10am | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |
|--------|------|---------------------------|
|        | 1pm  | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |
|        | 4pm  | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |
| Thu 27 | 10am | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |
|        | 1pm  | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |
|        | 4pm  | Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever |

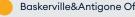


























Fri 29 - Sun 31 Oct

#### The Three Musketeers - A comedy adventure Fri & Sat eves 7.30pm | Sat mat 2.30pm | Sun mat 3pm £15, £20, £25 | Schools £11.50 Armed with a baguette and his questionable steed join hot-headed d'Artagnan as he travels to Paris to become a musketeer! Featuring hilarious heroics, raucous romances and some bonkers fun with BMX bikes, award-winning funny men Le Navet Bete condense

Hilarious and heartfelt - ★★★★ Reviewshub

Presented by Le Navet Bete and Exeter Northcott Theatre

Dumas' 700-page classic into two hours of non-stop comedy gold.



**Tue 2 Nov** 

#### Boy's Khaya

7.30pm | £15.50, £17.50, Schools £11.50

In this moving dance production, Bawren Tavaziva's discoveries are a universal comment on Africa and who we are today. Monarchies, political persecution, slavery and modern colonialism create a rich source of untold truths. Exploring the use of motion-capture technology, Boy's Khaya creates an immersive and unforgettable experience.

Tavaziva's facility for devising hot, liquid motion is indisputable - The Times

Presented by Tavaziva



Thu 4 - Fri 5 Nov

#### The Wedding

7.30pm | £15, £20, £25, Schools £11.50 | Subject to funding | Post Show | 14+

Internationally acclaimed Gecko's production presents an elegant, brutal and thrilling depiction of a dystopian world in which we are all brides, wedded to society.

There's a terrific ensemble at work in a show that bursts with the joy of union - The Guardian

Presented by Gecko



Sat 6 Nov

#### **Tubular Bells Live!**

7pm | £27.50

Internationally renowned **Tubular Bells** maestro Phil Toms is back on tour with his band performing music from the 1973 hit record Tubular Bells by Mike Oldfield and highlights from his 50 year career including the songs Moonlight Shadow, To France and Guilty, and excerpts from instrumental albums including Ommadawn, Tubular Bells 2 and 3.

Presented by Phil Toms



Tue 9 - Wed 10 Nov

#### **Dracula: The Untold Story**

7.30pm, Wed mat 2.30pm | £15, £20, £25 | Schools £11.50

London, 1965

A young woman enters a Police Station claiming to be Mina Harker, one of the last surviving witnesses of Count Dracula's destruction. But Mina Harker has not been seen since 1901 and if alive, would be ninety years old.

Unfolding as a live graphic novel this is a chilling new version of the classic vampire tale.

An imitating the dog and Leeds Playhouse co-production



#### **Dragons and Mythical Beasts**

Fri 4.30pm, Sat & Sun 11am, 2pm | £15.50

From the creators of *Dinosaur World Live*, enter into a world of myths and legends in this fantastical new show for all the family!

Unveil dark secrets and come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth - the colossal Stone Troll, the mysterious Indrik and Japanese Baku and the Tooth Fairy (not as sweet as you'd think). Take your place among legendary heroes, just don't wake the Dragon...

Presented by Nicoll Entertainment



#### The Jolly Christmas Postman

8 – 10 & 14 – 17 Dec 10.45am, 1.30pm | 21-23 Dec 11am, 2.30pm | 24 Dec 10.15am, 12.30pm | Sats 11am, 1.30pm | Suns 11.30am, 2pm | 3+ | £11.50, £12.50

'Once upon a Christmas Eve, just after it had snowed, The Jolly Postman (him again!) came down the jolly road; and in the bag upon his back, an...interesting load.'

Join the **Jolly Christmas Postman** on his final delivery of the year as he visits Miss Riding Hood, Humpty Dumpty and many others, with a gift for all this Christmas time. Story Pocket Theatre brings this timeless Christmas tale and colourful characters to life in a brand new show full of music, puppetry and magical storytelling, adapted from the best-selling book by Janet & Allan Ahlberg.

