

the
**ROMAN
THEATRE
OPEN AIR
FESTIVAL**

2021 Programme



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to the seventh **Roman Theatre Open Air Festival** in the spectacular surroundings of Verulamium.

We are delighted to be bringing live performance back to St Albans at the start of what we hope will be a return to normality after this most challenging year, and we're pleased to be leading the reopening of the theatre industry nationally.

This is our biggest and best festival yet with 14 shows, 8 companies and 69 performances presenting a diverse range of incredible theatre, opera and music over 7 weeks.

I can't promise the sun will shine! But I can guarantee some wonderful entertainment.

Enjoy the festival!

Adam Nichols
Artistic Director

the **ROMAN THEATRE**
OPEN AIR FESTIVAL



Peter Pan

OVO / The Maltings Theatre

Suitable for all ages

28/05 - 27/07. See website for detailed dates and times

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child Eligible for multibuy discount



A musical version of J.M.Barrie's classic, much loved play, told with OVO's customary irreverence and wit. With lashings of magic, mischief, music and make-believe – and just a little sprinkle of fairy dust – Peter Pan will be the most thrilling theatrical treat this summer. "A high energy and very sophisticated performance - I cannot recommend it highly enough." Seen and Heard.

£1 from every ticket purchased will be donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital

Iolanthe

Charles Court Opera

Suitable for all ages

30/05 - 17/06. See website for detailed dates and times

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child Eligible for multibuy discount



The "masters of G&S in small spaces" and Off West End award winning Charles Court Opera, present their enchanting - and timely - production of Gilbert & Sullivan's sharp satire of power, privilege and parliamentary democracy.

This witty and magical operetta tells a tale of forbidden love causing an absurdist fusion of two worlds - the magical fairies of Fairyland and a bamboozled House of Peers.

Express G&S - The complete works of Gilbert & Sullivan in 75 mins!

Charles Court Opera

Suitable for all ages

13:00, 16:30 31/05

Tickets from £18 Adult, £11 Child



All aboard the G&S express for the very model of a modern major mash up!

"The masters of G&S in small spaces" present this new, inventive and virtuosic production that is sure to put a huge smile on your face. Prepare to be swept from Penzance to Titipu, Venice to the Tower of London, Portsmouth to Fairyland, as Charles Court Opera takes on the challenge of performing the complete works of Gilbert & Sullivan – in just 75 minutes!

Little Red Riding Hood & the 3 Funky Pigs

Theatre2u

Suitable for all ages

10:30, 13:00, 14:40 01/06

Tickets from £14 Adult, £10 Child



Join Little Red Riding Hood & her Karate Granny on their adventures with the 3 Funky Little Pigs - Ozzy, Hank & Will.i.Ham. But watch out for that cantankerous Mr Wolf who is always on the lookout for his next meal!

A modern twist on two classic fairytales packed with songs and fun for all the family.

A new show written by Simon Downing & Kevin Oliver Jones

Comedy Of Errors

OVO / The Maltings Theatre

Suitable for all ages

04/06 - 04/07. See website for detailed dates and times

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child [Eligible for multibuy discount](#)



Welcome to The Phoenix Beachfront Bar, where Ant and Adriana serve up karaoke laced with fruity cocktail kicks. When Ant's long lost twin brother washes up on shore with his mate Dromio (who also happens to be a long lost twin) a hilarious and anarchic adventure of errors ensues.

Grab your "Kiss Me Quick" hat and join us for Shakespeare's classic hilarious, helter-skelter comedy of mistaken identity, magic and mayhem featuring live music and lashings of sun-soaked silliness.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Act 4 Theatre

[Recommended ages 16+, this show contains swearing and sexual references](#)

07/06 - 15/06. See website for detailed dates and times

Tickets from £14 Adult, £10 Child



I love you, You're Perfect, Now Change, a feel-good musical comedy and is the second-longest running Off-Broadway musical. This celebration of the mating game takes on the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as 'the relationship.'

Act I explores the journey from dating and waiting, to love and marriage, while Act II reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws and new-borns, trips in the family car and pick-up techniques of the geriatric set.

The Winter's Tale

OVO / The Maltings Theatre

Suitable for all ages

24/06 - 10/07. See website for detailed dates and times

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child Eligible for multibuy discount



Shakespeare's timeless tragicomedy of obsession and redemption is a rollercoaster ride of courtroom dramas, mistaken identities, a man-eating bear and a beautiful statue, combining the tightly plotted excitement of a thriller with the mythical beauty of a fairytale.

The Winter's Tale weaves high drama and low comedy to tell a story of heartbreak, reunion and newfound hope.

OVO presents another inventive and entertaining take on Shakespeare, featuring live music and plenty of laughs.

Olympiaganza

Best Theatre Arts

Suitable for all ages

20:00 04/07, 19:30 05/07 - 06/07

Tickets from £9 Adult, £6 Child



Picture the scene... It's summer, it's festival time, and two battling rival groups will attempt to cover the entirety of Greek mythology in an evening. Audiences are always surprised and amazed how 'Byte' bring epic tales to life on stage.

"The show was fantastic for the whole family. We loved it!"
Audience review.

This theatrical extravaganza for all ages includes live music and movement and promises to be an unforgettable feast for the eyes, ears and the soul.



