

# **Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2026**

Friday 8 – Saturday 24 May

[nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk)

01603 531800

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# HELLO!

'Community' is something we frequently talk about at the Festival. We have been bringing the community together for over 250 years, founded as we were by the community... for the community. Through our year-round work, we bring creative opportunities to communities across the region and we nurture a community of partners, volunteers, audiences and artists who all help breathe life into what we do.

A festival can take many forms – a cultural chameleon that can change its colour with the times, but its overriding role remains the same - to bring the community together in joy, contemplation and celebration. We live in troubled times. Communities can feel divided. The power of the arts to unite us remains something powerful, something to be championed, supported and nurtured.

I am proud of how we integrate our work with local communities into our wider programme each May. It helps bring a unique cohesion and sense of celebration. We will continue to build on this for the future.

As we evolve, we increasingly forge new partnerships large and small, with all involved sharing the sense that culture connects us, that it is something powerful for the communities of Norfolk and Norwich. We thank you all and look forward to seeing you at the Festival this May.

Daniel Brine

Artistic Director & Chief Executive

## **STORIES & RESIDENCIES**

Our stories help you explore routes through the Festival, bringing together shows and events that share common themes. We also explore how the Festival creates bespoke presentations through a number of artistic residencies.

## **WRITING FROM THE EAST**

A quartet of new theatre pieces, written and produced in the East, form part of this year's programme. Steve Waters, playwright and Professor of Scriptwriting at the UEA, examines the ways a local nature reserve, and place more broadly, inspires his work.

It always begins with a place; as a playwright, my stories require a scene, location and frame. So why is *Wheatfen* so resonant for me? Just outside Surlingham at the end of a bumpy track, at first it appears unpromising. I can think at

Wheatfen, I can think with Wheatfen. I can imagine.

Read more about Steve's local habitation at [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk) from mid-February.

Shows: ALBATROSS page 13, CROSSING THE LINE page 24, HEARTWOOD page 25, WIND IN THE WILLOWS page 36

## **BECOMING ANIMAL**

Our programme this year features a number of works that embody being animal. Daniel Hay-Gordon, Co-Director of dance theatre company Thick & Tight, explores how we think of the world beyond a human-centric view and how imagining animal lives and different forms of life helps us understand our own.

When dance is the primary medium of art you work with, it is almost inevitable to place human stories at the heart of what you do. A couple of years ago, we asked ourselves if we could make similar portraits of non-human life forms. What came out of these enquiries was our latest show Natural Behaviour, a series of portraits of human and non-human life-forms.

Read more about Daniel's story at [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk) from mid-March.

Shows: MATTER ERA page 26, WOLF page 27, REQUIEM page 32, UNDERWATER page 48, NATURAL BEHAVIOUR page 50

## **MUSIC TO MOVE YOU**

In Music to Move You, we examine the space between movement and music. Here 'move' has a double meaning – to physically move, but also

to be emotionally moved. Choreographer Örjan Andersson looks at how his work with Scottish Ensemble has brought something new to familiar pieces of music.

I really see no reason why we shouldn't relate to the space with our bodies while we make music. We experience the music in a completely new way when you embody a musical idea physically.

Read more about Örjan's story at [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk) from mid-April.

Shows: BELLOW page 31, IMPULSE: MUSIC IN MOTION page 58, CEILIDH page 17, RAGROOF TEA DANCE page 18, THE BIG BAMBOO page 41

## **FESTIVAL RESIDENCIES**

The Festival may be an annual event, but our work with artists and communities goes on year-round. Artistic Director, Daniel Brine, offers a perspective on how we work with resident artists.

I love house guests. It's my opportunity to be a good host and catch up with friends. I enjoy the same generosity and reciprocity with Festival residents. They feel welcome and take time to craft something special, sharing a little of themselves with all of us.

This year, in partnership with the UEA, we welcome Dr Karina Aveyard as a UEA + NNF Thinker in Residence. One of my favourite residencies is taking place in Swaffham, where artist Victoria Melody will ensure young people's voices are heard as their town is reshaped.

Musicians in Residence: James McVinnie, Maya Youssef

Made in Residence: En Route page 16, Kids Business page 37, Treekin page 35, The King's Lynn Nine page 19, Victoria Melody page 49, Follow Me page 51, Dan Canham page 54

# **MUSIC & PERFORMANCE**

## **WELCOME WEEKEND**

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 May, Norwich City Centre, various locations

Kick off your Festival with circus, laughter, dance and drama. Over two days, the Welcome Weekend ushers in the 2026 Festival with a programme of outdoor entertainment across the streets of Norwich. Enjoy a host of brand new shows and one or two old favourites in a free, fun event for all the family.

Full programme, times and additional events available from mid-April.

Free, no ticket required

Shows include: GERALDINE PILGRIM COMPANY - CHAIR!, DAUGHTERS OF THE

WIRE - ELEVATEHER, NIGEL 'KOBBY'  
TAYLOR - THE TORCH, RADICAL RITUAL -  
TENDER EXCHANGE, TALAWA THEATRE  
COMPANY - FRAGMENTS OF US,  
THIRUNARAYAN PRODUCTIONS - HOLY  
DIRT, SHYAM DATTANI & MIRA SALAT -  
GARBH, FERDINANDO + BERNSTEIN - STICK  
AND STONE, FROZEN LIGHT THEATRE -  
MUSEUM OF SPIRALS, DIZZY O'DARE - THE  
GIANT BALLOON SHOW

## **STORNOWAY**

### **WITH SUPPORT FROM ALICE BOYD**

Friday 8 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Hall

Stornoway have a deep connection to the natural world. Their songs are buoyant and windswept, rich in colour, light and wild places. After a six-year hiatus, in 2023 they released Dig the Mountain! Expect music from this, along with picks from their glorious back catalogue, on

what will be a very special opening night of the 2026 Festival.

The magical ambient folk artist Alice Boyd will open the show - her first performance in Norwich.

Tickets £40, £30, £25, £20, £10 U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **MENAGERIE THEATRE COMPANY**

### **ALBATROSS**

By Martha Loader

Touring to venues across the region

Award-winning Martha Loader's stunning new play explores deep family ties in the age of the climate catastrophe. Alice returns home from Antarctica to her mother and daughter. There has been a flood, a new romance and now a

strange gift. The big question facing Alice – what does one generation owe the next?

Friday 8 May, 7.30pm, St George's Theatre,  
Great Yarmouth, Tickets £13.50

Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm, UEA Drama Studio,  
Tickets £16, Student £10

Friday 15 May, 7.30pm, Wells Maltings, Tickets  
£16, U16/Student £14.50

Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm, Sheringham Little  
Theatre, Tickets £19

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm, Seagull Theatre,  
Lowestoft, Tickets £10.25

Age 14+ Contains some swear words and one  
scene with sexual content.

**JOSEPH HARRINGTON WITH POPPY  
STEVENS**

## **FROM THE DUNES**

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 May & Wednesday 13  
– Sunday 17 May, 11am-4pm (closes 3pm 16  
May), The Gallery, The Forum

A short, poetic film, told through the eyes of two teenage boys, which tells the emotional story of a family from Hemsby whose home is under imminent threat from coastal erosion. The film will be accompanied by poems created in school workshops run by local poet, Poppy Stevens.

