

# THEATRE BY THE LAKE

LARK RISE TO  
CANDLEFORD

NELL  
GWYNN

CALENDAR  
GIRLS

A CHRISTMAS  
CAROL

SPRING -  
SUMMER  
2026

**Keswick**

January 2026 - August 2026

📞 017687 74411

🌐 [theatrebythelake.com](http://theatrebythelake.com)

TBTL's Nell Gwynn 2026. Photography by Chris Payne



Julia Samuels, photography by Rebecca Oliver

**Welcome to Theatre by the Lake – where theatre is made with passion in an extraordinary place.**

I'm very pleased to share our new season at Theatre by the Lake, as I lead on the artistic programme while Liz Stevenson is on maternity leave. It's a privilege to build on her work with such a dedicated and imaginative team – and to be working in such a beautiful setting!

Our made by TBTL shows this year — **Lark Rise to Candleford**, **Nell Gwynn** and **Calendar Girls – The Musical** — all centre on brilliant, strong and complex women. Joyful and full of spirit, these plays also explore determination, wit and solidarity in the face of change, offering stories that are both moving and full of life.

We also look forward to **A Christmas Carol**, a vibrant new version of the classic tale brought to the stage with music, mischief and Theatre by the Lake's signature festive warmth.

This autumn, we'll be re-touring our 2023 production of **Every Brilliant Thing**, following

the success of **Steel** by Lee Mattinson, which won the **UK Theatre Award for Excellence in Touring** – a proud recognition of work created here in Keswick and shared with communities across Cumbria and beyond.

Alongside our own shows, we're delighted to present a lively visiting programme of drama, comedy, music, film and family work — bringing a wide range of artists and audiences together under one roof.

We're also continuing to grow opportunities for artists, young people and families including through our **Young Company**, **Big Days for Tiny Theatre Makers** and long-term partnerships with schools across the county.

Thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to welcoming you for a season of theatre that celebrates creativity, warmth and connection.

**Julia Samuels**  
Artistic Director (Maternity Cover)



Every Brilliant Thing, 2023. Photography by Chris Payne

A Theatre by the Lake production  
**EVERY BRILLIANT THING: ON TOUR**

We're excited to announce that our Stage Award-nominated 2023 production of **Every Brilliant Thing** will return for a Cumbrian tour in 2026.

This uplifting, interactive play invites audiences to reflect on the small things that make life worthwhile. Written by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe and directed by Liz Stevenson, our production was praised for its warmth, humour and emotional honesty. It's a joyful reminder that even in life's darkest moments, there's brilliance to be found everywhere. We can't wait to share this heartwarming story with audiences across Cumbria once again, more details coming in Spring 2026.



Steel, 2024. Photography by Chris Payne

An award-winning success story  
**STEEL**

We're proud to share that Theatre by the Lake has won the **Excellence in Touring Award** for **Steel: Regional & National Tour** at the 2025 UK Theatre Awards. Directed by Liz Stevenson and written by Workington-born Lee Mattinson, **Steel** is a bold, community-inspired play exploring resilience, identity and belonging in post-industrial Workington.

Commissioned and produced by us, the show opened **CumbriaFest 2024** before touring Cumbria and the UK, supported by Arts Council England. Starring Jordan Tweddle and Suraj Shah, with music by Cumbrian composer Mark Melville, **Steel** celebrated local stories with national relevance, putting West Cumbria's voice centre stage.



Did you know...

WE ARE A CHARITY

## WHAT WE DO

Theatre by the Lake produces and presents nationally acclaimed theatre, made with passion, for everyone living in and visiting Cumbria. But did you know we also:

- Take professional theatre productions to rural and disadvantaged communities across Cumbria and beyond.
- Offer free tickets to individuals, young people and families from disadvantaged backgrounds to come to Theatre by the Lake and experience the joy of live theatre for the first time.
- Offer regular Audio Described, BSL interpreted, Captioned and Relaxed Performances at all our in-house shows.
- Run a Young Company, giving young people access to on and off-stage training, performance opportunities and theatre experiences.
- Support local creatives with development, training, networking and spaces to perform through our Cumbrian Creatives initiative.
- Host CumbriaFest, a one-of-a-kind creative arts festival, rooted in our location.



# MEMBERSHIPS

## JOIN TODAY

You've cheered, laughed gasped, and maybe even shed a tear or two with us. Now we'd love to welcome you even closer to the heart of **Theatre by the Lake.**

We're thrilled to relaunch our membership scheme, shaped by what our audiences have told us matter the most. Becoming a member is a great way to support us and receive something special back in return.

As a member, you'll enjoy benefits like **up to 20% off tickets, priority booking, no booking fees, flexible ticket options and exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences.** You'll also get invitations to special events where you can connect with our productions, our creative team and fellow theatre lovers.

But membership is about more than the perks, it's about belonging. As a charity, we simply couldn't do what we do without the generosity and enthusiasm of people like you. By becoming a member, you're helping us create inspiring theatre and share it with communities across Cumbria and beyond.

Whether you've been with us for years or are discovering our beautiful lakeside home for the first time, there's never been a better moment to join our community.

To sign up or find more information please enquire at the Box Office or use this QR code or the link below.



[www.theatrebythelake.com/membership](http://www.theatrebythelake.com/membership)

| BENEFITS                                    | FRIEND | CHAMPION | PATRON |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Ticket discounts for TBTL productions       | 10%    | 20%      | 20%    |
| 7-day priority booking                      | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| No transaction fees                         | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| Free ticket exchanges                       | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| 48-hour cancellation credit                 | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| 'Meet the Cast/Creatives' event invitations | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| Theatre trips around the UK                 | ✓      | ✓        | ✓      |
| Backstage tours                             |        | ✓        | ✓      |
| Free ice cream vouchers                     |        | ✓        | ✓      |
| Discounts at bar, restaurant and shop       |        | ✓        | ✓      |
| Executive reception invitation              |        | ✓        | ✓      |
| Press night invitations                     |        |          | ✓      |
| In-building recognition                     |        |          | ✓      |
| Two guest passes                            |        |          | ✓      |
| Executive dinner invitation                 |        |          | ✓      |
|                                             | £50    | £150     | £1000  |



# LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD

Written by Tamsin Kennard

Based on the book by Flora Thompson

Directed by Bryn Holding

THURSDAY 26 MARCH – SATURDAY 18 APRIL

A Theatre by the Lake and Watermill Theatre co-production, in association with Hammerpuzzle Theatre Company

This is a memory. It's also a story. The story of a girl called Laura.

