

what's on

Autumn season



**QUEEN'S
THEATRE**
HORNCHURCH



October 2023 Issue



How do you write a play about **Jack the Ripper without making it about Jack the Ripper?**

***Killing Jack*, a newly commissioned play from Sadie Hasler (*Stiletto Beach, Misfits*), is a darkly thrilling plunge into a world where women return to take back their stories; perhaps even to exact their own bloody revenge...**

Like many people (surprisingly, mostly women) one of my guilty pleasures is cosying up at home and watching a nice programme about serial killers. Fred & Rose? Yes please. Ian & Myra? Cor, yeah. Jeffrey, Ted, Peter, Harold, Ed. And of course, all those with super cool names like *Night Stalker*, *Monster of the Andes*, and *The Brooklyn Vampire*. All the big boys of evil; a great evening of uncomfortable viewing. But none raises a chill in these parts more than Jack the Ripper. The Elvis of Murderers. For years in my head, because of the sledgehammer branding he

has received, he was a debonair gent with a top hat and nasty temper, incited to murder women to satiate his violent issues.

While reading a clickbait article I've since forgotten, I realised I didn't know how many women Jack the Ripper killed. I didn't know their names, who they were, or if they were (drumroll) *even prostitutes* at all. I just knew that this wily brutal man had fascinated the world with his incomparable talent for evading escape, albeit in the pre-forensic landscape of Victorian London. Was he an angry pauper, a butcher, a lunatic, the queen's doctor, or even her grandson and thus heir to the throne? Jack still had the knack, almost 150 years later, to keep a worldwide army of macabre enthusiasts on their toes.

No one play could ever give justice to the women who lived such heartbreakingly difficult lives and died such barbaric deaths. So, after almost a year of many drafts and beating myself up, I stopped trying. What good could I ever do these poor women? Which aspects of their five very different, wildly unique and fascinating lives should I even try to begin to boil down for a ninety-minute portion of 'entertainment'? Did I have the right to try?

Since I couldn't write a five-hour play, I decided the best I could do for them, aside from shining a light on them, showing them some love, and completely removing Jack the Ripper as the central character (a furious instinct from the start), was to try and do the best for women in general. Explore what has changed since their murders in 1888 changed the world. With their deaths they gave us a villain to love – Jack – and we gave them nothing.

As I researched, I quickly grew weary of all the usual Ripper bilge. The titillating depiction of the Ripper's prey especially annoyed me. The fact that four of the women weren't even prostitutes! As I began ignoring the countless resources written largely by men, I even questioned whether I had picked a dud subject for a play. These male self-proclaimed authorities didn't give a fig for the women. I found myself sighing, rolling my eyes, and grinding my teeth on a very regular basis. But it wasn't boredom or ambivalence I was feeling, it was a frustration that would very quickly turn to full-bodied rage. Was this rage, then, the basis of the play that needed to be written?

Because what has changed since 1888? Women are still told, if we walk home alone late at night (or any time, depending on where you live), that we are "taking our lives in our own hands"...

Inevitably, thank goodness, I soon found *The Five* by historian Hallie Rubenhold and promptly stopped reading anything else written by a man about Jack the Ripper. I knew now that I did not actually care about the Ripper at all; I cared about the women. I couldn't – and wouldn't – read any more about them being prostitutes, fallen women, drunks, unfortunates, bad mothers or unrecognisable corpses. My empathy was now cast in a kind of warrior iron. I was not just ready to feel for these women, I was ready to fight!

But how do you write a play about Jack the Ripper without making it about Jack the Ripper?

Then it came to me, it was obvious! They could be us. We could be them!

Because what has changed since 1888? Women are still told, if we walk home alone late at night (or any time, depending on where you live), that we are "taking our lives in our own hands" (take a second to think about how wrong that saying is, apportioning blame to a victim) - for it is still so chillingly likely that something horrific could happen to us while we dare to take that chance. Some women, like those in 1888, don't have the means to secure their own safety.

