Centre Stage

Would you like to become a new promoter?

Centre Stage’s Touring Programme is distributed to voluntary group members twice a year— in April and October— giving details of shows and artists available, along with a whole range of information which helps promoters to choose tours most appropriate to their local venue and local audience. Groups select their shows, after which dates are allocated and a tour schedule produced, along with a seasonal leaflet like this one.

The performers allocated get in touch directly with promoters and arrange to send publicity— posters and flyers— for distribution locally. Promoters are responsible for printing and selling tickets, marketing the show, making sure that the venue is booked and hosting the event, which includes looking after the company or performers and ensuring an audience is attracted to the performance. Promoters have to contribute to the cost of the performance by selling tickets in order to meet the required fee shown in the Touring Programme.

Centre Stage is a subsidised rural and community touring scheme for Leicestershire and Rutland and is financially assisted by all the local authorities listed in the front of this leaflet and Arts Council East Midlands. Centre Stage is a Regularly Funded Organisation.

Local authority arts officers are involved in developing the scheme in their district and in distributing the Touring Programme and collecting the bids for shows. Artserve co-ordinates the scheme and, along with the arts officers, gives a range of support and advice to the local promoters, including information on marketing and promoting.

The Touring Programme is designed to give a wide choice of live professional performing arts to local communities so that people have the opportunity to see quality shows on their doorstep. It also has a wide appeal across a range of ages and interests and there is much for the family audience.

If you would like to know more about Centre Stage and becoming involved, call your local arts officer or Sue Roberts on 01544 327877.

We hope that you enjoy this Autumn/Winter season of Centre Stage, which is now in its sixth successful year. Thank you to all our local promoters for their hard work.

Disability Access and Venues

All venues have a commitment to access for disabled people. Many have full access & a range of facilities & others are working towards this goal. Please see back pages for access details supplied by venues.

Co-ordinated by artserve.
Most of the shows are suitable for general family audiences; however, to make it easier for you to plan a great night out, look for the family friendly symbol and particularly the age recommendation.

For more information on the Scheme call Sue Roberts: 01544 327877

Centre Stage is the Rural and Community Touring Scheme for Leicestershire and Rutland bringing opportunities for professional live touring to village and community venues throughout the two counties.

Touring companies and performers with regional, national and international profiles who specialise in work for small spaces tour to venues across Leicestershire and Rutland offering a fantastic night out on your doorstep. These tours include a wide range of theatre, music, opera, dance, storytelling and poetry, children’s theatre, puppetry and comedy theatre, with members of the local community hosting the event. When possible, and appropriate, allied participatory workshops are offered and these are placed in the local community.

All the shows listed are professional performances subsidised by your local District or Borough Council: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, and the two County Councils of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Tickets are sold locally for each event by the village or community promoters. Check with each venue for ticket prices.

The scheme is co-ordinated by Artservice on behalf of The Leicestershire and Rutland Arts Development Officers’ Forum.

Supported by:

This programme is financially supported by Arts Council England East Midlands.

**September**

MAZAÏKA
IN CONCERT
Russian, Folk and Gypsy Music Cabaret

Mazaïka duo is a perfect, yet totally unconventional, marriage of violin, accordion and voice, with performances full of fun, excitement and virtuosity; emotional depth and musical subtlety. Their twinkling humour, rapport with the audience and with each other gives the audience an intoxicating experience, which they will not easily forget.

Mazaïka - Igor and Sarah - present a brilliant evening of highlights from their Classical, Russian and Gypsy programmes, interspersed with some of their favourites from around the world, including Argentine Tango, Neapolitan song, songs from the twenties and thirties, Bluegrass, Hot Club Swing, Klezmer and popular tunes, a real cabaret extravaganza.

A very special evening of music, song and fun!

Sun 23 Sept  Quorn Village Hall - LE12 8BB  7:30pm  01509 414287
Thu 27 Sept  Samworth Centre at St Mary’s - LE13 1AE  7:30pm  01664 503323
**AJTC THEATRE COMPANY**  
**ON THE BLACK HILL BY CHARLIE WAY ADAPTED FROM BRUCE CHATWIN’S NOVEL**

“For forty-two years, Lewis and Benjamin Jones slept side by side, in their parents’ bed, at their farm which was known as ‘The Vision’.”

So begins Bruce Chatwin’s award winning tale of twinnship, love and belonging, set on the border of England and Wales. Award winning playwright Charles Way’s beautiful new adapation captures the harsh realities and humour of farming life and the unique struggle of the twins, who have one identity but two realities. Their remarkable lives span almost the whole of the last century and throw an extraordinary light on the values of our changing time through war and peace. Bound together and yet driven apart by nature they struggle to find meaning and purpose in their existence which is dominated by one question. Who will inherit their farm, their ‘Vision’?

AJTC brings its distinctive style to a new adaptation of Bruce Chatwin’s award winning and much loved novel, featuring a specially commissioned score with live cello music.

On The Black Hill will appeal to all those who like a good story told well.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Salford Village Hall - LE14 4DZ</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>01164 446339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 15 Nov</td>
<td>Wing Village Hall - LE15 8SA</td>
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**OPERA DUDES**  
**A LIFE OF ORGANIZED CRIME CROON**

Meet two modern day Mario Lanzas performing some of the world’s most romantic music, in the pair’s own unique vocal arrangements.

