

Gala  
Durham

# SPRING

2025

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## Sophie Duker: But Daddy I Love Her

Studio

Thursday 16 January, 8pm | **SOLD OUT**

Sophie Duker is BACK!

The *Taskmaster* champ returns to Gala Durham and is dealing with her (sugar) daddy issues in a hilarious new stand-up show.

*But Daddy I Love Her* sees Sophie take the stage with her trademark naughtiness, this time arguing that we should all choose silliness over common sense and hot wet fantasies over cold, bleak reality. In this intentionally unhinged hour, delulu is the solulu.

"She rips through sex and race with relish"★★★★★ **The Sunday Times**



## Ben Elton: Authentic Stupidity

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 21 January, 7.30pm | **SOLD OUT**

Following the huge success of Ben Elton's critically acclaimed sold-out UK tour in 2019, which marked his return to live comedy after a 15 year hiatus, the undisputed godfather of modern stand-up is coming to Gala Durham with his new show - *Authentic Stupidity*.

Ben Elton first exploded into the national consciousness back in the 1980s hosting Channel 4's groundbreaking *Saturday Live* and he's been setting the standard for gag filled, taboo busting, tonsil rattling, mind expanding stand-up comedy ever since!

"Genius"★★★★★ **The Times**



## Gala Lunchtime Concert Series

Studio

All concerts are 1pm - 2pm | £8

### Zoë Gilby Quartet

Friday 24 January

Zoë Gilby is a vocalist and songwriter with an engaging repertoire of storytelling and atmosphere, making a stunning impression on the music scene today. Supported by guitarist Mark Williams and drummer John Bradford, they deliver a commanding mix of musical sophistication and dramatic edge.

### Luis Verde Quartet

Friday 28 February

Saxophonist and composer Luis Verde fuses potent jazz improvisation with bold, playful and surprising composition. Joined by John Pope on double bass, John Hirst on drums and Joe Steels on guitar, they'll perform a mix of original compositions alongside standards by composers including Thelonious Monk and Wayne Shorter.

### Giles Strong Quartet

Friday 28 March

The Giles Strong Quartet features four long established and respected musicians on the regional jazz scene. Giles Strong (guitar) is joined by John Bradford (drums), Ian Paterson (double bass) and Pete Tanton (trumpet and flugel horn). With inventive improvisation and interplay the Giles Strong Quartet create a unique style of acoustic chamber jazz.

### Andrea Vicari Trio

Friday 25 April

Born in Miami, Florida ahead of growing up in Birmingham, pianist and composer Andrea Vicari has performed across the globe including the UK, China, Croatia, Italy, France, Holland and Bulgaria. Andrea has also played with jazz legends Eddie Harris, Art Farmer and appeared at Glastonbury Festival.



## The Comedy Store

### Main Auditorium

**Sunday 2 February, Sunday 2 March & Sunday 6 April, 7.30pm | £12 (£10 concession), £9 students & Gala Members**

With over 35 years' experience in the business and as the premiere name in comedy, The Comedy Store is renowned as a breeding ground for new talent, and remains the place to see stars of the future. The likes of Eddie Izzard, John Bishop, Jimmy Carr, Rhod Gilbert and Sarah Millican have all cut their teeth with us.

The line-up is top secret and we only find out a couple of weeks beforehand, so be sure to like The Comedy Store Durham on Facebook to find out first.

**Age restriction: 18+ (this show contains strong language)**



## Miles Jupp: On I Bang

### Main Auditorium

**Wednesday 5 February, 7.30pm | £25**

Since Miles' last tour finished at The London Palladium in 2017, he's been in *The Full Monty* on Disney Plus, *The Durrells* and *Why Didn't They Ask Evans?* on ITV, as well as a heap of episodes of Frankie Boyle's *New World Order* and *Have I Got News For You*.

He's made an award-winning radio series, he's published a novel and he's played the Emperor of Austria and Europe in Ridley Scott's *Napoleon*.

Yet one sunny day in the middle of all this, he suddenly suffered a brain seizure. This led to the discovery of a tumour the size of a cherry tomato, and a rather pressing need to undergo major neurosurgery. Obviously, one doesn't wish to make a big deal of it, but the experience has left him with a story to tell and a few things that he'd like to share with the room. So that's exactly what he's doing in his new show *On I Bang* - a tale about surprise, fear, luck, love and qualified medical practitioners.

*"Joyful show about near-death his best yet"* **The Times**

## Big Screen Musicals Season

Join us at Gala Durham this Spring for a season of acclaimed stage musicals captured live for the big screen.

### Les Misérables - The Staged Concert (40th Anniversary Celebration)

#### Main Auditorium

**Sunday 2 February, 2pm (SOLD OUT) & Wednesday 12 February, 7.15pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

### Jesus Christ Superstar Live

#### Screen 1

**Sunday 2 March, 2.30pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

### A Night with Janis Joplin: The Musical

#### Screen 1

**Thursday 13 March, 7.45pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

### Billy Elliot Live (20th Anniversary)

#### Screen 1

**Sunday 30 March, 2pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**





## Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light

Produced by Chloe Stott and originally co-produced with Alphabetti Theatre

Written by Allison Davies

Directed by Karen Traynor

### Studio

**Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 February, 7.30pm | £15**

Elsa doesn't know why she's never quite fit in. Perhaps it's just the way she's made? She's quirky, kind, clever and funny, but school was always a nightmare, and romance was a mystery, until now...

