



# THE ROYALTY THEATRE

EST 1925

ENTERTAINING SUNDERLAND



## Season Guide 2016-17

[www.royaltytheatre.co.uk](http://www.royaltytheatre.co.uk)



## Welcome to the Royalty Theatre's 92nd season, one which we hope will have something for everyone to enjoy.

For those drawn to comedy, we begin the season with Arnold Ridley's **The Ghost Train**, and there's also our March production, the classic **The Odd Couple**. Fans of more serious drama can look forward to David Hare's account of Oscar Wilde's downfall, **The Judas Kiss**, in February.

As per usual, we have our annual family pantomime, which this year is **Aladdin**, written and directed by the Royalty's own Helen Bowie. Family plays have proven popular in previous years, so we've included two in this season. **The Machine Gunners** is our October play, and we end the season with **Oliver Twist**, which includes a matinée performance on the Saturday.

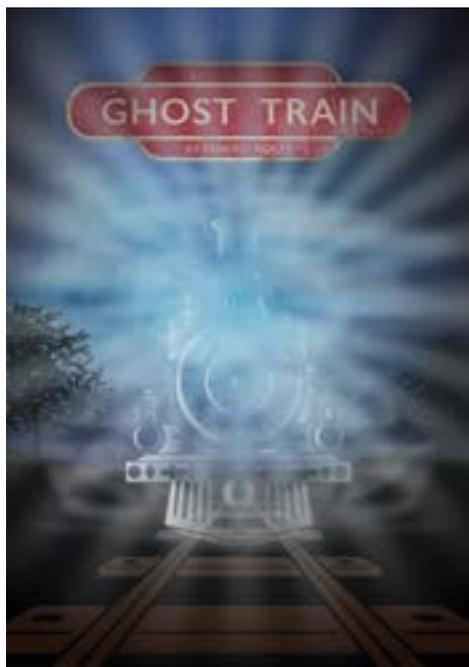
Of course, last season we unfortunately had to cancel our production of **The Pitmen Painters**, but I'm pleased to say that we've been able to include it this year in our May slot. I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience in the cancellation of the show, which was due to a potential safety issue in our auditorium.

Our prime concern has to be the safety of our customers, so unfortunately we had little choice.

But by way of an apology and as a thank you for your understanding, we are offering anybody with a ticket for the cancelled show to claim a two-for-one deal on any tickets bought on the door next season. Simply show the original ticket to our box office staff when purchasing your tickets.

As ever, we are always willing to hear your thoughts on play selection, so please feel free to pass your comments on to me via the contact form on our website.

John Appleton,  
Chair



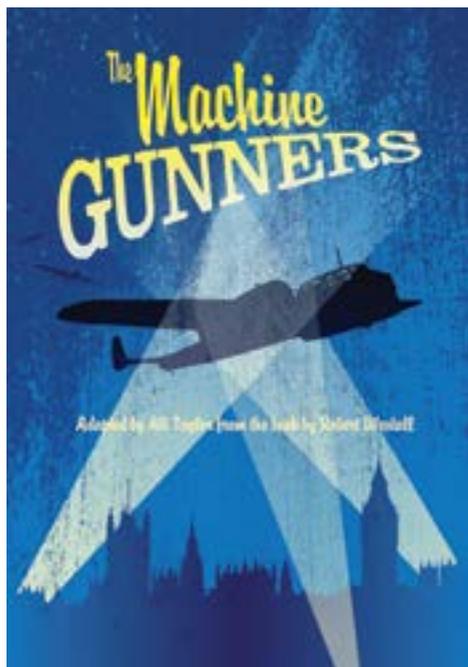
## The Ghost Train

*Written by Arnold Ridley*  
19-24 September, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50

Somewhere in Cornwall, the 1920's. A young man accidentally strands six passengers at a small Cornish station. Despite the stationmaster's story of a ghost train, they decide to stay the night in the stations waiting room.

Soon, they regret this decision as ghostly and not-so-ghostly apparitions materialise.

Arnold Ridley's timeless comedy thriller was first performed in 1925 and has been filmed three times.