Surrounded by golden fields and tinkling brooks, time trickles in the hamlet of Lark Rise. A home for Laura and her loving family, in their snug, thatched cottage. But, with the gentle rhythm of the changing seasons, her heart yearns for something else, something more.

When the long-promised trip over to Candleford finally comes, Laura discovers a world beyond Lark Rise, beyond the pages of her beloved books. A world which moves to a different beat, full of new characters and new opportunities. Striving to find her place, to rewrite her future, a new chapter for Laura begins.

Woven together with original music performed by an ensemble cast, this new version of **Lark Rise to Candleford** tells a story of cherished memories, finding your wings and the threads that bind us to home.

## Tickets:

Band 1: from £43  
Band 2: from £38.50  
Band 3: from £28  
Band 4: from £12

## Age guidance: 8+

**AD** Audio Described Performance  
Saturday 11 April, 2pm

**BSL** British Sign Language  
Interpreted Performance  
Wednesday 8 April, 7.30pm

**CAP** Captioned Performance  
Wednesday 8 April, 7.30pm

**RP** Relaxed Performance  
Thursday 16 April, 11am

**Post Show Discussion**  
Monday 13 April, 7.30pm

Photography by Matt Crockett



# NELL GWYNN

By Jessica Swale

THURSDAY 9 JULY – SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

A Theatre by the Lake,  
Shakespeare North  
Playhouse and Storyhouse  
Theatre production

London, 1660. The theatres are alive, the monarchy is restored and women are finally allowed on stage. One woman is about to take it by storm.

Orange-seller, wit, trailblazer, **Nell Gwynn** is a woman who knows what she wants and isn't afraid to go after it. From the chaotic pit of Drury Lane to the polished halls of Charles II's court, Nell's rise to fame as one of Britain's first actresses is equal parts hilarious and defiant. She can dance, she can sing, she can hurl a one-liner sharper than any sword and yes, she might just steal the King's heart along the way.

Packed with mischief, music and plenty of flair, **Nell Gwynn** is a riotous celebration of performance and women who won't behave. With a fierce female-led ensemble at its heart, this rollicking comedy dances to its own beat, and keeps the gents on their toes.

Join us for a night of song, satire and stage-crashing brilliance in this gloriously funny, feminist comedy that asks: why play by the rules when you can write your own?

## Tickets:

Band 1: from £43  
Band 2: from £38.50  
Band 3: from £28  
Band 4: from £12

## Age guidance: 14+

This show is being presented in the round. See seating plan at the back of the brochure or contact us for more information.

- AD** **Audio Described Performance**  
Saturday 18 July, 2pm
- BSL** **British Sign Language Interpreted Performance**  
Thursday 23 July, 2pm
- CAP** **Captioned Performance**  
Thursday 23 July, 2pm
- RP** **Relaxed Performance**  
Tuesday 21 July, 11am
- PD** **Post Show Discussion**  
Monday 27 July, 7.30pm

Photography by Chris Payne



# CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL

By Tim Firth and Gary Barlow  
Directed by Paul Robinson

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST - SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

A Theatre by the Lake,  
Stephen Joseph Theatre, New  
Wolsey Theatre and Octagon  
Bolton Theatre production

The death of a much-loved husband prompts a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire Women's Institute to do something extraordinary: create a nude calendar to raise money for charity.

News spreads fast in their community and none of them expect the emotional and personal repercussions, but gradually the making of the fabulous and funny calendar brings each woman unexpectedly into bloom.

The true story of the **Calendar Girls** launched a global phenomenon, a million copycat calendars, a record-breaking movie, a West End play and now an award-winning musical written by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow.

Packed full of unforgettable songs, every performance continues to prove that there is no such thing as an ordinary woman.

## Tickets:

Band 1: from £43  
Band 2: from £38.50  
Band 3: from £28  
Band 4: from £12

## Age guidance: 14+

This show is being presented in the round. See seating plan at the back of the brochure or contact us for more information.



### Audio Described Performance

Thursday 20 August, 2pm



### British Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Tuesday 25 August, 2pm



### Captioned Performance

Tuesday 25 August, 2pm



### Relaxed Performance

Tuesday 18 August, 11am



### Post Show Discussion

Wednesday 26 August, 7.30pm



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from the book by Charles Dickens

Written by Matt Borgatti, Music & Lyrics by Will Dollard & Mary Erskine

Directed by Andy Barry

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY 2 JANUARY 2027

A Theatre by the Lake  
production in association  
with Goblin

It's midnight on Christmas Eve, join us for a haunted Carol service as a spooky choir and the spirits of Christmas race to save the soul of Ebenezer Scrooge.

Scrooge is a hard-nosed Victorian businessman from Keswick who has made his fortune in the big city, but is without a song in his heart. Scrooge hates Christmas and everything about it, but things are about to change when his business partner Jacob Marley returns from the grave...

Told in our signature magical Christmas style, and brought to you by Goblin, the makers of our acclaimed 2023 co-production **The Lost Spells**, this vibrant new adaptation is great fun for all the family with original songs and music performed live by a cast of talented actor-musicians.

## Tickets:

Band 1: from £43  
Band 2: from £38.50  
Band 3: from £28  
Band 4: from £12

## Age guidance: 6+

AD

### Audio Described Performance

Saturday 5 December, 2pm

BSL

### British Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Saturday 12 December, 2pm

CAP

### Captioned Performance

Saturday 12 December, 2pm

RP

### Relaxed Performance

Tuesday 24 November, 11am

Image Design by Sarah Jane Docker





## COMING SOON

This year hundreds of you joined us for a Summer jam-packed with amazing creative opportunities for the whole family!

