



Press Release

Thursday 6 May

NORWICH THEATRE & LOST IN TRANSLATION'S HUGELY POPULAR INTERLUDE OUTDOOR SUMMER SEASON RETURNS FOR ITS SECOND YEAR

Norwich Theatre is delighted to announce the return of its **outdoor season of live performances** and creative activities, **INTERLUDE in the CLOSE**. The season will take place in the iconic and historic **Norwich Cathedral Close** in a big-top circus tent, from 14 July to 30 August 2021, in partnership with Lost in Translation Circus, Norwich Cathedral and Norwich School. Norwich Theatre will also be supporting with events and activities as the **National History Museum's 'Dippy on Tour'** arrives in Norwich from 13 July, set to be one of the major cultural events in the East of England.

INTERLUDE in the CLOSE will feature multi-artform performances and creative experiences for all ages, bridging the gap until Norwich Theatre's indoor venues fully re-open in Autumn 2021. The season will include **The Wind in the Willows** musical created by the multi-award winning team **Julian Fellowes** and **Stiles & Drewe**, Out of Chaos's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, the ever-popular cycling theatre company The Handlebards' **The Importance of Being Earnest**, major names from the world of comedy including **Rhod Gilbert**, **Russell Kane** and **Henning Wehn**, culminating with a week of circus performances from Norwich's own **Lost in Translation Circus** alongside other international companies.

INTERLUDE in the CLOSE's packed programme of events and activities will support and compliment the **National History Museum's 'Dippy on Tour'** as the museum's much-loved Diplodocus cast comes to Norwich Cathedral from 13 July to 30 October 2021. **Dippy**'s much-anticipated visit to Norwich has long been set to be one of **the major cultural events in the East of England**. **INTERLUDE in the CLOSE** will support its opening and run in tandem for six weeks, providing an holistic cultural experience for visitors to Norwich and elevating the city's already fast-growing reputation as a top UK tourist destination. This will begin with an opening **Circus Spectacular** on Tuesday 13 July, the day of **Dippy**'s first opening to the public and will kick-off an animal theme that will run throughout the **INTERLUDE in the CLOSE** programme.

Opening on Wednesday 14 July, **The Wind in the Willows** is a beautiful and enchanting musical production from the award-winning **Stiles & Drewe** and written by Academy Award winning **Julian Fellowes**. Launching the season thanks to Norwich Theatre's ongoing relationship with the Turbine Theatre, London, the production was last seen at the London Palladium in 2018. **The Wind**

in the Willows is specially adapted for a more intimate outdoor performance and for families and people of all ages.

Later in the season, CBeebies fans are also in for a treat as **Sarah & Duck** bring their adventures to Norwich and, especially for Dippy's opening in Norwich, University of East Anglia Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement **Ben Garrod** will bring evolution to life with his fun and informative show based on his popular books, **So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs**.

INTERLUDE in the CLOSE will culminate with a week of **circus performances from Norwich's own Lost in Translation Circus alongside other international companies**. The final day on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August will be a circus-based celebration of community and togetherness in the city.

Alongside top comedians transferring from Norwich Theatre Playhouse, including Richard Herring, Tom Stacey and Rhys James, the season will include a further line-up of major comedy names including **Rhod Gilbert, Russell Kane, Henning Wehn, Daniel Sloss** and **Gary Delaney** with further names to be announced soon.

Two exciting theatre companies will re-imagine a much-loved play for this iconic outdoor setting with Out of Chaos bringing Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** to the big-top and the ever-popular cycling theatre company, The Handlebards, staging Oscar Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest**.

A very important new addition this year **is a programme of educational and engagement activities** for school-age children and community groups. Developed in response to the challenges posed by COVID and the impact the pandemic has had on learning and mental health and wellbeing, these sessions will take place during day times within the big-top and be delivered in partnership between Norwich Theatre, Norwich Cathedral and Norwich School.

INTERLUDE first ran in 2020 as part of Norwich Theatre's **During the Interval** programme, becoming one of the first arts organisations nationwide to stage live performances last year. The season is designed to be not only COVID-safe but COVID-resilient, ensuring all events can be delivered even if Stage 4 of the Government's roadmap is delayed, and if levels of social distancing for outdoor performances remain in place through the summer.