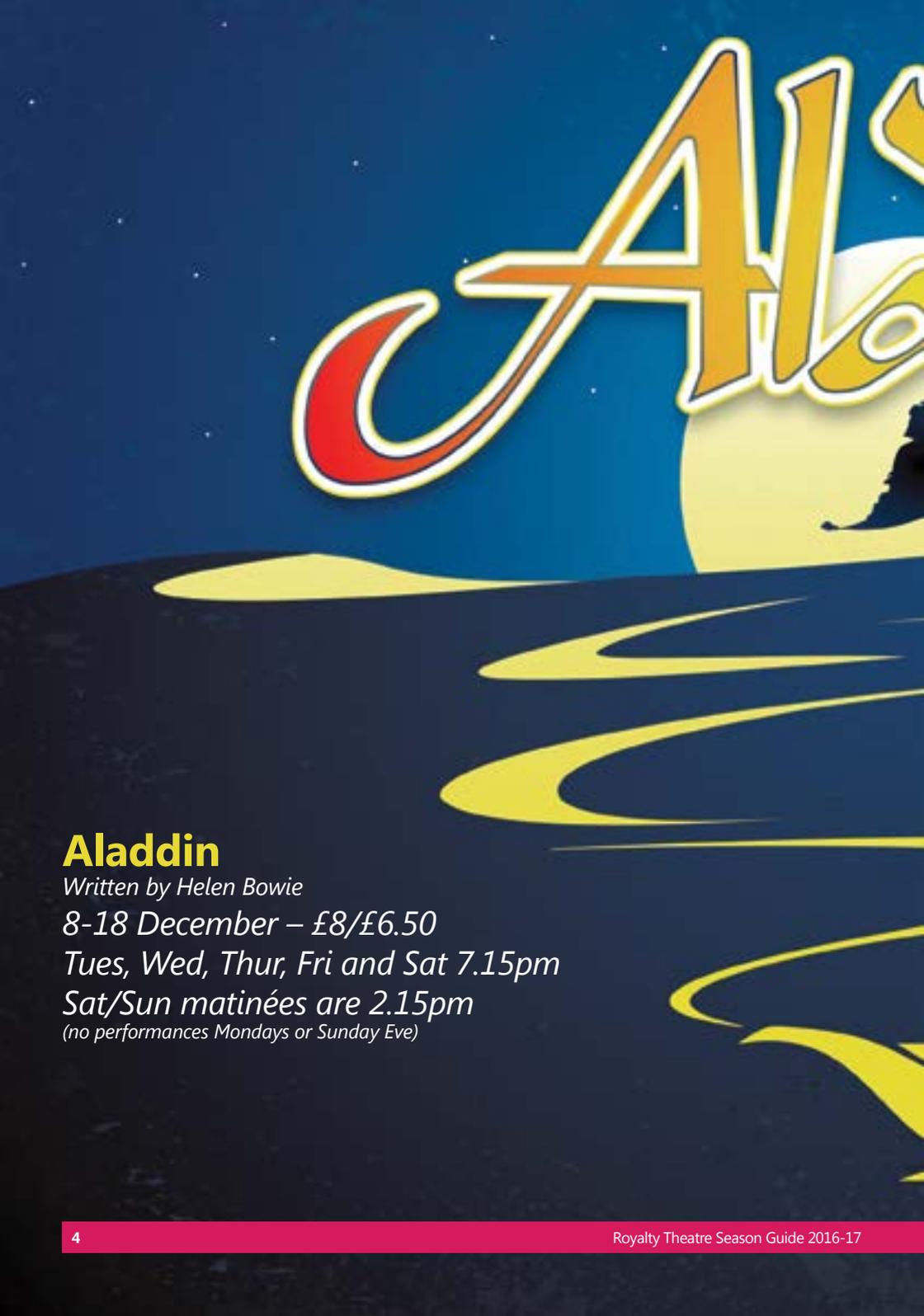
## The Machine Gunners

*Adapted by Ali Taylor from the book by Robert Westall*  
24-29 October, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50

Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best.

When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods – its shiny, black machine-gun still intact – he grabs his chance.

Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results.



# Aladdin

## **Aladdin**

*Written by Helen Bowie*

*8-18 December – £8/£6.50*

*Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri and Sat 7.15pm*

*Sat/Sun matinées are 2.15pm*

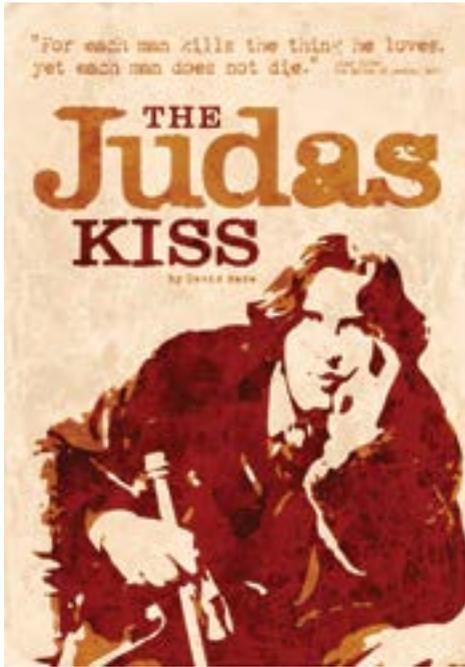
*(no performances Mondays or Sunday Eve)*