When Elsa meets Carmen the real journey begins: to find out who she is, and why there's an octopus living inside her head.

*Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light* is one woman's journey of self-discovery: a celebration of the joy that comes when we live as we truly are.



## Ed Byrne: Tragedy Plus Time

**Main Auditorium**

**Friday 7 February, 7.30pm | £32.50**

From the quote attributed to Mark Twain, humour is defined as *Tragedy Plus Time*. Having sold out his previous visit in 2024, this is another chance to join Ed as he tests that formula by mining the most tragic event in his life for laughs.

Edinburgh Fringe 2023 was a bumper five-star review year for Ed. They came in thick and fast alongside outstanding critical acclaim for this exceptionally funny, 'Best Reviewed Stand Up Show at Edinburgh 2023' (**British Comedy Guide**).

"Hilarious...verging on greatness"

★★★★★ **Rolling Stone**

## Macbeth: David Tennant & Cush Jumbo

**Screen 1, 5 February**

**Main Auditorium, 9 February**

**Wednesday 5 February, 8pm & Sunday 9 February, 3pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

David Tennant (*Doctor Who*, *Broadchurch*) and Cush Jumbo (*The Good Wife*, *Criminal Record*) lead a stellar cast in an 'enthalling' (★★★★★ **Daily Telegraph**) new production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse in London, especially for the big screen.

Unsettling intimacy and brutal action combine at breakneck speed as Max Webster (*Life of Pi*, *Henry V*) directs this tragic tale of love, murder and nature's power of renewal.

**BBFC Classification: 12A**





## Celya AB: Of All People

### Studio

Friday 14 February, 8pm | £16 (£14 concession)

"One of the most gifted joke writers of our age" (★★★★ Chortle), *Live At The Apollo* star Celya AB returns with a brand new show.

The only light, the white screen of a challenging email Celya was drafting. The only sound, the tap-tap-tap of the keyboard. This was, without a doubt, "rock bottom". Also contains hot takes on judges, toothpaste and the sexiest thing anyone can do on a date.

Following multiple sell-out tours, Celya is back to tackle the big three: beauty, money and the void, in her most personal show yet.

**Age guidance: 16+**



## Andy Zaltzman: The Zaltgeist

### Main Auditorium

Friday 21 February, 7.30pm | SOLD OUT

With the 3rd millennium almost 2.5% complete, Andy Zaltzman, one of the UK's leading satirical comedians and contestant in the latest series of *Taskmaster*, assesses the state of Planet Earth and its most famous and controversial species – the human race.

In the biggest stand-up tour of his career, Andy will attempt to concoct vaguely plausible answers to perennial questions such as What?, Who?, Where?, and above all Why?

## The Baddies

Presented by Freckle Productions in association with The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh Based on the book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

### Main Auditorium

Tuesday 25 February, 4.30pm, Wednesday 26 February, 10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm & Thursday 27 February, 10.30am & 1.30pm | £16 (£14 under 16s)

Meet the very worst Baddies in the world! "Don't you dare to come too close to a witch, a troll and an ancient ghost!"

The Baddies love being bad. They roar, spook and cast wicked spells to try and scare a girl out of her wits...who will succeed? Or perhaps the girl is braver than they think...

With songs by Joe Stilgoe (*Zog and Zog and The Flying Doctors*), *The Baddies* is a wickedly hilarious adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's smash-hit story. A laugh-out-loud riot for all the family.

**Running time: approx. one hour**

**Age recommendation: Most suitable for 3+, but all ages welcome**





## Black Is The Color Of My Voice

By Apphia Campbell

**Main Auditorium**

**Friday 28 February, 7.30pm | £24 (£22 concession)**

Inspired by the life of Nina Simone and featuring many of her most iconic songs performed live.

Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer and civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father. She reflects on the journey that took her from a young piano prodigy destined for a life in the service of the church, to a renowned jazz vocalist at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement.

Winner: Best Theatre Award, Adelaide Fringe 2024

*"Nothing short of sensational... will make you cheer for her, smile with her and then sting your eyes with tears" ★★★★★ Broadway Baby*

**Recommended age: 12+**



## NT Live: The Importance of Being Earnest

**Main Auditorium**

**Thursday 20 February, 7pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

Three-time Olivier Award-winner Sharon D Clarke is joined by Ncuti Gatwa (*Doctor Who*; *Sex Education*) in a screening of this joyful reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy.

While assuming the role of a dutiful guardian in the country, Jack lets loose in town under a false identity. Meanwhile, his friend Algy adopts a similar facade. Hoping to impress two eligible ladies, the gentlemen find themselves caught in a web of lies they must carefully navigate.

Max Webster (*Life of Pi*) directs this hilarious story of identity, impersonation and romance, filmed live from the National Theatre in London.



## Rude Science

**Main Auditorium**

**Saturday 1 March, 11.30am & 3pm | £17 (£15 under 16s)**

Brace yourselves for BBC Gastronomer Stefan Gates' revolutionary, high-tech and highly explosive show packed with outrageous science stunts. On the surface, it's a riot of disgusting experiments built to delight young audiences but, under the bonnet, it's a brilliantly constructed curriculum-driven adventure designed to inspire Britain's kids with a lasting fascination for science.

Expect enormous bottoms, fart machines, snot cocktails, vast whoopee cushions, pee-powered fireworks and ear-wax-oozing mannequins.