Stephen Crocker, Chief Executive & Creative Director of Norwich Theatre, said: "INTERLUDE was originally conceived as a hugely creative, boldly ambitious and proudly resilient response to bringing back live performance to Norwich in a safe way and that remains at the heart of **INTERLUDE in the CLOSE**. We were bowled over by how much both performers and audiences alike loved the original concept. It also had important and demonstrable impact in terms of re-energising the creative ecology, supporting our city centre economy and generating a much needed sense of togetherness for communities after such a long time apart. I am thrilled that we've developed a unique third edition for 2021 with fantastic new partners in Norwich Cathedral and Norwich School and supporting Dippy's much anticipated visit to Norwich. For me, INTERLUDE embodies how working in true partnership under-pinned by equality of

objectives and shared values, can make extraordinary things happen whatever the challenges might be."

Steffan Griffiths, Headmaster of Norwich School, said: "We are delighted to be supporting Norwich Theatre and the Cathedral with this exciting initiative to sustain and reinvigorate the Arts during a summer of reconnection. The Close is at the heart of this vibrant city and we are sure that the whole community will enjoy the opportunities enabled by this unique collaboration."

The Very Revd Jane Hedges, Dean of Norwich, said: "We are delighted that INTERLUDE is coming to the Close this summer. As a partner in this project we hope in some small way to be playing our part in encouraging the recovery of cultural activity in the heart of our city. The arts play an absolutely essential part in our well-being and we trust that the wonderful variety of performances being planned will bring a huge amount of pleasure to both children and adults from our local community as well as from further afield."

Massimiliano Rossetti, Artistic Director of Lost in Translation Circus, said: "I'm thrilled to be working with Norwich Theatre for a second year on the amazing event that is INTERLUDE, helping to bring live performances back to Norwich. Our brand new big-top tent will open to audiences from Norwich and beyond in July and welcome artists from all over the world performing alongside local talent including my own company Lost in Translation Circus. Set in the beautiful grounds of Norwich Cathedral, this outdoor season is extremely special to me as it brings back memories of when I performed in the Vatican City in Rome years ago."

-ENDS-

For more information and interviews, please contact: Paola Pozzi, Norwich Theatre Marketing & Communications Director, mob 07733 138 558 email press@norwichtheatre.org

Programme & Listings

SHOWS ON SALE FRIDAY 14 MAY, 12PM

Further programming will be announced soon.

The Wind in the Willows

14 – 18 July, 2pm & 7pm

Officially opening INTERLUDE in the CLOSE on Wed 14 July, *The Wind in the Willows* is a beautiful and enchanting musical production written by Academy Award winner Julian Fellowes with music by the award-winning Stiles & Drewe, presented by the Turbine Theatre, London. Last seen at the London Palladium in 2018, *The Wind in the Willows* has been specially adapted for a more intimate outdoor performance and for families and people of all ages.

Daniel Sloss

19 July, 6pm

The all-new, 11th solo show by Scotland's international comedy star, hot on the heels of his ground-breaking, global smash-hit Daniel Sloss: X, comes to Norwich in July!

★★★★★ 'Smouldering... deliciously dark stand-up. Brilliant!' Mail On Sunday
'Dazzling wit... Unstoppable' Daily Telegraph

Gary Delaney

19 July, 8.30pm

Get ready to dive into a rabbit hole of the best jokes in the world - star of Live at the Apollo and sell-out sensation Gary Delaney is back! One of the most sought after joke writers in the country and longstanding Mock the Week special guest, Gary has been through the laughing glass and he's ready to bring you a brand new show with hit after hit of the kind of one-liners only a master could craft. If you're hunting for snark, Gary's got it covered!

★★★★★ 'A cavalcade of brilliantly inventive puns' The Guardian

★★★★★ 'A master craftsman' Times

La Voix

20 July, 7.30pm

Global Superstar La Voix's show has become a phenomenon in many towns and cities around the world. 2021 sees La Voix's most glamorous show yet again taking the UK by storm. Expect side splitting comedy, huge vocals, mesmerising impressions of the world's biggest divas and buckets full of energy. La Voix's shows truly are not to be missed!

"WEAR THICK PANTS BECAUSE YOU'LL WET YOURSELF LAUGHING" Jennifer Saunders

★★★★★ 'Go and see a legend in the making' West End Wilma

Russell Kane

21 July, 6pm & 8.30pm

Multi-award winning comedian, presenter, actor, author and scriptwriter Russell Kane is back to Norwich! Best known for the BBC Sounds podcast, Russell's recent TV appearances include The Apprentice You're Fired, The One Show, Antiques Roadtrip, Stupid Man, Smart Phone and Live At The Electric. Other TV appearances include Live At The Apollo, Unzipped, Celebrity Juice and I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here Now.