# Aladdin



This year, travel by magic carpet to Old Peking Town to follow the fortunes of Aladdin, Widow Twanky and Wishee Washee as they make friends with the Genie of the Lamp and battle the wicked Abanazer.

Full of witty one-liners, songs you can sing along to and all the panto moments you know and love, Aladdin is the panto you've been wishing for!



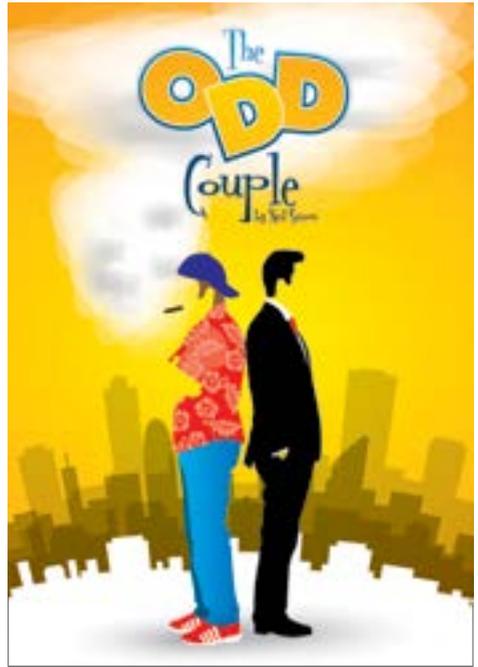
## The Judas Kiss

*Written by David Hare*

6-11 February, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50

London, 1895. Celebrated playwright Oscar Wilde is facing arrest for gross indecency. Urged on by his lover Bosie, who insists he can win the case, he spurns the chance to flee to the continent.

Two years later, released from prison, Wilde is a broken man, living in self-imposed exile in Italy. Against the advice of his friends, he has risked everything on a re-union with the fickle and selfish Bosie – a gamble which could see him lose everything.

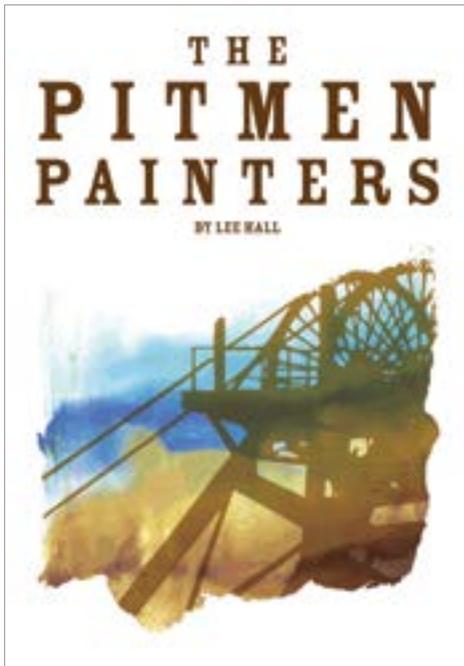


## The Odd Couple

*Written by Neil Simon*

20-25 March, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50

Two divorced New Yorkers – a slob and a fussbudget – try to live together “without driving each other crazy” in this classic based on Neil Simon’s hit play and movie.



## The Pitmen Painters

*Written by Lee Hall*

*15-20 May, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50*

In 1934, a group of Ashington miners and a dental mechanic hire a professor from Newcastle University to teach an Art Appreciation evening class.

Unable to understand each other, they embarked on one of the most unusual experiments in British art as the pitmen learned to become painters.



## Oliver Twist

*Written by Charles Dickens*

*19-24 June, 7.30pm – £8/£6.50*

*Sat matinée 2.30pm – £8/£6.50*

Written for the Bristol Old Vic, Jeremy Brock's stage version of Oliver twist is splendidly theatrical that combines the richness of Dickens's classic tale with the sinister antics of Fagin and will delight children and adults alike.