Every night that we make it home safe, we are all the one who got away. Every single woman on this planet – present and future – is a few sad circumstances, some bad luck, one night on the wrong street away from being Polly, Annie, Liz, Kate, or Mary Jane.

A play in their honour is a drop in the ocean of what they deserve. But these remarkable women will never leave me now – they are real heroines with permanent residence in my heart. I hope they'll find the same in your hearts too.

Sadie Hasler, writer of *Killing Jack*

Killing Jack

Director
Caroline Leslie (she/her)
Designer
Dora Schweitzer (she/her)
Lighting Designer
Stephen Pemble
Sound Designer
Steve Mayo (he/him)
Dramaturg
Sarah Dickenson (she/her)
Musical Director & Composer
Paul Herbert (he/him)
Movement Director
Emily Holt (she/her)
Casting
Jenkins & McShane (she/her)
QTH Creative Lead
Alex Thorpe (he/him)
Executive Producer
Mathew Russell (he/him)

Tickets: £12.50* – £29*

Dates: 26 Oct – 11 Nov | 7.30pm

Previews: 26 & 27 Oct | 7.30pm

Matinees: Thu 2, Sat 4, Thu 9, & Sat 11 Nov | 2.30pm

Audio Description: All performances from 31 Oct

To book for an accessible performance, call **01708 443333** or email access@queens-theatre.co.uk

Age guidance 11+

*+65p QNext fee

A WORLD PREMIERE

5 – 8
Oct



A Havering Changing production, in association with Queen's Theatre Hornchurch

Fiesta

By **Joe Lichtenstein**

A fiesta for the Ford Fiesta

June 2023 marks the end of the Ford Fiesta, an icon of the British Motoring Industry. **Fiesta** is a new play to celebrate its legacy. Telling stories from Ford Fiesta creators, owners, neighbours, and friends. The people's play about the people's car.

Join us for a fiesta for the Ford Fiesta and celebrate the end of an era!

These work-in-progress performances have been made in partnership with the people of Orchard Village, the former housing estate for Ford Factory workers.

A WORLD PREMIERE

Writer & Director **Joe Lichtenstein**
Producer **Rachael Nolan Productions Ltd**
Music **Sarah Angliss**
Set & Costume Designer **Simon Kenny**
Lighting Designer **Kathrine Sandys**
Movement Director **Krista Vuori**

Tickets: £10 | £5 conc.

Dates: 5 – 8 Oct | 7pm

Matinees: Sat 7 & Sun 8 Oct | 2pm

*+65p QNext fee

A FESTIVAL OF NEW IDEAS

10 – 14
Oct

BLUEPRINT

Blueprint Festival 2023

An extraordinary week of new and unusual theatre

We invite you to join us for a week of new ideas and theatrical delights, featuring a mix of fresh talent and returning favourites in multiple performance spaces all over the theatre.

The Freak

By Bertie Darell

Evening Conversation

By Sudha Bhuchar

Open The Front Door

By various artists

Deep, Time, & Air

By Sára Märc

[Don't] Try This At Home

By State of the [art]

Usher

By Royal Central School of Speech and
Drama Second-Year Students

Foodaholix

By BLINK Dance Theatre

A Different Class

By Kenny Emerson

Defiant Journey

By Jo Cox and Kate Lovell

[See our website for more information](#)

Tickets:

£5* | FREE for Open The Front Door

Dates: 10 – 14 Oct

To book for an accessible performance,
call **01708 443333** or email
access@queens-theatre.co.uk

*+65p QNext fee

WORLD PREMIERE, DARKLY IMAGINATIVE THRILLER

26 Oct –
11 Nov



A Queen's Theatre Hornchurch production

Killing Jack

By **Sadie Hasler**

The Autumn of Terror. 1888. When five women are brutally slaughtered in the slum warrens of Whitechapel, the world's biggest manhunt begins and a legend is born. Jack the Ripper.