Free, no booking required

Panel discussion & artist Q&A: Saturday 16  
May, 4pm, The Gallery, The Forum. Free,  
booking required

## **ONE STEP AT A TIME LIKE THIS & RICHARD JORDAN PRODUCTIONS**

## **EN ROUTE**

Saturday 9 – Sunday 17 May (no show Monday 11 May), various times, Norwich City Centre

en route is a love song to our city, unfolding places, personal and private, present and past. Engaging with audio, mobile phones, walking, urban streetscapes and the city, en route invites you to walk and listen on a journey - both inward and outward - across the thoroughfares and back-alleys of Norwich.

An experience for 1-2 people

Tickets Solo £20, Pair £30 U18/YoungNNF £10

Age 15+

## **JAMES MCVINNIE & TRISTAN PERICH**

### **INFINITY GRADIENT**

Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm, Norwich Cathedral

The first concert from 2026 Artist in Residence, James McVinnie, Infinity Gradient is a grand collaboration with composer Tristan Perich, scored for solo organ and 100 speakers in 1-bit audio. A duet between two musical instruments millennia apart in conception, the synthesis of its sounds will fill Norwich Cathedral with an immense, unique tonality.

Tickets £25, £20, £12 U18/YoungNNF £10

Supported by the John Jarrold Trust

## **CUT A SHINE**

## **CEILIDH**

Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Hall

With their classic bluegrass line-up, flat foot dancers, eccentric callers and singers, Cut A Shine were conceived, more than a decade ago, in the warehouse parties of London creating

their own brand of rip-roaring hoedown and barn dance music. Join in and expect a dust bowl of dance to take over the Halls!

Tickets £15 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **ROUND IN CIRCLES**

### **RAGROOF TEA DANCE: A MASKED BALL**

Sunday 10 May, 2pm, St Andrew's Hall

Vintage music, glamorous costumes, glorious dance displays, and the chance for everyone to trip the light fantastic! This year, a fabulous masquerade inspired by the Venice Carnival, the ballrooms of Vienna and films such as Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet, and David Bowie's Labyrinth. Dress to impress!

Tickets £15 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **BOOTWORKS THEATRE COMPANY**

### **THE KING'S LYNN NINE**

Sunday 10 May, 5pm, The Workshop at The Old Library, King's Lynn

The year they were born, President Trump was inaugurated for the first time and fidget spinners were everywhere. Since then, it's been an eventful nine years; a new pope, five Prime Ministers, a climate change emergency, COVID-19. In an intergenerational collaboration between Bootworks Theatre Co. and a group of local nine-year-old children, young people share their touching and humorous thoughts on the world they live in.

Tickets £12 U18/YoungNNF £10

Presented in partnership with The Workshop

## **PHILHARMONIA CHAMBER PLAYERS**

## **GOLDBERG VARIATIONS**

Sunday 10 May, 7.30pm, The Assembly House

Joining us from the world-famous Philharmonia Orchestra, Principal Viola Scott Dickinson and friends play one of the masterpieces of the Baroque era. Johann Sebastian Bach's music continues to captivate listeners nearly three centuries after it was written.

Rebecca Chan violin, Scott Dickinson viola,  
Richard Birchall cello

Tickets £20 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **BBC NEW GENERATION ARTISTS**

Our partnership with BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists Scheme brings us an exhilarating cross-section of the most exciting young British and international musicians. This

year we present a quartet of concerts within the intimate surrounds of the Octagon Chapel.

10% off when you book three or more BBC Radio 3 New Generation concerts.

## **ASTATINE TRIO**

Monday 11 May, 1pm, Octagon Chapel

The Astatine Trio are one of the UK's most exciting new chamber music ensembles.

Mentored by the late Alfred Brendel, this award-winning group will perform two contrasting works for piano trio - Franz Schubert's masterful Piano Trio No 2 in E flat, and Toru Takemitsu's *Between Tides*.

Tickets £20, £18 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **KLEIO QUARTET**

Monday 11 May, 7.30pm, Octagon Chapel

Recently appointed as the resident quartet for the Royal Northern College of Music's String Quartet Studio, this group of musicians arrive at the Festival with a growing international reputation. They perform classics by Mendelssohn and Schubert, alongside Kaija Saariaho's Terra Memoria.

Tickets £20, £18 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **ELIZAVETA IVANOVA & SANJA BIZJAK**

Tuesday 12 May, 1pm, Octagon Chapel

Estonian flautist Elizaveta Ivanova has been picking up plaudits for her live performances as a soloist and in chamber ensembles and is making her Norwich debut in this stunning recital at the Octagon Chapel. Accompanied by pianist Sanja Bizjak, the duo will perform two major sonatas by Poulenc and Reinecke alongside

atmospheric miniatures by Debussy and Gaubert.

Tickets £20, £18 U18/YoungNNF £10

**KLEIO QUARTET WITH ANDREW HAMILTON  
& BERNIYA HAMIE**

Tuesday 12 May, 7.30pm, Octagon Chapel

For the Kleio Quartet's second appearance, they are joined by fellow BBC New Generation Artists, rising star baritone Andrew Hamilton and pianist Berniya Hamie of the Astatine Trio, for a not-to-be-missed concert showcasing the incredible range of talent that the scheme has to offer.

Tickets £20, £18 U18/YoungNNF £10

**A ST GEORGE'S THEATRE PRODUCTION**

## **CROSSING THE LINE**

Touring to venues across the region

Following last year's scratch performance at the Festival, Crossing the Line returns for a full production. When Erik's dad dies, his life falls apart. Turning away from his friends, he is sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing and violence. This powerful drama explores the devastating impact of county lines.

Monday 11 May, 7.30pm, St George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth, Tickets Pay What You Can - £6, £11, £13, £16 or £21

Wednesday 13 May, 7.30pm, Sheringham Little Theatre, Tickets £19, U30 £10

Thursday 14 May, 7.30pm, Seagull Theatre, Lowestoft, Tickets £12.25

Monday 18 May, 7.30pm, The Corn Hall, Diss, Tickets £10

## **CURIOUS DIRECTIVE**

### **HEARTWOOD**

Tuesday 12 May – Saturday 23 May (no shows Sunday 17 & Monday 18 May), various times, curious directive, on Elm Hill

Heartwood explores the very edge of human endurance. The worlds of an ultramarathon runner, arboriculturist and transplant surgeon collide in a moving, contemporary parable about gift-giving. A ground-breaking collaboration between Norwich-based curious directive, NHS Blood and Transplant and New Earth Theatre.

Tickets £18, Early Bird £15 until Friday 1 May (Early Bird tickets include a drink)

## **TERRAPIN & TIM SPOONER**

### **MATTER ERA**

Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 May, 7.30pm  
(performance), Thursday 14 May, 1-6pm  
(installation), The Assembly House

Using experimental puppetry and animated objects Australian puppeteers, Terrapin, and artist Tim Spooner, invite audiences into a strange ecosystem imagined entirely without people. As the stage begins to breathe, creatures explore, flock and interact in captivating ways.

