

Gala
Durham

Autumn

2026

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The Agatha Christie Cure - Cathy Rentzenbrink in Conversation

Presented by Collected Books in partnership with Gala Durham

Studio

Tuesday 1 September, 7pm | £12

Join us for an evening with the bestselling author of *The Last Act of Love* and *Ordinary Time* Cathy Rentzenbrink as she discusses her new memoir *The Agatha Christie Cure* - a moving and thrilling journey about the mystery at the heart of the Queen of Crime's life.

A literary detective story and a memoir of finding hope in reading, this journey into the heart of the most successful writer of the 20th century is the perfect tonic for anyone in search of life-affirming resilience.



The Comedy Store

Main Auditorium

Friday 4 September & Friday 2 October, 7.30pm | £12 (£10 concession), £9 student & 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 line-up is top secret, so be sure to like **The Comedy Store Durham** on Facebook to find out first.

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

Back To The Future: Special Screening

Main Auditorium

Saturday 5 September, 7pm | £10

Great Scott!

In the summer of 1985, Robert Zemeckis's *Back To The Future* sent audiences hurtling through time in a DeLorean.

Relive the magic as film marketing consultant Pascal Fintoni and award-winning filmmaker Paul Stainthorpe explore the making, marketing and enduring legacy of *Back To The Future* ahead of a fully remastered screening for one night only.

So charge the flux capacitor, set the time circuits for Saturday 5 September 2026, and join us for a night that's heavy...heavy on nostalgia.

BBFC Classification: PG



Hollywood Adventure

Presented by the North East Film Orchestra

Main Auditorium

Thursday 10 & Friday 11 September, 7pm | Tickets from £18

After multiple sell-out successes at Gala Durham, the North East Film Orchestra return with *Hollywood Adventure*, a swashbuckling journey through the most famous action-packed film scores of all time, performed by 65 of the region's finest musicians.

John Williams' *Indiana Jones*, Hans Zimmer's *Gladiator* and Erick Korngold's *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, along with many more favourites make *Hollywood Adventure* an epic evening of top-quality live music to remember!



Susie Dent: Word Perfect

Main Auditorium

Saturday 12 September, 2pm | £30

A brand-new show featuring the joys of the English language with 'Britain's best-loved wordsmith'.

Susie brings a collection of facts and stories from the wonderful world of words to Durham. Have you ever wondered whether there's a word for going to the fridge for the umpteenth time in search of something new? Or puzzled over the reason why a group of crows is called a 'murder', while owls form a 'parliament'? Is teen slang actually designed to make us tear our hair out? And just how many words do we need for being drunk?

With the help of funny, insightful, and head-scratching examples, Susie will entertain and educate us with her pick of language's greatest hits. *Word Perfect* will remind us just how unpredictable, wayward, and utterly magical our mother tongue can be.



Wilko: Love and Death and Rock 'n' Roll

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wednesday) |

Tickets from £20

In 2012, Wilko Johnson, the iconic rock star and founder of legendary Essex band Dr Feelgood, was told he had inoperable cancer and a year to live. Refusing all treatment, he decided to spend his last months living meaningfully: seeing the people, places and things which meant most to him during his remarkable life.

Then, a miracle happened...

The acclaimed play with live music comes to Durham, direct from London's West End.

"Gloriously raw...superbly played...They do it right" ★★★★★ **Daily Mirror**

"Intoxicating... Strikingly poignant" ★★★★★ **The Reviews Hub**

"A stonking star turn...Johnson Willis is magnificent" **Guardian**



Exhibition On Screen: James McNeill Whistler

Screen 1

**Tuesday 15 September, 5.45pm | £10
(£8 concession), £7 Gala Members**

In an era of great change and great beauty emerged the character of James McNeill Whistler. Considered by some to be one of the great innovators of 19th century art, he was a contemporary of the Impressionists, much admired by Van Gogh and Manet.

Tate Britain is now holding the first major retrospective of Whistler in three decades. This blockbuster exhibition promises to reawaken the world to just how important Whistler is to art history, uniting world-famous masterpieces with rarely seen works.

This will be an unmissable chance to get to know this visually spectacular artist and the influence he has had on those who followed.



Enter The Castle with Jon Ronson: Mystery, Crime and Unmoored Men

Main Auditorium

**Thursday 17 September, 7.30pm |
Tickets from £30**

After three decades investigating the strange edges of human behaviour - from public shamings, psychopaths, to modern moral panics - Jon Ronson's latest true story - *Enter the Castle* - turns unexpectedly close to home.

Jon brings the book's extraordinary stories to life on stage with astonishing footage and online clips, including jaw-dropping material that has long since vanished from the internet. You'll also get a first look at what's coming in the next season of *Things Fell Apart*, and of course the chance to put your questions directly to Jon.

Funny, unsettling, and unforgettable.