Opera Dudes comprise a posh former Cambridge scholar and an ex-builder turned international operatic tenor telling their life stories and performing music ranging from Puccini to Elvis Presley and Dean Martin, via Rachmaninov, arias from Rigoletto and a melody of Neapolitan songs in a full 90 minute show.

Tim Lole and Neil Allen combine their musical and vocal pedigrees with an injection of humour and charm. Don’t be surprised to find your feet tapping, your sides splitting and your heart breaking.

An evening, which is sure to charm all.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 30 Sept</td>
<td>Barlestone School Community Hall - CV13 0EP</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>01455 291577</td>
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<td>Fri 12 Oct</td>
<td>Kirby Bellars Village Hall - LE14 2EA</td>
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<td>01664 813514</td>
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<td>Fri 2 Nov</td>
<td>Humphrey Perkins School - LE12 8JU</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<td>Sun 17 Feb</td>
<td>Plungar Village Hall - NG13 0JE</td>
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<td>Tue 19 Feb</td>
<td>Wing Village Hall - LE15 8SA</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>01572 737408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22 Feb</td>
<td>Billesdon, The Coplow Centre - LE7 9AR</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>0116 259 6985</td>
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PHIL ALEXANDER AND GREG LAWSON
BOX AND FIDDLE BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT!

Phil and Greg's music spans the world - Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Eastern Europe, Brazil. Traditional tunes are given a new twist, and original music is built from all the influences that they have encountered on their musical adventures. You will hear seductive waltzes, driving Balkan and Klezmer dances, heart-stopping tangos, foot-stomping reels and more - all played with wit, style and passion.

Phil and Greg are two of the UK's most versatile and innovative World musicians. Phil is a lynchpin of festival favourites Salsa Celtica (recently nominated for three Radio 2 folk awards) and is also the driving force behind the hugely successful Moishe's Bagel. Phil's dynamic and inventive sound fuses his expertise across jazz, World and classical music. Greg is that rare thing: a classical musician able to channel his fearsome ability into the many sides of World and folk music, and still emerge with a sound all his own.

Together these two are a compelling mix of rhythm, dialogue and energy. Be there!

Thu 4 Oct Morcott Village Hall - LE15 9DX 7:30pm
Fri 5 Oct Desford Village Hall - LE9 9GN 7:30pm

PENTABUS THEATRE COMPANY
WHITE OPEN SPACES

White Open Spaces: A young woman is jilted at a society wedding; a farmer's wife fails to notice her marriage falling apart; a landlord has the worst day of his life...

Award winning Pentabus returns to its rural roots, with an evening of seven "talking heads". By turns hilarious, moving, provocative, White Open Spaces is a powerful exploration of life in the countryside today.

Critically acclaimed in Edinburgh, London & Stockholm, broadcast on BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour, White Open Spaces was nominated for a South Bank Show Award earlier this year.

A powerful evening of theatre for an adult audience.

Tue 2 Oct Bosworth College - LE9 9JL 7:30pm
Fri 5 Oct Ashby de la Zouch Venture Theatre - LE65 1HU 7:30pm
Sat 6 Oct Appleby Magna Sir John Moore Foundation - DE12 7AH 8:00pm

October

October

October
Robert Tressell wrote only one novel during the course of his troubled life - however his book did much to change attitudes towards the plight of workers at the beginning of the 20th century. Tressell (real name Robert Noonan) was a skilled artist who created spectacular friezes and murals in the local church as well as working on more mundane tasks such as decorating rooms for the wealthy in his hometown of Hastings. His real life experiences of harsh working conditions drove him to write the book, which was not published until after his death.

Philip Dart’s intelligent adaptation focuses on some of the individual human stories within Tressell’s powerful novel, including that of Owen, a skilled artist who is shamelessly exploited by his bosses: Ruth Easton and her decorator husband who are forced to take in a lodger to make ends meet and Bert, the 15 year old apprentice who is bullied and abused by his employers.

However, humour is never very far away as Tressell satirises the scams and tricks of the trade used by bosses as they skimp on time and materials to save money - a scenario not unfamiliar to householders of the 21st century!

Fri 12 Oct  Bosworth College - LE9 9JL  7:30pm
01455 822841
The lads of "The Flat Pack" love being Frank… and Deano and Sammie. The summit of their aspirations is a sharp suit, a cool song, a classy dame, a Jack Daniels and a fistful of aces… Unfortunately that's not the hand they've been dealt.

They're just three working-class lads from the North of England with suits from Oxfam and a big dream. Vegas! And if that dream is snatched away they'll go to any daft lengths to get it back. Any crazy caper, an intricate plan…

A Stewart Howson play with its typical mix of low comedy and high emotion. "But more, much more than this … They did it their way".

Oct 16 Lutterworth Grammar School - LE17 4EW 7:30pm
01455 205122

Oct 17 Long Clawson Village Hall - LE14 4NA 7:30pm
01664 822247

Oct 18 Wymeswold Memorial Hall - LE12 6TY 7:30pm
01509 880277

Trading Faces' new show for autumn 2007 is Alice, inspired by 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and 'Through the Looking Glass' by Lewis Carroll. Alice is a family show packed with fun for adults and children aged 5 years upwards. The show celebrates the fun and nonsense of Lewis Carroll's stories using masks, puppetry, film and poetry, drawing on the rich visual world of Carrol's dynamic characters.