Viewable as a one-hour performance or as a durational event where audiences can come and go as they please.

Tickets Performance £15, Installation £12  
U18/YoungNNF £10

**PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY**

Wednesday 13 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Hall

Four hands, one instrument. Two of today's most celebrated pianists, Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy join us for a very special concert. Described as 'piano magicians' by The Arts Desk, the pair are renowned for their electrifying intimacy, musical balance and physical choreography.

Tickets £34, £25 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **CIRCA**

## **WOLF**

Wednesday 13 – Sunday 24 May (no shows Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 May), times vary, The Spiegeltent

The world is going to the dogs... Be a wolf. In our headline show set for the opulent surrounds of The Spiegeltent, we welcome back one of the

world's most iconic circus companies – Circa. For Director Yaron Lifschitz, the wolf is a symbol of our untameable selves: liberating, anarchic and savage. Wolf is circus with fangs. Join the pack.

Tickets £32, £30, £29, £28, £27, £25

U18/YoungNNF £10

Age 12+

## **SARA DOWLING WITH THE SAM BRAYSHER QUARTET**

Wednesday 13 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Saxophonist Sam Braysher's all-star quartet is joined by Sara Dowling, one of Europe's finest jazz vocalists. Braysher, who grew up in Norfolk, has recently played sold-out shows at Ronnie Scott's and the London Jazz Festival.

Tickets £18 (£20 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **AN EVENING WITH COWBOY JUNKIES**

Thursday 14 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Hall

Cowboy Junkies' unique mix of blues, country, folk and jazz influences - all fronted by Margo Timmins' evocative vocals - has earned them both critical attention and a cult following.

Making their first visit to Norwich, they present a concert spanning 40 years of music-making.

Tickets £40, £30, £25, £20, £10 U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **THE BAND STAND**

Thursday 14 May onwards, times vary, Festival Gardens, Chapelfield

The Band Stand returns, bringing a series of free musical evenings that celebrate outstanding local talent. Discover some of the region's most promising artists al fresco, in the beautiful surrounds and warm summer air of Festival Gardens.

Free, no booking required

Programmed in partnership with Access Creative College and Freshly Greated

## **HERBERT & MOMOKO**

Thursday 14 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegelentent

Matthew Herbert and Momoko Gill's soulful new album, *Clay*, is a sonically-adventurous triumph, with Gill's smoky voice flitting sinuously through their fleet-footed arrangements. A unique and fascinating musical chemistry between two artists who sound like they've been playing together all their lives.

Tickets £20 (£22 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **BROKENTALKERS**

### **BELLOW**

Friday 15 & Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm, Norwich  
Theatre Playhouse

In Bellow, one of Ireland's foremost  
accordionists, Danny O'Mahony, joins forces  
with experimental theatre company,  
Brokentalkers to explore his extraordinary real-  
life story. Danny is a man who has dedicated his  
life to the preservation of traditional Irish music  
and to the mastery of his craft.

Tickets £20 U18/YoungNNF £10

Age 16+ Adult themes

Presented in partnership with Norwich Theatre

## **KALEIDER**

### **REQUIEM**

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 May, Friday & Saturday  
7.30pm, Sunday 5pm, St Andrew's Hall

From the internationally acclaimed Kaleider, a contemporary requiem for life on this planet. In a world strange yet familiar, a group of people build a giant kinetic creature from metal and breath, bringing it to extraordinary life. Requiem weaves together life, death, and hope.

Tickets £15 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Following a hugely successful relaunch in 2025 by Norwich Arts Centre, Norwich Jazz Festival this year forms part of the Norfolk & Norwich Festival programme, with an exciting series of

performances across the city celebrating the best in UK jazz talent.

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **BALIMAYA PROJECT**

Friday 15 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Led by composer, arranger and djembe master Yahael Camara Onono, Balimaya Project are redefining what contemporary African diasporic music can be. Drawing comparisons to Marvin Gaye, D'Angelo and Fela Kuti, Balimaya Project bring blazing brass, virtuosic kora, and a percussive core that moves body and soul alike.

Tickets £22 (£24 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL: LAUNCH PARTY**

Friday 15 May, 9.30pm – late, Norwich Arts Centre

An evening of worldbeat, jazz and jumping tunes from Mondo DJs, Amy Nomvula and Easily Dunn.

Tickets £5, Free for Balimaya Project ticket holders (subject to availability)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

## **NORWICH CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

### **CANDLELIT COMPLINE**

Friday 15 May, 9pm, Norwich Cathedral

The Senior Girl Choristers, Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks of Norwich Cathedral Choir sing a reflective service of Compline – the final monastic Office of the day – in the beautiful candlelit surroundings of Norwich Cathedral.

Free, no booking required

## **TRIGGER**

## **TREEKIN**

Saturday 16 May, Norwich City Centre

A first look at Treekin, a new family show, developed with the support of Festival-supported school workshops in Norwich. Have you ever heard a tree whisper? Have you seen a seed wriggle, or witnessed the grass rustle? Come outside and meet some curious characters in this gentle look at nature.

Details to be announced. See [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk)

Tickets £10, One accompanying adult free

## **SHERINGHAM LITTLE THEATRE**

## **WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May, 2pm & 5pm,  
Sheringham Hall

In a contemporary retelling of *Wind in the Willows*, written by James McDermot, this lively promenade performance set in the beautiful surrounds of Sheringham Hall sees the shy, screen-bound Mole venture outdoors to befriend Ratty, and discover the joy of the countryside. When greedy politician Mister Toad threatens to sell it all off, Mole, Ratty and Badger must act to save their beloved home.

Tickets £16, U16 £11, Family £46

Presented by Sheringham Little Theatre

**HUNT & DARTON**

**KIDS BUSINESS**

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May, and Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May, 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm, Swaffham High Street

Welcome to Kids Business – the newest, wildest addition to the high street. Dreamed up by the children of Swaffham and live art duo Hunt & Darton, this wholly original, functioning and hilarious 'pop-up' invites you to take part in a retail experience the likes of which you've never seen before.

Drop-in, free

Supported by the Geoffrey Watling Charity

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **THEON CROSS**

with support from Sure D

Saturday 16 May, 8pm, Norwich Arts Centre

Theon Cross' (Sons of Kemet) unique approach to the tuba has expanded the instrument's sonic possibilities, restoring it to prominence in the contemporary jazz ensemble. His music has a sensibility that travels across style and genre but which remains rooted in his African-Caribbean heritage.

Tickets £20.50 (£24 on the door)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

## **SEXYTADHG**

Saturday 16 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Grand pop drama meets Irish folk joy. Tadhg Griffin, the magnificent force behind SexyTadhg, follows on from The Mary Wallopers and Kneecap as the latest exciting embodiment of contemporary Irish music. Their live show is a big-band spectacle, blending theatrical soul and disco-pop with dazzling brass.