Flo & Joan: With Feeling

Main Auditorium

Saturday 19 September, 7.30pm | SOLD OUT

The time has come for critically acclaimed musical comedy duo Flo & Joan to write another bio as they make their highly anticipated return to the stage with a brand-new show.

The pair will try and take up as much of the stage and as little of your patience as possible as they use another "real band's" setlist to write their own show - ruminating on themes such as 'what is music?', 'how do you be a band?', and 'is comedy?' in the sharp-tongued, deadpan way they have become accustomed to.



NT Live: The Misanthrope

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 22 September, 7pm | £15
(£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

Award-winner Sandra Oh plays the title role in this razor-sharp reimagining of Molière's classic dark comedy on the big screen.

Telling the truth isn't always that simple. Alice, a brilliant novelist, despises the carefully constructed lies of modern society. But the more she challenges those around her, the fiercer the backlash becomes. Soon, she must confront the price of speaking her truth in a world that would rather silence her.

Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Indhu Rubasingham directs Martin Crimp's (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) highly anticipated play.

BBFC Classification: 15 (TBC)



Russell Watson: An Intimate Evening with 'The Voice'

Main Auditorium

Wednesday 23 September, 7.30pm |
£34 (£50 Premium & £85 Meet & Greet)

Russell Watson - the original crossover superstar - exploded onto the music scene with *The Voice*, a debut album that shattered records and won hearts across the globe. Since then, he's sold millions of albums, performed for royalty, presidents and popes, and shared the stage with musical legends.

Expect powerful renditions of beloved classics, spine-tingling vocals, and behind-the-scenes tales from a man who's truly lived it all in Russell's most intimate show to date.



Nish Kumar: Angry Humour From a Really Nice Guy

Main Auditorium

Thursday 24 September, 7.30pm | £25

The world is in chaos. Inequality is widening, autocracy is rising and political parties are collapsing. In these divided times, what this country desperately needs is *Angry Humour From a Really Nice Guy* (in many ways it's actually the last thing this country needs, but it's what it's getting so tough luck).

The UK's leading political comic Nish Kumar - co-host of hugely popular podcast *Pod Save the UK*, former host of axed BBC show *The Mash Report*, and one of *Taskmaster's* greatest losers - is back with a formidable batch of passionate, progressive stand-up for the ages.

Kumar is 40. His mind is breaking. His body is worse. Expect existential angst and political disquiet from comedy's cheekiest boy.

"The pre-eminent comic political polemicist of our time" ★★★★★ **Guardian**



Gala Lunchtime Concerts

Studio

All concerts are 1pm to 2pm | £9

Mark Williams Trio

Friday 25 September

Renowned for their distinctive compositions and innovative use of effects and loops, the Mark Williams Trio crafts a unique modern sound that distinguishes them from traditional guitar-led jazz trios.

With Mark Williams on guitar, Paul Susans on bass and Rob Walker on drums, the trio have released three albums in recent years to critical acclaim: *Balacava Street*, *Last Bus To Bensham*, and *Long Way Out*.

Emma Fisk's Hot Club du Nord

Presented by Durham Jazz Festival

Friday 23 October

Emma Fisk's Hot Club du Nord bring to life the classic 1930s and 40s repertoire of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli's Hot Club de France.

Featuring British Jazz Awards Nominee Emma Fisk on violin and the exceptional talents of James Birkett and David Harris (guitars) and Bruce Rollo (double bass), their musically sparkling performances, engaging manner and infectious joy in the music make them a treat for connoisseurs of swing, string jazz and lovers of all things vintage.



Emma Fisk's Hot Club du Nord

Sunderland Legends: Peter Reid & Kevin Phillips

Main Auditorium

Friday 25 September, 7.30pm | £37.50
(£85 Meet & Greet)

Join us for an audience with Sunderland legends Peter Reid and Kevin Phillips.

Peter Reid was voted as the PFA Players' Player of the Year in 1985 and represented his country at the 1986 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Euro 1988. As manager with Sunderland in 1995, he won promotion to the Premier League with the club on two occasions and achieved two seventh-place finishes in the top division in his seven years with the club.

In his first season at Sunderland, Kevin Phillips scored 35 goals in all competitions, the most goals in a season for the club since the Second World War. He continued to score goals the next season as Sunderland were crowned champions of the First Division, and in 1999–2000, Phillips scored 30 Premier League goals to earn himself a place in the PFA Team of the Year and an England call-up.



An Evening with Danny McNamara from Embrace

Main Auditorium

Saturday 26 September, 7.30pm | £28
(£45 Premium & £75 Meet & Greet)

Danny McNamara is the founder and lead singer of one of the most iconic bands of the last 20 years, Embrace.

Having sold more than two million albums to date, their debut album, *The Good Will Out*, was released in 1998 and became one of the fastest-selling debut albums by a British artist. It was certified gold on the day of its release and went on to sell over half a million copies. The band has also had three number one albums and six top 10 singles.

Now Embrace are celebrating their 30th anniversary and Danny will tour the UK for a special evening of tales about one of Britain's best-loved bands. With a new book published about the band's early years, he'll be telling stories, answering questions, and signing copies of Embrace's new book.



