

Sardines

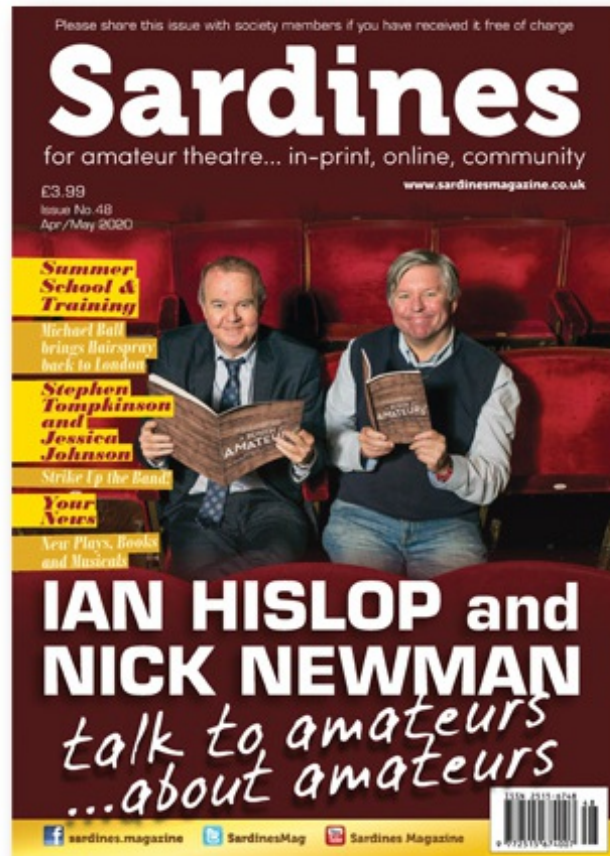
for amateur theatre... in-print, online, community

Lockdown Update...

New issue out now to help you through the health crisis.

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All Change Please

During the current lockdown - and due to the fast-changing social landscape - Sardines will be sending out weekly updates every Friday.

This is our first update no.1, and it's a big one!... week commencing 1st April (this year it's no

joking matter!)

Sardines on Hold



These new weekly updates are also a safe way of filling time for a couple of months.

Due to every single theatre being closed during lockdown, both amateur and professional companies all over the country have taken a break from producing and performing onstage at the moment, either postponing or completely cancelling plans.

This is why there won't be an issue of Sardines published throughout June/July. Instead, issue no.49 (our next issue) will provisionally be delayed for two months and be out on 1st August - covering August/September. That is as long as we're all getting back to normal by the time the Summer months have arrived.



Theatres in Trouble

Societies, boards, charitable trusts and committees right across the land are pulling their hair out as virtually all income has essentially dried up overnight - and things have been 'dark' for just over two weeks! Goodness knows what is going to happen over the next eight weeks?



One example among many is the plight of SW London's Putney Arts Theatre, a converted church that has been home to Putney Theatre Company and Group 64 Youth Theatre since 1968.

Like many similar non-professional theatre companies up and down the country, PAT will find it very hard to survive the current COVID-19 lock-down. On its website, the theatre has posted the following bleak message/appeal:

"We are in unprecedented times.

"Putney Arts Theatre will not survive the next few months without the help of our community. We need you.

"All our classes and performances have been suspended as per government guidance. Our ability to generate revenue has therefore been completely removed.

"It costs £85 a day just to keep the theatre paying its bills, even when closed.

"Please support us by either giving us a one off donation by clicking 'Donate Now' or even better please consider becoming a regular giver and supporting us through a monthly amount of £5, £10, £20 or even more amazingly £50 a month."

To visit the appeal page and/or to donate you can visit [HERE](#)

Theatre Tax Credit

As theatres go dark and productions are cancelled up and down the UK, it is vital that theatre companies explore every possible source of income during this difficult period.

One particular source of income which is often overlooked or misunderstood is Theatre Tax Credit.

If people assumed that the theatre company must pay tax in order to be able to claim the tax credit then they would be wrong.

Charitable theatre companies, commonly exempt from paying tax, and not-for-profit theatre companies can still claim the payment – if they and their productions qualify.