Tickets £18 (£20 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **INDEFINITE ARTICLES**

### **THE MAGIC LAMP**

Sunday 17 May, 11am & 2.30pm, Norwich  
Puppet Theatre

The story of a boy who, by chance, ends up with a lamp-dwelling genie at his disposal. Played out in a Bedouin tent with a set filled with billowing silken drapes, this bewitching shadow play is told using light, paper and oil.

Tickets £13.50, U16 £11.50

Age 5+

Presented in partnership with Norwich Puppet  
Theatre

## **DANNY O'MAHONY**

Sunday 17 May, 8pm, The Spiegeltent

A legendary Irish folk musician renowned for his fearless and imaginative interpretations of traditional music. Hailing from Ballyduff in North County Kerry, he grew up playing with older generations and his expressive style reflects a deep affinity with the music of past masters.

Tickets £18 (£20 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **BBC INTRODUCING PRESENTS**

### **BAND NIGHT**

Monday 18 May, 7pm, The Spiegeltent

In a night programmed by BBC Introducing, some of the brightest lights of our local music scene take to The Spiegeltent stage. POZZY,

Hey Mama Oh No!, LFAY and the pop-tinged neo soul of Alice-Lily make up the line-up. Your chance to catch the next big thing!

Tickets £10 (£12 on the day)

## **THE BO NANAFANA SOCIAL CLUB**

### **THE BIG BAMBOO**

Tuesday 19 May, 7pm, with garden entertainment from 6pm, The Spiegel tent

A sub-tropical soundclash of authentic ska, vintage basslines and gospel fire. The Big Bamboo is a lush, high-energy, dress-to-impress spectacular from The Bo Nanafana Social Club. For one glorious night, expect heat, colour, rhythm and joy-soaked atmosphere. Tropical finery is encouraged. Dancing is inevitable!

Tickets £25 U18/YoungNNF £10

Age 18+ Adult content

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

### **ABDULLAH IBRAHIM TRIBUTE**

Tuesday 19 May, 8pm, Epic Studios

Celebrating the legacy of Abdullah Ibrahim and South African township jazz - a unique and powerful mix of traditional African rhythms, gospel harmonies, and the big-band energy of swing and bebop - anthems of resilience during the anti-apartheid struggle.

Tickets £15 (£17.50 on the door), U26 £6.50

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

## **BRITTEN SINFONIA**

### **BRITTEN IN AMERICA**

**WITH ELIZABETH WATTS & OLEG SHEBETA-DRAGAN**

Wednesday 20 May, 7pm, St Andrew's Hall

Marking 50 years since Benjamin Britten's death, a programme that focuses on the years Britten spent in North America. Sensuous music with a bright sheen paired with music by his 'very dear friend' and mentor, Aaron Copland.

Tickets £48, £38, £28, £18, £15, U35 half price

Presented by Britten Sinfonia

**JEAN-DANIEL BROUSSE**

**(LE) PAIN**

Wednesday 20 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Jean-Daniel is the only son of a French baker. He will not follow in the family business... With circus, dance, storytelling, karaoke and laughter,

(le) Pain is about new beginnings and growing up queer in a boulangerie in the south of France.

Tickets £18, YoungNNF £10

Age 16+ Contains nudity

## **MAYA YOUSSEF**

### **NEW PATHS THROUGH OLD WORLDS**

Wednesday 20 May, 7.30pm, Octagon Chapel

In the first of a pair of concerts at this year's Festival, Artist in Residence Maya Youssef presents an exciting body of new work exploring the meeting point between Middle Eastern and Celtic traditions. She brings together these two deep-rooted musical cultures and reveals how their melodic shapes and emotional landscapes speak to one another.

Francis McIllduff uilleann pipes, whistles,  
bodhran, Alice Allen cello, Ben Smith piano and  
keyboards

Tickets £22, £20 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **JAMES MCVINNIE**

### **CLAVIER-UBUNG III**

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm, St Peter Mancroft

Artist in Residence James McVinnie puts the organ of St Peter Mancroft through its paces in Johann Sebastian Bach's Clavier-Übung III, a collection of organ music considered some of the most important and technically demanding that Bach ever composed.

Tickets £25 U18/YoungNNF £10

Supported by the John Jarrold Trust

## **ANA CARLA MAZA**

Thursday 21 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Between Cuba and Chile, Paris and Havana, Ana Carla Maza weaves a vibrant dialogue between the two Americas - a journey in which the cello becomes drum, voice and soul. On stage, Ana radiates - singing, dancing, playing and breathing the music - a captivating voice of Cuba's new generation.

Tickets £20 (£22 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **UEA + NNF THINKER IN RESIDENCE**

### **CULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

Thursday 21 May, 6.30pm, Norwich Castle

Joining Thinker in Residence, Dr Karina Aveyard, will be Frances Morris CBE - Chair of Gallery Climate Coalition and former Director of Tate Modern. A lecture, short film and poetry performance form a creative dialogue on culture, the environment and positive social change.

Tickets £10

Age 11+

Presented in partnership with the University of East Anglia

## **AN-TING & IAN GALLAGHER**

### **UNDERWATER**

Thursday 21 & Friday 22 May, 6.30pm, Norwich University of the Arts Immersive Lab

Live performance project exploring the acoustic world of marine life. Using 360-degree hydrophones, immersive compositions, and

Unreal Engine, it mixes communication from coral reefs, fish and whales into 3D compositions and visuals.

Tickets £10

Age 18+

Presented by Norwich University of the Arts

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **NEIL COWLEY TRIO**

with support from TOM ROGERSON

Thursday 21 May, 8pm, Norwich Arts Centre

The Neil Cowley Trio reunite to present music from their outstanding new album, Entity, alongside some Cowley classics. Known for muscular anthems, galloping grooves, and tender moments, they return with a powerful show infused with Cowley's infectious wit and playfulness.

Tickets £29.50 (£32.50 on the door)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

## **VICTORIA MELODY**

### **YOUR TOWN, MY TOWN, OUR TOWN**

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 May, 11am – 3pm,  
Swaffham High Street

Artist in Residence, Victoria Melody, invites children and young people to share their dreams and aspirations at a creative listening stall in Swaffham - part of Your Town, My Town, Our Town. Contributions from these drop-in sessions will inform a series of exciting public artworks in autumn 2026.

Free, no booking required

## **THICK & TIGHT**

### **NATURAL BEHAVIOUR**

Friday 22 & Saturday 23 May, 7.30pm, Norwich Theatre Playhouse

Natural Behaviour is a collection of performed portraits of human and non-human life forms. Somewhere between a variety show and a biology essay with Thick & Tight's distinctive mix of dance, satire and impersonation, it is a queer look at what it means to be natural or unnatural.

Access: Performance has Integrated Captioning

Tickets £20 U18/YoungNNF £10

Age 12+

Presented in partnership with Norwich Theatre

## **BE FLAT**

## **FOLLOW ME**

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 May, 3pm, Norwich City Centre

Follow two urban acrobats on a surprising and interactive journey through Norwich. Parkour and playful acrobatics turn the streets into a stage; urban façades become a backdrop; and cobblestones a dance floor; while the honking of passing cars becomes a fitting soundscape. Switch off your phones and tie your shoelaces - the audience will need to play its part.