Halloween. 2023. Best mates Jules and Maz are dressed to kill and ready for fun. But on the night of the dead, a shattering event occurs and something awakens in the old bones of Whitechapel. Something dark, something restless...

Killing Jack, a newly commissioned play from Sadie Hasler (*Stiletto Beach*, *Misfits*), is a darkly thrilling plunge into a world where women return to take back their stories; perhaps even to exact their own bloody revenge...

Cast: Charlie Buckland (he/him), Jessica Johnson (she/her), Hanna Khogali (she/her), Anne Odeke (she/her), Gemma Salter (she/her), Caitlin Scott (she/her), Rebecca Wheatley (she/her).

Director **Caroline Leslie** (she/her)
Designer **Dora Schweitzer** (she/her)
Lighting Designer **Stephen Pemble**
Sound Designer **Steve Mayo** (he/him)
Dramaturg **Sarah Dickenson** (she/her)
Musical Director & Composer
Paul Herbert (he/him)
Movement Director **Emily Holt** (she/her)
Casting **Jenkins & McShane** (she/her)
QTH Creative Lead **Alex Thorpe** (he/him)
Executive Producer **Mathew Russell** (he/him)

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CHRISTMAS AT QUEEN'S THEATRE HORNCHURCH

23 Nov –
31 Dec



A Queen's Theatre Hornchurch pantomime

Dick Whittington

By **Andrew Pollard**

Original Music & Lyrics by **Tom Self**

A purrr-fect magical rags to riches tale

Join plucky Dick Whittington and trusty cat on their quest for fame and fortune. Arriving in London, disaster strikes, as the streets aren't paved with gold, but overrun with rats unleashing hell across the city...

So as Dick sets out on exciting escapades far afield, he's going to need more than the help of Alice Fitzwarren and cheery cook Sherrie Trifle if he's to fulfil his magical destiny to become Mayor of London!

Hot on the heels of last year's record-breaking *Sleeping Beauty*, winner of the Off West End 2023 Best Pantomime award, this festive sparkling favourite with side-splitting jokes, fabulous actor-musician musicality and traditional mayhem, is guaranteed to delight all ages.

'This panto is firmly in the realm of Family Fun. Oh yes it is'

London Theatre 1 on *Sleeping Beauty*

'A must watch highly rated five star performance, fit for any West End stage'

The Havering Daily on *Sleeping Beauty*

Director **Vik Sivalingam** (he/him)
Designer **Katie Lias** (she/her)
Musical Director **Tom Self** (he/him)
Lighting Designer **Stephen Pemble**
Sound Designer **Chris Drohan** (he/him)
Choreographer **Lucinda Lawrence** (she/her)
Casting Directors **Debbie O'Brien & Sophia Lewis** (she/her)
QTH Creative Lead **Aisling Gallagher** (they/them)
Executive Producer **Mathew Russell** (he/him)
Consulting Producer **Caroline Leslie** (she/her)

Tickets: £13* – £34.50*
60+ discount available for Fri 15 Dec | 2pm

Dates: 23 Nov – 31 Dec

Audio Description: Sat 9 Dec | 2pm

British Sign Language Interpreted: Sat 9 Dec | 6.30pm

Dementia Friendly: Thu 14 Dec | 1.30pm

Relaxed (SEN Friendly): Thu 14 Dec | 5.30pm

To book for an accessible performance, call **01708 443333** or email **access@queens-theatre.co.uk**

*+65p QNext fee

GUEST SHOWS

Sun 22 Oct
7.30pm



M.G. Boulter

The Other Stage

Following his successful tour in Autumn 2022, expect a more intimate show for 2023. Combining new album material and storytelling, highlighting M.G.'s songs as an important contemporary voice in the long tradition of the singer-songwriter.