Carroll's stories offer an action packed narrative - the tale of a young girl who is thrown into a strange new world where she struggles to fit in and make sense of her surroundings. She is constantly faced with new challenges and has to learn to adapt and ultimately find the confidence to assert what she knows is right.

This show has Trading Faces' trademark style of highly visual, fast and physical action and a contemporary treatment of a familiar story with relevance for an audience today full of visual surprises.

Fri Oct 19 Greetham Community Centre - LE15 7NG 7.30pm
01572 813117

Wed Nov 7 N Warks and Hinkley College Campus, Room 2 Studio Theatre - LE10 1HQ 6.30pm
0247 624 3002
Unruly Women is an uplifting story with a (relatively!) happy ending about three women transported to Australia in the 1820s. Although they are told this sentence is a serious punishment, the women remain defiant and see it as an opportunity for a new beginning. The story revolves around how each of them displays hope and courage in the face of uncertain future, trusting that their inner strength will see them through.

The songs and music in Unruly Women are a mixture of folk and classical-style music from the period. This will be a play to please and thrill all audiences.

Sat 20 Oct  Samworth Centre at St Mary’s - LE13 1AE  7:30pm  01664 503523
Sun 21 Oct  Ashby Magna Village Hall - LE17 5NQ  7:30pm  01455 202599

Hank and Reg are on the road again! This performance is folksy and intimate, consisting of one part original songs mostly taken from Hank’s new album Best Foot Forward, one part original songs from Reg’s recent Short Stories and his brand new album Still. The third part is a selection of duets taken from the rich vein of songs produced in America from the 1930s to 50s by Brother acts such as The Louvin Brothers and The Blue Sky Boys.

Songs that dealt with anything from religion, atomic power and class prejudice to the inevitable cheatin’, drinkin’ and divorce. As you’d expect from Hank, the show contains plenty of humour, with his ‘You don’t have to make it up…!’ look-at-life, and his firm belief that it is possible to cry and dance at the same time!

This is a classy evening of classic Country music for devotees and those who think they can’t stand it - everyone loves Hank and Reg.

Sat 27 Oct  Walton on the Wolds Village Hall - LE12 8HT  7:30pm
Fri 9 Nov  Claybrooks Village Hall - LE17 5Sj  01455 209336
Sat 10 Nov  Ilston Village Hall - LE7 9EG  0116 259 6925
Sat 19 Jan  Plungar Village Hall - NG13 0JE  01949 860257
Sun 20 Jan  Burton on the Wolds - LE12 5AG  01509 881369/07973 244101
OTTC TOURING THEATRE COMPANY

UNDER MILK WOOD, BY DYLAN THOMAS

Under Milk Wood is the final flowering of Dylan Thomas’ ripe genius, a poetic day-in-the-life of an imaginary small town - lyrical, heart-warming and wickedly funny!

Peep through the keyhole, peer behind the curtains and join Lily Small, the poisonous Pughs, blind Captain Cat and a host of other colourful characters for the dance of the world and a sing-song in the Sailors’ Arms.

Under Milk Wood was universally praised by critics, promoters and audiences, alike, during OTTC’s first national tour a year ago. Be sure to see this masterpiece production of the Dylan Thomas classic.

Thu 8 Nov Enderby Civic Centre - LE19 4NT 7:30pm
0116 275 3711

14+

TARA ARTS

SLAVERY BY JONATHAN PAYNE

Tara Arts celebrates 30 years of Asian Theatre in Britain with its autumn tour of the acclaimed play Slavery by Jonathan Payne.

A phenomenal one-act play, Slavery is receiving its UK premiere in the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery. The consequences of the English slave trade are brought alive through the actual testimonials of American slaves, their music and passion for life.

Drawn from real interviews with US slaves this powerful drama combines personal testimony with sung Negro spirituals to create a remarkable sense of a dark time in American history.

Frank Bell “I was owned by Johnson Bell born in New Orleans, Louisana. Accordin’ to the bill of sale, I’m eighty-six years of age and my master was a Frenchman and was real mean to me. He ran a saloon and kept bad women. I don’t know nothing about my folks, if I even had any, ’cept Mama. They done tell me she was a bad woman and French creole.........”

A must for all theatre-goers.

Fri 9 Nov Bosworth College - LE9 9JL 7:30pm
01455 822841

14+
OSUN ARTS

IGBEKUN

World class Osun Arts present IgbeKun, a drama and dance performance in the West African Yoruba tradition featuring live theatre, dynamic dances, powerful drumming and elaborate costumes.

IgbeKun tells the tale of how a peaceful land was plundered during the slave trade. Learn how they bought back their priceless freedom with their sweat, labour, and lives. A story of how Africans entered the slave market many years ago, which is emotionally moving with a melancholy beauty. It’s a performance mixed with fast paced theatrical action, mime, songs, chants and music.

The performance is divided into two parts. The first half is dialogue based dance theatre with traditional songs and music. The second half is based purely on traditional dance forms, never seen before, presented in different colourful costumes as the climax of the piece.

A visual and musical feast!

Tues 13 Nov Appleby Magna - Sir John Moore Foundation - DE12 7AH 01530 273629
Thu 15 Nov Long Whatton Village Hall - LE12 5DB 01509 646413
Fri 16 Nov Sewstern Village Hall - NG33 5RJ 01476 861065 / 861798

CIRCUS BERZERCUS

BEYOND A JOKE

Move over Jamie Oliver! Circus Berzercus goes catering crazy with is new adventure set, in the first half, in real cafe chaos!