Lemn Sissay: Let the Light Pour In LIVE

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 29 September, 7.30pm | Tickets from £24

Spend an evening with a master of the spoken word, BAFTA award-winning author, activist, performer and Sunday Times number one bestseller, Lemn Sissay OBE as he returns to the stage with this acclaimed show.

Every morning for 10 years, Lemn has written four lines and shares them on his socials with no explanation and no title. After catching the public's attention, they have been transformed into murals, quoted in books, made into songs and even tattoos. He chose the best of them for *Let the Light Pour In* which became an instant Sunday Times Bestseller - and now a live show.

With live readings from his books, Lemn will unravel some of the original stories behind the poems, and how they have been used in people's lives and his own. Expect the unexpected. A night bursting with light to stave off the dark.



Ballet Black at 25

Main Auditorium

Thursday 1 October, 7.30pm | Tickets from £22

This landmark double bill features *Ingoma* (2019), the choreographic debut of former Company dancer, Mthuthuzeli November. Inspired by the 1946 South African miners' strike, a precursor to the anti-apartheid movement, *Ingoma* captures the suffering and resilience of Black miners and their communities, bringing rarely told stories to the ballet stage. The work won both the 2020 Olivier Award and the Black British Theatre Award for Best Dance Production.

Alongside it comes a joyful new commission from Alvin Ailey royalty Hope Boykin, a two-time Bessie Award winner, making her UK choreographic debut. Boykin creates a celebratory piece especially for Ballet Black's 25th year, a vibrant tribute to the company's journey and a bold look towards its future.

Audiences can expect Ballet Black's signature blend of powerful storytelling, striking choreography and rich global influences, in a programme that honours the past while celebrating the future.

Age guidance: 7+



Go West: We Close Our Eyes & Other Stories

An Intimate Evening with Peter Cox

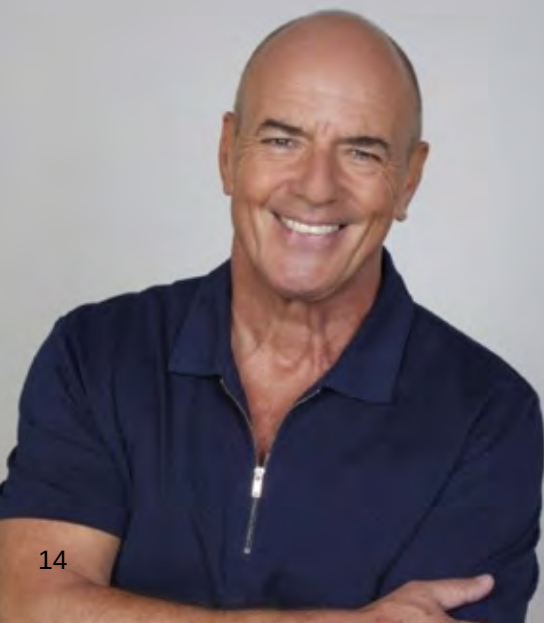
Main Auditorium

Saturday 3 October, 7.30pm | £30 (£45 Premium & £75 Meet & Greet)

Go West arrived on the charts like a comet.

With classic hits like *We Close Our Eyes*, *Call Me*, *Faithful*, and *King of Wishful Thinking*, which featured on the Julia Roberts hit film, *Pretty Woman*, lead singer Peter Cox became an instant pin-up.

A BRIT Award nomination followed as the band received platinum and gold discs for a recording career that spanned four decades. And now, singer Peter Cox is looking back on that stellar career and revisiting the hits in this intimate show.



Ivo Graham: Orange Crush

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 6 October, 7.30pm | £19

What is the best orange thing in the world?

You probably never stopped to think about what your favourite orange thing was, but you're damn sure thinking about it now. No one on earth has considered this more than Ivo Graham.

Ivo has always been a fan of orange things - baked beans, sriracha mayo, *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* - but in 2025, a series of emotional days in his favourite colour prompted Ivo to commit harder than ever to the bit: colour coordinating his life for his daughter, for his mother, for his football team, and, he desperately hopes, for your entertainment.

"Graham in glorious technicolour"
The Guardian

Age restriction: 14+



Lucy Beaumont: Bad at Quiz Shows, Good with Weirdos

Main Auditorium

Wednesday 7 October, 8pm | £23.50

Lucy Beaumont has had quite the year. She lost a contestant £79,000 on *The Wheel*, forgot to revise for *Mastermind*, and generally confirmed she's terrible at quiz shows. So she's sticking with what she does best - this autumn, she's back at Gala Durham with a brand new show.

Following the success of her sell-out debut UK tour, Lucy returns with *Bad at Quiz Shows, Good with Weirdos* - an evening packed with chaotic brilliance, mayhem, and beautifully surreal storytelling that's made her one of the UK's most beloved comedians.