Tickets:
£10*

Conc.
£8*

Wed 25 Oct & Wed 22 Nov
2.30pm



Down Memory Lane

The Other Stage

A show for people with Dementia & their Carers. Join Kay Carman and friends for a happy, nostalgic afternoon full of all your favourite melodies. This hour-and-a-half-long performance includes a 20-minute break for a free cuppa and biscuit.

Tickets:
£10*

Carer free

Wed 25 Oct & Wed 22 Nov
7.30pm



Comedy Club

The Other Stage

See the stars of tomorrow, right now on your doorstep! The biggest stars of stand-up came here on their way to stratospheric fame. See the stars of tomorrow, right now on your doorstep!

Acts contain strong language. Off the Kerb reserves the right to alter line-ups.

Tickets:
£12*

Sun 29 Oct
2.30pm



Hancock's Half Hour – The Lost Episodes

Auditorium

In 1954, Tony Hancock burst onto the airwaves of the BBC Light Programme with a comedy show unlike anything the British public had heard before. *Hancock's Half Hour* was one of the first programmes in the genre we now know as sitcom. Come and take a trip to 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam to join 'the lad himself' and his motley crew for three classic episodes.

Tickets:
£20*

Conc.
£18*

Sun 12 Nov
2.30pm



New Dawn Chorus

The Other Stage

New Dawn Chorus is a local Community Choir that was only formed this year, and entertains at Friendship Clubs, Care Homes, and Day Centres, offering a wide range of songs that will get your toes a-tapping! We raise money for Saint Francis Hospice, and other local charities.

Tickets:
£5*

Wed 29 Nov
7.30pm



A Christmas Carol in Concert

The Other Stage

Yuletide delights of fellowship, laughter and good cheer. This unique retelling of Dickens' heart-warming tale uses an array of traditional and modern instruments and authentic musical arrangements. It brims with warmth, wit and wonder. Modern-day balladeers GreenMatthews take the well-loved festive adventure back to its Victorian fireside roots.

Tickets:
£14*

GUEST SHOWS

Wed 3 Jan
7.30pm



The Rocket Man

Auditorium

This is the world's favourite celebration to a musical icon. Join us as Jimmy and our amazing live band take you down the Yellow Brick Road with two hours of glorious Elton hits, including *Saturday Nights Alright, Crocodile Rock, I'm Still Standing, Philadelphia Freedom*, and many more.

Tickets:
£28*

Thu 4 Jan
7.30pm



Back into Hell

Auditorium

A Tribute to Meat Loaf & Jim Steinman

Join these world class musicians as they recreate such legendary anthems as *Bat Out Of Hell, I'd Do Anything For Love, Paradise By The Dashboard Light, Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth, Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad, Dead Ringer For Love* and many more.

Tickets:
£26*
£28*
£30*

Sun 7 Jan | 2pm

The hit musical shown on screen with lyrics so EVERYONE can join in!



Sing-a-long-a Matilda the Musical

Auditorium

Do you want to change your story and be a little bit naughty? Well, this is your chance... YOU the audience are the stars! It couldn't be easier or more fun! The first rule of Sing-a-long-a is THERE ARE NO RULES! Fancy dress is strongly encouraged and full audience participation essential.

Please note this is a screening of the movie not a live stage show.

Tickets:
£17*
Under 18s £14*
Buy 10, get the 11th free

Sun 7 Jan | 7.30pm

The Campest Cult Classic of all time with on screen lyrics so EVERYONE can join in!



Sing-a-long-a The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Auditorium

The Campest Cult Classic of all time gets the Singalonga treatment it's been SCREAMING for! Featuring the film starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Meat Loaf and Richard O'Brien, it's the most outrageous, riotous, kitsch, wonderful romp ever. Please note this is a screening of the movie not a live stage show.

Tickets:
£17*
Under 18s £14*
Buy 10, get the 11th free

Mon 8 Jan
7.30pm



Legend – The Music of Bob Marley

Auditorium

An unforgettable evening celebrating this musical icon. Combining his superb, distinctive vocals with flawless musicianship, a supremely talented cast recreate the timeless hits *Could You Be Loved, Is This Love, One Love, No Woman No Cry, Three Little Birds, Jammin', Buffalo Soldier, Get Up Stand Up, I Shot the Sheriff* and many more reggae classics.