Wallace and Gerald will serve you from their menu of manipulative miscellanea: specialties will include tricks with hats, pots, plates, coats, crockery, cutlery and more in this action packed adventure. Conflict will never be far away as this mismatched pair present feats of balance, brilliant juggling and hilarious magic.

Warning: This show is seriously funny! To be enjoyed by all the family

Circus Berzercus was awarded most innovative act at the International Clown Convention.

Sat 17 Nov Gumley Village Hall - LE16 7RU 0116 279 3931
Fri 7 Dec Stoke Golding Village Hall - CV13 6EA 01455 213827
Thu 28 Feb Twyford Village Hall - LE14 2HU 01664 840352
Fri 29 Feb Bagworth Village Hall - LE67 1BN 01530 230347

ALL AGES

Family Show

November

November
TANGERE ARTS  
HOOD IN THE WOOD

Award winning *Hood in the Wood* is a delightful play lasting 45 minutes, with a post show workshop, written as a poem by Noel Greig, and staged very simply (and innovatively) by Tangere Arts, featuring actor Gary Lagden, composer/musician, Lewis Gibson, five red chairs and a range of weird and wonderful musical instruments.

Gary plays all the characters (Mum, Red, Tree, Wolf, Gran) and Lewis plays all the music. Granny’s house deep in the middle of the woods seemed far more enticing. But what about the dangers that lurked there? The darkness? The creatures in the night? And the famous wolf? Did he really exist? And then it happened - a parcel on the mat - a cloak and a journey of a lifetime - or a journey through a lifetime really - which little Red would never forget!

Fabulous family theatre for 7 years upwards. Recommended adults accompany children.

Fri 23 Nov  Harby Village Hall - LE14 4BZ  7:00pm  01949 861422
Sat 24 Nov  Broughton Astley Village Hall - LE9 6PT  6:00pm  01455 285655
Sun 25 Nov  Ibstock The Palace Community Centre -  3:00pm  LE67 6LG  01530 267303

CHUCK AND ALBERT ARSENAULT  
ACADIAN MUSIC, COMEDY AND DANCE

Former members of world renowned Barachois

Chuck and Albert are no strangers to the art of total entertainment! They play brilliant music on a range of instruments alongside a mix of all-out sketch and comedy routines. The upbeat foot-stomping music of the indigenous Prince Edward Island is thrilling. Canada’s answer to the New Rope String Band!

From their unique cultural vantage point, these Island, Acadian funny-men deliver clean, creative, musical family entertainment which will have you laughing all the way home.

Chuck and Albert believe two things: that every situation, no matter how grim, will be happily resolved, and that Chuck, who is thirty-eight years old, will never be able to do his own laundry!

Not to be missed at any cost!

Sun 25 Nov  Hose Village Hall - LE14 4JR  7:00pm  01949 860707
Wed 28 Nov  Long Clawson Village Hall - LE14 4NA  7:30pm  01664 822247
NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY

THE HIRED MAN
BY MELVYN BRAGG AND HOWARD GOODALL

This autumn, popular New Perspectives Theatre is touring the first ever small-scale revival of an acclaimed West End musical theatre piece, *The Hired Man*, by Melvyn Bragg and Howard Goodall.

Tracking the changes and challenges faced by two generations of a farming and mining family in the early years of the 20th century, this show will resonate strongly with rural audiences today.

It’s an honest, emotional, fiercely passionate drama with utterly brilliant music. Haunting, thrilling, stirring - completely epic!

New Perspectives - a regional favourite!

**Tues 27 Nov** Lutterworth Grammar School - LE17 4EW 7:30pm
01455 205122

**Wed 28 Nov** Dixie Grammar School - CV13 2LE 7:30pm
01455 291303

**Thu 29 Nov** Queniborough Village Hall - LE7 3DH 7:30pm
0116 269 7431

**Fri 30 Nov** Countesthorpe Village Hall - LE8 5TB 7:30pm
0116 277 6259

**Sat 1 Dec** Scalford Village Hall - LE14 4DZ 7:30pm
01664 446639

**Wed 5 Dec** South Luffenham Village Hall - LE15 5NW 7:30pm
01780 720687

**Fri 7 Dec** Mancon Village Hall - LE15 0SJ 7:30pm
01572 737503

**Sun 9 Dec** Humphrey Perkins School - LE14 8JU 7:00pm
01509 412063 / 07718 153117

INTERNATIONAL STARS
ALISTAIR ANDERSON AND MARTIN SIMPSON
IN CONCERT

When these two internationally acclaimed soloists got together to rehearse for a performance at The Sage in Gateshead, they discovered such an exciting musical chemistry that the short duo performance they’d envisaged would round off a concert of two solo sets developed into a whole concert of duets with some solo items interspersed through the evening.

Drawing on traditional music from both sides of the Atlantic, they exploit a fascinating range of sounds using guitar, banjo, concertina, Northumbrian pipes, Hawaiian guitar and voice to create music that ranges from the most beautifully plaintive to the joyous, lively and uplifting.