We've had **Big Days for Tiny Theatre Makers**, Family Workshops with Aardman Animation and A Line Art, outdoor shows from Circo Rum Ba Ba, The Fabularium and Gobbledegook Theatre as well as a whole host of Summer activities for teenagers to learn all about theatre!

We're working hard behind the scenes on an even bigger summer of activities for 2026!

Look out on the **Theatre by the Lake** website for exciting updates on what's to come next Summer!

## CALLING ALL SCHOOLS

In addition to welcoming thousands of school children from across the country to our Christmas shows, we spent 2025 working year-round with a series of schools to trial our new Secondary Partnership Scheme. This saw us host schools from across the county, not only as part of our audience but also taking part in Q&A sessions, preshow talks, schools' seminar days, and even a CPD day for teachers.

If you're part of a school that would like your students and staff to join us in learning about **Theatre by the Lake** both on and off stage, then contact our box office for information on how you can get involved...

After the incredible success of Company 25, a young company created in celebration of TBTL's 25th Birthday year, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new rolling Youth Theatre for ages 13 to 18.



## THEATRE BY THE LAKE YOUNG COMPANY

**FOR AGES 13 - 18**

**WEDNESDAYS, 6.30PM TO 8PM, STARTING 20 JANUARY**

**Tickets:** £70 per 10 week term

Please see website for full term dates  
Please contact the box office team for support with access and bursaries

Following the success of Company 25, this group will see young creatives come together to explore making new theatre. Working with a team of expert theatre practitioners, the group will explore new ideas and learn how to take them from page to performance.

Our young company is open to any young person aged 13 to 18 with an interest in theatre – but experience is not necessary. They'll explore multiple aspects of theatre making including devising, script work and storytelling to create their very own short piece of theatre, to be shared informally during the Summer Term.

During the summer of 2025 our Tiny Theatre Makers took over **Theatre by the Lake** with stories, shows and art. We had a great time with **Wonder Gigs** and **The Last Baguette**, so much so that we'll be doing it all again next year! Look out for the return of **Big Days for Tiny Theatre Makers** during the Summer of 2026 - we can't wait to welcome you all back!

## STUDIO



## NEW: TINY THEATRE MAKERS

**WEDNESDAYS FROM  
20 JANUARY, 11AM**

**Tickets:** £7 per session for one tiny theatre maker and their grown up – includes a warm drink.

**Age Guidance:** 3+

Bring along your Tiny Theatre Makers to join us for this lovely weekly session exploring storytelling and adventure!

Each week your little people will work with our Big Theatre Makers to bring a story to life through music, movement and play!

Please note the "play" section of this session is 45 minutes, followed by a 45-minute social, with a brew on us!

Please speak to our box office team should you need support with access or bursaries.

## MAIN HOUSE



The Highland Joker

## THE BUBBLE SHOW 2: MORE BUBBLES

**MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 2PM**

**Tickets:** £15

**Age Guidance:** 2+

Discover the origins of Bubbleland in **The Bubble Show 2 – More Bubbles!**

A dazzling mix of bubbles, fire, puppetry, light and music creates a spellbinding family adventure. Step into a world of wonder, colour and imagination.

Book now for an unforgettable, joy-filled experience!



The Blanket Fort Club

## LAST UNICORN AIRWAYS

**SUNDAY 1 MARCH, 11AM AND 2PM**

**Tickets:** £14 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 5+

Join two lively baggage handlers on **The Last Unicorn Airways** for a whirlwind trip around the world. With comedy, live music, puppetry and immersive storytelling, the journey ends in a glittering sensory tunnel of treasures. A joyful, magical adventure for families that captivates audiences of all ages.



One Tenth Human in association with The Dukes Lancaster

## SO UNFAIR

By Daniel Bye

**MONDAY 30 MARCH, 11AM AND 2PM**

**Tickets:** £14 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 7+

Join our interactive science demo with a twist! Take on big challenges to help save the day. Can we make things fair—and what happens if we don't? Join Daniel Bye for engineering puzzles, bad dad jokes and a hilariously messy adventure featuring molten chocolate galore.



Lyngo

## HAY!

**TUESDAY 31 MARCH, 11AM AND 2PM**

**Tickets:** £14 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 3+

**Hay!** can stuff a scarecrow, scatter the crows or be a beautiful surprise. Take a trip into the heart of the countryside in a highly accessible show about spreading your wings.





ThickSkin

## IT WALKS AROUND THE HOUSE AT NIGHT

FRIDAY 20 – SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

**Tickets:** £26, £20 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 14+

**'DIRECTOR NEIL BETTLES  
WORKS HIS USUAL  
MIGHTY THEATRE MAGIC'**

The Scotsman on Peak Stuff

When an out-of-work actor takes a job playing a ghost at an old countryside manor, he expects a few cheap scares, but soon uncovers something far more frightening. Joe is barely scraping a living working in a bar, so when a rich, handsome stranger offers him an unusual but well-paid gig, he can't say no. But the role turns chillingly real as Joe begins to suspect something else is lurking in the shadows.

From the company behind **How Not To Drown** (TBTL 2023), **It Walks Around the House at Night** is a spine-tingling new stage play blending haunting tricks, chilling twists and a generous dose of dark humour.

**A theatrical horror — where the stage is set... for terror!**



The Great Baldini and Peter Clifford

## HOLMES AND WATSON AND THE CASE OF THE MASKED MAGICIAN

FRIDAY 17 APRIL, 2PM AND 7PM

**Tickets:** £16 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 7+

"tell me everything, Holmes."

1906, London's Golden Age of Magic. The Masked Magician vanishes mid-performance—dead, kidnapped or hiding? Scotland Yard calls in Sherlock Holmes and Watson, who plunge into Edwardian magic's secret world. Clues unravel, mysteries deepen and Holmes must decide: are some secrets best left unsolved?

MAIN HOUSE



## ANDY ZALTZMAN – ZALTGEIST 2026 – A SECOND THWACK

FRIDAY 1 MAY, 7.30PM

**Tickets:** £21 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** 14+

Andy Zaltzman – host of The Bugle, BBC Radio 4's The News Quiz, Taskmaster champion and cricket statistician – comes to Keswick in 2026. With the world refusing to sort itself out, Andy hilariously dissects politics, humanity and chaos in a night of sharp, world-class political comedy.