Expect tales of going into hiding after *Celebrity Traitors*, creating cow udder couture on *The Great British Sewing Bee*, and navigating life as someone for whom "normal" has never made much of an appearance.

Come for the chaos. Stay for the weirdos.

Age guidance: 14+



Durham Book Festival returns to Gala Durham this October for a long weekend of books, new writing, ideas and conversation from a thrilling list of speakers from the North and beyond.

View the full festival programme from Thursday 13 August at durhambookfestival.com or pick up a festival brochure at Gala Durham.

DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

An Evening with Hollie McNish and Michael Pedersen

Main Auditorium

Friday 9 October, 7pm to 8pm | £15 (£12 concession & £5 livestream)

Join award-winning poets Hollie McNish and Michael Pedersen for a heartfelt and hilarious evening. Hollie will be reading from her latest collection, *Virgin*, and unpicking the meaning of the word with her trademark feminist wit, fury, and compassion.

Hollie McNish has published six collections of poetry, including the Sunday Times Bestselling collections, *Slug* and *Lobster*. She was the first poet to record at Abbey Road Studios, London, and won the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry for her poetic parenting memoir, *Nobody Told Me*.

Michael Pedersen is a prize-winning Scottish poet and author who was appointed as Edinburgh Makar in 2024. He writes across fiction (*Muckle Flugga*), non-fiction (*Boy Friends*), and poetry (*The Cat Prince*).



9-11
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New Northern Voices: Louise Powell, Sufiyaan Salam and Shaun Wilson

Studio

Saturday 10 October, 2.30pm to 3.30pm | £10 (£9 concession & £5 livestream)

Three exciting new authors introduce their powerful debut novels. Northern communities are vividly brought to life through the young son of an ex-miner in 90s County Durham in *Underdogs*, three brown boys on Manchester's Curry Mile in *Wimmy Road Boyz* and a Cumbrian teenager rebelling against his fearsome publican father in *Malc's Boy*.

Louise Powell is a writer from Middlesbrough who featured in the *Common People* anthology and won a Northern Writers' Awards in 2023 for her new book, *Underdogs*.

Blackburn-born Sufiyaan Salam is an award-winning novelist, animator, and screenwriter. He was named as one of The Observer's Best Debut Novelists of 2026 for his debut, *Wimmy Road Boyz*.

Cumbrian writer Shaun Wilson's debut novel, *Malc's Boy*, won a Northern Writers' Award in 2021, and his work was featured in the *Common People* anthology.



Lucy Foley: The Big Read

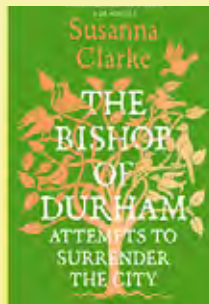
Main Auditorium

Saturday 10 October, 3pm to 4pm | £5 (£5 livestream)

Durham Book Festival's Big Read is back, and we are encouraging readers across the region to read and discuss the same brilliant book to celebrate the National Year of Reading.

We are delighted to announce that the Sunday Times number one bestselling novel *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley is our 2026 Big Read. 3000 free copies will be distributed to libraries, businesses, hospitals and to students across County Durham, Sunderland, and Newcastle. We'll be working with Durham's library service to offer reading groups and workshops in local communities this autumn.

Set in a remote Scottish hunting lodge, this locked-room mystery sees a group of old friends gather to celebrate the New Year, but before their trip ends, one of them is dead and everyone is a suspect. Lucy Foley will discuss *The Hunting Party*, and her latest novel *Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel*, which sees her picking up Agatha Christie's reins 50 years on, in a brand-new Miss Marple mystery.



Susanna Clarke: The Bishop of Durham Attempts to Surrender the City

Main Auditorium

Saturday 10 October, 5pm to 6pm | £15 (£12 concession & £5 livestream)

Internationally bestselling author Susanna Clarke introduces her new novella, *The Bishop of Durham Attempts to Surrender the City*.

Set in 1110, this new tale is in the lore of *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* and follows the Bishop of Durham on an epic quest through an other-worldly North East of England to a New Castle on the banks of the River Tyne in an attempt to surrender to the fairy host besieging his city.

Susanna Clarke is the author of the award-winning bestseller *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* which has sold over four million copies since publication in 2004 and *Piranesi*, which won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2021.



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Forged in the North with Neil Tennant

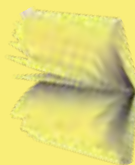
Main Auditorium

Saturday 10 October, 7pm to 8pm | £15 (£12 concession & £5 livestream)

Forged in the North with Neil Tennant will see the Pet Shop Boys icon talk to former White House advisor and Chancellor of Durham University, Fiona Hill, about how growing up in Newcastle shaped his music.

Tennant's book *One Hundred Lyrics and a Poem* is being re-released in 2026. It features the lyrics that have made Tennant such a unique chronicler of modern life, able to chart the politics, aspirations, and changing attitudes of a nation over 40 years. *Volume: the Complete Visual Record*, celebrating 40 years of Pet Shop Boys' entire visual output, was also published in 2026 and is a Sunday Times Bestseller.

