

Reading Arts & Venues April - August 2009 Season

COUNCILLOR WELCOME

On behalf of Reading Borough Council, I am delighted to present a wonderful new season of events to take you in to an exciting summer for Reading.

This season The Hexagon boasts three smash-hit musicals; Blood Brothers, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Cabaret, plus much more besides. South Street continues its Arts Council England funded residency scheme with Inspector Sands developing and premiering their new show 'If That's All There Is' in June. And the Concert Hall continues to develop its diverse line of programming from world music to comedy, local orchestra to chart-topping singers.

There has never been more to see and do in Reading, so make sure you experience as much as you can - and I hope you have a fantastic summer.

Graeme Hoskin
Lead Councillor for Culture

ON SALE NOW

The Hexagon
Saturday 5 December - Sunday 3 January
Cinderella
All Tickets £16
Concessions and Group discounts available

Town Hall

Tuesday 21 April - Tuesday 14 July, 8pm

Town Hall Film Theatre

A friendly alternative to the multiplex

£5.50, Concessions & YRP £4.50,

Book all TWELVE for £3 each, Book SIX for £4 each (advance only)

The line-up for the summer season is still under wraps. But expect more highly-acclaimed films from across the globe, like these which close the Spring season.

24 March **Summer** (15)

The story of two vibrant kids, wasted by their experience of education. All they have is their friendship and for Shaun his first love Katy.

7 April **Slumdog Millionaire** (15)

An Oscar nominated film that unravels the story of an orphan from Mumbai as he finds himself one question away from winning India's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

Details of the full schedule are available at www.readingarts.com or pick up a Film Theatre flyer from mid-March.

The Hexagon

Wednesday 1 - Sunday 5 April, Wed - Sat: 7.30pm,

Thu, Sat & Sun: 2.30pm

Wild Rose presents

Cirque de Glace

£26, £23, £20, Thursday matinee: All tickets £16

U16s: All Half Price

Concessions: £3 off (top two prices - excluding matinee)

Groups of 10+: £16.50, Schools: All £7 (Thurs matinee only)

If the creation of the world was shaped by fire and ice then so it will be for CIRQUE DE GLACE.

World leaders of theatrical ice spectacles Wild Rose, present Cirque de Glace, a new genre of ice show that is guaranteed to stimulate, dazzle, entertain and thrill all ages.

Cirque de Glace brings to life the story of the creation of our planet, man's evolution and his journey to the limits of technology and beyond.

"jaw dropping" ... "truly dazzling" ... "surely sets a new benchmark for both ice dancing and circus" ... The Stage

"amazing somersaults, leaps and jumps" ... "a complete theatrical experience" ... I-Skate Magazine

"as flashy as Las Vegas" ... The Times

Concert Hall

Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm

Celebrity Organ Recital

Catherine Ennis

Organ Masterworks

£11.50, Concessions £2 off, Subscribers £8.50

Programme to include works by Stanford, Parry, Gowers, Widor, Saint-Saëns and Dupré.

Catherine Ennis makes a triumphant return to Reading Town Hall to perform the celebrated programme she recorded there 25 years ago. The LP was a best seller and has recently been re-released on CD.

Pre-concert talk 6.15pm-7pm, Concert Hall (FREE)

South Street

Thursday 2 April, 8pm

Robin Ince
Bleeding Heart Liberal

£14, Concessions £10

The Time Out Comedy Award winner presents his brand new stand up show mixing up stories of childbirth, astronomy, evolutionary conundrums and a to do with Vanessa Feltz and a crazed preacher plus readings from his new favourite charity shop finds. Will anything top the bizarre blouse removal advice of The Secrets of Picking Up Sexy Girls?

“Thoughtful, provocative and very funny” - The Times

Support comes from Phil Jeays.