★★★★ **"POLITICAL SATIRE AT ITS  
MOST ENJOYABLE"**

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

BACK BY  
POPULAR  
DEMAND



A Tilted Wig and Mayflower Southampton production

## SPITFIRE GIRLS

By Katherine Senior

TUESDAY 12 – SATURDAY 16 MAY



National  
Theatre

### Tickets:

Band 1: from £33

Band 2: from £26

Band 3: from £12

Age guidance: 10+

Contains themes of war

Inspired by remarkable true events.

"It's built for us, isn't it? The Spitfire. Built for women."

New Year's Eve, 1959.

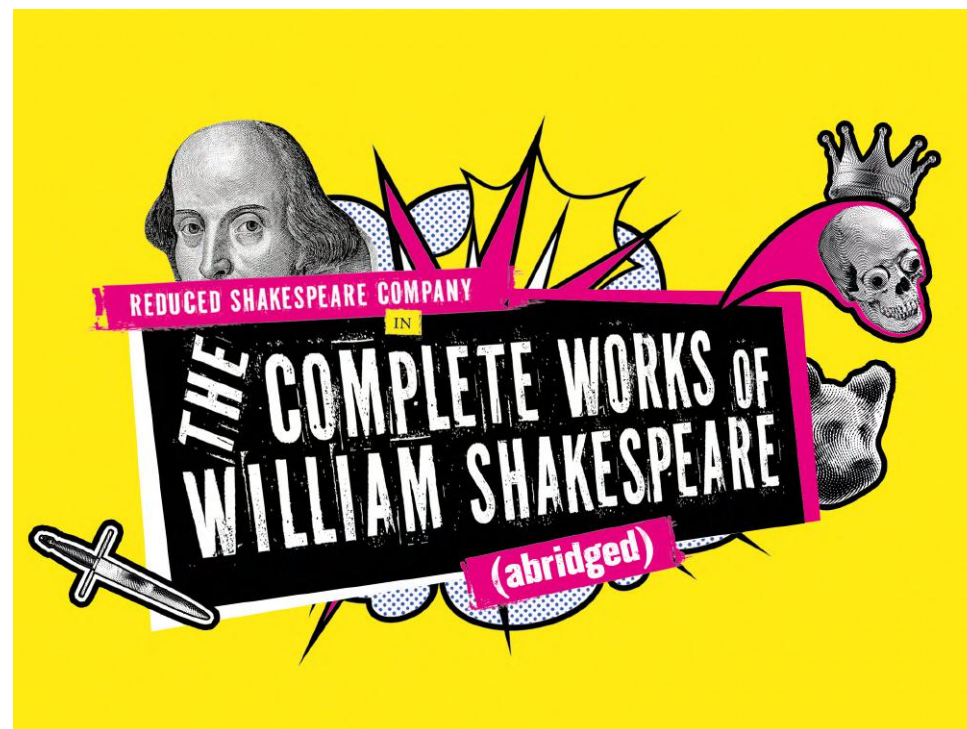
Decades after answering the call, two women separated by the war meet again as the rain hammers down on the windows of The Spitfire pub.

As we hear their story, we're transported back to a time when female pioneers defied expectations and soared through the skies.

**Spitfire Girls** is inspired by the extraordinary true stories of the women who dared to fly during WWII and the incredible bond that tied them together.

Funny and heart-warming, this is an untold story of strength, courage and loss. But above all else, hope.

**Spitfire Girls** was developed with the support of the National Theatre's Generate programme.



The Theatre Chipping Norton and Selladoor Worldwide present  
Reduced Shakespeare Company in

## THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)

TUESDAY 16 – THURSDAY 18 JUNE

**Tickets:** £27 / £12 U26s

**Age Guidance:** All ages

The Theatre Chipping Norton and Selladoor Worldwide present a new version of the West End classic – rebooted and reimagined for 2026.

The worldwide comic phenomenon returns with this updated and reinvented rollercoaster ride through all 37 of the Bard's plays. Grab your tickets now for a wild and irreverent show that leaves its audiences breathless with laughter.

After nine years in London's West End, two TV specials and performances in over 20 countries, the Reduced Shakespeare Company are reinventing this classic comic masterpiece for a new generation of audiences.



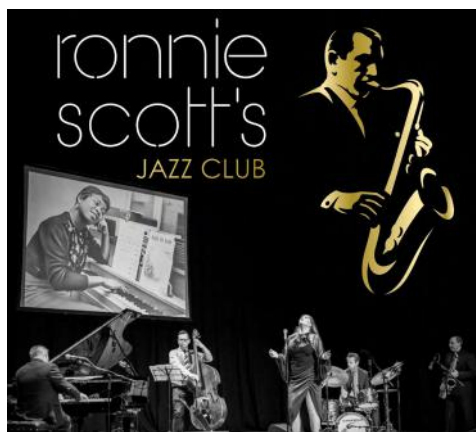


## 100 YEARS CELEBRATION OF LAUREL AND HARDY

**THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 7:30PM**

**Tickets:** £24.50 / £12 U26s

Celebrate 100 years with Neil Brand; the top silent film and improvised piano accompanist. Neil brings the beloved comic duo to life with live piano improvisations. Featuring extended scenes from the best of their silent comedies, particularly You're Darn Tootin, The Finishing Touch and The Second Hundred Years.



Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club presents

## THE RONNIE SCOTT'S STORY

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 7.30PM**

**Tickets:** £28.50 / £12 U26s

Celebrate 60+ years of London's legendary jazz club with The Ronnie Scott's Story. Performed by the award-winning **Ronnie Scott's All Stars**, the show blends world-class live jazz, rare archive footage and stories of Soho's dive bars, gangsters and music greats. A must-see for jazz lovers and music fans.