Tickets £15 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **MAYA YOUSSEF**

### **FINDING HOME**

Friday 22 May, 7.30pm, St Peter Mancroft

Finding Home is a mesmeric journey through Maya Youssef's memories of war-torn Syria. Through her virtuosic qanun-playing, she

journeys through loss, transcendence and magic  
- finally arriving at hope.

Maya Youssef qanun, Ben Smith piano,  
Elizabeth Nott percussion

Tickets £25, £20, £12 U18/YoungNNF £10

## **JASMINE.4.T**

Friday 22 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

One of BBC Radio 6 Music's Artists of the Year, jasmine.4.t's beautifully realised debut album, *You Are The Morning*, was produced by Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus. Infused with a free, fluid and spontaneous spirit, dotted with hope and heartbreak in equal measure.

Tickets £18 (£20 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **NUBIYAN TWIST**

WITH SUPPORT FROM TARA LILY & TADI  
THE GREAT

Friday 22 May, 8pm, Epic Studios

A blend of virtuosic players, skilled producers and inspired composers join forces to create a unique, infectious sound drawing on jazz, hip-hop, afrobeat, Latin, soul, reggae and dance music. Expect ultra-tight musicianship and a powerful nine-piece, big band sound.

Tickets £29.50 (£32.50 on the door)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

## **DAN CANHAM**

### **DOUBLE BILL: FENLAND ELEGY & FOUR PORTRAITS FROM AN EDGELAND**

Saturday 23 May, 2pm, 20Twenty Productions,  
March

The Fenland premiere of five short films created by award-winning choreographer Dan Canham in collaboration with young dancers in the Fens. Fenland Elegy explores landscape, climate grief and rituals through Krump dancing, while Four Portraits from an Edgeland is an intimate portrayal of young people's connection to dance and their experiences growing up in the Fens.

Tickets £5

## **SECKOU KEITA BAND**

Saturday 23 May, 9.30pm, The Spiegeltent

Masterful Senegalese kora player Seckou Keita is a luminary amongst African traditional musicians. He blends traditional rhythms and modern compositions, creating a unique sound which embraces afro-pop, urban and hip-hop. In his 30th year as a performer and backed by an electrifying band, this promises to be an explosive live show!

Tickets £22 (£24 on the day) U18/YoungNNF  
£10

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **GOGO PENGUIN**

with support from DAUDI MATSIKO

Saturday 23 May, 8pm, Epic Studios

Manchester trio GoGo Penguin's exhilarating blend of jazz, classical and electronic influences are celebrated in their powerful new album,

Necessary Fictions. The trio dig deep for some of their boldest music to date.

Tickets £34 (£37 on the door)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

**RODERICK WILLIAMS WITH NORWICH  
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS**

**WALTON'S HENRY V & BELSHAZZAR'S  
FEAST**

Saturday 23 May, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Hall

Featuring international opera star, Roderick Williams, the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus present an exciting double bill of music by William Walton - Henry V: A Shakespeare Scenario, music from the 1944 Laurence Olivier film interlaced with extracts from the play and performed by Alex Jennings; and Belshazzar's Feast.

Norwich Philharmonic Chorus & Orchestra,  
Matthew Andrews and Ashley Grote conductors,  
Roderick Williams baritone, Alex Jennings as  
Henry V

Tickets £40, £35, £25, Students £18, £15

Presented by Norwich Philharmonic Society

## **SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE**

### **IMPULSE: MUSIC IN MOTION**

Sunday 24 May, 7pm, Norwich Theatre Royal

Scottish Ensemble are a pioneering collective of musicians who champion music for strings.

Developed in partnership with choreographer

Örjan Andersson, this memorised, kinetic

production of Shostakovich's Chamber

Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Serenade for

Strings, brings striking visual representation of

the patterns, intricacies and passion of these iconic works.

Tickets £38, £34, £30, £25, £15, £10

U18/YoungNNF £10

Presented in partnership with Norwich Theatre

## **NORWICH JAZZ FESTIVAL**

### **GARY CROSBY SEXTET: MINGUS MOVES**

Sunday 24 May, 8pm, Norwich Arts Centre

A truly unique celebration of musical genius Charles Mingus by visionary bassist and Tomorrow's Warriors founder, Gary Crosby. Reflecting on the spirit of the great man, Crosby has assembled a sextet of some of the best musicians in jazz today. In the hands of these exceptional players, expect the unexpected!

Tickets £29.50 (£32.50 on the door)

Presented by Norwich Arts Centre

# **CITY OF LITERATURE WEEKEND**

22 – 24 May

A joint presentation from Norfolk & Norwich Festival and National Centre for Writing bringing together a bold line-up of incredible novelists, memoirists and poets. From a brand new Harriet Martineau Lecture by celebrated writer-doctor Rachel Clarke, to Poet Laureate Simon Armitage and Booker Prize-nominated Ali Smith, there's truly something for everyone.

Presented in partnership with National Centre for Writing

10% off when you book three or more City of Literature Weekend events (excludes workshops).

For all City of Literature Weekend events, books will be available to purchase from The Book Hive.

## **FRIDAY 22 MAY**

### **ROB STARLING**

#### **SET SAIL!**

Friday 22 May, 10.30am, The Spiegel tent

Join bestselling picture book author and illustrator Rob Starling for a morning of drawing and storytelling, from silly sharks to intrepid adventurers. A fun, interactive event that will inspire little ones and grownups to pick up a pencil and get creative!

Tickets £5 per person

Families, children up to age 7 and their grown-ups

**JAMES CANTON**

**WILD THE WORLD: A NATURE WRITING  
WORKSHOP**

Friday 22 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Dragon  
Hall

Join James Canton, author of *The Oak Papers* and *Out of Essex*, for a nature writing workshop to help you tap into the wild around you through words and images.

Tickets £40

Age 16+

**PAULA SUTTON**

**THE BODY IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN: A  
CREAM TEA**

Friday 22 May, 2pm, Dragon Hall

Joining us for a delicious cream tea in the stunning surrounds of Dragon Hall, crime novelist Paula Sutton talks about her latest novel *The Body in the Kitchen Garden*, in which her protagonist Kate Rackham investigates a suspicious death at an exclusive retreat in the English countryside.

Tickets £20 (includes cream tea)

## **YVETTE EDWARDS**

### **WRITING THE FAMILY: A WORKSHOP**

Friday 22 May, 2 – 4pm, Dragon Hall

Yvvette Edwards, author of *The Mother and Say It Now*, leads a workshop that explores the family as the fundamental unit in fiction writing - the place where we first encounter love, betrayal, loyalty, disappointment and intimacy.

Tickets £40

Age 18+

**GEORGIA SHACKLETON  
FROM THE FLOORBOARDS**

Friday 22 May, 6pm, Dragon Hall

A conversation with Georgia Shackleton about her extraordinary debut book, *Shackleton: An Antarctic Journey*, tracing the life of her great-great-great uncle, Ernest Shackleton. She discusses the challenges of writing about family, her incredible research travels to Antarctica, and the oceans' key role in our planet's future.