Winner of Best Show in 2010 at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards, Russell went on to make history as the first comedian to win both the Edinburgh Award and Melbourne Comedy Festival's Barry Award in one year.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

22 & 23 July, 7.30pm

Dream

Love is confusing
Especially when there is magic involved
And then a donkey shows up
Confused couples compete for the wrong person's affection.
Competitive performers try to steal the show. Combative fairies battle for supremacy.
Two actors play them all

Following the success of their hit international two-actor Macbeth, Out of Chaos are back to reimagine another Shakespeare masterpiece in their own fast, furious and fantastically funny style. Don't miss this fast-paced, joyful show which seeks to create something of a party atmosphere in audiences.

MUSIC MAGIC AND LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

Ben Garrod: So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs

24 & 25 July, 11am

Don't miss the hit stage show starring dinosaur aficionado Dr Ben Garrod. Get ready to go on an exciting pre-historic adventure as Ben explores the biggest, deadliest and weirdest predators that ever roamed the planet. Yes dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus rex, Allosaurus and Spinosaurus would have walked or swam right where you are now!

As Dippy the Dinosaur hits town this summer Dr Ben Garrod will be visiting Norwich for an exclusive show, to give us an insight into how dinos like Dippy actually lived!

Rhod Gilbert: The Book of John

26 & 27 July, 7.30pm

Following a seven-year break from stand-up the multi-award-winning comedian returned to the stage in 2019 with his acclaimed new live show.

After a further hiatus (for obvious reasons), Rhod is itching to get back on the road and extra dates have been added due to phenomenal demand. A lot has happened to Rhod since he last toured. Almost all of it s**t. And just when he thought he'd hit rock bottom, he met a bloke...called John.

This show sees Rhod as funny as ever, but like never before. Raw, personal and brutally honest; no more lies, no more nonsense. This is Rhod, but different, the same, but not. Come along and see for yourself.

'VOLCANIC, HIGH OCTANE HUMOUR. UPROARIOUSLY FUNNY' The Guardian

Rhys James

28 July, 8pm

Rescheduled from Norwich Theatre Playhouse.

Henning When: Das Neuen Materialien Nachten

30 & 31 July, 7.30pm

Join the German Comedy Ambassador for Teutonic jolliness at its best. Expect some old favourites and an unbiased look at everyone's favourite topic of conversation: a certain virus. Some might call it work-in-progress but Henning prefers to describe it as masterpiece-under-construction.

'A master at using his outsider status. Dazzlingly funny' The Times
'He's German but he means well' some bloke on Twitter

Tom Stade

2 & 3 August, 7.30pm

Rescheduled from Norwich Theatre Playhouse.

Showstopper!

4 & 5 August, 7.30pm

Rescheduled from Norwich Theatre Playhouse.

The Importance of Being Earnest

7 August, 3.30pm & 7.30pm

Slapstick Picnic would like to cordially invite you to its inaugural summer tea party, where marvellous feats of performance and culinary capers await. Over tea and cucumber sandwiches, we ask that you prepare to witness the impossible - the entirety of Oscar Wilde's classic play of manners, affairs and handbags being performed by just two rather dashing entertainers.

From the creators of The HandleBards comes a fantastically wild(e) new production, ripping up the recipe book and celebrating silliness. With Slapstick Picnic, you can have your cake and eat it.

Sarah & Duck

10 – 13 August, 11am & 1.30pm | 14 August, 11am

Join Sarah and Duck and your favourite friends including The Ribbon Sisters, The Shallots, Flamingo & John and Umbrella, as they plan a birthday party for Scarf Lady. Told through an enchanting blend of puppetry, storytelling and music, Sarah and Duck's Big Top Birthday will take you and your children on a magical adventure.

Richard Herring

13 August, 6pm & 8.30pm

Rescheduled from Norwich Theatre Playhouse.

Notes to Editor:

About INTERLUDE

Conceived and presented by Norwich Theatre in partnership with Lost in Translation Circus, the original INTERLUDE season ran from 10th August 2020

for six weeks. It was the first outdoor multi-artform season of its kind and scale in the UK after lockdown was lifted in Summer 2020.

The season enabled Norwich Theatre to continue its overall mission of supporting artists and engaging with audiences and communities despite the many challenges at that time. As well as providing a stage for Lost in Translation Circus it also welcomed some major artists and companies from across the entertainment industry who, irrespective of their usual scales of venue or audience, simply shared our core commitment to bringing back live performance against all odds including Jimmy Carr, Al Murray, Eddie Izzard and HAIR THE MUSICAL, which featured a company of 16 leading West End performers.