Presented by **Story Pocket Theatre** – a co-production with **Oxford Playhouse** 

Story Pocket Theatre... producing some of the best children's theatre we have seen – ThreeWeeks



Thu 9 Dec

#### **The Scummy Mummies Show**

7.30pm | £20 | 18+

Grab your gin in a tin, put your control pants on, and pop in a pantyliner - the **Scummy Mummies** are back! And after the year they've had, Helen and Ellie are going out-out! Join them for an evening of comedy, songs, filth and laughs. So bring your mates and make it a big night out! \*\*sold-out show\*\* Edinburgh Fringe 2019

Very funny - The Guardian

Hilarious - Broadway Baby



# The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Eves 7.30pm, Sat mats 2.30pm, Sun mats 3pm

Prices from £19

Presented by Colchester
Operatic Society

What makes a monster and what makes a man?

**The Hunchback of Notre Dame** tells the story of Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer of Notre Dame, who longs to be *Out There* with all of fifteenth-century Paris.

Let Colchester Operatic Society sweep you away with the magic of this truly unforgettable musical, based on the **Victor Hugo** novel and including the songs and Academy Award-nominated score from the Disney animated feature, along with new songs by **Alan Menken** and **Stephen Schwartz** as they perform this powerful story and fill the stage with beautiful choral harmonies.

Colchester Operatic Society are excited to be back on the Mercury stage after performing Oliver! in collaboration in Autumn 2019 at the Mercury at Abbey Field.



#### The Ballad of Maria Marten

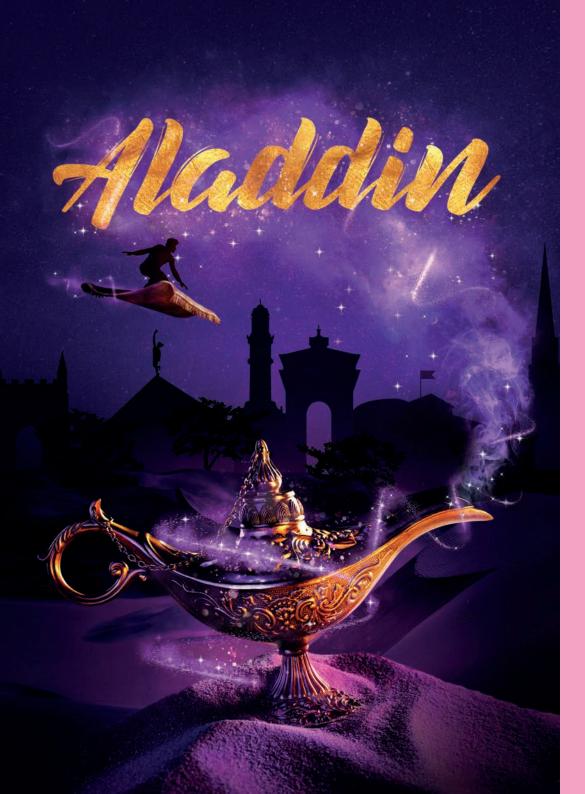
Eves 7.30pm | Wed mat 2.30pm | £15, £20, £25

A thrilling retelling of Suffolk's real-life murder mystery. Summer, 1827. In a red barn Maria Marten awaits her lover. A year later her body is found under the floor of the barn. Maria's story sent shock waves throughout the country but in all this hysteria Maria's own story gets lost. Until now.

Flintoff restores dignity to Maria...unexpectedly joyous

- ★★★★ The Guardian

**Eastern Angles** and **Matthew Linley Creative Projects** in association with the **Stephen Joseph Theatre**, Scarborough



# **Aladdin** Sat 27 Nov – Sun 16 Jan

Make all your Christmas wishes come true with a trip to the Mercury's magical pantomime, Aladdin!

Journey with us to distant shores where the penniless Aladdin dreams of winning the heart of the rebellious Princess Jasmine.

When he is tempted by an evil sorcerer with the promise of untold riches, our young hero finds himself trapped in the Cave of Wonders with nothing but his wits and a battered old lamp. Little does he know that it's contents will change his life for ever.

Will Aladdin defeat the wicked sorcerer? Will the Princess Jasmine ever notice him? And will the Genie of the Lamp make all of his wishes come true?

You'll be thrilled to hear our Great British Pantomime awardwinning ugly sisters, **Antony Stuart-Hicks** and **Dale Superville** (*Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Snow White*) will be unleashed on Colchester once again, and after a year off they're chomping at the bit to release even more panto madness on unsuspecting audiences!