Tickets £10

**JARRED MCGINNIS & SARAH HALL  
THERE IS NO MEANT TO BE**

Friday 22 May, 6pm, Dragon Hall

Two of the UK's brightest literary talents - Costa First Novel Award-winner Jarred McGinnis and celebrated novelist Sarah Hall - come together in conversation. McGinnis talks about his powerful new memoir, *There Is No Meant To Be*, exploring life as a wheelchair user and the bonds of family.

Tickets £10

## **SATURDAY 23 MAY**

**MELISSA HARRISON**

**THE GIVEN WORLD**

Saturday 23 May, 10am, The Spiegel tent

Melissa Harrison's latest book, *The Given World*, takes us into a contemporary reimagining of the rural uncanny. Join Melissa as she talks about the book and her journey to becoming one of our

most insightful writers on nature, the environment and the countryside.

Tickets £10

## **GEORGIA SHACKLETON**

### **BORROWED VOICES, LIVING SEAS: A LYRIC WRITING WORKSHOP**

Saturday 23 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Dragon Hall

Join Georgia Shackleton to learn the art of erasure poetry, or 'found text', using historical texts about the sea. Inspired by the ocean as a vast archive of voices and an essential life force, this workshop will have you see your local waterways with fresh eyes.

Tickets £40

Age 16+

## **RACHEL CLARKE**

### **HARRIET MARTINEAU LECTURE**

Saturday 23 May, 12pm, The Spiegelent

Author and palliative care doctor Rachel Clarke presents the 2026 Harriet Martineau Lecture. As a writer whose books, *Dear Life* and *Breathtaking*, have captured the public imagination, and as a doctor who witnessed first-hand the impact of the pandemic on the NHS, Rachel will speak about her personal and professional journey.

Tickets £12

### **PAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE**

Saturday 23 May, 2.30pm, Norwich Cathedral Cloisters (or Cathedral if weather is bad)

Bringing people together to enjoy the simple pleasure of the shared reading aloud of a great work of literature. This year we'll be reading Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. Drop in, stay for the whole thing, or just pop by.

Free, no booking required

**RISHI DASTIDAR**

**IMAGINING THE FUTURE THROUGH  
POETRY: A WORKSHOP**

Saturday 23 May, 2 – 4pm, Dragon Hall

Led by acclaimed poet Rishi Dastidar, this workshop will help you imagine what the future may hold. What can we preserve? What should we discard? How do we carry the past with us, and how should we let it go?

Tickets £30

Age 18+

## **ECE TEMELKURAN**

### **A NATION OF STRANGERS**

Saturday 23 May, 3pm, Dragon Hall

In conversation with Elif Shafak, internationally acclaimed Turkish writer Ece Temelkuran discusses her powerful new novel, *A Nation of Strangers* - a story of exile, belonging and the search for home.

Tickets £10

## **SUNDAY 24 MAY**

### **CITY OF LITERATURE PUBLISHING FAIR**

Sunday 24 May, 10am – 4pm, Dragon Hall

Meet publishers large and small, discover new titles, pick up signed copies, and chat with

editors and authors. A wonderful day out for book lovers with publishers including Salt, Boiler House Press, Offord Road Books, and many more.

Free, no booking required

**DARREN LEADER**

**MAKE YOUR OWN MEDIEVAL MARK: A WORKSHOP**

Sunday 24 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Dragon Hall

Dragon Hall is home to hundreds of medieval marks - symbols carved into its oak beams by the merchants, carpenters and artisans who worked there. Join artist and printmaker Darren Leader to learn about these mysterious markings and create your own in clay and lino.

Tickets £30

Age 16+

**ALI SMITH**

**GLYPH**

Sunday 24 May, 10.30am, The Spiegeltent

Booker Prize-shortlisted novelist Ali Smith discusses her brilliant new novel Glyph, a story about a world on the brink, about courage and resistance, about what we can hold onto when everything seems lost. A celebration of one of the UK's most distinctive and important literary voices.

Tickets £12

**JARRED MCGINNIS**

## **SHARED STORIES: A WORKSHOP FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Sunday 24 May, 2 – 4pm, Dragon Hall

This unique workshop, led by Jarred McGinnis, is designed for pairs – parent and child, siblings, friends, partners. Together you'll create new stories that explore your shared history and relationship. A chance to learn more about each other through creative writing.

Tickets £40 per pair

Age 18+

# **VISUAL ARTS**

## **NORWICH CASTLE**

### **IN PROXIMITY: THE OPEN ART SHOW**

14 February – 14 June, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Open to all adult artists living and working in the East of England, In Proximity seeks to promote and support emerging and established visual art talent from across the region. All shortlisted works are on display and available to purchase.

Castle Museum admission applies

## **NORWICH CASTLE**

### **SEVEN DECADES OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

28 March 2026 – 28 February 2027, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (ncas) celebrates its 70th anniversary with an exhibition that tells the story of its remarkable contribution to Norwich Castle's art collection. Since its formation in 1956, the society has acquired more than 160 works of art for the Castle.

Castle Museum admission applies

## **NORWICH CASTLE**

### **MIRANDA BOULTON: CHAIN OF FLOWERS**

16 May – 6 December, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Miranda Boulton's meticulous, jewel-like still-life paintings draw on the tradition of Dutch and Flemish still life but with a contemporary twist. Her work is both playful and serious, exploring themes of beauty, decay and the passage of time through the language of flowers.

Castle Museum admission applies

## **NORFOLK CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY**

### **SMALL THINGS**

9 – 23 May, Wednesday – Saturday 11am – 4pm, Crypt Gallery, Norwich

Marking ncas's 70th anniversary, an exhibition of small-scale works by ncas members. From painting and printmaking to sculpture and textiles, Small Things showcases the breadth and quality of work being made by artists across Norfolk.

Free admission

**OLIVIA BAX**

**WIND EYES**

8 May – 27 June, East Gallery, Norwich  
University of the Arts

Olivia Bax uses humble, everyday materials to explore ideas about enclosure, protection and fragility. Wind Eyes presents new sculptural works and suspended screens that play with light, shadow and the spaces in between.

Launch event: Wednesday 7 May, 5 – 7pm

Artist-led tour: Sunday 18 May, 1.30pm

In Conversation with Dr Stephen Feeke: Sunday  
18 May, 6pm

Free admission

## **MARY NEWCOMB**

### **A LIFE RECORDED**

20 April – 20 July, The Assembly House

The first major exhibition of Mary Newcomb's work since 2008. A much-loved painter whose work captures the quiet rhythms of rural life with honesty, humour and tenderness. This exhibition brings together paintings and drawings spanning her entire career.

Talk: Mary Newcomb - A Life Recorded with daughter Tessa Newcomb and grandson Dominic Martin, Tuesday 13 May, 5pm

Free admission

**\*CONDITIONS APPLY**

**GO GENTLY INTO THE GARDEN OF  
[IM]POSSIBLE DREAMS**

Wednesday 13 – Sunday 24 May (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 12 – 4pm, Thursday

quiet hours 12 – 4pm), PrimeYarc, Great Yarmouth

An immersive, multisensory installation exploring the relationship between chronic illness and the natural world. Created by artists living with chronic conditions, Go Gently offers visitors a space for rest, reflection and gentle exploration.