“A truly magical evening Alistair and Martin complemented each other flawlessly performing with such skill and openness I was left breathless”. Gilly Love at The Sage

**Wed 28 Nov** Thringstone Community Centre - LE67 8NR 7:45pm
01530 222337

**Tues 4 Dec** Peating Magna Village Hall - LEB 8JQ 7:30pm
0116 247 8933

**Fri 7 Dec** Wymeswold Memorial Hall - LE12 6TY 8:00pm
01509 880277

**Thu 13 Dec** Wyndonham Village Hall - LE14 2AB 8:00pm
01572 787247 / 07792 756531
COOPE BOYES AND SIMPSON AND FRIENDS
VOICES AT THE DOOR

The bumper winter harvest continues! Voices at the Door comprises a bright and vibrant selection of songs and stories learned both from family carolling and the living carol singing tradition of the singers’ local areas of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, together with some personal favourites.

Coope, Boyes and Simpson, Fi Fraser, Jo Freya and Georgina Boyes tell the story of carols - joyful and vigorous, darkly resonant or sublime - with tales of squabbling choirs, composers, collectors and controversy in words and music: An evening of superb unaccompanied harmonies and fascinating historical detail.

“There are carol singers and then there are Coope, Boyes and Simpson. Add Georgina Boyes and the two Fraser sisters, Jo and Fi, and you have a combination that manages to put the magic back into Christmas.”

Surrey Advertiser

Sun 2 Dec Sewstern Village Hall - NG33 5RJ 01476 861065 / 861798 7:30pm
Sun 9 Dec Fleckney Village Hall - LE8 8AY 0116 240 2993 7:00pm
Sun 16 Dec Burton on the Wolds - LE12 5AG 01509 881369/07973 244101 7:30pm

December

TUTTI FRUTTI
SILLY BILLY, ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY AWARD WINNING WRITER ANTHONY BROWNE

The story of the boy who worried too much!

Billy is a bit of a worrier. He worries about hats…he worries about shoes…

He worries so much he can’t sleep. Luckily Grandma knows what he needs to help him overcome his fears.

Rich Guatemalan colours, inventive props and strong movement coupled with specially composed music and the simple words and illustrations by Anthony Browne, Silly Billy is a must for every venue.

Tutti Frutti productions - in its own unique style - and in collaboration with York Theatre Royal brings this brilliant children’s book alive with the rich colours and the haunting sounds of Guatemala.

Great fun for everyone!

Thu 6 Dec Thrussington Village Hall - LE7 4TH 01664 424430 6:30pm
Fri 7 Dec South Kilworth Village Hall - LE17 6DS 01858 575520 7:00pm

December

and their adult families
SHOO SHOO BABY
WINTER WONDERLAND

The fantastically glamorous singing duo Shoo Shoo Baby, Tanya and Anna, have worked with world-class musicians and directors to produce a series of Pocket-Sized Broadway Musicals that can be presented absolutely anywhere. They have performed all over the UK and abroad and have received glowing reviews for their combination of hilarity, originality and musicality.

In A Winter Wonderland, the deliciously glamorous singing duo and their highly talented accompanist perform fresh new arrangements of Christmas classics, alongside gorgeous unknown gems from the 1940s.

As well as opportunities to participate in the ‘giving’, the audience is also invited to listen and be charmed by such songs as Angie the Christmas Tree Angel, A Winter Wonderland and a delightfully ‘steamy’ rendition of Santa Baby. The Shoo Shos also perform a variety of non-festive songs such as Happy Feet, Favourite Things and Lady is A Tramp, for those who just can’t take too much Christmas!

Tues 11 Dec Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall - LE12 8RZ 7:30pm

THE ARCADIANS
STRINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE

The Arcadians breathe new life into old music and produce a musical history tour that is lively, informative and above all, highly entertaining.

The Arcadians play and sing music from the 1920s and 30s but sometimes as early as the 1890s; the repertoire is mostly American but also from other parts of the world. They perform on a wide variety of stringed instruments and their programme ranges from the familiar, Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli, to the more obscure, ‘Banjo’ Ikey Robinson and The Dallas String Band. The quartet touches on blues, ragtime, country and Hawaiian music showing that not only is it all related, but it’s all great music and great fun!

The quartet was formed by Martin Wheatley, who plays at least eight different fretted instruments during the show. He has made several concert tours of the USA, collecting 78rpm records and vintage instruments on the way - guitars, banjos, ukuleles and Hawaiian guitars.

The illustrious line-up includes Tom ‘Spats’ Langham; Roger Graham (double bass) Mike Piggott plays violin, guitar and the rarely heard Strohviol. A brilliant evening of music.

Sat 15 Dec Plungar Village Hall - NG13 0JE 8:00pm
01949 860257

Fri 18 Jan Countesthorpe Village Hall - LE8 5TB 7:30pm
0116 277 6259
**Pinocchio**

Pinocchio tells the tale of a poor carpenter, Geppetto, who has no wife and no child. He carves himself a puppet boy out of wood and calls him Pinocchio.

Pinocchio, like other children, has a lot of lessons to learn in life. When he disobeys his father and runs away, he has a series of adventures which teach him these lessons, the most famous being that he shouldn’t tell lies. When Pinocchio lies, his nose grows longer.

Eventually, Pinocchio and Geppetto are reunited inside a big fish that has swallowed them both up. Once home, Pinocchio promises to be good and he becomes a real boy and a real son.

NTC’s popular seasonal show **Pinocchio** is adapted by nationally acclaimed playwright Mike Kenny.

A sure fire winner!