DURHAM
BOOK
FESTIVAL



Tracy Borman: Tudors on Tour

Main Auditorium

Wednesday 14 October, 7.30pm | £26.50, £16.50 schools (10+)

Discover the Tudors as you've never seen them before with historian, broadcaster and bestselling author Tracy Borman OBE. *Tudors on Tour* brings the drama, scandal and intrigue of England's most notorious dynasty to life in a thrilling theatrical experience.

From Henry VIII's six wives to Elizabeth I's private world, Shakespeare, spies and palace scandals, Tracy reveals the real Tudors in all their glory, filth, glamour and gore.

Using vivid visuals, props, costume, film and music, this is no history lecture - it's an immersive show that pulls back the velvet curtain on the monarchy that changed England forever. Perfect for history lovers, Tudor enthusiasts and students alike, this bold production makes familiar stories unforgettable and reveals secrets you won't find in textbooks.



Daniel Kitson: THRUM

Main Auditorium

Thursday 15 October, 7pm | £15

There's the sound of somewhere else and the permanence of a plant pot and the ubiquity of a phrase and the heartbreaking brevity of a very long time. There's figs and worms and an old dog rejecting a blanket. There's a woman, on a train, wearing a badge. There's the first beep of a smoke alarm and there's a daffodil in December and there's the condition of fruit. There's a hand in bed and there's stuff on the stairs and there's a mark on my jumper and there's a massive tree in storage on a farm in Kent. There's nothing to say and there's the thought of rotting and there's the name of a feeling and there's the smell of tobacco. There's the twelfth floor of a hotel and the far end of a platform at Tamworth train station. There's a duty to act and there's a resistance to growth and there's a new place up the road and there's a completely redundant volume control. There's a toilet in Hong Kong and a coffee shop in Melbourne and the passage of light through a building and deliberately making things much more difficult than they actually need to be.

And.

There's music, more or less throughout, at least two funny voices and upwards of three jokes.

A new comedy show by Daniel Kitson.

Age guidance: 16+

Gareth Malone

Sing-A-Long-A-Gareth: At The Movies

Main Auditorium

Friday 16 October, 7.30pm | Tickets from £27

Gareth Malone - the man who got the nation singing - is back on the road with *Sing-A-Long-A-Gareth: At The Movies*, a brand-new live show celebrating the unforgettable songs that have helped make movie moments magical.

From sweeping cinema classics to feel-good favourites, *At The Movies* will bring audiences together for a night of iconic music, shared memories and the irresistible thrill of singing as one.

Whether you're out with friends, bringing the whole family, reliving favourite film moments, or simply wanting to experience the joy Gareth brings to a room, *Sing-A-Long-A-Gareth: At The Movies* is the ultimate feel-good night out.

No experience needed - just a love of music, movies and a willingness to join in!



Rich Hall: Chin Music

Main Auditorium

Saturday 17 October, 8pm | £18

Chin Music has two meanings. One is idle talk. The other is a brushback throw in baseball or cricket to intimidate the batter. Both describe Rich Hall's comedy.

Idle but intimidating. Sharp, quick, splenetic, and sublimely improvisational. If you've never seen him, you need to hustle down to Gala Durham and grab a seat because he never disappoints. Ever.

Age restriction: 14+



Royal Ballet & Opera Cinema Season

Join us at Gala Durham this Autumn for a new season of acclaimed ballet and opera on the big screen.

Macbeth

Performed by The Metropolitan Opera

Screen 1

Tuesday 20 October, 6pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

Manon

Performed by The Royal Ballet

Screen 1

Tuesday 27 October, 7.15pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

Carmen

Performed by The Royal Opera

Screen 1

Tuesday 10 November, 7pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

The Nutcracker

Performed by The Royal Ballet

Screen 1

Tuesday 1 December, 7.15pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members



Macbeth

Michael Spicer: Hope All's Well

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 20 October, 7.30pm | Tickets from £20

Michael Spicer, the online sensation who brought you the award-winning viral hit *The Room Next Door*, brings another hilarious and brilliantly entertaining satirical stage show packed with sketches, short films and stories about why we're witnessing such a gigantic political and global sh*tshow, featuring characters from his BBC Radio 4 show *No Room* as well as some old friends too.

Age guidance: 16+



An Evening with Ruby Wax

Main Auditorium

Wednesday 21 October, 7.30pm | SOLD OUT

Don't miss the incomparable Ruby Wax live on stage for a brilliant, bold and deeply human evening of storytelling, insight and razor-sharp wit.

From her trailblazing career as a comedian and TV personality to her work as a bestselling author and mental health campaigner, Ruby shares the moments that shaped her extraordinary life - with humour, heart, and her unmistakable edge.

Expect honest conversation, big laughs, and powerful reflections on fame, therapy, the human mind and everything in between.