Thursday sessions are 'quiet hours' for people experiencing autism and other sensory sensitivities - reduced sound levels and lighting.

Free admission, booking essential

## **GROUNDWORK GALLERY**

### **OUT OF THE DEPTHS**

George Nuku & Frances Kearney

18 March – 6 June, Wednesday – Saturday

11am – 4pm, GroundWork Gallery, King's Lynn

Two artists respond to the discovery of Seahenge - the Bronze Age timber circle found on a Norfolk beach in 1998. George Nuku and Frances Kearney explore themes of ritual, landscape and our connection to the past.

Talk: The North Shore to Paradise with Ben Tufnell, Wednesday 14 May, 6pm, Studio Baum, King's Lynn. Tickets £15

Tour: Seahenge Revisited - from Lynn Museum to GroundWork Gallery, Friday 16 May, 2pm. Tickets £15

Free admission to exhibition

## **LOUIS NIXON**

### **OFF-EARTH**

Tuesday 12 – Friday 15 May, 12 – 5pm, Norwich University of the Arts Immersive Lab

A solo exhibition of new video works exploring objects in space - from satellites to space debris. Louis Nixon investigates how these human-made objects affect our view of the cosmos and our place within it.

Free admission

Presented by Norwich University of the Arts

**SAINSBURY CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS**  
**LIVING BY THE RULE: CONTEMPORARY**  
**MEETS MEDIEVAL**

16 May – 4 October, Sainsbury Centre

An exhibition that brings together contemporary and medieval artworks exploring themes of routine, regulation and ritual. Artists include Tacita Dean, David Hockney and Antony Gormley alongside rare medieval manuscripts and objects.

Pay What You Wish admission

## **SAINSBURY CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS**

### **PLAY POWER**

16 May – 4 October, Sainsbury Centre

From ancient board games to contemporary installations, Play Power examines the role of play across cultures and throughout human history. Featuring loans from major international collections alongside the Sainsbury Centre's own holdings.

Kate Pickering: The Ruling of Mother Julian,  
Friday 23 May, 2pm. Pay What You Wish

Pay What You Wish admission

## **CAROLINE FISHER PROJECTS**

### **THE GARDEN COMES INSIDE**

Saturday 10 May, Thursday 15 – Saturday 17  
May, Thursday 22 – Saturday 24 May, 1 – 5pm,  
Bolwick Hall

Site-specific artworks responding to the relationship between Bolwick Hall and its Humphry Repton-designed landscape. Artists explore how the garden enters the house through views, light and memory.

Artists in Conversation, Friday 16 May,  
11.30am. Tickets £6

Garden & Exhibition Tour with Caroline Fisher,  
Friday 23 May, 11am. Tickets £6

Exhibition tickets £6

## **NATIONAL TRUST BLICKLING ESTATE**

## **JOURNEYS**

Karun Thakar

22 May – 1 November, daily 11am – 4pm  
(closed 24 – 26 December), Blickling Estate

Textile artist Karun Thakar creates new work in response to Blickling's historic textiles and global connections. Through embroidery, weaving and installation, Journeys explores themes of migration, trade and cultural exchange.

Standard admission applies. Free for National Trust members.

## **FESTIVAL CONNECT & CREATE**

Festival Connect & Create is Norfolk & Norwich Festival's year-round programme for children, young people and communities. Through partnerships with schools, community groups and cultural organisations across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, we support thousands of people each year to engage with the arts.

Last year over 2,460 participants took part in Festival Connect & Create, with 77% of activity delivered in areas of need. 711 participants received bursary support enabling them to take part and 736 presented their work at the Festival in May.

## **PROJECTS IN THE 2026 PROGRAMME**

Many Festival Connect & Create projects feed directly into the Festival programme, giving

participants the opportunity to share their creativity with Festival audiences. This year's programme includes:

FROM THE DUNES - Joseph Harrington with Poppy Stevens Page 15

THE KING'S LYNN NINE - Bootworks Theatre Company Page 19

CROSSING THE LINE - A St George's Theatre Production Page 24

KIDS BUSINESS - Hunt & Darton Page 37

TREEKIN – Trigger Page 35

WIND IN THE WILLOWS - Sheringham Little Theatre Page 36

UEA + NNF THINKER IN RESIDENCE - Dr Karina Aveyard Page 47

YOUR TOWN, MY TOWN, OUR TOWN - Victoria Melody Page 49

FENLAND ELEGY & FOUR PORTRAITS FROM  
AN EDGELAND - Dan Canham Page 54

## **THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY: A SYMPOSIUM**

Tuesday 13 May, 10.30am – 4.30pm,  
Blackfriars' Hall, Norwich

A symposium exploring socially engaged practice with young people. Bringing together artists, educators, producers and young people to share learning and make new connections. Includes talks, workshops and performances.

Tickets £15 (includes lunch)

## **PARTNERS**

Creative Schools Partner: Norse

Creative Leaders Partner: Chadwicks



## **NEWS**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteering at Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a great way to be part of the action, meet new people and gain valuable experience. We're looking for volunteers to join our team in a variety of roles including Event Stewards, Assistant Event Managers, Office Assistants and Drivers.

Applications open at [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk) - deadline Sunday 9 March 2026

Volunteers Partner: Birketts

### **YOUNGNNF**

Under 26? Get tickets for £10 with YoungNNF. Free to join.

YoungNNF members aged 18-25 can also join FLOCK, our network of young creatives. Share ideas, gain skills and help shape the Festival.

Sign up at [nnfestival.org.uk/youngnnf](http://nnfestival.org.uk/youngnnf)

## **CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES**

This year we celebrate two significant anniversaries: Norwich Chamber Music Festival reaches its 75th year, and Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (ncas) marks 70 years of supporting contemporary art in Norfolk.

## **SUPPORTING LOCAL**

Woodfordes are our Official Beer Partner - a Norfolk brewery since 1981.

Jarrolds food hall provide delicious treats for Festival events.

Easters supply produce for our volunteers.

We're proud to partner with Yarmouth Oilskins.

Festival Gardens concessions are meat and fish-free.

## **SUPPORT US**

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a registered charity (number 1164424). Your support helps us bring world-class arts to Norfolk and create opportunities for thousands of children and young people across the region.

Ways to support:

- Make a donation online at [nnfestival.org.uk/support-us](http://nnfestival.org.uk/support-us)
- Leave a Gift in Your Will
- Donate at Festival Gardens bars (matched by Adyen)

- Become a corporate partner
- Join as a Supporter member
- Apply for a trust or grant

For more information visit  
[nnfestival.org.uk/support-us](http://nnfestival.org.uk/support-us)

## **ACCESS**

We are dedicated to making Festival events accessible for everyone. We have a variety of initiatives in place to remove barriers to attendance and enable more people to enjoy our work.