Tickets:
£28*

DON'T MISS OUT!
This is only a selection
of our fantastic shows!
See our full list at
queens-theatre.co.uk

*+65p QNext fee

Communities



Our vibrant Communities programme offers opportunities for all ages all year round both at the theatre and across the community, enabling people to express themselves and their stories through the arts. Read on for a taste of what we're currently up to...

Create & Play

Looking for something to keep the little ones occupied during the October half term? Why not leave them with us for two jam-packed hours of creative fun involving drama games, storytelling and craft activities.

Our 'Create and Play' sessions are ideal for ages 4 – 6 year olds. Each session is themed around a popular children's story and includes a craft activity to take home.

Mon 23 Oct – Ghostly Ghouls (10am-12 noon)

Wed 25 Oct – Mischievous Magic (10am-12 noon)

Music Bugs (0 - 4 years)

Music Bugs is so popular, we've added another day!

Mondays and Wednesdays see the arrival of Music Bugs – award winning infant development sessions where parents are welcome to join. Join us for noisy nursery rhyme fun with percussion, puppets, hobby horses, floaty scarves, pom-poms, parachutes, bubble machines and lots more fun!

To book email romford@musicbugs.co.uk or call Sarah on **07517 199869**.

Baby Sensory (0 - 13 months)

We host 8 very popular Baby Sensory sessions every week across Tuesday and Friday mornings. These award-winning development classes are designed for babies and their parents. Explore stimulation techniques, sensory experiences to encourage learning, and activities for language development that can be easily repeated at home.

To book email brentwood@babysensory.co.uk or call Shelley on **07930 877009**.

Backstage Tours

Are you part of a community group that might be interested in a backstage tour? Or just interested in learning more about your local theatre with a group of friends?

From our scenic workshop to wardrobe department, take a peek behind the scenes at one of the country's few remaining producing theatre to find out what goes in to creating professional theatre.

Backstage tours can be booked for up to 30 participants and last roughly an hour. We ask for a minimum donation of £30 per tour.

Memory Café

Did you know we host a memory café here at the theatre every other Thursday? If you, or someone you know is living with Dementia, or is a carer to someone who is, why not drop by for a slice of cake! Supported by Charles S French Charitable Trust, the café is a relaxed, informal and free drop-in. There's no need to book.

Our next two cafes are **12 & 26 Oct, 10.30am – 12 noon in the Foyer**.

Over 50's Musical Theatre Workout

Join in with our Over 50's Musical Theatre Workout! Sing and dance along to your musical favourites – a fantastic way to keep fit, have fun and meet new friends.

Every Wednesday at either: 9:45am, 10:45am or 11:45am, £6 per session.

To book, contact our box office via boxoffice@queens-theatre.co.uk or **01708 443333**.

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you! For more information on any of our Communities activities please contact us by calling **01708 462373**, emailing communities@queens-theatre.co.uk, or visiting queens-theatre.co.uk

Communities is supported by



The CHARLES S FRENCH CHARITABLE TRUST



Spotlight on...

working in partnerships with New City College, Ardleigh Green

Since May 2022, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch have been working in partnership with the Performing Arts team at New City College, Ardleigh Green to promote the arts and develop creative talent.

Senior colleagues from NCC are represented in FUSE: Havering, the Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) for Havering which brings together education and cultural partners to transform the lives of Havering's young people, and better promote the value of culture in education. The partnership between the two organisations came about through connections formed in the LCEP.

The partnership aims to encourage collaboration and learning and give students the chance to improve their creative practice through workshops and performances at QTH. They've also seen first-hand how the Theatre operates and gained an insight into the diverse roles available within the performing arts industry.