So hop aboard your magic carpet and join us for a hilarious, funpacked adventure full of song, dance and all the usual Mercury magical mayhem!

Design: **Diego Pitarch**, Lighting Design: **David W Kidd**, Musical Director: **Nick Barstow**, Choreographer: **Donna Berlin**, Magic Advisor: **Michael J Fitch** 

|     | Fri 10 Dec | 7.00pm  | BSL Interpretation    |
|-----|------------|---------|-----------------------|
| RP  | Sun 12 Dec | 12.00pm | Relaxed               |
| RP  | Thu 6 Jan  | 2.00pm  | Relaxed               |
| CAP | Fri 7 Jan  | 7.00pm  | Captioned Performance |
| T   | Sat 8 Jan  | 11.30pm | Touch Tour            |
| AD  | Sat 8 Jan  | 1.00pm  | Audio Described       |
| _   |            |         |                       |

1.00pm

**BSL** Interpretation

Sat 15 Jan

See diary for full performance schedule

Prices from £15 | Concessions available

Please note that performances on 12, 13, 14 January are strictly 18+



**Dale Superville** 



**Antony Stuart-Hicks** 



Fri 25 Mar

#### **Janey Godley's Soup Pot Tour**

7.30pm | £21.50 | 16+

"Frank open the door"

Tell all the Sandras, Big Frank and all the lassies fresh from Zumba to grab the soup pot and get ready for the "Queen of Scottish Comedy"'s hilarious new show, with live voice overs and stand up like you've never seen before. Check out some hilarious patter from Big Tereeza in Torremolinos, Boris and his bawjaws and see Nicola up on the big screen with all the latest patter.



Fri 8 Apr

#### **Reginald D Hunter**

8pm | £24.50 | 18+

Three-time Perrier Award nominated **Reginald D Hunter** is back with a brand-new show, and there's no time for niceties. Unafraid to tackle head on the subjects the rest of us skirt around, Reginald is the voice of his generation – searingly honest, brutally funny and uniquely placed to commentate on the unfolding meltdown of life as we know it.

This is comedy of a rare scope - \*\*\*\* The Times



#### Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever

10am, 1pm, 4pm

£16 | £2 off U16 | Family Ticket £60 (4 tickets in total) | Babes in Arms free (booking required)

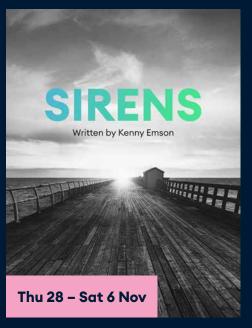
**Peppa Pig** is excited to be going on a special day out with George, Mummy Pig and Daddy Pig - it's going to be her best day ever!

Get ready for a road-trip full of fun adventures. From castles to caves, dragons to dinosaurs and icecreams to muddy puddles – there is something for all of the family and their friends to enjoy, including Miss Rabbit, Mr Bull, Suzy Sheep, Gerald Giraffe and more!

Prepare for the brand new Peppa Pig live show packed full of songs, games and laughter, it really is the best day ever for Peppa Pig fans!

# **Mercury Originals**

This season we are launching Mercury Originals; an exciting new programme of ground-breaking new plays, showcasing the voices of writers from the East, who have been nurtured through our Artist Development schemes. All plays will premiere in our re-energised Studio and the season begins with awarding-winning playwright, **Kenny Emson**'s *Sirens*.



#### **Sirens**

Eves 8pm, Sat mats 3pm | £10, £17.50

Rory and Gemma break in to the Mersea Island RNLI station on Halloween in 1987. He wants to run away to London. She wants him to notice that's she's not drinking. Over the course of the next thirty-four years the consequences of that night will tear their lives apart. This haunting new play explores themes of belonging, family ties and forgiveness.

Kenny Emson is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. He is a past winner of the Mercury Theatre playwriting prize, the Adopt a Playwright Award, the Adrienne Benham Award and the Clare McIntyre Bursary at the Royal Court Theatre, and has been shortlisted for both the Bruntwood and Pearson Prizes. His plays have been performed by the Bush Theatre, Nabokov, Eastern Angles and High Tide Theatre companies as well as at Festivals in the UK, New York and Cape Town. In TV/online, he was BAFTA-nominated for *The Last Hours of Laura K*, has participated in the BBC Writers' Academy and Bush/Kudos schemes, and been a Red Planet Prize finalist.