Concert Hall

Saturday 4 April, 7.30pm

Reading Symphony Orchestra

£14, £12, Concessions £11.50, £9.50, U16s: £2

Soloists Alexandra Wood & Marie Macleod

Two of the country's most exciting young star soloists take centre stage at the Concert Hall for a performance of Brahms' double concerto for violin and cello. Violinist Alexandra Wood and Cellist Marie Macleod have both won great international acclaim, promising a rousing outing for one of the composer's greatest achievements.

Brahms glowing 4th Symphony, the absolute crown of his symphonic writing, and the magical overture to Humperdinck's classic opera Hansel and Gretel make up this evening of Romantic Classics.

South Street

Saturday 4 April, 8pm

John Hegley with The Popticians

£12, Concessions £10

John Hegley's all-glasses wearing POP band return after years in the wilderness to bring their hit singles to old and new fans. Forget The Specials, Blur and The Faces, this is the one reunion everyone's been waiting for.

On his own, John will perform poems about hamsters, invisible hamsters and a jellyfish with depression. With the Popticians, he sings songs about the wearing of spectacles, and the cleaning and losing of the same. This brass-toting, swinging combo also has one song about contact lenses. This one is not so complimentary.

Recommended for ages 14+

South Street

Wednesday 8 April, doors 7.30pm

Spiers & Boden

All tickets £12.50

Described by The Guardian as “the finest instrumental duo on the traditional scene” and twice winners of the BBC Radio 2 folk award for Best Duo, Spiers and Boden have made the genre of spontaneous, punky English folk very much their own stomping ground.

“One of the most inspirational live acts around” - Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2

South Street

Thursday 9 April, 8pm

Alex Horne

Birdwatching

£10, Concessions £8.50

Alex Horne's dad is a birdwatcher. Alex isn't. But for one year he travelled round Britain, Bahrain, Birdworld and Bill Oddie in a bid to discover what makes his old man twitch. Did Alex see more birds than his Dad? Did he learn to love birdwatching? Has he become a fully-fledged twitcher? Find out in this dramatically true and hilariously funny tale of ornithology from the Perrier Award-nominee and Chortle Award-winner.

The Hexagon

Wednesday 8 - Sunday 12 April

Wed 7pm, Thu 4pm & 7pm, Fri 4.30pm & 7.30pm, Sat 4.30pm & 7.30pm, Sun 11am & 2pm

SpongeBobSquarePants

The Sponge Who Could Fly

A New Musical

£25, £20, £15

U16s ALL HALF PRICE

Family of Four (max. 2 adults): £65

Take a look at what's surfacing here at The Hexagon, direct from the hit television show, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Sponge Who Could Fly - A New Musical*.

Join SpongeBob, Patrick and their zany Bikini Bottom pals as SpongeBob embarks on his dream to fly with the jellyfish. Will he take flight, or will his dream come crashing down to the ocean floor? It's a tale too exciting to be kept undersea!

So dive in to the world stage premiere of the exciting live show about dreams, friendship and soaring to new heights, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Sponge Who Could Fly - A New Musical*.

www.nick.co.uk/spongebobtour

SpongeBob SquarePants c Viacom International Inc.

2008 All rights reserved. Created by Stephen Hillenburgh.

South Street

Saturday 11 April, doors 8pm

Earth Connection presents

The Pawnbroker, Russell's Teapot + Matt Tanner

Original Organic Music

CANCELLED

Reading's own Earth Connection label present a night of live sets and exclusives.

The Pawnbroker, who perform live music from their debut album, have a unique sound found in the spaces between the lush piano, tight harmonies and the dark tales of death and regret.

Russell's Teapot showcase hand-crafted songs with thought-provoking sentiments, through sonic soundscapes, experimental electronica and tough dance beats.

Matt Tanner makes his Earth Connection debut with his dark electronic beats, basslines and cutting guitars.

www.earthconnection.co.uk

The Hexagon

Tuesday 14 April, 7pm

Paul Merton's Silent Clowns

Adults £14.50, Concessions £12.50, U16s £9.50

Special Offer: Second Child Goes Half Price

Join Paul Merton as he screens hilarious extracts from the very best silent comedians in some of their funniest films. With live accompaniment by world-renowned pianist, Neil Brand.