Graham Suggett, former Tax Specialist with HMRC's Creative Taxes Unit, set up Creative Tax Reliefs (www.creativetaxreliefs.com) in 2017 and works with companies who wish to claim the tax credit.

One charitable amateur theatre company and NODA member to successfully claim with Graham's help is Huddersfield Light Opera Company. The Secretary, Sylvia Collins, states:

"It was a pleasure to work with Graham. He explained the process very clearly, prepared all the necessary computations and submitted the claims on our behalf. We are extremely delighted with the outcome and have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending Graham and his Company to

others."

If you have questions about whether your theatre company could qualify for the payment or would like more information, Graham can be contacted [HERE](#)

[Factsheets](#) | [NODA Members](#) | [HMRC's Theatre Tax Relief manual](#)

Getting Creative



Tomorrow (Saturday), Iver Heath Drama Club is bringing their 2020 family show direct to people's homes for free.

The community group, which is 71 years old, has decided to broadcast their pantomime, which was filmed live in January, via YouTube.

Club Chairman and Dame, who by day works for the NHS, was inspired by the National Theatre that is also showing its plays via YouTube. "Having spent fourteen days in isolation, it can be really hard on your mental health. We thought sharing our pantomime for free would be a great way to engage with people throughout the area, inspire youngsters who may be finding homeschooling tough, and give us all some escapism from the doom and gloom of Covid19."

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, written by Club Member Lee Hall, was originally performed over six shows and seen by almost 700 people. Martin Tett, leader of the council, saw the pantomime in January. On Twitter he wrote: "Many many thanks to Iver Heath Drama Club for an absolutely fabulous and very funny evening. You were all stars!"

IHDC's Treasurer, Carol Campling, who won the Volunteer of the Year award from Iver's Parish Council earlier this year told us: "We've had people come to our panto from across the South East and we've been told that we're better value and more fun than any professional pantomime. I'd love everyone to watch-a-long on Saturday afternoon and try our community comedy."

The show was filmed and edited by Bob Simpson for the Cast & Crew DVD and is being broadcast with his kind permission. Further information is on the Iver Heath Drama Club's [Facebook page](#).

The show will stream live this Saturday (4th April) at 3pm and then be available to watch 'on demand' for 7 days via YouTube [HERE](#).

Reviews

As you've guessed all reviews have also been scrapped - as there are no shows to watch!



However, **Abbey Musical Society** - who had to cancel their production of *Shrek the Musical* after just one performance - have managed to send our disappointed reviewer a video of the performance at The Forum Theatre, Barrow in Furness, which **Graham Whalan** has reviewed up [HERE](#)

The Young Ones

stagecoachathome

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This initiative from Stagecoach Performing Arts is a global campaign to help their students feel motivated and supported during periods of isolation.

The brand-new campaign offers students around the world free virtual sessions that they can work through alongside their new routine of home schooling.

Every Monday, the session will focus on singing, whilst on a Wednesday the videos will be on dance and activities suitable for Early Stages students. On a Friday, the spotlight will move to acting. These are to be hosted online and sent out via email to parents over the coming weeks, so students can follow the 10-minute videos at home whilst face-to-face activity is on hold.

Visit: www.stagecoachfranchise.com

Razzamatraz Online

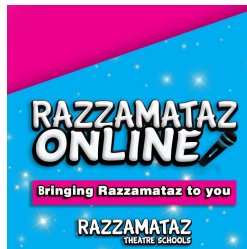
Razzamatraz Theatre Schools has been working with children for the last twenty years and understands that performing arts can be crucial in helping

young people to make sense of the world, especially important in today's challenging climate.

From after the Easter holiday, Razzamataz will be going online, until the Government gives the go-ahead to allow schools back. As well as the regular classes, there will be some special additional opportunities including fitness classes that parents can join in with too.

Razzamataz has been working tirelessly to produce an online platform so students can access their performing arts lessons in small virtual groups. Classes start from as little as £12 per month and will be taught by inspiring and highly experienced teachers who will be able to tailor their feedback, ensuring that each student reaches their potential in their virtual lesson. It will replicate a real class as much as possible, with dedicated time throughout so children can ask questions to teachers, connect with their classmates and become confident performers on screen. For parents, there is a pay as you go option, with no monthly commitment or direct debit so families can dip in and out depending on their circumstances.