Made possible with the support of SELEP Ltd as part of Catalyst For Culture.



New this season is Lates, funded by Adeste+. Join us every weekend for a whole host of exciting after-hours events including cabaret, jazz, comedy and more, all performed by up and coming performers. See mercurytheatre.co.uk for full listings and details.

# **Taking Part**

Taking Part

No matter your background or experience, the Mercury aims to provide engaging and inclusive activities for all.

Our **Taking Part** activities for adults include a 10-week acting programme, an intergenerational community choir and a musical theatre dance class. There's also fun for the whole family as we re-introduce our sing-a-longs, which were a stand-out hit during lockdown, as a monthly feature in our new café bar.

For those over 55, our new **Senior Social Club** is an inclusive space to forge new friendships whilst participating in creative classes. The club will meet up every Thursday from 12 'til 2 and the activities rotate on a monthly basis and include monthly meet ups, a dance group, play reading sessions and creative writing events. Oh and the best part – brews and biscuits are included in the price!

# **MYC**



We are excited to be offering more opportunities for young people to channel and release their creativity than ever before!

Much like our shiny new building, **Mercury Young Company** (MYC) has also expanded to include a new 18-25 age group, specialist dance classes and musical theatre workshops, in addition to the return of the existing groups you know and love.

Plus, we are introducing new activities for young people including **Tots** classes, weekend dropin sessions and summer school opportunities including our new **Play in a Week** course.

We are also offering new and returning activities for young people with SEND including **Move and Groove** classes, **SEND Summer School** and our popular bi-monthly **Party Nights**. In addition, all of our MYC groups are inclusive, with youth assistants on hand to support young people with SEND, to ensure that no young person misses out on their favourite event.

Visit mercurytheatre.co.uk to see our full range of events and book your space!





# Connects, How To, Reads

Our **Artist Development** programmes support ground-breaking, east-based theatre-makers on their creative journey. Through a variety of exciting professional development opportunities and by providing time and space for researching, exploring and testing ideas, the programmes aim to nurture and grow the innovators of tomorrow.

**How To**'s are our monthly masterclasses with an industry professional, providing you with the stepping stone you need to take your career to the next level. **Connects** is a regular rendezvous for arts professionals looking to make contacts, share ideas, brainstorm, collaborate, develop their careers, promote their work and chat with like-minded people about their passion, at the theatre.

You also won't want to miss **Reads**, a reoccurring series giving you the first glimpse at exciting new work in its developmental stages!





# **Theatre Tours**

The Mercury has seen many famous faces perform on its stages since the theatre opened in 1972. Let us take you behind the scenes to explore the backstage secrets of what makes a spectacular Mercury production. Your guide will take you on a journey through our amazing spaces including the rehearsal room, wardrobe and workshop.

Why not make the most of your theatre tour by ending in the café bar with a delicious afternoon tea and bubbles?

Tours start at 11.30am

Sat 10 Jul, Sat 7 Aug, Sat 25 Sep, Sat 9 Oct

Theatre Tour £10 | Approximately 60 minutes Tour and Cream Tea £15 | Afternoon tea and bubbles £20

Gift vouchers available for special occasions

All theatre tours are accessible for wheelchair users



# **Supporters & Funders**

#### **Corporate Supporters**

We're proud to partner with these outstanding local companies. With all eyes on our new building, there has never been a better time to join us! Visit mercurytheatre.co.uk/support to learn more.

**Premiere Partner:** 



























#### Thank you to our Funders

We are grateful to the following of their support of the Mercury Theatre:

Arts Council England/Colchester Borough Council / Essex Country Council / Essex Association of Local Councils / European Regional Development Fund / South East Local Enterprise Partnership / Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government / Action For Children / Bernard Sunley Foundation / Bradbury Foundation / Bruce Wake Charitable Trust / Equity Charitable Trust / Foyle Foundation / FSJ Charities / Garfield Weston Foundation / / Heritage Lottery Fund / King Coel's Kittens / Samphire Trust / Sport England / Theatres Trust / The Hobson Charity / The Linbury Trust / The Wolfson Foundation

Our Upstairs Bar is generously supported by:



# **Friends**

Make the most of your Mercury experience and join our family of supporters today!