John Kearns: Tilting at Windmills

Main Auditorium

Thursday 22 October, 7.30pm | £25

Tilting at Windmills is the brand-new stand-up show from *Taskmaster* alumni and double Edinburgh Comedy Award Winner, John Kearns.

A fragmented, digressing portrayal of a 38-year-old man's life, alluding to books he hasn't read, touching on the modern condition. Plus VAT! More allusive and bleak as ever, it is unreal the comedian you become. And for who? Decent craic with the right crowd. A show for those who have read about but not committed to the Guinness Nitrosurge.

Directed by Olivier winner, Jon Brittain.

★★★★★ Guardian

Age restriction: 16+



John Lydon: I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right

Main Auditorium

Friday 23 October, 7.30pm | £35
(£50 Premium & £85 Meet & Greet)

He's a legend and an icon, a revolutionary and an immortal. John Lydon - aka Johnny Rotten - changed the face of music and sparked a cultural revolution. The frontman and lyricist of the Sex Pistols and Public Image Ltd (PiL) caused a political earthquake and transformed music for good.

To coincide with the publication of his new book, the brilliant, funny and insightful *I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right*, John will talk about how he sees life, along with his unique and extraordinary career, and take audience questions.

John will be sharing his thoughts with audiences. He Could Be Wrong. He Could Be Right.



Marvin Muoneké & Strictly Smokin' Big Band

Presented by Durham Jazz Festival

Main Auditorium

Saturday 24 October, 7.30pm | £26

This show brings together one of the rising stars on the UK jazz scene - Marvin Muoneké - with one of the North East's most beloved acts - Strictly Smokin' Big Band.

Marvin Muoneké is a vocalist, songwriter, arranger, trumpeter and recording artist with a beautifully rich, deep and smooth voice. Marvin brings classic sounds to modern audiences with charisma, elegance and an unmistakable presence and passion for storytelling through song.

Strictly Smokin' Big Band is a powerhouse ensemble that prides itself on the versatility of its performance: originally rooted in swing, but also renowned for performing new, original, and contemporary material.



The Nick Cope Family Show 2026

Main Auditorium

Tuesday 27 October, 11.30am | £17
(£16 under 16s), £62 family ticket (min. two under 16s)

Come and join Nick Cope for a brand new, delightful family concert, featuring all your favourite Nick Cope hits and more.

Nick 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*.

Nick's live performances are legendary. If you haven't heard his songs or seen his shows before, come along and find out what you've been missing.

Age guidance: 3+



There's A Monster In Your Show

Main Auditorium

Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October, 2pm (+11am Thursday & Friday) | £16 (£14 under 16s), £56 family ticket (min. two under 16s)

Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage, as the beloved *Who's in Your Book?* series comes to Durham in a brand-new musical show.

A group of performers are preparing to start their show, but quickly discover they are not alone on stage. Little Monster wants to be part of the fun too! With an invitation to his friends, Dragon, Alien and Unicorn to join him, you can expect comedy and chaos as they help to create a magical show, learning about the joy of books and friendship along the way.

A high-energy 50-minute adventure featuring lively original music, this show is the perfect introduction to live theatre.

Expect plenty of playful fun for your littlest ones as their favourite characters come to life in a show that is packed with interactive moments to enjoy together and new music composed by Tom Fletcher, Barry Bignold and Miranda Larson.

There's a monster in your show...and he can't wait to meet you!

"The perfect first theatre outing" ★★★★★ Manchester Evening News

Age guidance: 2 to 6



© Tom Fletcher. Who's in Your Book series published by Puffin Books Ltd

Adventures In Modern Recording

An Intimate Evening with Trevor Horn

Main Auditorium

Saturday 31 October, 7.30pm | £30 (£45 Premium & £80 Meet & Greet)

From Seal to Frankie Goes to Hollywood, from ABC to Yes, from Grace Jones to Belle and Sebastian, and from Robbie Williams to Pet Shop Boys, one man has been at the heart of some of Britain's most important pop music of the past 50 years: Trevor Horn.

After achieving a number one hit with his band, The Buggles, with *Video Killed The Radio Star*, Horn became a member of Yes before becoming the most important hit-maker of the 1980s - and beyond. Awards followed - there were four Brits, a 1995 Grammy for Seal's *Kiss From A Rose*, a 2010 Ivor Novello for his Outstanding Contribution to British Music, and a CBE.

Following the publication of his best-selling memoir, *Adventures In Modern Recording: From ABC to ZTT*, Horn is visiting a select handful of theatres to talk about his exploits as a bona fide legend of pop.



Giant - The Play

Screen 1

Thursday 19 & Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm | £15 (£13 concession), £10 Gala Members

GIANT, the critically acclaimed play starring John Lithgow as Roald Dahl, comes to our big screen. Winner of three Olivier Awards® and a Tony Award, the production was filmed live in London's West End ahead of its sold-out Broadway run.