Charlie Chaplin, Laurel & Hardy, Harold Lloyd and many others are presented by Paul, whose infectious enthusiasm and knowledge of these films means a splendid time is guaranteed for all. And then, Buster Keaton's uproariously funny *Steamboat Bill Junior* is shown in its entirety.

Suitable for ages 9+

The Hexagon

Wednesday 15 April, 8pm

The Illegal Eagles

£21.50, Concessions £1.50 off, Groups of 10+ £2 off

The Illegal Eagles hit the UK as part of their massive 2009 world tour.

A full evening show featuring all the classic Eagles songs delivered in full Eagles sound and vision. If you missed The Eagles recent stadium tour dates - don't worry its all here in 'the fast lane!'

PURE ENTERTAINMENT! PURE EAGLES!

Smash hit songs include Hotel California, New York Minute, Life in the Fast Lane, Tequila Sunrise, One of those Nights, Lyin' Eyes, New Kid in Town, Take it to the Limit, The Long Run, Heartache Tonight and many more.

The Hexagon

Thursday 16 April, 8pm

Jimmy Carr

Joke Technician

SOLD OUT

Back for a record fourth time with his Joke Technician show, Jimmy Carr again graces The Hexagon stage with more rude, crude and mildly offensive quips that have made him the hottest ticket in town.

More than just a TV star, he's won awards, released chart-topping DVD's, written a best-selling book and broken box office records by performing to over 500,000 in the last three years.

Strictly Adults Only

South Street

Friday 17 April, 8.30pm

South Street Comedy Club

£10, Concessions £8.50

Pete Johansson - Awesomely funny! Irreverent, brilliant, and smooth like fine jazz. Catching Johansson perform is a trip, you can't guess where he is going, but you die with laughter when he gets there.

Jack Whitehall - Having supported Gavin & Stacey pair Mat Horne & James Corden in 2008 the "Genius", "New funniest kid on the block" Jack Whitehall is destined for big things.

Tom Wigglesworth - "With such an impressive stage presence, and equally impressive writing, Wigglesworth's is a name to keep an eye on" - Chortle

Strictly Adults Only

**Line-up subject to change*

South Street

Saturday 18 April, 2pm

The Comedy Club 4 Kids

All tickets £8

The ever-popular Comedy Club 4 Kids returns this Easter for a show jam-packed with the funniest stand-up comedy, without the swearing or rude bits. A different show every time for children aged 6+. Book early.

"The perfect way to keep the family happy" - Three Weeks

Concert Hall

Saturday 18 April, 7.30pm

Tickle Your Soul

Supporting Reading Refocus Charity

All tickets £16.50, £20 on the door

For One Night Only, allow the Best in Comedy to Tickle your Soul.

Seamlessly combining Comedy and Soul Music, this much anticipated event invites you to experience hilarious comic performances from **Eddie Kadi** - Award Winning Comedian, **Richard Blackwood** - Stand up comic and Choice FM radio presenter, plus unparalleled soul music from **Mark Bunney** - World Renowned Saxophonist and many more.

All hosted by Kat, MTV's quirky entertainer.

The Hexagon

Saturday 18 April, 7.30pm

Rob Brydon plus support

SOLD OUT

With one show already sold out, this multi award winning writer and performer returns by popular demand for a second chance to see his new stand up show. Rob Brydon's credits read like a compendium of modern British comedy. Marion & Geoff, Human Remains, I'm Alan Partridge, Black Books, The Keith Barrett Show, Little Britain and most recently his highly acclaimed performance as Uncle Bryn in Gavin & Stacey.

Reading Arts

Bring your group to the theatre

Group Bookings

at Reading Arts & Venues

Why not get to a group together and take advantage of our special offers for groups of 10+? It couldn't be easier as our dedicated Group Sales & Marketing Co-Ordinator helps to make organising your night out as simple as possible.