- **Tue 15 Jan** Harbury Village Hall - LE16 7SU  5:00pm
- **Wed 16 Jan** Long Clawson Village Hall - LE14 4NA  7:00pm
- **Thu 17 Jan** Seagrave Memorial Hall - LE12 7LU  7:30pm

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**OTTC TOURING THEATRE**

**THE DELICIOUS REVENGE OF PRINCESS RUBY SLIPPERS**

By Brendan Murray

Take a 5 year old, 6 year old and 7 year old, add one harassed mum; a handful of favourite fairytale characters; season well with some sensational songs; mix together in a larger dressing up box and leave for five frenetic, fun-filled minutes. Result? A topsy-turvy, helter-skelter history of sibling rivalry and parental desperation in a world of mixed-up musical make-believe where the Fairy Godmother’s hot and bothered and the Wicked Witch is itching to make boy pie!

With a surprise round every corner and a twist in every tale **Princess Ruby Slippers** is guaranteed to tickle the ribs of children, parents and grandparents everywhere.

- **Wed 16 Jan** Barlestone School Community Hall - CV13 0EP  7:30pm
  01455 291577
CIRCUS BERZERCUS
KOMEDY OF ERRORS

A Komedy of Errors - juggling, escapology, balancing, mind reading and hilarious comedy for all the family!

Two brilliant performers - Gerald (Juggler Ben Cornish) and Wallace (Clown Steven Eldridge) combine to bring you a show packed with comedy, dazzling juggling, circus skills, unicycling and daftness suitable for all ages.

From curtain up there's trouble. Wallace and Gerald are thrown together when Gerald's regular partner falls ill. The replacement is wildly over-enthusiastic. Gerald demands order! Will this intrepid pair overcome their differences? The audience is encouraged to join in as part of the fun.

Ben and Steve have created this show especially for community venues and small-scale theatres. A light hearted, warm and family friendly evening, combining some great circus skills and clowning. Not to be missed!

"This show made grown men cry with laughter, enjoying the show every bit as much as the children!" Audience Member

Tue 29 Jan Hoton Village Hall - LE12 5SF 7:30pm
Thu 31 Jan Appleby Magna, Sir John Moore Foundation - 6:30pm

NEW ROPE STRING BAND
IN CONCERT

Brilliant musicianship counts for very little if you're playing with total wallies. The two surviving members of the Old Rope String Band (Pete Challoner and Tim Dalling) have joined forces with two amazing musicians (Jock Tyldesley and Vera van Heeringen) and as a four piece they are taking the country by storm.

They play a big assortment of tunes and all sorts of hoedown, pan-Celtic old-timey up-beat down-home music. All this is combined with bizarre physical nonsense and clowning about. And singing. And dancing.

Everything about New Rope String Band will bring pleasure to absolutely, almost everyone. Boundless energy, exuberant spectacles and beautiful music executed with kindness.

The band that everyone wants back!

Fri 1 Feb Old Dalby Village Hall - LE14 3LR 8:00pm
Sat 16 Feb Elmesthorpe Village Hall - LE9 7SP 7:30pm
Riccardo Tesi and Maurizio Geri
In Concert

Join Riccardo and Maurizio for a wonderful, evocative evening of Italian music and song with accordion, guitar and vocals; a joyful musical event in the company of two internationally renowned musicians who play with warmth and passion.

Riccardo Tesi is a composer and impeccable instrumentalist on the Italian accordion. He is a multifaceted musical personality, a true pioneer of new music, influenced by his own rich Italian musical territories as well as retaining his links with the traditional music of his beloved Italy. Maurizio Geri: amazing guitarist and singer, was related to the revival of the folk tradition the Pistoia Apennines. He and Riccardo have been part of a famous Italian band for many years.

Together these two extraordinary musicians provide a heart warming journey through the traditional music of Italy in an intimate and refreshing way.

Wed 6 Feb Appleby Magna Sir John Moore Foundation - 8:00pm
DE12 7AH
01530 273629

Sat 9 Feb Claybrooke Village Hall - LE17 5AJ
01455 209336

Sun 10 Feb Quorn Village Hall - LE12 8BB
01509 414287

Shoo Shoo Baby
Delicious! Directed by Hannah Mackay

The dazzlingly glamorous musical cabaret duo, Shoo Shoo Baby, Tanya and Anna, blends dry humour, rich harmonies and pulse-racing costume changes in their colourful new show Delicious!

Once Shoo Shoo Baby take to the stage the musical action never stops; they move seamlessly from The Old Bazaar in Cairo, via the Orient to Transylvania. The girls’ friendly rivalry leads to an explosive finale as they compete to be the audience’s favourite sweet.

In Delicious, Shoo Shoo Baby perform witty new arrangements of familiar songs such as Big Spender, A Night In Tunisia, The Monster Mash and The Rivers of Babylon by award winning arranger Warren Willis and musical director Craig Schneider. No theme tune, jazz standard or pop song is safe from their tongue-in-cheek treatment or quirky interpretation!

Simply delicious!

Thu 21 Feb Hoby Village Hall - LE14 3DT
Doors open at 7:15pm for an 8:00pm start
01664 434120
NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY
IN SEARCH OF PONTIFLUNK BY PHIL SMITH

In Search of Pontiflunk is a unique journey to the heart of the English Countryside which began when writer Phil Smith stumbled upon a dusty copy of *The Book of The English Oak* while searching the archive of his local library for information about acorns.