A world-famous children's author under threat. A battle of wills in the wake of scandal. And one chance to make amends...It's the summer of 1983, *The Witches* is about to hit the shelves, and Roald Dahl is making last-minute edits. But the outcry at his recent, explicitly antisemitic article won't die down.

Across a single afternoon at his family home, and rocked by an unexpectedly explosive confrontation, Dahl is forced to choose: make a public apology or risk his name and reputation.

BBFC classification: 15

A Gala Durham Production

Rapunzel

Written by Gary Kitching

Directed by Maria Crocker

Musical Director & Arrangements: James Hedges

Choreographer: Helen West

Costume Designer: Lu Herbert

Main Auditorium

Thursday 19 November to Thursday 31 December | Tickets from £10

In the dark, tangled forest of Hamsterley stands a mysterious tower, locals swear they can hear beautiful singing drifting through the trees, a voice so pure it stops even the bravest woodcutter in their tracks. What the villagers don't know is that the tower hides a single, sorrowful resident: the kind-hearted Rapunzel, whose only regular company is a plucky little red squirrel. But the good folk of Hamsterley whisper of other things too. They dare not speak the name of Mistress Gothel, the enchantress who haunts the forest paths. With the help of her new friends, can Rapunzel travel to the distant city of Durham and discover her true identity and solve the mystery of the floating lanterns?

Thursday 19 November	6.30pm	
Friday 20 November	6.30pm	
Saturday 21 November	2pm	6.30pm
Sunday 22 November	11am	3pm
Tuesday 24 November	10am	1.30pm
Wednesday 25 November	10am	1.30pm
Thursday 26 November	10am	1.30pm
Friday 27 November	1pm	6.30pm
Saturday 28 November	2pm	6.30pm
Sunday 29 November	11am	3pm
Tuesday 1 December	10am	1.30pm
Wednesday 2 December	10am	1.30pm
Thursday 3 December	10am	1.30pm
Friday 4 December	10am	1.30pm (relaxed)
Saturday 5 December	2pm (BSL)	6.30pm (audio described)
Sunday 6 December	11am	3pm
Tuesday 8 December	10am	1.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	10am	1.30pm
Thursday 10 December	10am	1.30pm
Friday 11 December	10am	1.30pm
Saturday 12 December	2pm	6.30pm (captioned)
Sunday 13 December	11am	3pm
Tuesday 15 December	1.30pm	6.30pm (relaxed)
Wednesday 16 December	10am	1.30pm
Thursday 17 December	10am	1.30pm
Friday 18 December	6.30pm	
Saturday 19 December	2pm	6.30pm
Sunday 20 December	11am	3pm
Tuesday 22 December	11am	3pm
Wednesday 23 December	11am	3pm
Thursday 24 December	11am	3pm
Saturday 26 December	2pm	
Sunday 27 December	11am	3pm
Monday 28 December	11am	3pm
Tuesday 29 December	2pm	6.30pm
Wednesday 30 December	2pm	6.30pm
Thursday 31 December	11am	3pm

Family discounts

Following feedback received from our audiences, families can enjoy 15% off when booking four tickets (min. one under 16 excluding Band C) for the following performances of *Rapunzel*:

Friday 27 November, 6.30pm
Saturday 28 November, 6.30pm
Saturday 5 December, 6.30pm
Monday 28 December, 11am
Tuesday 29 December, 2pm

School and group bookings

To find out details of performances for schools and groups, and to reserve your booking, email us at groupbookings@durham.gov.uk, or contact our Group Sales Co-ordinator on 03000 264 169 or our Box Office on 03000 266 600.

	Prices	Band A	Band B	Band C
Preview	£15	£13	£10	
Off-peak	£27	£22	£10	
Peak	£32	£27	£10	

A Gala Durham Production



The Elves and the Shoemaker

Written by Christina Castling

Music and songs composed by Bridie Jackson

Directed by Katy Weir

Studio

Tuesday 8 to Thursday 24 December | £10

Step into our sole-ful festive production that's the perfect fit for families!

Suzie Shoes runs a shoe shop, but she has a problem...she's just not very good at making shoes.

In need of help as Christmas fast-approaches, Suzie finds that someone is making beautiful shoes as she sleeps.

Who are her mysterious night-time cobblers?

Recommended for ages 3 to 7, join us for our magical twist on the beloved fairytale packed full of music, puppetry, storytelling and audience interaction.

Tuesday 8 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Thursday 10 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Friday 11 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Saturday 12 December	10.30am (SOLD OUT) & 1.30pm
Sunday 13 December	10.30am & 1.30pm (SOLD OUT)
Tuesday 15 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Wednesday 16 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Thursday 17 December	10.30am & 1.30pm
Saturday 19 December	10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
Sunday 20 December	10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
Tuesday 22 December	10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
Wednesday 23 December	10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm
Thursday 24 December	10.30am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

School and nursery bookings

To find out dates and details of performances for schools and nurseries, and to reserve your booking, email us at groupbookings@durham.gov.uk, or contact our Group Sales Co-ordinator on 03000 264 169 or our Box Office on 03000 266 600.