For more information call 0118 939 0011 or email carole.loftus@reading.gov.uk

Benefits include:

- Discounts for groups of 10+ (where available)
- Priority Booking
- Advance notification of forthcoming shows
- Extended reservation periods (no deposit)
- Special Invitations
- Regular newsletters
- Assistance with your catering arrangements
- Plus much more besides...

For more information call:
0118 939 0011
carole.loftus@reading.gov.uk

The Hexagon

Monday 20 - Saturday 25 April

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Mon-Thu eve 7.30pm, Fri & Sat eve 5pm & 8pm, Tue-Thu & Sat matinee 2pm

Fri 8pm & Sat (all shows): £26.50, £24.50, £22.50

Mon-Thu evenings: £24.50, £22.50, £20.50

Tue-Thu matinee & Fri 5pm: All tickets £19.50

Concessions: £3 off top two prices (Mon-Thu eve & Sat matinee only)

Groups of 10+: £3 off (Mon-Thu eve & Sat matinee only)
YRP Discount: £3 off top two prices (Mon 7.30pm only)
Schools: All tickets £8 (Tue-Thu matinee & Fri 5pm only)

“JOSEPH RETURNS IN ALL ITS GLORY” DAILY MAIL

Having enjoyed sensational reviews, Bill Kenwright’s “Amazing”, “Superb”, “Wonderful” and “Brilliant” production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s sparkling family musical continues to enjoy huge success across the country with standing ovations at every performance.

Craig Chalmers, one of the most popular finalists in the recent hit BBC series ‘Any Dream Will Do’ (watched by millions every Saturday night) takes on the title role, having delighted TV audiences week after week with his vocal talents.

Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including Any Dream Will Do, Close Ev’ry Door To Me and One More Angel.

“A SUPERB PIECE OF ENTERTAINMENT. I WAS THRILLED” DAILY MIRROR

Book your tickets now and be part of the magic!

Audio described performance on Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm
(insert AD logo)

Craig Chalmers will not appear on Wed 2pm & Sat 2pm performances.

South Street
Wednesday 22 April, 8pm
Shifting Sands Theatre present

The Devil's Doctor

£10, Concessions £8.50

The Devil's Doctor is a medieval feast of physical theatre and clowning peopled by tricksters and charlatans determined to cure you by bleeding you dry - literally!

Amongst them lived Paracelsus who claimed that he held the key to life, the universe, the very soul of humanity...

Shifting Sands reveal the comic and heart breaking life of one of the most controversial figures in the history of medicine.

THE WELLCOME TRUST funds The Devil's Doctor

Concert Hall

Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm

The All-Star Comedy Benefit Show

All tickets £20

A star-studded comedy benefit show featuring the UK's top comedy talent in aid of local disabled children's charity, **Building For The Future**.

Hosted by the star of BBC2's *The Thick of It*, Chris Addison, the evening also features a stellar line-up including Rhod Gilbert, Milton Jones, Phil Nichol, Dan Antopolski, Jen Brister, Pippa Evans and Francesca Martinez.

Strictly Adults Only

**Line-up subject to change*

South Street

Sunday 26 April, 11.30am & 2pm

Tam Tam Theatre presents

Little Hippo and the Magic Pen

£6.50, Groups of 4 (min. 1 adult & 1 child) £22

For his birthday Little Hippo received lots of beautiful presents, but it is Daddy Hippo's present that Little Hippo prefers, a red pen. Inside the red pen are the most beautiful things in the world, but how to get them out...?

Based on the story 'Petit Hippo et son stylo magique', by West African writer Alain Serge Dzotap from Cameroon, Tam Tam Theatre brings you their interactive version of this enchanting tale where the very young are invited to make use of Little Hippo's pen.

Suitable for children aged 3+

The Hexagon

Tuesday 28 April, 7pm

Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music

£14, Concessions & Groups of 10+ £13

The smash-hit musical show that has been all around the world is back.

For those of you not yet converted, Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music is a screening of the classic Julie Andrews film musical in glorious, full-screen technicolor, complete with subtitles so that the whole audience can sing along!