# Your Community Theatre

## Get Involved

The Royalty Theatre exists for the benefit of the community. We're here not just to entertain people but also to give people something worthwhile to get involved in. So whether you want to be a star on stage, want to learn some new skills, or just want to meet new people, the Royalty Theatre is the perfect place to do just that.

There's plenty to do: For any production, as well as actors, we also need people to help with building sets, finding props, making or altering costumes, running lights and sound, running our bar, selling ice creams, managing front-of-house and much, much more to help a show run smoothly. Training is always available – the only qualification is to be keen and willing to put in some time.

Anybody wishing to become involved in any aspect of the theatre is invited to come to one of our social evenings, which take place every Friday from 8.30pm in our bar. Here, you'll be able to meet current members of the theatre, who will be able to talk to you about the theatre and the opportunities available for current and future shows. Feel free to bring a friend if you think you might be nervous!

Those wishing to act should keep an eye out in our foyer and online for the auditions that we hold throughout the year. No experience or preparation is necessary.

For more information on how to get involved, please email [chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk), or use the contact form on our website.

## Hires

Need theatre space for a show? Planning a function and need a venue? The theatre is available for hire for various events. Both our main auditorium and studio are available for almost any kind of show, and our technical people can be on hand to assist. Our bar is also available to hire for

functions. For further information on hires and pricing, please email [chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk)



## Show sponsorships

Would you like to support the local artistic scene while giving staff or clients a great night out?

Sponsoring a show at the Royalty Theatre is the perfect way to do that – especially in the run-up to Sunderland's 2021 City of Culture Bid!

We have various options for sponsorship, which include the following benefits:

- 30 tickets to a performance of your sponsored show
- Logo and sponsor's name included on marketing materials related to the show, where possible
- Name of sponsor announced prior to each performance
- Bubbly reception in a private area of the bar
- Facility to set up a bar tab for your guests for the evening
- After-show sit-down meal in a private room for all of your guests

For further information and prices, please contact [chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk).

## Youth Academy



The Royalty Theatre Youth Academy (RTYA) meets at the theatre every week on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Young people will work on drama, music and dance, looking at different areas within each subject.

They gain an all-round understanding on the theatre including lighting, sound and set design, and have the opportunity to take part in RTYA productions at the Royalty and occasional outside venues – which last year included Northern Stage as part of the National Theatre Connections 500 Festival.

Fees £8.50 per week or £80 per term.

For more information please contact Corinne Kilvington on 07960 83 84 34.

## Contact:

Our address is 25 The Royalty, Sunderland, SR2 7PP, just a short walk from the University Metro station and close to several bus routes.



### General enquiries:

**0191 908 5683**

(please note that due to our voluntary nature, staff may not always be on hand to answer, particularly during the day).

Enquiries can also be made to the Chair via [chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@royaltytheatre.co.uk), or you can use the contact form on our website.

You can also find us on the internet at [www.facebook.com/RoyaltyTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/RoyaltyTheatre) or [twitter.com/RoyaltyTheatre](https://twitter.com/RoyaltyTheatre)

### Ticket booking and enquiries:

**0333 666 3366**

Tickets can also be booked at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/royaltytheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/royaltytheatre)

For group sales, please contact the Chair via email.

We can occasionally provide a box office service at the theatre, please see the website or foyer notices.

# Season ticket and membership application form\*

## I wish to become a member of the Royalty Theatre.

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN CAPITALS)

Title:       MR     MRS     MISS     MS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership subscriptions (please tick appropriate box)

**Full Membership**     £40     £35 concessions

This includes membership to the Royalty Theatre and ONE free ticket to each main stage production.

**Active Membership**     £20

For those involved with aspects of running the theatre, this includes ONE half-price ticket to each main stage production.

**Junior Membership**     £20

Members who are under 18, this includes ONE free ticket to each production.

I enclose remittance for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make cheques payable to the ROYALTY THEATRE)

If willing to participate in activities other than as an audience member, please tick appropriate box:

Acting     Properties     Sound     Lighting     Set Construction     Directing/Assisting

Wardrobe     Bar     Ice Cream     Front of House     Prompt

**Please return this form to Membership Secretary:**

Post: Caroline Chapman, Royalty Theatre, 25 The Royalty, Off Chester Road, Sunderland SR2 7PP

Email: caroline.chapman1816@gmail.com

\* By completing this form you are consenting to your details being kept on file. They will not be passed on to any third party.

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