COMING SOON

The Comedy Store

Friday 5 February, 7.30pm

Carl Hutchinson: Fine Whine

Friday 12 February, 7.30pm

Count Arthur Strong: And It's Goodnight From Me!

Wednesday 24 February, 8pm

English Touring Opera: Orpheus

Friday 5 March, 7.30pm

English Touring Opera: Tosca

Saturday 6 March, 7.30pm

Simon Fowler: The Ocean Colour Scene Songbook & Beyond

Saturday 13 March, 7.30pm

Mike Wozniak: The Bench

Friday 19 March, 7.30pm

This Is The Life by John Godber

Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 March, 7.30pm

Giovanni: Unstoppable

Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 April, 7.30pm

The Rachel Parris Songbook

Saturday 10 April, 7.30pm



The Rachel Parris Songbook

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 Autumn 2026 term, weekly drama sessions will run on Saturday mornings from Saturday 19 September for 4 to 11s, and Wednesday evenings from Wednesday 23 September for 12 to 18s until the week commencing 30 November (excluding Saturday 10 October for Durham Book Festival and week commencing 26 October 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.

To find out dates and to book, visit galadurham.co.uk or contact our Box Office on 03000 266 600.



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).

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.

Look out for our Relaxed Cinema screenings offering an inclusive and accessible environment for neurodivergent audiences too.

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 a biscuit and an additional 10% off food and drink purchases at Gala Lounge.

For screening times, visit galadurham.co.uk

Sense and Sensibility

Visitor Information

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 8.30pm

We are closed on Sundays, Mondays and bank holidays (unless there is a performance)

BOOKING

Online 24 hours a day at: 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 three months before the show. If you wish to make a group reservation, please contact us at groupbookings@durham.gov.uk.

TICKET EXCHANGES / REFUNDS

At the discretion of our management, 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.

Diary

September

Tue 1	The Agatha Christie Cure - Cathy Rentzenbrink in Conversation
Fri 4	The Comedy Store
Sat 5	Back To The Future: Special Screening
Thu 10 & Fri 11	North East Film Orchestra: Hollywood Adventure
Sat 12	Susie Dent: Word Perfect
Tue 15	Exhibition On Screen: James McNeill Whistler
Tue 15 & Wed 16	Wilko: Love and Death and Rock 'n' Roll
Thu 17	Enter The Castle with Jon Ronson: Mystery, Crime & Unmoored Men
Sat 19	Flo & Joan: With Feeling
Thu 22	NT Live: The Misanthrope
Wed 23	Russell Watson: An Intimate Evening With 'The Voice'
Thu 24	Nish Kumar: Angry Humour From a Really Nice Guy
Fri 25	Gala Lunchtime Concert
Fri 25	Sunderland Legends: Peter Reid & Kevin Phillips
Sat 26	An Evening with Danny McNamara from Embrace
Tue 29	Lemn Sissay: Let The Light Pour In LIVE

October

Thu 1	Ballet Black At 25
Fri 2	The Comedy Store
Sat 3	Go West: We Close Our Eyes & Other Stories
Tue 6	Ivo Graham: Orange Crush
Wed 7	Lucy Beaumont: Bad at Quiz Shows, Good with Weirdos
Fri 9	Durham Book Festival: Hollie McNish and Michael Pedersen
Sat 10	Durham Book Festival: New Northern Voices
Sat 10	Durham Book Festival: The Big Read
Sat 10	Durham Book Festival: Susanna Clarke
Sat 10	Durham Book Festival: Neil Tennant
Wed 14	Tracy Borman: Tudors on Tour
Thu 15	Daniel Kitson: THRUM
Fri 16	Gareth Malone: Sing-A-Long-A-Gareth: At The Movies
Sat 17	Rich Hall: Chin Music
Tue 20	Royal Ballet & Opera Cinema Season: Macbeth
Tue 20	Michael Spicer: Hope All's Well
Wed 21	An Evening with Ruby Wax
Thu 22	John Kearns: Tilting at Windmills
Fri 23	Gala Lunchtime Concert
Fri 23	John Lydon: I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right
Sat 24	Durham Jazz Festival: Marvin Muoneké and Strictly Smokin' Big Band
Tue 27	The Nick Cope Family Show 2026
Tue 27	Royal Ballet & Opera Cinema Season: Mañon
Wed 28 to Fri 30	There's A Monster In Your Show
Sat 31	Adventures In Modern Recording: An Intimate Evening with Trevor Horn

November

Tue 10	Royal Ballet & Opera Cinema Season: Carmen
Thu 19 & Thu 26	Giant - The Play
Thu 19 to Thu 31 Dec	Rapunzel

December

Tue 1	Royal Ballet & Opera Cinema Season: The Nutcracker
Tue 8 to Thu 24	The Elves and the Shoemaker