Then of course there is the famous fancy-dress competition in which everyone who has come in costume is invited onto the stage to show off their fantastic tailoring skills.

So get those vocal chords warmed up, cut up those chintz curtains and hurry down for the perfect night out.

Fancy dress is not obligatory but highly recommended!

www.singalonga.net

The Hexagon

Wednesday 29 April, 7.30pm

Rhydian

Plus special guests

SOLD OUT

After being discovered on The X Factor in 2007 where he was touted as the bookies' favourite to win, Rhydian now bursts back onto the music scene with his magnificent debut album and UK tour.

Rhydian's undeniable talent, unmistakable voice and look have already won him an army of fans, and many more following the launch of his self-titled debut album last November. Crammed full of passionate, inspiring songs performed in his inimitable style, Rhydian is set to touch the hearts of millions with his mesmerising classical voice.

MAY 2009

The Hexagon

Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm

Classical Music Alive

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

£31-£15, Concessions & Student Standby tickets available

Conductor Charles Dutoit

Soloist Jean-Philippe Collard, piano

Prokofiev The Love for Three Oranges: Symphonic Suite

Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.3 in C Major

Prokofiev Romeo & Juliet Suite

Charles Dutoit has recently been appointed the Royal Philharmonic's new music director. In a slight change to the previously advertised programme, he will conduct an all-Prokofiev programme beginning with the composer's *The Love for Three Oranges: Symphonic Suite*, followed by Prokofiev's electrifying 3rd Piano Concerto performed by the distinguished French pianist, Jean-Philippe Collard. . In the second half of the programme, RPO will perform a suite of excerpts of what many regard as the greatest ballet score ever composed, Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*.

Pre-concert talk 6.15pm-7pm Penta Hotel Reading (FREE)

Concert Hall

Saturday 2 May, 7pm

Reading Phoenix Choir

40th Anniversary Season Celebration Concert

All tickets £15

Reading Phoenix Choir Tel 0118 977 2619

A medley of music and memories to celebrate the choir's 40th anniversary.

The climax of the season is a celebration concert featuring a medley of music and memories from our 40 years as a top UK amateur choir. The concert will include a number of the best-loved pieces, the Phoenix revue, special guest appearances - plus much, much more.

South Street

Sunday 3 May, doors 7pm

Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra presents ...

The Culture Mix - Live Showcase

All tickets £5

To celebrate ten years of performances promoting steel pan music RASPO presents a cultural mix of live music showcasing talented young artists and special guests.

Hear the most versatile instrument created this century when the all steel percussion orchestra and guests create a delightful evening of eclectic entertainment for the whole family.

www.culturemixarts.co.uk

The Hexagon

Tuesday 5 - Saturday 9 May, Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 5pm

The Sainsbury Singers present an amateur production

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd

From the creator of Oliver!

London 1940.

Bombing and destruction daily.

An uplifting musical celebrating

the indomitable spirit of those

who lived through it.

Blitz!

Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart

Book by Lionel Bart and Joan Maitland

£18-£10, Concessions & Group discounts available,

Family of Four £50, Excellent discounts for schools.

Advance Booking (from 2 March): 0118 988 2510

Hexagon Box Office (from 31 March): 0118 960 6060

In 1940 the East End of London is taking a terrible pounding from Hitler's bombs. Life, however, goes on - centring around Mrs Blitztein and her large family - especially her petty-criminal son Harry and her beautiful daughter Carol.

The all fight their own particular battles with neighbours and authorities alike, through many situations, many humourous, some tragic, and eventually find their own individual peace. Features

many hit songs including The Day After Tomorrow and Mums and Dads.

www.sainsburysingers.org.uk

Audio described performance on Friday 8 May (insert AD logo)

South Street

Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 May, 8pm

Inspector Sands presents

If That's All There Is

£10, Concessions £8.50

A mini epic of longing, envy, disappointment and psychobabble, starring a therapist vigilante, her moody daughter, her happy son, her pent up patient and his thrill-seeking fiancée.