Published 100 years ago, Charles Hurst’s book is an extraordinary account of the journey he made on foot from Manchester deep into the East Midlands, planting hundreds of acorns as he went. It’s the story of an Edwardian man on a mission, the many characters he meets en route and how his fate was to become entwined with that of Pontiflunk - his canine companion.

Phil Smith will be donning his walking boots and retracing Hurst’s steps, looking at the trees planted, the scenes of triumphs and setbacks and the last resting place of his faithful friend.

In Search of Pontiflunk promises to be a delightful, funny, thought-provoking evening of theatrical storytelling inspired by Hurst’s eccentric genius and Phil’s own brand of offbeat observation - top quality entertainment guaranteed from New Perspectives, the East Midlands’ favourite rural touring theatre company.

**Thu 21 Feb** Samworth Centre at St Mary’s - LE13 1AE 7:30pm
01664 503523

**Tue 26 Feb** Cottesmore Community Centre - LE15 7DH 7:30pm
01572 813599

**Wed 27 Feb** Sproxton Village Hall - LE14 4RE 7:30pm
01476 860293

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INTERNATIONAL WORLD MUSIC AND DANCE PROGRAMME

We are delighted to be able to continue offering Leicestershire and Rutland audiences a chance to see superb international work as part of this Autumn/Winter season made possible with extra financial assistance from NRTF/Esmée Fairbairn Vital Connections Fund, Arts Council England East Midlands and the County and District Councils.

We hope that you will enjoy two fantastic tours: hilarious music and dance duo Chuck and Albert Asenault from tiny Prince Edward Island, Canada, and world class traditional musicians Riccardo Tea and Maurizio Geri from Italy.

Book now to ensure your ticket guaranteeing an evening of exceptional quality, hosted in your local hall.
If you have enjoyed a Centre Stage performance why not visit your local independent theatre:

Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Leicester
Box Office: 0845 310 3344 Visit: www.peepulcentre.com

Concordia Theatre, Stockwell Head, Hinckley
Tel: 01455 615 005 Visit: www.concordiatheatre.co.uk

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council - Lindsay Orton,
Tel: 01455 238 141 Email: lindsay.orton@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Harborough District Council - Sophie Sylvester,
Tel: 01858 821 291 Email: s.sylvester@harborough.gov.uk

Loughborough Town Hall, Market Place, Loughborough
Box Office: 01509 231 914 Visit: www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk

Or go along to one of the many events taking place throughout Leicestershire as part of Leicester Comedy Festival, 8th - 17th February 2008
Visit: www.comedy-festival.co.uk

If you are interested in putting on similar events in your community then your local contact is:

Blaby District Council - Sallie Wocha,
Tel: 0116 272 7617 Email: slw@blaby.gov.uk

Charnwood Borough Council - Sue Walters,
Tel: 01509 268 903 Email: sue.walters@charnwood.gov.uk

Harborough District Council - Catharine Hallinan,
Tel: 01664 502 377 Email: challinan@melton.gov.uk

North West Leicestershire District Council - Julia Harley,
Tel: 01530 454 604 Email: julia.harley@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council - Sallie Wocha,
Tel: 0116 257 2667 Email: sallie.wocha@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Rutland County Council - Julia Emmott,
Tel: 01572 720 921 Email: jemmott@rutland.gov.uk
CENTRE STAGE AUTUMN-WINTER 2007-08 DIARY AT A GLANCE

MAZAIKA
IN CONCERT
Sun 23 Sept Quorn Village Hall - LE12 8BB 01509 414287 7:30pm
Thu 27 Sept Samworth Centre at St Mary's - LE13 1AE 01664 503523 7:30pm

ATC THEATRE COMPANY
ON THE BLACK HILL BY CHARLIE WAY ADAPTED FROM BRUCE CHATWIN'S NOVEL
Fri 28 Sept Sceaford Village Hall - LE14 4DZ 01664 444639 7:30pm
Fri 28 Sept Hurnsey Perkins School - LE12 8JU 01509 412063 7:30pm

AJTC THEATRE COMPANY
ON THE BLACK HILL BY CHARLIE WAY ADAPTED FROM BRUCE CHATWIN'S NOVEL
Fri 28 Sept Scalford Village Hall - LE14 4DZ 01664 444639 7:30pm

OPERA DUDES
A LIFE OF ORGANIZED CROON
Sun 30 Sept Barlestone School Community Hall - CV13 0EP 01455 291577 7:30pm
Fri 12 Oct Claybrook Village Hall - LE17 5AJ 01455 209336 7:30pm

PHIL ALEXANDER AND GREG LAWSON
BOX AND FIDDLE BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT
Thu 4 Oct Morcott Village Hall - LE15 9DX 01572 747515 7:30pm
Fri 5 Oct Desford Village Hall - LE9 9GN 01455 823537 7:30pm

LUKE DANIELS AND JAN BLAKE
CARIBBEAN STORYTELLING AND CELTIC MUSIC
Sat 6 Oct Appleby Magna Sir John Moore Foundation - DE12 7AH 01530 273629 8:00pm

TRADING RACES
ALICE
Fri 19 Oct Greetham Community Centre - LE15 7NG 01572 813117 7:30pm
Wed 7 Nov N'Warks and Hinley College Campus, Room 2 Studio Theatre - LE10 1HQ 0247 624 3002 7:30pm