**Running time: 90 minutes (including interval)**

**Age guidance: 6+**



## Buffy Revamped

Presented by James Seabright

**Main Auditorium**

**Monday 3 March, 7.30pm | £25**

Seventy minutes. Seven seasons.  
One Spike.

This fast-paced gem brings you the entire 144 episodes of the hit 90s TV show, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, as told through the eyes of the one person who knows it inside out...Spike.

Funny, satirical and bursting with 90s pop-culture references, it's the perfect parody for Buffy aficionados and those who never enrolled at Sunnydale High alike.

Created by comedian Brendan Murphy whose last show, *FRIEND (The One with Gunther)*, won Best Play at the World Wide Comedy Awards.

"A hilarious romp through Buffy's life and times" ★★★★★ **British Theatre Guide**

**Age guidance: 14+**



## The Moth

Presented by Elysium Theatre Company  
A new play by Paul Herzberg

**Studio**

**Tuesday 4 March, 7.30pm | £15  
(£13 concession), £10 schools**

"You think you know me. You don't. So its time to talk."

1994: a chance meeting on a train between two men, John, a black British activist and journalist and Marius, a white South African ex-soldier, sets in motion a chain of events that will change their lives for decades to come.

2025: the two men gather to share their story.

Based on an award-winning short monologue that has been seen all over the world, *The Moth* is a thriller that deals with war, race, history, the power of our actions and the limits of forgiveness.

Award-winning Elysium Theatre Company return to Gala Durham after their sell-out tour of *Othello*.



## Clare Mackintosh and LJ Ross: Talking Crime

Presented by Collected Books and Gala Durham

**Studio**

**Thursday 6 March, 6.30pm | £10**

Clare Mackintosh and Louise (best known as LJ) Ross are writers of award-winning and bestselling crime fiction.

Clare is a police officer turned crime writer, author of seven Sunday Times bestselling novels, including the DCI Ffion Morgan books, translated into 40 languages, and selling more than two million copies worldwide.

At this event, the two will talk about their books, characters, and plots, including their most recent publications - *Other People's Houses* by Clare Mackintosh and *Poison Garden* by LJ Ross.

A pre-order option to purchase the books will also be available at Box Office and online.

## Iain Stirling: Relevant

**Main Auditorium**

**Thursday 6 March, 7.30pm | £22.50**

The BAFTA-winning comedian, '*national sensation*' (*Evening Standard*) and '*extremely funny*' (*Daily Telegraph*) Iain Stirling, is bringing his intuitive razor-sharp humour back to Gala Durham with a brand new stand-up show.

As the iconic voice of *Love Island*, star and writer of sitcom *Buffering* on ITV, and with his own stand-up special, *Failing Upwards*, on Prime Video, Iain hits the road once more with a brand new hour (of jokes) in his biggest tour to date! (It's called *RELEVANT* if you're interested).



## Ahir Shah: Ends

### Studio

**Friday 7 March, 8pm | £17.50**

Ahir Shah presents his award-winning stand-up show *Ends*. The show spans six decades, three generations, and two continents, synthesising past and present in search of hope for the future. It's funnier than it sounds, honestly. Loads of absolutely cracking gags.

*Ends* was first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe. Starting as a work-in-progress show, it became the word-of-mouth hit of the festival, culminating in Shah winning the 2023 Sky Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Show.

Since then, *Ends* enjoyed five sold-out weeks at London's Soho Theatre, and has been performed at both the prestigious Royal Court Theatre and the Netflix Is A Joke Festival in Los Angeles.

**Recommended age: 14+**

## Joel Dommett: Happy Idiot

### Main Auditorium

**Saturday 8 March, 7.30pm | £25**

Joel returns to his stand-up roots with a brand-new show. With glamorous tales from behind the camera and less glamorous anecdotes of first-time fatherhood, Joel remains a charming, exhausted, happy idiot.

As one of the nation's most familiar faces on television, Joel has established himself as one of the UK's most trusted and beloved presenters and a firm favourite in UK households

*"Excellent storytelling comic"*

**The Guardian**

**Age restriction: 14+**



## Rupture

Presented by Open Clasp Theatre Company

Written by Catrina McHugh MBE

Directed by Rachel Glover

Co-created with the women from HMP Low Newton

### Main Auditorium

**Wednesday 12 March, 2.30pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

There is a code blue, Destiny escapes onto a prison roof.

It's bonfire night, the country is exploding and so is Destiny.

The award-winning company behind *Key Change* (New York Times Critics' Pick) and *Sugar* on BBC iPlayer bring you *Rupture*. Created with women from HMP Low Newton, and based on true-life experiences, *Rupture* is their story about being mothers in prison.





## Anton Du Beke at the Musicals

Presented by Strictly Theatre Co

### Main Auditorium

**Friday 14 March, 7.30pm | SOLD OUT**

*Strictly Come Dancing* legend and judge Anton Du Beke takes to the Gala Durham stage in 2025 with his live band, guest singer and dancers.

Expect a fab-u-lous evening of song, dance and laughter where Anton will be performing songs and dances from some of his favourite musicals from classic West End and Broadway shows.

Plus, behind the scenes stories from his time on *Strictly Come Dancing* that will have you laughing out loud.



## Exhibition On Screen Dawn of Impressionism: Paris, 1874

### Screen 1

**Tuesday 18 March, 5.45pm | £10 (£8 concession), £7 Gala Members**

The Impressionists are the most popular group in art history - millions flock every year to marvel at their masterpieces. But, to begin with, they were scorned, penniless outsiders.