As we throw open our doors and welcome you all in to our new home, we're excited to be introducing our brand new supporters scheme! With more exclusive gifts, discounts and experiences on offer than ever before, there's a level of giving to suit everyone. Join us today to make the most of your Mercury experience and help regional theatre thrive!

To begin your supporter journey, or to purchase a gift membership for a friend or loved one, call our team on 01206 573948 or visit mercurytheatre. co.uk/support to find out more.

£1200

£500 per year

per year

per year

#### **Producers Club**

As below plus recognition in the public space of the building, two free tickets to every Mercury Theatre press night and free car parking for every for every Mercury Production show booked.

#### **Ambassador**

As below plus an all-new Mercury lapel pin, Mercury Production photo calendar. two show press packages and exclusive annual 'behind-the-scenes' and 'meet the maker' experiences.

#### Supporter

As below plus a 10% café discount, membership card, drink and programme vouchers and invitations to an exclusive post-season launch drinks reception.

#### **Friend**

As below plus keep up to date with all things Mercury with invitations to our season launch events, behind-the-scenes newsletters and unlimited free ticket exchanges.

#### **Priority Member**

Be among the first to book your favourite seats for Mercury Productions, big-name comedians, pantos and more, with early access to tickets to all of our performances.







# **Accessibility**

Our free **Access for All** scheme will allow you to keep us up to date with your needs as well as ensuring you can book tickets and parking online and receive any discounts available.

As an Access for All member you'll receive the following benefits:

- A welcome email explaining how to book your tickets
- A dedicated newsletter
- Online access to the best seats to meet your needs including seats in our accessible viewing areas
- Book advance parking tickets in our dedicated accessible parking area
- Automatic discounts and free tickets for those that need a companion or PA
- Regular check-ins with our customer experience team to check you're enjoying your visits

You can join the scheme online by heading to the Access for All page on our website (in the menu bar on the top right) or call our team on 01206 573948.

Discounted tickets are available for disabled customers for most of our Mercury Productions. Please check online or call to book. For access ticket prices and availability for other shows please call 01206 573948.

We welcome Assistance Dogs at all performances, please inform us when booking. Your dog can come into the auditorium with you, or be well looked after by our team.

We can accommodate up to 8 wheelchair users in the main auditorium space. Please state that you require a wheelchair space when booking.

If you require a seat transfer, please speak to a member of our team who will be happy to arrange this for you. Our friendly staff can also provide refreshments for you to purchase at the interval at your seat.

An assisted listening system is available for all performances. Our system is suitable for use with or without a hearing aid through our specialised equipment. Please mention when making your booking. Equipment should be collected from the ticket counter.

#### **Relaxed Performance**

Relaxed performances are for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment including people with an Autism Spectrum condition, sensory or communication disorders, or a learning disability. Audience members will be free to come and go as they please throughout the performance and make noise if they want to.

#### **Audio Description**

Audio described performances give you a live commentary about the action happening on stage through a pair of headphones. Please choose 'Audio Description' ticket type when booking if you would like to use this service. We also offer Touch Tours before each audio described performance, enabling you to explore the stage and get a feel for the costumes and set before the show starts. Touch Tours must be booked in advanced.

#### Captioned

Do you or someone you know enjoy theatre but find it difficult to hear what is being said? Captioning converts the spoken word, songs and sound effects into text on a caption unit on the stage. Please view our diary pages to see which performances are captioned, and choose the 'Captioned' ticket type when booking if you would like to use this service.

If you would like more information, or if you require this information in an alternative format, contact our team on: 01206 573948 or email access@mercurytheatre.co.uk

# **Booking Info**

#### **Buying your tickets**

A £1.50 restoration levy is charged on most tickets.

#### **Book online**

at mercurytheatre.co.uk

#### E-tickets

Tickets can be posted for £1.50. We would recommend however, that we email your tickets to you to print yourself at home. Don't have a printer? No problem! Show us your tickets on your phone.

#### Just call, email or write to us

Tickets can be bought by cash, cheque, theatre tokens, Mercury Theatre gift vouchers, and credit and debit cards. Tickets can be reserved without payment for five days.

#### **Exchanging tickets**

We will exchange tickets for another performance or give you a credit to the value of your seats for use at a later time if 5 days' notice is given prior to the date on the original ticket. Unfortunately we cannot give refunds. We charge £1.50 per transaction for this service. There is no charge for members at Friend level or above.