Every year, we welcome new NCC Performing Arts students to the partnership with a selection of activities at QTH, including a backstage tour, meet the team and script-to-stage workshop.

The partnership aims to encourage collaboration and learning and give students the chance to improve their creative practice through workshops and performances at QTH.

Throughout the year, students get the opportunity to see a broad selection of QTH's produced work and perform on the Main Stage and The Other Stage. In the 2022 – 2023 academic year, this included a Main Stage Takeover for Performing Arts production of *The Addams Family* with an afternoon performance for local Secondary Schools and a sold-out evening performance to the general public; Re-wind evening of songs from the 90's and 00's by Music Students; and Music's End of Year sharing on the Main Stage. Last year, selected Performing Arts students also joined the intergenerational Community Chorus in Vickie Donoghue's *The Flood*, to add life on stage to the parties alongside the play's professional cast.

There are already plans in the works for this year's Partnership, which is expanding to include NCC Havering Sixth Form College and more opportunities to see theatre in non-traditional theatre spaces, through QTH's new schools and communities touring model.

The partnership is an example of QTH's investment in the local community and commitment to inspiring more young people to discover and love the arts.

"The highly valued partnership has been extremely beneficial to our NCC students and we are very grateful that the Queen's Theatre have been able to offer our students opportunities beyond the curriculum. Our NCC students have very much enjoyed watching a range of diverse productions at the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch which has informed their understanding of different practitioners, styles and approaches to theatre. Additionally, close collaboration with the technical team (Stage/Lighting/Wardrobe/Set) has meant that our students have had the opportunity to engage with professionals from the industry which has inspired them to explore a range of roles for their future careers. Thank you Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, we can't wait to see our partnership flourish even further!" - Louiza Williamson, Senior Curriculum Manager for Performing Arts & Music.

Kerry Hunt, Community Partnerships Manager,
Queen's Theatre Hornchurch



Visiting Us



How To Book

Tickets can be purchased 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through queens-theatre.co.uk. You can also purchase tickets from the Box Office in person or by phone on **01708 443333**.

Payments can be made by Debit and Credit Cards or by Society of London Theatre Tokens. Please note that **we are cash free**.

Concessions are available for those aged over 60 and under 26, customers with access requirements or on income support (for select shows). Companion tickets are also available. We also offer group discounts and school discounts (for select shows).

Please visit queens-theatre.co.uk/your-theatre/planning-your-visit/ for further details.



Support Us

Support our work through regular donations helping us to invest in our community, nurture artistic talent and make theatre accessible by becoming a **Queen's Angel**. Queen's Angels donate from £60 annually or £5 a month and receive benefits that include a monthly newsletter and priority booking.

You can also help to support us and raise vital funds by becoming a member of the **Queen's Theatre Club**. Queen's Theatre Club members pay an annual fee of £17 and receive benefits that include a monthly newsletter and coffee mornings.

For a full list of benefits, or other ways to support us please visit: queens-theatre.co.uk/join-support/why-support-us/



Access

Access tickets if you identify as disabled and Companion tickets for additional support during your visit are available. *(Some exceptions or limitations may apply).*

- The main auditorium entrance is on ground level. There are four wheelchair spaces and 20 seats with level access.
- Accessible toilets & baby changing facilities on the ground level and a lift down to the Learning Space and toilets.
- Audio Described performances and Touch Tours to assist visually impaired customers.
- British Sign Language Interpreted to assist D/deaf customers.
- Hearing system to assist hard-of-hearing customers.
- Relaxed Performances and Dementia Friendly Performances.



QCafé & QBar

QCafé: Fancy a bite to eat? We have a new outdoor seating area! Choose from a selection of light lunches, snacks, sweet treats, hot and cold drinks.

QBar: Relax in our Bar area and treat yourself to a pre-show or interval drink. You'll find a great selection of drinks, including flavoured gins, and local wines and beers.

For more information and our opening times, please visit queens-theatre.co.uk/about-us/food_drink/

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