1874 was the year that changed everything; the first Impressionists, "hungry for independence", broke the mould by holding their own exhibition outside official channels. Impressionism was born and the art world was changed forever.

What led to that first groundbreaking show 150 years ago? Who were the maverick personalities that wielded their brushes in such a radical and provocative way? The spectacular Musée d'Orsay exhibition brings fresh eyes to this extraordinary tale of passion and rebellion. The story is told not by historians and curators but in the words of those who witnessed the dawn of Impressionism: the artists, press and people of Paris, 1874.

## Adam Frost

### Main Auditorium

**Tuesday 18 March, 7.30pm | £35 (£33 concession)**

Award-winning British garden designer and BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter Adam Frost is leaving the garden and heading to Gala Durham!

In his most personal show to date, Adam will discuss the plants that have shaped his life, share previously untold stories and reflect on what's brought him to where he is now. He'll unearth the inspiration he's found through a life in the garden, the people he's met along the way, the music that's steered his course and why he identifies as an 'old romantic fool'.

Don't miss your chance to hear Adam's amusing anecdotes and poignant reflections, and to immerse yourself not just in gardening, but in human nature itself and the madness of it all.

**Age guidance: 14+**



## NT Live: Dr. Strangelove

### Main Auditorium

**Thursday 27 March, 7pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members**

Seven-time BAFTA Award-winner Steve Coogan (*Alan Partridge*, *The Trip*) plays four roles in this screening of the world premiere stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's comedy masterpiece *Dr. Strangelove*.

When a rogue U.S General triggers a nuclear attack, a surreal race takes place, seeing the Government and one eccentric scientist scramble to avert global destruction.

This explosively funny satire is led by a world-renowned creative team including Emmy Award-winner Armando Iannucci (*The Thick of It*, *Veep*) and Olivier Award-winner Sean Foley (*The Upstart Crow*, *The Play What I Wrote*).



## English Touring Opera

### Bellini: The Capulets & The Montagues

#### Main Auditorium

Wednesday 19 March, 7.30pm | £30 (£28 concession),  
£27 Gala Members

Two households at war. Two lovers in over their heads, doomed by the conflict between their families. With its tale of loyalty and love put to the test amidst political violence, *The Capulets & The Montagues* is a devastating re-working of *Romeo & Juliet* that remains a fresh, vital take on a well-loved story.

Composed in just six weeks, Vincenzo Bellini took an old libretto by his friend Felice Romani and created a tragic masterpiece that catapulted him back to international fame and fortune.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

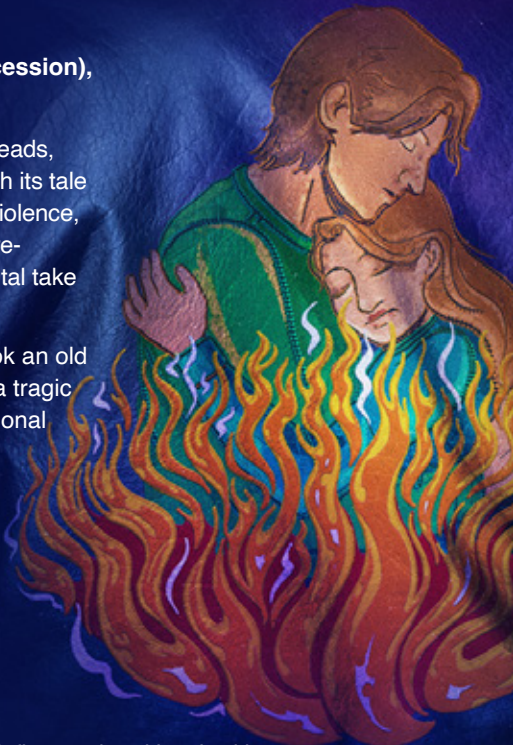
### What Dreams May Come

#### Studio

Thursday 20 March, 2pm & 7.30pm | £20

Throughout the centuries, composers have been influenced and inspired by Shakespeare's work. *What Dreams May Come* is a new studio piece drawing on hundreds of years of music inspired by and adapted from Shakespeare's plays and poetry to depict the joys and sorrows of a long life, well-lived.

Mixing puppetry with music by Purcell, Gerald Finzi and more performed by a chamber ensemble, this new production explores the timeless appeal of Shakespeare's words and characters for composers and audiences throughout history. Valentina Ceschi, whose past work for ETO includes the charming and colourful *Il viaggio a Reims* from 2023, *The Great Stink* and our film for families, *The Firebird*, returns to direct.



### The Comedy Store Players

#### Main Auditorium

Friday 28 March, 7.30pm | £22.50

The resident Impro troupe from the most famous comedy club in the world, The Comedy Store Players have been delighting audiences for over 30 years. Don't miss this opportunity to see the original stars of *Whose Line is it Anyway?* strutting their stuff at Gala Durham.

There'll be improvised songs and games and, of course, the audience is always at the helm, leading the show with its suggestions. Expect lightning-quick reactions and world-class silliness!

"Extremely brilliant" **Eddie Izzard**

**Age guidance: 14+**

### The Lindisfarne Story

#### Chapter 6: No Time To Lose

#### Main Auditorium

Tuesday 8 April, 7.30pm | £26.50

With a sound distilled from folk, blues and beyond, Lindisfarne burst onto the international music scene in 1970.