## TOM MCCONVILLE AND MICHAEL BIGGINS

**THURSDAY 16 APRIL, 7.30PM**

**Tickets:** £16 / £12 U26s

Tom McConville and Michael Biggins, both award-winning musicians, named BBC Folk Musician of the Year and BBC Scottish Trad Musician of the Year respectively, join forces for an unforgettable performance. Blending fiddle, piano, and accordion with rich vocals, their dynamic mix of folk, jazz, bluegrass, and humour captivates audiences everywhere.



Rubberwalls Ltd

## THE MANFREDS

**SATURDAY 23 MAY, 7:30PM**

**Tickets:** £29.50 / £12 U26s

**Get Your Kicks On Tour '26 with The Manfreds!** Featuring original Manfred Mann members Paul Jones and Tom McGuinness, plus an outstanding band, enjoy timeless hits including Do Wah Diddy Diddy, Pretty Flamingo and Mighty Quinn. A thrilling night of iconic classics, blues and jazz from one of the UK's finest live acts.



Rubberwalls Ltd

## THE IRISH HOUSE PARTY – UK TOUR

**THURSDAY 4 JUNE, 7:30PM**

**Tickets:** £24 / £12 U26s

**The Irish House Party** brings authentic Irish music, dance, and humour to life. Created by Dublin musicians Declan Quinn and Gerry Nolan, the show offers an intimate, spirited taste of real Irish culture—warm, lively and spontaneous. Celebrated for 18 years, it's a top-rated experience filled with stories, tradition and joy.



## DESTINATION LIVE: BOWIE

**SATURDAY 13 JUNE, 7:30PM**

**Tickets:** £25 / £12 U26s

Get ready to blast through five decades of Bowie. This immense show is for people who love world-class live music. Expect an 11-piece live band of session musicians blasting through your favourite Bowie hits.

**Destination: Live** don't do impressions or get dressed up – it's just not their thing! They're obsessed with Bowie and can't wait to share a spectacular night with you.



## BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM**  
(RED FILM PROGRAMME)

**SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 7:30pm**  
(BLUE FILM PROGRAMME)

**Tickets:** £19.50 / Groups of 6+ £17.50 / Early Bird before 30 Nov £17.50

**Age guidance:** 12+

Experience an unforgettable evening of thrilling adventure, up on the big screen.

The **Banff Mountain Film Festival** features a brand-new collection of short films filled with extreme journeys, untamed characters and captivating cinematography. Join the world's top adventure filmmakers and thrill-seekers as they climb, ski, paddle and ride into the wildest corners of the planet.

There are two shows, each with a different selection of films – the 2026 Red Film Programme (27 February) and the 2026 Blue Film Programme (28 February). Amplify the adventure by coming to both with a two-show discount.

Full programme to be announced soon. See [www.banff-uk.com](http://www.banff-uk.com) for more info.



## KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY 20 - SATURDAY 21 MARCH**

**Tickets:** Book your tickets online with Keswick Film Festival or in person at Keswick Alhambra Cinema

Keswick Film Festival returns in 2026, taking place at the historic Alhambra Cinema, **Theatre by the Lake** and Rheged. Showcasing over 30 films, the programme features new releases, UK and European premieres, previews, festival winners, Oscar nominees, documentaries, animations and special guests. The Osprey Short Film Competition highlights Cumbrian creativity.

Weekend passes and tickets will be available from January at [keswickalhambra.co.uk](http://keswickalhambra.co.uk), with discounts for students and young people. Sign up for news, programme updates and offers at [keswickfilm.org/festival](http://keswickfilm.org/festival).

A weekend of outstanding international and independent cinema for audiences of all ages, in the heart of the Lake District.

To get the first news of the emerging programme sign up for the mailing list at [keswickfilm.org/festival](http://keswickfilm.org/festival).



## WORDS BY THE WATER

**WEDNESDAY 11 - SUNDAY 15 MARCH**

Join us for our 25th year celebrating words and ideas at Theatre by the Lake. We can reveal that the 2026 festival includes talks from Mary Beard and Brian Bilston plus a packed programme of author talks, interviews, performances, workshops and so much more.

Our full line-up will be revealed over the coming months.

STUDIO

Keswick Theatre Club

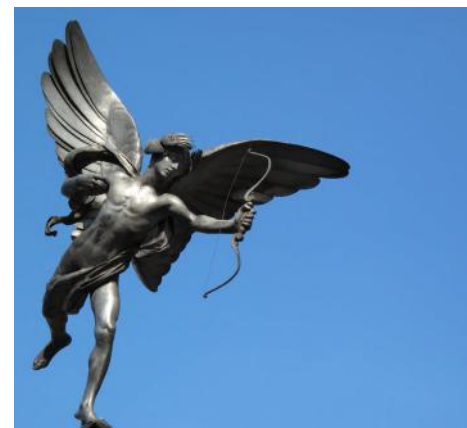
## LOVE & OTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 8 - SATURDAY 11 APRIL**

**Tickets:** £16

We bring you three short plays by Chekhov, Feydeau and G.B. Shaw.

Join us as we delve into the imaginations of these classic European playwrights to explore the frailties of the human heart.



MAIN HOUSE

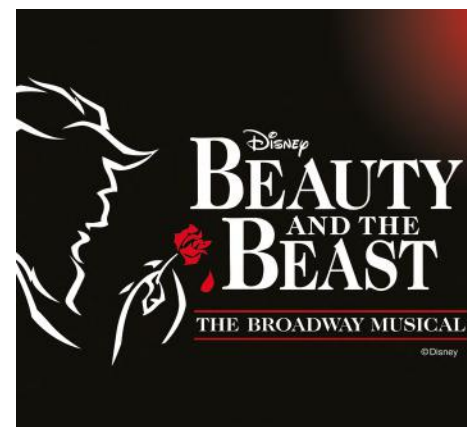
Keswick Amateur Operatic Society

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

**WEDNESDAY 6 - SUNDAY 10 MAY**

**Tickets:** £20

Be our guest and step into the enchanted world of Disney's **Beauty and the Beast**. Experience the timeless tale of love, magic and adventure, brought to life with dazzling costumes, unforgettable music and captivating performances that will enchant audiences of all ages.