INTERLUDE also provided a programming platform for early-to-mid career local artists through a Fringe Day and for other Norwich venues including Norwich Arts Centre, Norwich Puppet Theatre and The Garage as well as a collaboration with Norfolk & Norwich Festival on a poignant public art installation. INTERLUDE supported over 400 artists and creatives and engaged over 15,000 audience members as well as generating significant wider impact for the Norwich economy estimated at £1million and was supported by Norwich City Council and Norwich BID.

INTERLUDE'S early success saw a second edition quickly created through Norwich Theatre's formal partnership with the University of East Anglia and a second edition, INTERLUDE@UEA, took place from 26 September to 10 October 2020. This version of INTERLUDE focussed not only on the original values of the project but sought to provide a broad, accessible and COVID-safe platform for new and returning UEA students at the start of a very different academic year.

About Norwich Theatre

- Norwich Theatre comprises three venues, the Theatre Royal, Playhouse and Stage Two, and is among the most visited arts/cultural organisations in Norfolk with more than 450,000 visitors each year;
- It recently added a fourth (digital) stage to its portfolio, with the launch of a brand new streaming platform that will open up elements of its creative programmes to a wider and more diverse audience, and allow collaborations with a broader range of artists;
- It is governed by an independent charitable trust and receives no regular public subsidy generating all of its own income through tickets sales, commercial activities and fundraising;
- The organisation serves the whole of Norfolk and beyond with a wide-ranging programme of work both on and off stage, including mid to large scale shows spanning all genres from ballet to comedy, circus to musicals alongside community and participatory work;
- As the largest stage in the East of England, Norwich Theatre Royal is the 'Eastern Home' to many world-renowned companies and regular touring partners including Glyndebourne, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, National Theatre, Northern Ballet, Rambert & Royal Shakespeare Company;
- Norwich Theatre Playhouse is a key part of the national mid-scale and fringe theatre touring network and an award-winning venue for comedy, having helped to launch the careers of many major performers;
- Norwich Theatre Stage Two is a purpose-built home for the organisation's smaller scale work and community engagement programme;

- The organisation offers an extensive and award-winning Take Part programme for people of all ages, using creative activity to achieve solid outcomes linked to social isolation, positive mental health and wellbeing as well as training and skills development opportunities;
- Each year Norwich Theatre produces its own large-scale Pantomime which plays to more than 60,000 people every Christmas. Its growing portfolio of producing and co-producing work includes work with Norwich-based companies curious directive, Glass House Dance and Lost in Translation Circus as well as Carlos Acosta's internationally-acclaimed company, Acosta Danza.

About Lost in Translation Circus

Lost in Translation Circus is one of the UK's leading contemporary circus companies. Its blend of high-level, dynamic circus skills within a character driven theatrical context and trademark warm humour has audiences howling in appreciation.

The Company creates indoor, outdoor and site specific ensemble-based performances, working with a tight-knit group of performers from England, Italy, Ireland and Australia. This results in extraordinary, multi-layered performances told through physical language.

With a commitment to create work accessible to everyone, the organisation actively works to engage and develop new audiences and offers high quality outreach and educational activities in collaboration with its presenting partners.

Lost in Translation Circus was founded in 2011 with a desire to bring circus, theatre and music together in order to give deeper meaning and human connection to the visceral experience of circus performance. It creates work that aims to give an emotional journey, as well as amaze, excite and entertain audiences of all ages.

About Norwich Cathedral

For the first 450 years of its existence Norwich Cathedral was a Benedictine monastery; a tradition that placed great significance on welcoming people.

As a result of this inherited ethos, Norwich Cathedral today takes great pride in the welcome extended to people visiting the Cathedral today. Everybody is welcome here.

To us, being hospitable means sharing in the wonderful atmosphere that can be felt at Norwich Cathedral. Cathedrals across the country play an increasingly multi-purpose role within their communities and Norwich Cathedral is no different. Whether it's for worship, an art exhibition, to eat and drink, for a concert, to attend a business breakfast or celebrate a wedding – whatever it is that brings you to us, our mission is to be a place where you feel welcome. Because it's your Cathedral.

About Norwich School

Norwich School is an independent, co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of four and eighteen committed to nurturing confidence, self-expression, warm and lasting relationships and a deep appreciation of learning.

Set in the city's historic Cathedral Close, the school is a traditional yet lively place to learn and combines a vibrant, imaginative culture with values of scholarship and mutual respect.

While consistently achieve outstanding academic results, Norwich School believes that an education for life is about more than statistics. Our ethos is rooted in our beautiful surroundings, in the inspirational presence of the great Cathedral, in a remarkable history of almost 1000 years. But our true essence is recreated every day by the supportive atmosphere created by our inspirational staff, by our broad curriculum, by our excellent facilities and finally by the pupils themselves.