Memorable melodies, sweet and sour harmonies and gutsy instrumentation delivered with an infectious Geordie swagger soon cemented Lindisfarne's reputation as a formidable musical force. Hit records, sell-out tours and international success were the inevitable results.

Founder member Ray Laidlaw and former front man Billy Mitchell tell Lindisfarne's roller-coaster story with tall tales, memorable music and of course, scurrilous gossip.





## Do I Love You?

By John Godber

Main Auditorium

Friday 11 & Saturday 12 April, 7.30pm (+2.30pm Saturday) | £22 (£20 concession), £18 Gala Members

After its 2024 sell-out tour, *Do I Love You?* comes to Gala Durham!

Join twenty-somethings Sally, Nat and Kyle in this hilarious comedy as they develop a love for, and the people involved with, Northern Soul.

What started as a College project has grown into a passion, but the dance steps are exhausting. Far beyond their home city of Hull our trio find excitement, purpose and the tribe they've been looking for. Now they can't get enough; from Brid Spa to Stoke, from Durham to the Tower Ballroom our young soulies are determined to keep the faith!

This is Northern Soul for a new generation, but with rising costs, unemployment, and small town blues, has anything really changed? Is this England 1973 or 2023? The pubs are closing, hospitality has gone, and strikes are everywhere; but when you're out on the floor...

So spread the talc and grab your loafers, our trio are heading for a weekend!

From the writer of the legendary *Bouncers*...it'll never be over for us!

"Another little dramatic gem from the pen of John Godber" **British Theatre Guide**



## Giovanni Pernice: The Last Dance

Main Auditorium

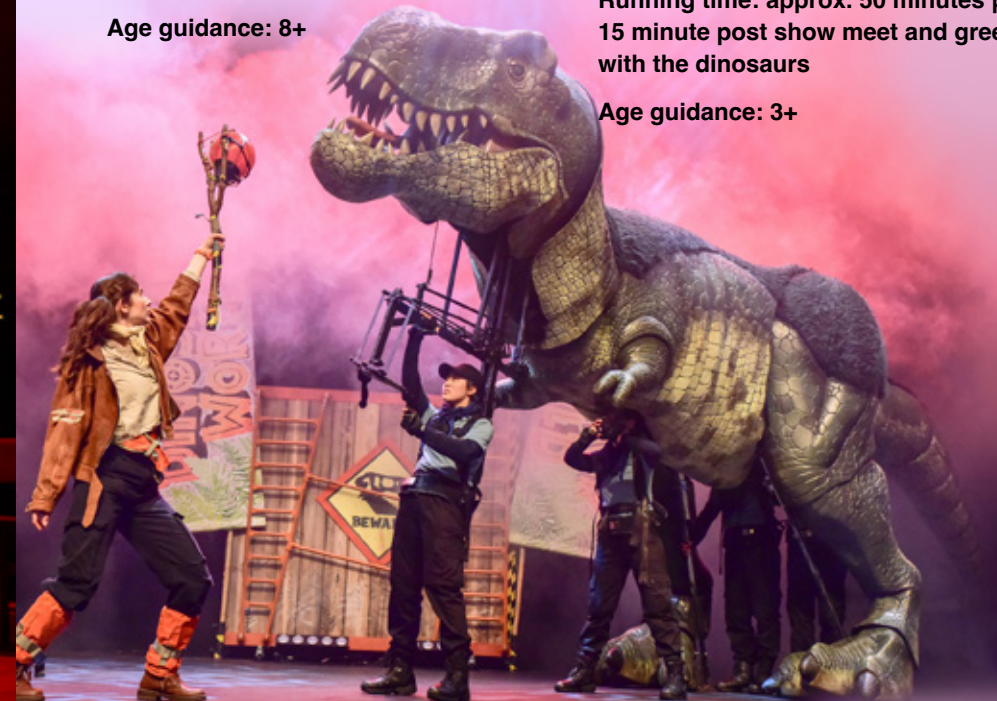
Wednesday 9 & Thursday 10 April, 7.30pm | £45 (£107 VIP Ticket)

The 2021 *Strictly Come Dancing* champion and BAFTA winner will be taking to our stage at Gala Durham once again with his company of world class performers.

Giovanni, the Italian maestro of dance, takes centre stage in *The Last Dance*, a mesmerising production that transcends the boundaries of live performance.

With a career rooted in passion, dedication and unparalleled artistry, Giovanni has become a household name, captivating audiences worldwide with his electrifying performances and unmatched charisma.

**Age guidance: 8+**



## Dinosaur World Live

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 April, 2pm (+11am Wednesday & Thursday) | £15 (£54 family ticket min. two under 16s)

Dare to experience the dangers and delights of *Dinosaur World Live* in this roarsome interactive show for all the family!

Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs.

Don't miss this fun, entertaining and mind-expanding Jurassic adventure live on stage - book now before tickets become extinct!

"Great fun. Highly recommended for all ages" ★★★★★ **What's Good To Do**

**Running time: approx. 50 minutes plus 15 minute post show meet and greet with the dinosaurs**

**Age guidance: 3+**

## Three Little Vikings

Presented by Wrongsemble

Adapted from the beloved book by Bethan Woolvin and published by Two Hoots

**Studio**

**Thursday 17 April, 11.30am & 2.30pm | £10 (£35 family ticket min. one under 16)**

Three brave little Viking girls save the day in this bold and funny adventure story for little rebels, by the creator of the New York Times Best Illustrated Book *Little Red* and *I Can Catch a Monster*, Bethan Woolvin.