## **CONTACT US**

Email: [access@nnfestival.org.uk](mailto:access@nnfestival.org.uk)

Phone: 01603 877750

Website: [nnfestival.org.uk/access](http://nnfestival.org.uk/access)

## **TICKETS**

Free essential companion tickets for anyone that requires a carer/companion to facilitate their attendance of an event

Concession discounts – 10% off most tickets for full-time students, D/deaf or disabled people, Go4Less card holders, and those on Universal Credit

£10 tickets for Under 26s with YoungNNF

Free events for everyone to enjoy

## **ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**

Audio format brochure

To request an audio brochure please email [access@nnfestival.org.uk](mailto:access@nnfestival.org.uk) or call 01603 877750

## **ACCESSIBLE EVENTS**

Many of our events are largely visual - they have music, but no dialogue. These include:

MATTER ERA - Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14  
May, The Assembly House Page 26

WOLF - Wednesday 13 – Sunday 24 May, The  
Spiegeltent Page 27

REQUIEM - Friday 15 – Sunday 17 May, St  
Andrew's Hall Page 32

MUSEUM OF SPIRALS - specially created for  
audiences with profound and multiple learning  
disabilities (PMLD). Saturday 9 & Sunday 10  
May, Welcome Weekend Page 12

NATURAL BEHAVIOUR has integrated  
captioning - Friday 22 & Saturday 23 May,  
Norwich Theatre Playhouse Page 50

GO GENTLY INTO THE GARDEN OF  
[IM]POSSIBLE DREAMS has quiet hours every  
Thursday for people experiencing autism and

other sensory sensitivities - Wednesday 13 –  
Sunday 24 May, PrimeYarc, Great Yarmouth  
Page 77

## **VENUE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE**

The following information provides an overview of accessibility features at Festival venues. For more detailed information, please contact us.

### **NORWICH GUILDHALL (BOX OFFICE)**

Accessible toilet, internal lift, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

### **THE SPIEGELTENT**

Accessible toilet, ramped entrance, assistance dogs welcome

### **FESTIVAL GARDENS**

Accessible toilet, ramp, assistance dogs welcome

## THE ASSEMBLY HOUSE

Accessible toilet, ramp to level entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## BLICKLING ESTATE

Changing Places toilet and accessible toilets, accessible entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## BOLWICK HALL

Ramped entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## THE CORN HALL, DISS

Accessible toilet, level entrance, induction loop, internal lift, assistance dogs welcome

## CRYPT GALLERY

Entrance via staircase only

## CURIOUS DIRECTIVE

Internal lift, assistance dogs welcome

## EAST GALLERY, NUA

Accessible toilet, internal lift, ramped access via rear/side entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## EPIC STUDIOS

Accessible toilet, internal lift, assistance dogs welcome

## THE FORUM

Accessible toilets, level entrance, internal lift, designated parking, assistance dogs welcome

## GROUNDWORK GALLERY, KING'S LYNN

Accessible toilet, level entrance to ground floor, stairs to first floor exhibition space

## THE HALLS (ST ANDREW'S & BLACKFRIARS')

Accessible toilet, level entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## LYNN MUSEUM

Accessible toilet, level entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## 20TWENTY, MARCH

Accessible toilet, accessible entrance, internal lift, hearing loop, assistance dogs welcome

## NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, DRAGON HALL

Accessible toilet, ramped entrance via side door, internal lift, designated parking by prior arrangement, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## NORWICH ARTS CENTRE

Accessible toilet, ramped approach down to venue, assistance dogs welcome

## NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Accessible toilet, ramped approach up to entrance, internal lift, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## NORWICH CATHEDRAL

Accessible toilets, ramped approach down to main entrance, induction loop, internal lift to Cloisters, designated parking, assistance dogs welcome

## NORWICH THEATRE PLAYHOUSE

Accessible toilets, level access to foyer, internal lift or step-free access via garden to auditorium, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL

Accessible toilets, level access entry, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## NUA IMMERSIVE LAB

Accessible toilet, level entrance, designated parking, assistance dogs welcome

## OCTAGON CHAPEL

Accessible toilets, ramped access via rear/side entrance, designated parking, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## PRIMEYARC, GREAT YARMOUTH

Accessible toilet, ramped approach, designated and reservable parking, assistance dogs welcome

## SAINSBURY CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS

Accessible toilets, level entrance, internal lift, designated parking and reservable/paid parking, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## SEAGULL THEATRE, LOWESTOFT

Accessible toilets, level entrance, assistance dogs welcome

## SHERINGHAM LITTLE THEATRE

Accessible toilets, level entrance, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## ST GEORGE'S THEATRE, GREAT YARMOUTH

Accessible toilets, ramped entrance, wheelchair access via rear/side entrance only, assistance dogs welcome

## ST PETER MANCROFT

Level entrance, induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## STUDIO BAUM, KING'S LYNN

Step-free access via courtyard, assistance dogs welcome

## UEA DRAMA STUDIO

Level entrance, analogue induction loop,  
assistance dogs welcome

## WELLS MALTINGS

Accessible toilets, ramp up to entrance,  
induction loop, assistance dogs welcome

## THE WORKSHOP, KING'S LYNN

Accessible toilet, level access, assistance dogs  
welcome

## **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions on the content or  
accessibility of any events please don't hesitate  
to get in touch on 01603 531800 or  
[access@nnfestival.org.uk](mailto:access@nnfestival.org.uk)



# **BOOKING INFORMATION**

## **HOW TO BOOK**

Online: [nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk)

Phone: 01603 531800 (Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, during Festival Monday – Sunday 10am – 6pm)

In person: Norwich Guildhall, Gaol Hill, Norwich, NR2 1JS (Tuesday & Thursday 10am – 3pm, during Festival Monday – Sunday 10am – 6pm)

Festival Gardens Box Office (from Wednesday 14 May): Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich, NR2 1RP

## **DISCOUNTS**

Concessions: 10% off tickets over £10 for full-time students, D/deaf or disabled people, Go4Less card holders, and those on Universal Credit

YoungNNF: £10 tickets for Under 26s (free membership)

Essential Companion: Free ticket for carers

Multiple bookings: 10% off when you book 3 or more BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists concerts or City of Literature Weekend events

## **POSTAGE**

£1.75 postage fee for mailed tickets

E-tickets and collection are free

## **REFUNDS & EXCHANGES**

Refunds are not offered except in the event of cancellation or postponement.

Exchanges can be made up to 7 days before the event, subject to availability.

## **GETTING HERE**

Train: Greater Anglia services from London Liverpool Street (1 hour 50 minutes) and Cambridge (1 hour 20 minutes)

Coach: National Express services

Air: Norwich Airport

## **ABOUT US**

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a charity delivering one of the country's longest-running arts festivals and a year-round programme of creativity and culture for children, young people and their communities.

The Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May and is distinctive because we collaborate with artists to explore our unique physical and cultural identities and make art which is meaningful to the lives of our audiences.

Festival Connect & Create is the Festival's participation initiative, working across the region on projects that support and collaborate with educators, artists, young people and their communities.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a registered charity, number 1164424

**[nnfestival.org.uk](http://nnfestival.org.uk)**

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