We're proud to welcome our local creative communities, from choirs to musicians, and theatre enthusiasts to young actors treading the boards for the first time. To find out more about how we work with local groups, email [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com)



# YOUR VISIT



## BOX OFFICE

☎ 017687 74411 ➡ [theatrebythelake.com](http://theatrebythelake.com)

## HOW TO FIND US

**Address:** Theatre by the Lake, Lakeside, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DJ

Find us a five-minute walk from Keswick town centre.

## PARKING

Lakeside Car Park is owned and operated by Cumberland Council and offers pay and display parking (cash and card payments accepted or payment via the MiPermit app). The car park is situated next to the theatre and contains 235 parking bays, 14 disabled spaces and 4 coach bays. Parking after 7pm costs £1.10.

The car park is extremely busy, particularly for matinee performances, with visitors to Derwentwater, Hope Park and Keswick town centre as well as the theatre. We advise planning in advance and arriving in plenty of time before performances.

Further car parks in Keswick can be found at [keswick.org/visitor-information/car-parks](http://keswick.org/visitor-information/car-parks)



## LAKE SIDE

CAFE & RESTAURANT

The spectacularly situated Lakeside Cafe Restaurant is nestled between the lake and the theatre and is the perfect place to enjoy breakfast, lunch, coffee and cake, or something more substantial before the show.

A place where menus match the impressive views of Catbells.

**View sample menus and reserve a table for dinner at [theatrebythelake.com/food](http://theatrebythelake.com/food) or call 017687 81102.**

# ACCESS



For **Made by TBTL** shows we offer regular Audio Described, British Sign Language Interpreted, Captioned and Relaxed performances. Please see individual show pages or the diary at the back of this brochure for performance dates and times.

An Access Guide is available on request by emailing [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com)

To book for an Access performance or to request a copy of this brochure in an alternative format please contact us at:

☎ 017687 74411

✉ [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com)

➡ [theatrebythelake.com/access](http://theatrebythelake.com/access)

## TICKETS FOR DEAF AND DISABLED PEOPLE

Tickets are £12 for Deaf and Disabled customers and their carer, companion or personal assistant\*.

\*Limitations apply for visiting shows.

## HEARING ENHANCEMENT

Auri hearing assistance receivers are available on request or join with your own Auracast TM enabled device. Speak to our Box Office team by phone on **017687 74411** or email [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com) for advice on the best seats or go to the Access page on our website for further information.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

We have a lift (width 79cm) offering flat level access to all floors and accessible toilets available on every floor. Wheelchair spaces are available in both our Main House and Studio. Please fill in an access registration form before booking online to ensure suitable seats are available or contact our Box Office team.

## ASSISTANCE DOGS

Assistance Dogs are welcome in all areas of the theatre. Please contact Box Office for advice on the best place to sit if attending a performance with an Assistance Dog.

## RELAXED PERFORMANCES

For every **Made by TBTL** show, we offer a specially altered performance for people who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. Some alterations are specific to the show, but in general these include quieter sound and calmer lighting, a printed visual story of the show and the doors to the theatre space remaining open so that you can enter and exit at any time. Our Relaxed performances are popular with people who live with Dementia, sensory communication disorders, autism and learning difficulties, as well as people attending the theatre with babies. All tickets for Relaxed performances are £12.

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

We are a Dementia Friendly building and the majority of our staff and volunteers are Dementia Friends. We offer familiarisation tours and access packs on request. Email [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com) to request these.

## AUDIO BROCHURE

For every brochure we print, we also produce a corresponding Audio Brochure available to listen to online. For more information on our audio brochures please email [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com).

## TOUCH TOURS

Touch tours are available to book before our live Audio Described performances. For performances with integrated Audio description there will be several touch tours available to book. Please contact Box Office for more information.



Pride and Prejudice, 2025. Photography by Pamela Raith

# TICKETS

Book early to get the best seats at the best prices.

Tickets for most shows start at just £12. See each show page for individual prices.

## Young People

Tickets for young people and students are £12 for any Made by TBTL shows. This includes children under 16 who are accompanied by an adult, people aged under 26 and people who are in full-time education. Tickets are subject to availability. Presentation of a valid photo ID, student card, 16-25 railcard or driving licence may be required for entry. \*Terms and conditions apply.

## Schools

School tickets are £12 per person for all shows, plus get one free teacher ticket for every 10 pupils.

## Groups

We offer great discounts for groups of 8 or more people. Groups of up to 20 people can book online and the discount will apply automatically. Groups of more than 20 people can book via our dedicated Group Bookings line: **017687 74411** (option 2) or email **groupbookings@theatrebythelake.com**

# DIARY

**AD** Audio Described  
**BSL** British Sign Language Interpreted  
**ON** Opening Night  
**CAP** Captioned  
**PR** Preview  
**PSD** Post Show Discussion  
**RP** Relaxed Performance