Sunday in the Park is Yours - Open Mic Night

St Albans Musical Theatre Company

Suitable for all ages

20:00 27/06

Tickets from £9 Adult, £6 Child



St Albans Musical Theatre Company presents an evening of open mic entertainment, Sunday in the Park is Yours. Audience members are invited to take to the mic, with all ticket holders offered the chance to get up and sing a track of their choice.

Whether you are a budding vocalist or just fancy a spontaneous sing song, the evening is open to all, as well as those who would sooner enjoy the showtunes as part of a supportive audience.

Return To The Stage

St Albans Musical Theatre Company

Suitable for all ages

20:00 28/06 - 29/06

Tickets from £14 Adult, £10 Child



St Albans Musical Theatre Company make their long-awaited return in Beginners to Stage, a two-part spectacular showcase bringing the best of Broadway and the West End to Verulam Park.

As theatre and live performance prepares to make a triumphant comeback, SAMTC will perform a show stopping medley of contemporary and classical musical theatre favourites across two evenings, with performances from some of theatre-land's best loved shows, including Mamma Mia, Rent, West Side Story and Les Misérables.

You Can't Stop The Beat!

St Albans Musical Theatre Company

Suitable for all ages

13:00, 17:00 29/06

Tickets from £9 Adult, £6 Child



Join the award winning St Albans Musical Theatre Company for You Can't Stop The Beat, a bite sized, interactive, live music event for primary school children and family audiences.

An all singing, all dancing, toe tapping, all instrument shaking entertainment extravaganza, this fully immersive daytime event will feature popular songs from musicals including Mary Poppins, Hairspray, The Sound of Music and Matilda.

Belshazzar's Feast plus Rakoczy

St Albans Folk Music

Suitable for all ages

19:30 07/07

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child



Acclaimed musicians Paul Sartin (oboe, violin, swanee whistle and vocals) and Paul Hutchinson (accordion) are notorious for their superlative ability, wit and rapport. Audiences enjoy an inspired collection of songs and tunes; classical, pop, music-hall and traditional folk, all laced with the duo's wry humour. "They can do things with a squeeze-box and an oboe that can break your heart." (Independent on Sunday)

Support will be Rakoczy, an exciting young Yorkshire-based Anglo-Hungarian musician, singer, piper, recorder player and concertinist.

A Spoonful of Musicals

Cobbles & Rhyme Productions

Suitable for all ages

13:00 11/07

Tickets from £14 Adult, £10 Child Eligible for multibuy discount



Treat the whole family to a Spoonful of Musicals this Summer! Join the award-winning team from Cobbles & Rhyme as they present a fun-filled show packed to the rafters with Musical Theatre favourites for all ages.

Featuring a line-up of West End stars and live piano accompaniment, A Spoonful of Musicals will have you clapping and dancing along to songs from Frozen, Annie, The Jungle Book, Matilda, and many more. The perfect afternoon for every member of the family!

SHOWTIME! - Hits from Hollywood, Broadway & Beyond

Cobbles & Rhyme Productions

Recommended ages 12+

17:00 11/07

Tickets from £21 Adult, £13 Child Eligible for multibuy discount



It's SHOWTIME! Cobbles & Rhyme presents a dazzling performance of West End Stars singing your favourite Musical Theatre songs from the big screen, Broadway stage and beyond. Expect Hollywood favourites The Wizard of Oz and The Greatest Showman, hits from The Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables, and pop classics from Mamma Mia and Jersey Boys.

Guaranteed to get your toes tapping with dazzling live piano accompaniment and stars from Miss Saigon, Grease & The Lion King.

FAQS



Where can I book tickets?

Tickets are available at malingstheatre.co.uk. There are no box office facilities at the venue. Please book your tickets in advance.

What are the multibuy discounts?

Receive a 20% discount when you book for two eligible shows, a 30% discount when you book for three, a 40% discount when you book for four and a 50% discount when you book for five. Shows must all be booked at the same time.

Super Saturday Receive a 40% discount when you book for a triple bill of *Peter Pan*, *Comedy of Errors* and *The Winter's Tale* on Saturday 26th June.

Where is the theatre?

The Roman Theatre of Verulamium is situated on Bluehouse Hill, AL3 6AE.

Where can I park?

There is no parking or drop off at The Roman Theatre itself. Please do not try to enter the site in your car. The nearest parking (5 minutes' walk) is the NCP St Albans Verulamium Museum. At weekends this car park is often full, alternative parking can be found in the city centre or at Westminster Lodge, (10-15 minutes' walk).

This is all outdoors, so what if it rains?

The Roman Theatre is entirely uncovered, so please dress appropriately (no umbrellas, ponchos encouraged!). The performance will continue whatever the weather, unless conditions become dangerous. In the event of weather related cancellation, we will rebook you for a future performance. Refunds are not given due to bad weather. Visit malingstheatre.co.uk/terms-conditions for full terms.

Is it Covid safe?

We've done all we can to make the festival safe. Our performers and crew are observing strict protocols in rehearsals and backstage. Our stewards have been given specialist training and equipment. Our site has been redesigned with Covid in mind, including new seating layouts, bar arrangements, payment systems and cleaning processes.