The award-winning Inspector Sands return to South Street to premiere their new show as part of an Arts Council England funded residency programme.

Inspired by the Peggy Lee song *Is that all there is?*

"A rib and mind tickling delight" - The Times (on *Hysteria*)

Commissioned by The Lyric Hammersmith.

Developed at South Street and The Nightingale Theatre, Brighton.

South Street

Friday 8 May, 7.30pm

Jan Ravens

Star of Dead Ringers

£14, Concessions £12

Best known for impersonating myriad celebrities and public figures for the BBC's *Dead Ringers*, Jan Ravens makes her solo stage debut in this delightfully funny and revelatory show.

Ravens shows how she creates her remarkable impressions, treating her audience along the way to many of her renowned personas. From Anne Robinson to the Queen via Fiona Bruce, no woman in the public eye is safe from Ravens' unique brand of satirical comedy.

"Her impressions are modern and topical, with a fresh, satirical twist" - Daily Telegraph

The Hexagon

Sunday 10 May, 2pm & 5pm

The Chuckle Brothers

Chuckle Trek - The Lost Generation

All tickets £12.50

Paul and Barry set off on a new adventure and find themselves hurtling through Space.

Captain James T Burke needs to recruit a crew to go on board the USS Exercise as they must save the Earth from being taken over by a nation of rogue "Robots". The alien Robot colony has waged war on our world and must be stopped at all costs!

Can Earth be saved from this new threat to our planet? Are the Chuckle Brothers the intrepid duo to do this? - Of course they are!!!

The Hexagon

Monday 11 May, 7.30pm

Shaolin Warriors

Legends of Kung Fu

£20.50, £18.50, £16, U16s £5 off, Concessions £3 off (top two prices)

Family of Four (max 2 adults) £60, Groups of 10+ £14

Direct from China, this fully choreographed theatrical production, Shaolin Warriors is more than a kung-fu show. The show vividly depicts the rarely-seen kung-fu masters' Buddhist meditation and their martial arts training. In addition to the breath-taking kung-fu feats, an attentive audience will gain some understanding of the profoundness of Chinese Buddhism, the Doctrine of 'Unity of Zen and Martial Arts'.

"The agility and grace of gymnasts with the showmanship of Cirque du Soleil performers." - The Washington Post

The Hexagon

Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 May, 8pm

Ross Noble

Things

£20, Concessions £18

Channel 4 viewers recently voted Ross Noble as one of the top ten greatest stand ups of all time... Here's your chance to see why.

In his new show, Ross will be covering the topic of THINGS - big things and small things. Things that have happened to him, things that have happened to you. Surfing the wave of the here and now, join "*the most brilliant stand-up of his generation*" (Sunday Telegraph) in a free form, free wheeling ride into the way things are.

Suitable for Ages 15+

South Street

Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 May, doors 7pm

Thames Valley University present

The Marat Sade by Peter Weiss and

Of Mice And Men by John Steinbeck

£6, Concessions £4

Final Year Acting students from Thames Valley University's National Diploma Performance course present two darkly intriguing plays.

Of Mice And Men is a stage adaptation of the classic novel and tells the story of George and Lenny and how their dreams and lives are unwittingly shattered.

The Marat Sade depicts the persecution and assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as performed by the inmates of the asylum of Chernton under the direction of the Marquis De Sade. It was famously made into a film by the celebrated director, Peter Brook and contains some themes of an adult nature.

The Hexagon

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 May, Fri 4.30pm, Sat & Sun 11am & 2pm

BBC Worldwide presents

Tweenies Live!

Top of the Tots

Adults £16.50, U16s £14.50, Family of Four (max 2 adults) £58

Ten years after bursting onto the scene the Tweenies are back with their chart-busting new show Top of the Tots packed with tot-tastic tunes.

Their live performances have wowed over a million Tweenie boppers worldwide and, with a platinum selling single under their belts, get ready for the fab four to entertain you once again in their spectacular new theatre show.