| FEBRUARY |                                                    |                         |                       |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mon 16   | The Bubble Show 2: More Bubbles!                   | 2pm                     |                       |
| Fri 20   | It Walks Around the House at Night                 |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Sat 21   | It Walks Around the House at Night                 |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Thu 26   | 100 Years Celebration of Laurel & Hardy            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Fri 27   | Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Sat 28   | Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| MARCH    |                                                    |                         |                       |
| Sun 1    | Last Unicorn Airways                               | 11am, 2pm <b>STUDIO</b> |                       |
| Fri 6    | Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club: The Ronnie Scott's Story |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Wed 11   | Words by the Water                                 |                         |                       |
| Thu 12   | Words by the Water                                 |                         |                       |
| Fri 13   | Words by the Water                                 |                         |                       |
| Sat 14   | Words by the Water                                 |                         |                       |
| Sun 15   | Words by the Water                                 |                         |                       |
| Fri 20   | Keswick Film Festival                              |                         |                       |
| Sat 21   | Keswick Film Festival                              |                         |                       |
| Thu 26   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm <b>PRE</b>     |
| Fri 27   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm <b>ON</b>      |
| Sat 28   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 2pm                     | 7:30pm                |
| Mon 30   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
|          | So Unfair                                          | 11am, 2pm <b>STUDIO</b> |                       |
| Tue 31   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Tue 31   | HAY!                                               | 11am, 2pm <b>STUDIO</b> |                       |
| APRIL    |                                                    |                         |                       |
| Wed 1    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Thu 2    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Fri 3    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Sat 4    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 2pm                     | 7:30pm                |
| Mon 6    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Tue 7    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Wed 8    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm <b>BSL CAP</b> |
| Wed 8    | Love & Other Misunderstandings                     |                         | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Thu 9    | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 2pm                     | 7:30pm                |
| Thu 9    | Love & Other Misunderstandings                     |                         | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Fri 10   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Fri 10   | Love & Other Misunderstandings                     |                         | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Sat 11   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 2pm <b>AD</b>           | 7:30pm                |
| Sat 11   | Love & Other Misunderstandings                     |                         | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Mon 13   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm <b>PSD</b>     |
| Tue 14   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Wed 15   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
| Thu 16   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 11am <b>RP</b>          | 7:30pm                |
|          | Tom Mcconville/Michael Biggins                     |                         | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Fri 17   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            |                         | 7:30pm                |
|          | Holmes & Watson & the Case of the Masked Magician  | 2pm <b>STUDIO</b>       | 7:30pm <b>STUDIO</b>  |
| Sat 18   | Lark Rise to Candleford                            | 2pm                     | 7:30pm                |



| MAY    |                                                      |                    |                   |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Fri 1  | Andy Zaltzman - The Zaltgeist                        |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 6  | Beauty and the Beast                                 |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 7  | Beauty and the Beast                                 |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 8  | Beauty and the Beast                                 |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 9  | Beauty and the Beast                                 | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Sun 10 | Beauty and the Beast                                 |                    | 5pm               |
| Tue 12 | Spitfire Girls                                       |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 13 | Spitfire Girls                                       |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 14 | Spitfire Girls                                       | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 15 | Spitfire Girls                                       |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 16 | Spitfire Girls                                       | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 23 | The Manfreds                                         |                    | 7:30pm            |
| JUNE   |                                                      |                    |                   |
| Tue 4  | The Irish House Party                                |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 13 | Destination Live: Bowie                              |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 16 | The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 17 | The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 18 | The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| JULY   |                                                      |                    |                   |
| Thu 9  | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm <b>PRE</b> |
| Fri 10 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 11 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 13 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 14 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 15 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 16 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 17 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 18 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm <b>AD</b>      | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 20 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 21 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 11am <b>RP</b>     | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 22 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 23 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm <b>BSL CAP</b> | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 24 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 25 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 27 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm <b>PSD</b> |
| Tue 28 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 29 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 30 | Nell Gwynn                                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 31 | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| AUGUST |                                                      |                    |                   |
| Sat 1  | Nell Gwynn                                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 6  | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 7  | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 8  | Calendar Girls The Musical                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 10 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 11 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 12 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 13 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 14 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 15 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 17 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 18 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           | 11am <b>RP</b>     | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 19 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 20 | Calendar Girls The Musical                           | 2pm <b>AD</b>      | 7:30pm            |

| Fri 21    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sat 22    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 24    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Tue 25    | Calendar Girls The Musical | 2pm <b>BSL CAP</b> | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 26    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm <b>PSD</b> |
| Thu 27    | Calendar Girls The Musical | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 28    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 29    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Mon 31    | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| SEPTEMBER |                            |                    |                   |
| Tue 1     | Calendar Girls The Musical | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Wed 2     | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Thu 3     | Calendar Girls The Musical | 2pm                | 7:30pm            |
| Fri 4     | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |
| Sat 5     | Calendar Girls The Musical |                    | 7:30pm            |

Our Christmas 2026 show, A Christmas Carol, is also on sale now.  
See all performance times on our website.

All performance timings are correct at time of printing. For a more up to date diary of events, including any new shows that have gone on sale since - scan this QR code or visit the link below:  
**[www.theatrebythelake.com/whats-on](http://www.theatrebythelake.com/whats-on)**



What's On

You can also be the first to know about events, offers, news and more by signing up to our mailing list. Scan the QR code or visit the link below:  
**[www.theatrebythelake.com/#join-us](http://www.theatrebythelake.com/#join-us)**



JOIN US

# HOW TO BOOK

## BOX OFFICE

Our Box Office is open for in person bookings from 10am Monday to Friday (subject to change) and for phone and in person bookings 12pm-7.30pm (5pm on non-performance days) Monday to Saturday. For any morning performances, the Box Office opens 30 minutes before the event. You can book online via our website at any time.

☎ 017687 74411

✉ [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com)

🖱 [theatrebythelake.com](http://theatrebythelake.com)

Booking fee of £2 is charged per transaction (waived for members).

## GIFT VOUCHERS

Treat the theatre lover in your life with a voucher they can redeem against any show at Theatre by the Lake. Gift Vouchers are available to buy at Box Office or over the phone.

## TICKET PROTECTION

Tickets booked with Theatre by the Lake are non-refundable. Ticket Refund Protection will be offered to you when booking. Check our website for Ticket Refund Protection terms and conditions.

## RECEIVING YOUR TICKETS

**E-Ticket:** FREE

**By post:** £1.50\*

**Collect from Box Office:** £1

\*Tickets booked less than 7 days before a performance are not available for postal delivery.

## PERFORMANCE TIMES

Please arrive in plenty of time for performances as latecomers may not be admitted.

## SPECIAL EFFECTS

Strobe lighting, smoke or stage effects and the smoking of stage-cigarettes or e-cigarettes may be used in productions. These may not be advertised in advance as

they may not be known until the day of the performance. Please speak to our Box Office team by phone on **017687 74411** or email [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com) if you have any concerns.

## CONTENT INFORMATION

Some productions may contain content or themes that some audience members may find upsetting. Wherever possible, these are highlighted on our website and in the theatre on entry.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Discounts

Only one discount per ticket is permitted. Discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All discounts and offers are subject to availability.