QUONDAM THEATRE
UNRULY WOMEN BY SUE MCCORMICK
Sat 20 Oct Samworth Centre at St Mary's - LE13 1AE 01664 503523 7:30pm
Sun 21 Oct Ashby Plaga Village Hall - LE17 5NQ 01455 820597 7:30pm

HANK NAGSAND AND REG MEGROSS
NO HALL TOO SMALL
Sat 27 Oct Walton on the Wolds Village Hall - LE12 8HT 01509 880411 7:30pm
Fri 16 Nov Sewstern Village Hall - NG33 5RJ 01476 861065 7:30pm

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CENTRE STAGE AUTUMN-WINTER 2007-08 DIARY AT A GLANCE
CENTRE STAGE AUTUMN-WINTER 2007-08 DIARY AT A GLANCE

**ACADIAN MUSIC, COMEDY AND DANCE**

Sun 25 Nov Hose Village Hall - LE14 4JR 01949 860707 7:00pm
Wed 28 Nov Long Clawson Village Hall - LE14 4NA 01664 822247 7:30pm

**NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY**

**THE NEEDED MAN**

Tues 27 Nov Lutterworth Grammar School - LE17 4EW 01530 202237 7:45pm
Wed 28 Nov Podington Village Hall - LE13 4JX 01166 247 8933 7:30pm
Thur 29 Nov Queniborough Village Hall - LE7 3DH 01166 247 8933 7:30pm
Fri 30 Nov Countesthorpe Village Hall - LE8 5STB 01166 247 8933 7:30pm
Sat 1 Dec Sproxton Village Hall - LE14 4RE 01476 860293 7:00pm

**COPE BOYES AND SIMPSON AND FRIENDS**

_Sun 2 Dec Saveotn Village Hall - NG33 5RJ_ 01476 861065 7:30pm
_Sun 9 Dec Fleckney Village Hall - LE8 5UQ_ 01166 240 2993 7:00pm
_Sat 16 Dec Burton on the Wolds - LE12 5AG_ 01509 881369 7:30pm

**TUTTI FRUTTI**

_Sun 6 Dec Thrusongon Village Hall - LE7 4TH_ 01664 424430 6:30pm
_Fri 7 Dec South Kilworth Village Hall - LE17 6DS_ 01858 575520 7:00pm

**SHOOSHOO BABY**

_WINTER WONDERLAND_

Tues 11 Dec Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall - LE12 8RZ 01509 890721 7:30pm

**THE ARCADIANS**

_STRINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE_ 01509 842197 7:30pm
_Sat 16 Dec Elmesthorpe Village Hall - LE9 7SP_ 01166 842197 8:00pm

**NTC TOURING THEATRE**

_PINOCCHIO ADAPTED BY MIKE KENNY_ 01509 890721 7:30pm
_Tue 15 Jan Sanworth Centre at St Mary's - LE13 1AE_ 01664 503523 7:30pm
_Tue 26 Feb Gosford Community Centre - LE15 7DH_ 01572 813599 7:30pm
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**CHUCK AND ALBERT ARSENAULT**

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Disability Access and Venues

Appleby Magna, Sir John Moore Foundation
Arts Network, Newlands Primary School
Ashby Magna Village Hall
Ashby de la Zouch, The Venture Theatre
Bagworth Community Centre
Barlestone C of E Primary school community hall
Billesdon, The Coplow Centre
Bosworth College
Broughton Astley Village Hall
Burton on the Wolds Village Hall
Claybrooke Village Hall
Cottesmore Village Hall
Countesthorpe Village Hall (Active Arts)
Desford Village Hall
Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth
Elmsthorpe Village Hall
Enderby Civic Centre
Fleckney Village Hall
Greetham Community Centre
Gumley Village Hall
Hanbury Village Hall
Harby Village Hall
Hoby and District Village Hall
Hose Village Hall
Horton Village Hall
Humphrey Perkins School, Barrow upon Soar
Ibstock, The Palace
Ilston Village Hall
Kibworth Village Hall
Long Clawson Village Hall
Long Whatton Community Centre
Lutterworth Grammar School
Marton Village Hall
Moratt Village Hall
Hinckley, Studio Theatre, N Warls & Hinckley College Campus
Old Dalby Village Hall
Peatling Magna Village Hall
Plungar Village Hall
Queniborough Village Hall
Quorn Village Hall
Samworth Centre at St Marys
Scalford Village Hall
Seagrave Memorial Hall
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Venue Name</th>
<th>Key to Access Symbols</th>
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<td>Sewstern Village Hall</td>
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<td>South Kilworth Village Hall</td>
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**Key to Access Symbols**

- Reservable/general parking on site
- On street parking
- Designated parking OR booked prior arrangement
- Level entrance
- Ramp approached up
- Ramp approached down
- Total number of steps at entrance
- Alternative wheelchair entrance
- Ramp on internal route
- Ramp on internal route
- Total number of steps on internal route
- Internal lift
- Standard WC facility only
- Wheelchair accessible toilet
- Wheelchair accessible toilet with transfer space limited
- Induction loop
- Infrared System
- Assistance dogs welcome

**Access Information**
The access information given has been supplied by the individual venues and collated by Artservice; to the best of our knowledge and belief, it is accurate.

Please call venue for further information, or clarification, on specific details.