The classes are open to existing and new students, will take place via Zoom and be kept very small so they can be as interactive as possible. There will be small charge of just a few pounds a class to cover expenses. There will also be lots of free content, such as the coping with isolation session, offered to the wider community.



To find out more and get involved in the live events, visit: [#Razzamatazonline](#) | [#KeepRazzing](#)

Facebook: [@RTSLtd](#)

Instagram: [@razzschoools](#)

Twitter: [@razzschoools](#)

LinkedIn: [Razzamataz Theatre Schools](#)

[YouTube](#) | [Website](#)



Drama Schools

With face-to-face drama school auditions on hold, there are some interesting options emerging, including this new music school in the Midlands...

Brand-new, state-of-the-art music institute opening in the Midlands in September is moving all open days online due to the Coronavirus crisis.

Resonance, based in Dudley in the Black Country, had been welcoming potential students to twice-monthly open days, as well as tours for music students from colleges around the country. Students can apply direct to Resonance right up until the end of August.

To find out more about the new arrangement for open days, visit [HERE](#) or email [HERE](#)

Cancelled Showcases

Third Year drama students would usually expect to be performing their showcase productions soon, after which the industry and agent contracts beckon. Here's one inventive way around it...

With drama school final year showcases cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **The Actors Centre** is announcing a week-long Graduate Festival, which will take place in its flagship venue, the Tristan Bates Theatre from 6 – 10 July 2020.

Presented by The Actors Centre and curated by Ameena Hamid Productions, this festival will provide an essential platform for graduates to showcase their talent to the industry as well the public. There will be two performances a day — one to an invited industry audience and the other to family, friends and public audiences. Selected artists will perform on one day during the five-day festival.

The Graduate Festival is specifically for individuals whose graduate showcases were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Please click [HERE](#) to submit your performance for the Graduate Festival. If you have any further queries about submissions, please email [HERE](#)



Your Stories & Ideas

At Sardines we want to help as much as possible. So, if your society is starting any kind of initiative or appeal then please let us know [HERE](#) and/or tag us in any social media posts and we will, of course, share your news or post it in our weekly updates.

TAG US USING... Facebook: [@sardines.magazine](#) | Twitter: [@SardinesMag](#)



Big Events Cancelled

As well as the recent news that **Wimbledon** and this year's **Olympics in Tokyo** have been scrapped, theatre-lovers will no doubt be very aware that this year's **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** and this Sunday's **Olivier Awards at the Royal Albert Hall** will also not be taking place.

In the case of the Oliviers, ITV will broadcast a special programme on **Sunday, 5 April at 10:15pm** instead. Hosted by **Jason Manford**, the hour-long **Olivier Awards – Greatest Moments** programme will look back at Olivier Awards ceremonies over the past ten years, with archive footage of performances and speeches, and a celebration of some of the many Olivier Award-winning productions – including *Dreamgirls*, *Hamilton*, *The Book Of Mormon*, Disney's *The Lion King* and the RSC's *Matilda The Musical*.



The Professionals

The professional theatre industry has quickly come with the idea of streaming content.

Most major producing houses are following suit, including:

Shakespeare's Globe...

New digital content: Shakespeare & Love in Isolation featuring Sandi and Jenifer Toksvig and Kathryn Hunter. Six free films, The Complete Walk, and international productions from Globe to Globe Festival hosted free on Globe Player. Shakespeare Walks' with Mark Rylance to take place on Shakespeare's Birthday. Higher Education and Research team providing online content to support students learning at home. Podcast 'Such Stuff' to feature Michelle Terry and Paul Ready's Shakespeare Diaries.

More [HERE](#)

National Theatre...

A new initiative NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME providing access to content online to serve audiences in their homes. Audiences around the world can stream NT Live productions for free via YouTube, and students and teachers have access to the National Theatre Collection at home, delivered in partnership with Bloomsbury Publishing.

More [HERE](#)

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)...

People are invited to join a live 'watch along' from their living rooms on Saturday, 11 April of a recording of their 2017 production of Shakespeare's comedy Twelfth Night, featuring Adrian Edmondson as Malvolio and Kara Tointon as Olivia.

The production will premiere on Marquee TV on Saturday, 11 April, with the watch-along starting at 7.15pm (UK time).