### Children

Children aged under 4 will only be permitted to Family Friendly or Relaxed Performances. Booster seats are available on request. Lap Seats or Babe in Arms tickets for babies up to 18 months will not be charged for these shows but must be booked. Performance with a 0+ age guidance will require a purchased ticket for everyone attending. Under 16s must be accompanied at all times. Theatre by the Lake cannot accept responsibility for unaccompanied children.

### Data Protection

Theatre by the Lake is committed to protecting your personal information, being transparent about what data we hold and giving you control over how we use it. View our Privacy Policy online at [theatrebythelake.com/privacy-policy](http://theatrebythelake.com/privacy-policy).

### Programme alterations

Every effort is made to avoid alterations to the programme. However, Theatre by the Lake reserves the right to cancel or alter events if this is unavoidable. In this unlikely event, we are committed to contacting all customers in advance wherever possible.

### Ticket exchanges and refunds

Theatre by the Lake does not offer refunds unless the event is cancelled. We are happy to exchange tickets up to 48 hours before the event, for another date in the run of the same production. There is a £1.50 fee for this service, this does not apply to TBTL Members.

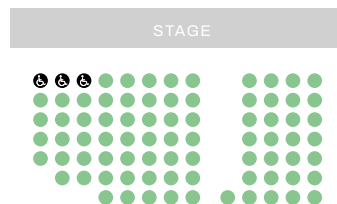
For information on our refunds and exchanges please contact Box Office on 017687 74411.

All requests for exchanges or changes to an order must be made by the individual that booked the tickets. We are unable to process requests by third parties.

# SEATING PLANS

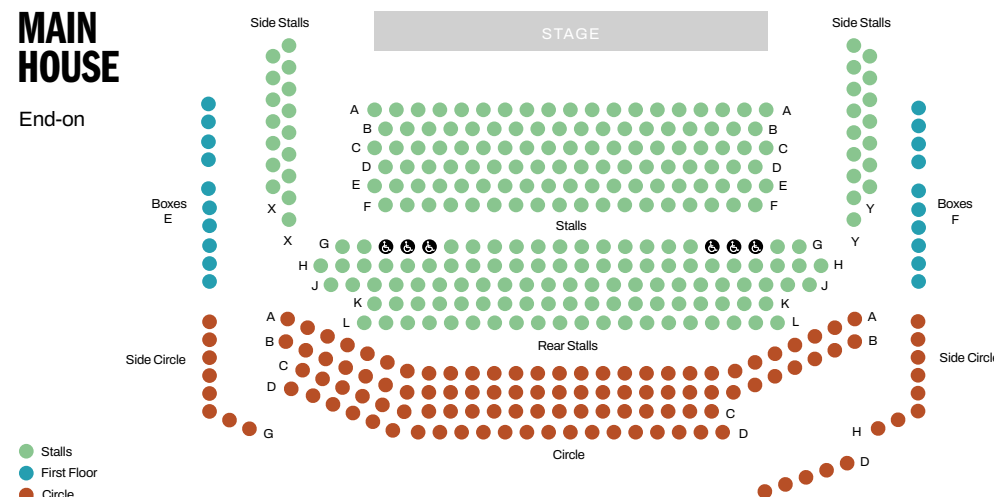
## Studio

End-on



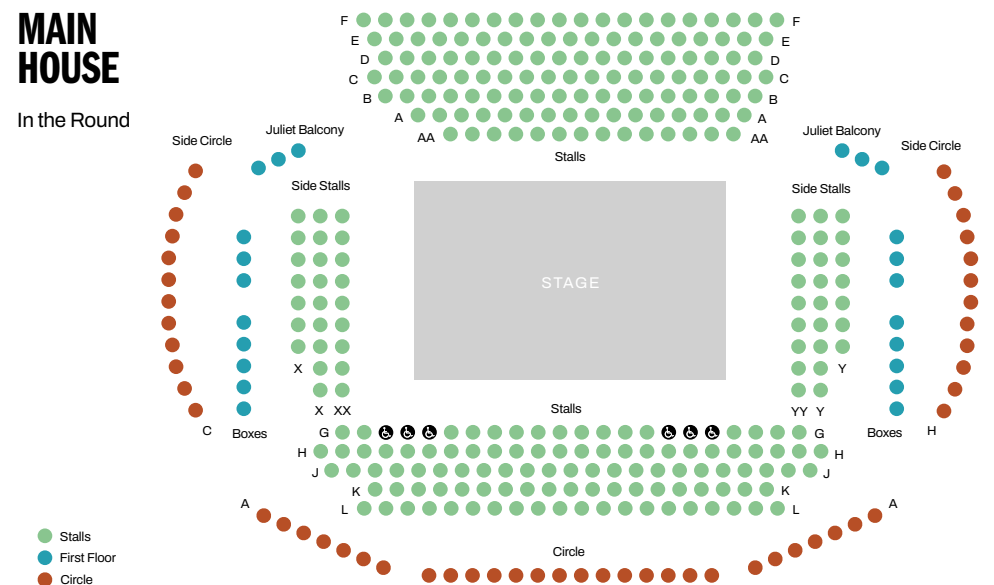
## MAIN HOUSE

End-on



## MAIN HOUSE

In the Round







LAKESIDE  
CAFÉ | RESTAURANT



Join us today to  
savour the flavours of  
the Lake District, with  
a view to match.

# PRE-THEATRE DINING AT LAKESIDE CAFÉ AND RESTAURANT

Enjoy a three-course meal before the show and we'll  
treat you to a **complimentary glass of wine**.

Book directly through our website  
[lakesidecafekeswick.com](http://lakesidecafekeswick.com), quoting  
the code **DINEANDWINE**.

*Fresh food and stunning views across  
Derwentwater - the ideal setting  
before the curtain rises.*

## SERVING:

BREAKFAST | BRUNCH | SPECIALITY COFFEE

HOME BAKES | LUNCH | DINNER PRE-THEATRE | TERRACE BAR

[lakesidecafekeswick.com](http://lakesidecafekeswick.com)



Make a reservation:  
017687 81102 | [TheatreByTheLake@baxterstorey.com](mailto:TheatreByTheLake@baxterstorey.com)

 [lakesidecafekeswick](https://www.instagram.com/lakesidecafekeswick)