

2009/10 Season - Festival and King's Theatres

By Festival and King's Theatres

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A fantastic new season at two of Edinburgh's leading venues.

As we reveal another varied and exciting season at the Festival and King's Theatres we are also delighted to announce our stellar Scottish cast for hilarious Christmas show – The Corstorphine Road Nativity.

Shabana Bakhsh, Jimmy Chisholm, Sara Crowe, Ryan Fletcher, Gordon Kennedy, Jane McCarry, Steven McNicoll, Colin McCredie, Julie Wilson Nimmo and Gail Watson star in Tim Firth's sparkling new comedy which has been created exclusively for the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh.

Based on real stories from actual nativity plays, Firth catalogues behind the scenes jealousy, teasing, blackmail and unrequited love as the "children" prepare to perform for their parents.

And, with fluffed entrances, forgotten lines, brazen upstaging and distractions of excited parent-spotting, the nativity performance itself soon descends into a chaotic but hilarious charade.

The Corstorphine Road Nativity runs at the Festival Theatre from Thursday 3 to Saturday 19 December. Contact box office on 0131 529 6000 or www.festivaltheatre.org.uk for further details.

Dance

We have an outstanding list of dance companies appearing at the Festival Theatre this season - from Mark Morris Dance Group and Richard Alston Dance Company to Northern Ballet Theatre, and from Rambert Dance Company to street dance company Bounce. Scottish Ballet return to the capital with their 40th Anniversary Tour this autumn, followed by performances of The Nutcracker in January and the breathtaking Romeo and Juliet in the spring. And last, but by no means least, Off Kilter – an exciting new dance spectacular showcasing the best of Scottish music and dance - bursts onto the Festival Theatre stage this year as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay. With specially commissioned pieces from leading choreographers including Ashley Page and Mark Morris this is set to be the hot ticket this festive season.

Drama

Our impressive drama season at the King's opens with Tony Roper's hilarious Scottish comedy The Steamie, while an adaptation of Neil Gunn's The Silver Darlings, produced by the same team behind last year's popular Sunset Song, continues the Scottish theme. In October we present the Chichester Festival Theatre production of The Grapes of Wrath, based on the classic novel by John Steinbeck, and the Liverpool Playhouse Production of Kes, from the book A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines. Iconic British actress Penelope Keith stars in Entertaining Angels, Siobhan Redmond leads a stellar Scottish cast in the National Theatre of Scotland production of The House of Bernarda Alba and Men Behaving Badly star Neil Morrissey completes the King's drama season with Rain Men, direct from the West End.

Opera

South Africa's only repertory company, Cape Town Opera, makes its UK debut in October and will be performing Porgy and Bess at the Festival Theatre as one of only three UK dates. Scottish Opera return with The Elixir of Love and The Italian Girl in Algiers in November and La boheme and The Adventures of Mr Broucek in April.

Spectacular Shows and Events

Theatrical sensation Stomp comes to Edinburgh in January while Traces, a high energy show combining acrobatics, dance, skateboarding, theatre and comedy, appears at the venue in February. Music legend Chris Rea will be appearing at the Festival Theatre in April and wartime tribute show We'll Meet Again brings back the 'hits from the blitz' at the King's Theatre this spring.

Comedy

We have a host of famous comedians appearing at the Festival Theatre this season including Simon Amstell, Dave Gorman, Lee Mack and Frankie Boyle. Ennio Marchetto – the living cartoon – will present a star-studded line-up of famous faces in his hilarious award-winning show, while at the King's Jenny Eclair, Wendi Peter and Susie Blake fight back with Grumpy Old Women Live 2.

King's Panto

The action-packed Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates drops anchor at the King's Theatre this Christmas. Allan Stewart and Grant Stott lead an all-star cast as Crusoe, played by Johnny Mac, sets off on an adventure to find buried treasure and riches beyond his wildest dreams.

For further information please contact Ruth Findlay on press@eft.co.uk / 0131 6228088 or check out the website www.fctt.org.uk

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