Once upon a time in a Viking village, everything seems to be going wrong. Chickens are disappearing, trees are falling down, and there's lots and lots of crashing and bashing. The silly Chieftain won't listen to the three littlest Vikings, but can they work together to figure out what's going on and save the day.

*Three Little Vikings* is all about cooperation, bravery, and getting your voice heard!

**Running time: 50 minutes**

**Recommended age: 3+**



## Hansel & Gretel

Presented by Northern Ballet

**Main Auditorium**

**Saturday 19 April, 2pm, 4pm (relaxed) & 6pm | £11 (£9 concession)**

Come on an enchanting adventure in Northern Ballet's brand-new children's ballet *Hansel & Gretel*.

In this reimagined classic, Hansel and Gretel take a walk through the woods, unaware of the damage they leave behind. But when they get lost, they meet a host of spirited friends who teach them how we can all better look after the planet - and have some fun along the way!

Northern Ballet's magical ballets for children bring much-loved fairy tales to life with bold sets, bright costumes and brilliant live music and dance – the perfect way for you and your child to experience the wonder of ballet together.

**Running time: approx. 40 minutes**

**Age guidance: 3+**





## The Amazing Bubble Man

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 22 April, 2pm | £14.50 (£12.50 concession)

Louis Pearl has been thrilling audiences around the world for nearly 30 years with the art, magic, science and fun of bubbles.

An Edinburgh Fringe Festival favourite, he has sold out every year since 2007. Louis explores the breath-taking dynamics of bubbles, combining comedy and artistry with audience participation and enough spellbinding bubble tricks to keep everyone mesmerised.

From square bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, giant bubbles, bubble volcanoes, tornadoes and trampolines to people inside bubbles, *The Amazing Bubble Man* conjures shrieks of laughter and gasps of amazement from all ages.

## An Evening with Jeff Brown & Ian Payne

Studio

Thursday 24 April, 7.45pm | £12

Two of the region's most loved television icons will be sharing the stage for an evening of fun and laughter at Gala Durham.

Jeff Brown (who until recently co-presented BBC Look North with Carol Malia) and Ian Payne (Tyne Tees News) are award-winning journalists and have been welcome guests in our living rooms for decades.

Despite being on rival stations for many years they are good mates - having worked together at Tyne Tees for six and a half years in the 1990s. Expect an evening of joyous laughter!

## Nick Cope: I've Lost My Bobble Hat

Main Auditorium

Friday 25 April, 11am & 2pm | £15 (£56 family ticket min. two under 16s)

Help Nick find his beloved bobble hat in this fun filled musical hour with all your favourite Nick Cope hits and more.

Nick Cope has been writing and recording his beautiful and totally unique songs for children and their families for over 10 years, he performs with his guitar and stunning animations to sell-out crowds all over the country.

His fanatical following of little and not so little fans has grown immeasurably over the last couple of years due to the phenomenal success of the CBeebies show *Nick Cope's Popcast*, now in its third series.

Running time: 60 minutes

Recommended age: 3+



## Richard Herring: Can I Have My Ball Back?

Main Auditorium

Saturday 26 April, 7.30pm | £21.50

In 2021, Richard Herring went to his GP to find out why his right ball seemed to be growing bigger. It turned out that he had testicular cancer and one month later he was lying in hospital waiting to have his murderous gonad removed. Would he survive? (No spoilers!).

For a comedian who had done a whole show on male genitalia (*Talking Cock*) and written a book about toxic masculinity (*The Problem With Men*) this felt like some cruel trick of fate.

Richard talks bollocks and answers the question on everyone's lips: Is a severed gonad in a jar a fitting prize to bring in for *Taskmaster*?

Recommended age: 14+



## Coming soon...

### The Bench

A CaroleW Productions and Gala Durham Production

Written by Jeff Brown

Directed by Olivia Millar

**Thursday 22, Friday 23 & Saturday 24 May, 7.30pm (+ 1pm Thursday & 2.30pm Saturday) | £22 (£20 concession), £18 Gala Members**

A moving tale of love, loss...and football.

*The Bench* is a touching and humorous tale of two young people, struggling to survive against the odds in their very different lives. This poignant, heartwarming and sensitive love story is set against the darker side of professional football and life on the economic edge.

Vicky is a single mum, overwhelmed by everyday pressures, while Adi – the local team's new signing – is struggling to find his place, on and off the pitch. Seemingly worlds apart, the pair discover they have more in common than they might at first have imagined.

This highly-acclaimed play is written by former BBC TV Look North presenter Jeff Brown, an award-winning sports reporter who has covered football in the North East for almost 40 years.

### Big Screen Musicals: Bonnie & Clyde The Musical

Thursday 1 May, 7pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

### Jenny Éclair: Jokes, Jokes, Jokes Live!

Saturday 10 May, 7.30pm | £25

### An Evening with Lord Ian Botham

Wednesday 14 May, 7.30pm | £32 (£50 VIP Meet & Greet)

### Mark Steel: The Leopard In My House

Thursday 15 May, 8pm | £18

### Murder She Didn't Write

Friday 16 May, 7.30pm | £25

### Rory Bremner: Making an Impression

Tuesday 3 June, 7.30pm | Tickets from £30

### Milton Jones: Ha!Milton

Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm | £32.50

### Home Service

Thursday 24 July, 7.30pm | £26

### Stewart Lee vs The Man-Wulf

Thursday 25 September, 7.30pm | £29

### Suzi Ruffell: The Juggle

Wednesday 15 October, 7.30pm | £17 (£15 concession)

### Kerry Ellis

Sunday 26 October, 7.30pm | £30 (£45 Premium & £75 Meet & Greet)

### Jack and the Beanstalk

A Gala Durham Production  
Thursday 20 November to Wednesday 31 December | Tickets from £10

### Sara Pascoe: I Am A Strange Gloop

Friday 27 March 2026, 7.30pm | £26 (£22 concession)

## Gala Youth Theatre

Gala Youth Theatre provides young people aged four to 18 with a wide range of opportunities to improve confidence, develop performance and creative skills, and make new friends.