Marquee TV, the international multi-genre performing arts streaming service, working with the RSC and other arts organisations, is responding to the current closure of theatres by offering everyone a no obligation free 30-day trial to watch some of the best in theatre, dance and opera. There are already 17 RSC productions available to stream, including Richard II and King Lear with, respectively, David Tennant and Antony Sher in the title roles.

Marquee TV will also be streaming 'premieres' of productions that are new to the platform, including Twelfth Night, each Saturday.

Visit: [@theRSC](#) - and by use the hashtag [#AlmostLiveFromTheRSC](#)

Hampstead Theatre...

Hampstead Theatre and The Guardian will re-release the live stream recordings of Mike Bartlett's Wild, Beth Steel's Wonderland and Howard Brenton's Drawing the Line for free.

Available to watch on theguardian.com and hampsteadtheatre.com, the three productions will be made available, on demand, over three consecutive weeks as part of the theatre's

#HampsteadTheatreAtHome series.

Week 1, from Monday 30 March 10am to Sunday 5 April 10pm (GMT), will feature Mike Bartlett's Wild (2016). Directed by James Macdonald, this darkly comic play explores the unexpected,

bewildering, and life-changing consequences of challenging the status quo at a global level, inspired by the case of Edward Snowden, the American whistleblower who copied and leaked classified information from the US National Security Agency in 2013.

Week 2, from Monday 6 April, 10am - Sunday 12 April, 10pm (GMT) will feature Beth Steel's *Wonderland* (2014). Directed by the theatre's previous Artistic Director, Edward Hall, this epic and witty drama takes a look at the clashing ideologies during the UK's Miners' Strike of 1984–85 and presents the full sweep of the turbulent events that transformed the country.

Week 3, from Monday 13 April, 10am – Sunday 19 April, 10pm (GMT) will feature Howard Brenton's *Drawing the Line* (2013). Directed by the late Howard Davies, the play features a large ensemble, and tells the story of the chaotic partitioning of India in 1947 whilst celebrating the strength of humanity.

More [HERE](#)

Curve (Leicester)...

A new campaign inspired by the recent **#RainbowsOfHope** social media trend – and now your design could be featured in the set of its Christmas production, the regional premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Wizard of Oz* (28 Nov 2020 – 16 Jan 2021).

Send your own Rainbows of Hope to the theatre on thewonderfulwizardefoz@curvetheatre.co.uk you could see your artwork on stage at Curve later this year. You can also share your picture on social media using the hashtag **#RainbowsOfCurve**.

Visit: www.curveonline.co.uk

Hairspray Rescheduled



We've just heard that the London return of *Hairspray the Musical* - starring **Michael Ball, Paul Merton, Rita Simons, Lizzie Bea** and **Marisha Wallace** (and featured in our latest issue!) has just been rescheduled to open at the London Coliseum from Tuesday, 1 September 2020 until Sunday, 8 November.

Streaming Inspiration

Make sure you catch these entertaining FREE streams from some of entertainment's most notable characters (remember, they're all stuck at home too!):

Andrew Lloyd Webber



The Lord has been posting all kinds of videos on YouTube including home performances from his back catalogue and this, All I Ask Of You from Phantom of the Opera and featuring every member of the Phantom London Orchestra who individually contributed a video, audio or photo from isolation to show their support and respect for the composer.

Bring Him Home



Watch familiar faces perform *Les Misérables* hit *Bring Him Home* to help celebrate the NHS. Former cast members of Les Mis, such as Alistair Brammer, Alfie Boe, John Owen-Jones, David Shannon, Ramin Karimloo, Rob Houchen and Fra Fee all perform with the Barricade Boys. Official London Theatre is the number one site to get theatre tickets, news and exclusive interviews for top London shows.

Whether you like an upbeat musical, a hilarious slapstick comedy, a dramatic thriller, a family-friendly production or a jaw-dropping dance show, you'll find tickets for it here.

Gary Barlow - Crooner Sessions



Stuck at home, Gary Barlow has gone through his huge celeb-filled address book and produced a whole set of videos featuring performance from the likes of Katherine Jenkins, Jason Donovan, Alfie Boe and Beverley Knight...

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