#### **Babes in arms**

We can accommodate up to 15 under 2s, sat on laps, at selected performances. Tickets are £2.50 each and can be booked in person at our ticket desk or over the phone.

#### **Ticket Sales**

mercurytheatre.co.uk tickets@mercurytheatre.co.uk 01206 573948

Ticket Sales is open Tuesday to Sunday 10am until close

#### **Discounts**

For every Mercury Production we offer 50 seats at £15 – These are extremely popular and we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment. Other discounts are available for our Mercury Productions, excluding panto: Concessions are available for over 65s, jobseekers, students and under 26s and are subject to performance. We do ask for proof of eligibility on collection, and discounted tickets booked online and by phone will need to be collected in person.

#### **School Groups**

All tickets £11.50 Mon-Fri, plus one free additional ticket for every ten purchased.

#### **Group Discounts**

Groups of 10+ get £2 off per ticket on shows excluding the first two performances and the lowest priced tickets.

#### **Military Discount**

20% off all Mercury Productions and Pantomime Only one discount can be applied to each ticket transaction. Discounts may be available for selected other performances. For more details, visit our website or call the Box Office on 01206 573948.

# Covid-19 Info

We can't wait to welcome you to our beautiful new venue and want you to know that we are doing everything to make your visit as safe as possible. We will be following all current government guidelines and UK theatre guidance.

Our spaces are well ventilated with plenty of sanitiser stations and enhanced cleaning takes place before, during and after every performance and activity. For the latest updates please see our website or contact our friendly staff who can explain in more detail.

**Coming Soon** A Mercury Production World Premiere

# GREEN MILE

A New Play by **Joel Horwood**Based upon the novel by **Stephen King** 









# **Seating plan**

This is our Theatre seating plan. Price bands vary on a show by show basis, and ticket prices vary by day of the week. Prices may change without notice. Please see our website or contact our customer experience team for seating plans for individual performances.

We can accommodate up to eight wheelchair users in the Theatre and two in the Studio, with additional spaces available for specialised performances. Please state that you require a wheelchair space when booking, or join our free Access for All scheme which will allow you to book these spaces online.

# **Your Visit**

#### **Car Parking**

Car parking can be found at St Mary's car park (CO3 3AA), a short walk from the theatre. When buying show tickets in advance of your visit, discounted parking tickets can be purchased for £2.50.

#### Cloakroom

Bags and coats can be left in a supervised cloakroom. Booster seats for children are also available.

#### **E-cigarettes**

In line with World Health Organisation guidance we don't allow the use of e-cigarettes or vaping indoors at the Mercury Theatre.

#### **Special Effects Warning**

If you are concerned about any special effects (strobe lighting, smoke, loud bangs etc.) sometimes used in productions, please call the team on 01206 573948.

#### Refreshments

Café Bar – We are now open Tue – Sun from 10am, during intervals and after evening performances. We serve a wide selection of cakes, pastries, snacks and light meals, alongside a range of teas, coffees, alcoholic and soft drinks, including options sourced from local suppliers and prepared by our in-house kitchen.

Interval Drinks – Avoid the rush by purchasing your drinks or ice creams at the café bar or from your phone before the show and they will be waiting for you at the interval. And don't worry – the ice cream will still be frozen and your wine chilled!

#### **Mercury Gift Vouchers & Theatre Tokens**

We sell Mercury Theatre Gift Vouchers and National Theatre Tokens. Please speak to the Customer Experience Team or see mercurytheatre.co.uk for details.

#### **Hire the Mercury Theatre**

Our newly refurbished theatre can be your home too. We have a range of spaces available to hire, whether it's a fitness class, a conference, or even just a desk, we've got room for you! Get in touch to find your perfect fit: hires@mercurytheatre. co.uk or see mercurytheatre.co.uk for more information.

#### **How To Find Us**

The Mercury Theatre is only one hour from London by car or train. Following the theatre mask symbols on the road signs will take you to St Mary's car park (CO3 3AA), which is a short walk across the Balkerne Hill footbridge to the theatre.

For a more detailed map please visit our website.

All details in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press. Colchester Mercury Theatre Ltd reserves the right to make alterations where necessary. Brochure design by Spy Studio. Printed by Precision. Reg charity no 232387 Registered in England no 441035