Working in a supportive group led by brilliant theatre practitioners, participants will learn about the process of theatre making whilst having fun.

For our Spring term, weekly drama sessions will run on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings from week commencing 20 January until the week commencing 31 March (excluding week commencing 24 February for half term).

There will also be performance opportunities, visits from theatre specialists and trips to see shows throughout the term.

4 to 7 years - Saturdays, 10am - 11am

8 to 11 years - Saturdays, 11.15am - 12.45pm

12 to 18 years - Wednesdays, 4.30pm - 6pm

Sessions can be booked individually at £7.

Book online at [galadurham.co.uk](http://galadurham.co.uk) or by calling our Box Office on 03000 266 600.





## Community

Gala Durham is proud to work with local companies and this Spring, we welcome the following productions.

### Crazy For You

Presented by DULOG Musical Theatre

**Tuesday 28 January to Saturday 1 February, 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed & Sat) | £18.50 (£14.50 concession and £12.50 under 25s)**

DULOG Musical Theatre return with the all-singing, all-dancing Golden Age romantic-comedy featuring the toe-tapping tunes of George Gershwin.

### The Durham Revue: ComedyFest 2025

**Saturday 8 February, 7.30pm | £11 (£9 concession)**

Award-winning sketch comedy troupe The Durham Revue return for the annual ComedyFest.

### The West End & Broadway Unboxed

Presented by New College Durham

**Tuesday 18 February, 7.30pm | £10**

New College Durham Level 3 Performing Arts Practice students will be unboxing current Musical Theatre productions of the West End and Broadway with songs and dances from *Les Misérables*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Back to the Future*, *Wicked* and more.

### SLIDE

Presented by Tin Arts

**Saturday 22 February, 7pm | £8 (£6 concession)**

*SLIDE* is an annual celebration of dance created and performed by children and young people who attend TIN Arts' BOUNCE programme and also features guest groups from across the North East.

### Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival

**Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 March, 7pm | £10.75 (£8.75 concession), £8 Groups of 10+**

Join the Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation for an exhilarating evening of live theatre as part of the world's largest youth drama festival, featuring a series of unique abridged Shakespeare productions by local schools.

## The Producers

Presented by Durham Musical Theatre Company (DMTC)

**Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5 April, 7pm (+ 2pm Wednesday & Saturday) | £21 (£19 all tickets on Tuesday 7pm; Senior Citizens on Wednesday 2pm; and students, under 16s, disability access and unwaged on Saturday 2pm)**

Prepare for side-splitting laughter as Durham Musical Theatre Company stages its next show at Gala Durham, the comic masterpiece - *The Producers*.

Based on Mel Brooks' much-loved Academy Award winning movie, *The Producers* is a hilarious musical comedy that has taken Broadway and the West End by storm, winning a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards and three Olivier Awards, more than any other show in Broadway history - this show broke all the records (and all the rules) of Musical Theatre!

*The Producers* opened on Broadway in 2001, starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick in the lead roles. It ran for over five years and, in 2004, a London production opened with Nathan Lane and Lee Evans. It has since been seen all over the world and there have been many tours, a film and a new West End production has opened in November 2024.



## Gala Cinema

Join us for a mix of blockbusters, independent film, one-off special screenings and events in our two-screen cinema. Prices start from just £5 and you can save more money with our five tickets (minimum two under 16s) for £20 ticket offer (excludes live screenings and special events). You can even pick-up a large popcorn and large drink of your choice for an extra fiver!

We also accept the Meerkat Movies 2-for-1 offer.

## Accessible Cinema

We want to make our cinema as accessible as possible for all audiences and we therefore have audio descriptions and subtitled screenings. Audio description headsets will be offered on every film screening for those who are visually impaired and our subtitled screenings are marked on our website, with 'Subtitled' appearing next to the appropriate screening on our film webpages and cinema diary.

## Bringing In Baby

For parents and guardians with babies under one, our Bringing In Baby screenings enable you to see the latest films in a baby-friendly environment, without the worry of disturbing others. Screenings have unallocated seating and reduced capacity so you can move around and sit where suits, with lights slightly raised and volume lowered. Tickets also include a 10% discount off food and drink purchases at Gala Lounge.

## Gala Seniors

Our Gala Seniors afternoon screenings are for audiences aged 60 and over. Included in our £5 ticket is a cup of tea and biscuit and an additional 10% off food and drink purchases at Gala Lounge.

For screening times, visit [galadurham.co.uk](http://galadurham.co.uk)

## Visitor Information

### OPENING TIMES

Monday 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 8.30pm, Sunday 2.30pm to 8.30pm. We are closed on bank holidays (unless there is a performance).

### BOOKING

**Online** 24 hours a day at: [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk)

**In person** at Gala Durham during the above times.

**Phone** 03000 266 600. £2 per transaction fee applies for online and phone bookings.

**SEATING AND PRICING** For Gala Durham Productions and some other shows, our auditorium will be split into different price bands with a range of prices based on where we feel the optimum experience will be. We believe there should be accessible priced tickets for all, so by booking early, you can secure the best price. We love having the front of the auditorium full for every show. To ensure the best experience for our audiences and actors, some seats are not offered for sale until seats towards the front of the theatre are sold. Disability access seats will always be set at the lowest price and carer/guardian tickets will be free.

**GROUP RESERVATIONS** We can reserve group bookings of 10 or more. These reservations must be paid at least two months before the show. If you wish to make a group reservation, please contact our Box Office.

### TICKET EXCHANGES / REFUNDS

Tickets may be exchanged for another performance (for a fee of £1 per ticket) up to 48 hours before a performance or screening if you are no longer able to attend and your booking is not greater than ten tickets. Unless an event is cancelled, all tickets are non-refundable. By purchasing our tickets, you agree that these can't be resold for profit through any means. This will result in tickets being declared void.

**GIFT VOUCHERS** We sell our own gift vouchers, available in any value, online or at our Box Office which are redeemable on any of our screenings or live performances.

**CONCESSIONS** are available for selected events - please check at time of booking, and proof may be required upon ticket collection. Only one concession applies.

**LATECOMERS** will be admitted at the discretion of Duty Managers unless specified, to minimise inconvenience to others.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Gala Durham has lifts to all levels and accessible toilets located throughout.

Our Main Auditorium, Studio and both cinemas have wheelchair spaces available.

If using a wheelchair, please advise Box Office when booking to ensure your seats/spaces are allocated accordingly.

Guide Dogs are welcome in all parts of the theatre.

To make an accessible seat booking or for any access enquiries, please contact Box Office.

We operate the Sennheiser infrared amplification system in our Main Auditorium.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available at Box Office.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY** Gala Durham aspires to make all of our customers welcome, no matter how small and we really hope that our younger visitors become regulars at our venue. For those under one year old, babes-in-arms tickets are available for selected shows. We are a breast-feeding friendly venue and we also have baby changing facilities on all levels.

**TRAVEL** There is parking on-site at Walkergate (DH1 1SQ), which is easily reached via the slip road under Milburngate Bridge or via Freeman Place. An evening tariff is available. Prince Bishops car park (DH1 3UJ) is also nearby. A list of all bus routes can be found on our website.



## January

Thu 16 Sophie Duker: But Daddy I Love Her  
Tue 21 Ben Elton: Authentic Stupidity  
Fri 24 Gala Lunchtime Concert  
Tue 28 to Sat 1 Feb DULOG: Crazy For You

## February

Sun 2 & Wed 12 Big Screen Musicals: Les Misérables: The Staged Concert  
Sun 2 The Comedy Store  
Wed 5 Miles Jupp: On I Bang  
Wed 5 & Sun 9 Macbeth: David Tennant & Cush Jumbo  
Thu 6 to Sat 8 Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light  
Fri 7 Ed Byrne: Tragedy Plus Time  
Sat 8 The Durham Revue: ComedyFest 2025  
Fri 14 Celya AB: Of All People  
Tue 18 New College Durham: West End and Broadway Unboxed  
Thu 20 NT Live: The Importance of Being Earnest  
Fri 21 Andy Zaltzman: The Zaltgeist  
Sat 22 Tin Arts: SLIDE  
Tue 25 to Thu 27 The Baddies  
Fri 28 Gala Lunchtime Concert  
Fri 28 Black Is The Color Of My Voice

## March

Sat 1 Rude Science  
Sun 2 Big Screen Musicals: Jesus Christ Superstar Live  
Sun 2 The Comedy Store  
Mon 3 Buffy Revamped  
Tue 4 The Moth  
Tue 4 & Wed 5 Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival  
Thu 6 Clare Mackintosh & LJ Ross: Talking Crime  
Thu 6 Iain Stirling: Relevant  
Fri 7 Ahir Shah: Ends  
Sat 8 Joel Dommett: Happy Idiot  
Wed 12 Rupture  
Thu 13 Big Screen Musicals: A Night with Janis Joplin: The Musical  
Fri 14 Anton du Beke at The Musicals  
Tue 18 Adam Frost  
Wed 19 English Touring Opera: The Capulets & The Montagues  
Thu 20 English Touring Opera: What Dreams May Come  
Thu 27 NT Live: Dr Strangelove  
Fri 28 Gala Lunchtime Concert  
Fri 28 The Comedy Store Players  
Sun 30 Big Screen Musicals: Billy Elliot Live (20th Anniversary)

## April

Tue 1 to Sat 5 DMTC: The Producers  
Sun 6 The Comedy Store  
Tue 8 The Lindisfarne Story  
Wed 9 & Thu 10 Giovanni Pernice: The Last Dance  
Fri 11 & Sat 12 Do I Love You?  
Tue 15 to Thu 17 Dinosaur World Live  
Thu 17 Three Little Vikings  
Sat 19 Northern Ballet: Hansel & Gretel  
Tue 22 The Amazing Bubble Man  
Thu 24 An Evening with Jeff Brown & Ian Payne  
Fri 25 Nick Cope: I've Lost My Bobble Hat  
Fri 25 Gala Lunchtime Concert  
Sat 26 Richard Herring: Can I Have My Ball Back?