Get set to reach for the stars, sing along, dance in the aisles and find out why the Tweenies are still the ultimate Number One!

www.bbcliveshows.com

BBC logo TM & © 1996. Tweenies characters & logo TM & © 1998-2001. Licensed by BBC Worldwide.

South Street

Friday 15 May, 8.30pm

South Street Comedy Club

£10, Concessions £8.50

Ivan Brackenbury - "Barrage of cracking jokes" - Daily Telegraph, "Audience on the verge of being hospitalised with laughter" - Independent on Sunday

Seann Walsh - Captivating audiences with a set full of sharp observations, explosive physical energy and a first-hand knowledge of drunkenness.

Paul Chowdhry - Once seen, seldom forgotten, Paul is the most controversial Asian comedian on the Brit comedy scene... you'll find yourself quoting lines from his performance for a long time afterwards!

Strictly Adults Only

**Line-up subject to change*

South Street

Saturday 16 May, 11.30am & 2pm

Garlic Theatre presents

Old Mother Hubbard

£6.50, Groups of 4 (min 1 adult & 1 child) £22

A dotty old woman takes you on a nursery rhyme journey as she clatters about in her kitchen and her dancing dog sniffs out trouble in the most unlikely places.

Garlic Theatre delight children and adults alike with a spicy blend of slapstick and folk humour in this fresh and funny adaptation, with well crafted glove puppets, clowning and a feast of musical treats.

Suitable for ages 3+

South Street

Sunday 17 May, 7.30pm

Presented by roots/round/about

The Dhoad Gypsies from Rajasthan

£10, Concessions £8.50

The Dhoad Gypsies brings together talented musicians from Rajasthan, from different communities, religions, and artistic castes; they comprise 'fakirs', dancers and fire-eaters, poets', troubadours and musicians.

Together, these artists create an extravaganza of sound expressed through a whirlwind of glittering, shimmering colours and dance.

Close your eyes, and let the hypnotic rhythm of this exceptional group of musicians evoke the spirit of these mystical lands.

The Hexagon

Monday 18 May, 7.30pm

Classical Music Alive

Prague Symphony Orchestra

£31-£15, Concessions & Student Standby tickets available

Dvořák

Carnival Overture

Dvořák

Cello Concerto in B minor

Smetana Excerpts from Ma Vlast

The Hexagon season ends with a visit from one of the Czech Republic's most distinguished orchestras, under the talented conductor Petr Altrichter. The evening will end with three excerpts from Smetana's epic Ma Vlast. Normally audiences only get to hear the famous Moldau section, which we will hear tonight. In addition there will be two other excerpts, showing the scope and drama of this ultimate Czech symphonic poem.

Pre-concert talk 6.15pm-7pm Hexagon Auditorium (FREE)

2009/10 Season on sale today

The Hexagon

Tuesday 19 May, 7.30pm

An Evening of Mediumship with Tony Stockwell

All tickets £20

Tony Stockwell, the remarkable star of Living TV's Street Psychic, Psychic School and Zone Reality TV's Psychic Private Eyes has captivated audiences across the globe.

Deeply compelling, often startlingly accurate and always humorous, Tony's down to earth approach has earned him a loyal following.

Parental Guidance Advised

South Street

Wednesday 20 May, 8pm

1000 Years of German Humour

£10, Concessions £8

Award winning German Comedy Ambassador, **Henning Wehn** and the Fatherland's foremost Yodelmeister, **Otto Kuhnle** in the show that took the Edinburgh Festival by storm.

Teutonic jolliness at its best - thigh slapping, beer-guzzling and an accordion. You will visit them or they will visit you. Deutschland über alles!

"One of the most unusual, bravest comedy shows you'll ever see"

- The Scotsman

"Devastatingly funny" - Metro

The Hexagon

Wednesday 20 May, 7.30pm

How Sweet It Is

Motown's Greatest Hits

£18.50, £16.50, Groups of 10+ £2 off

Back by popular demand! This SPECIAL EDITION Show celebrates 50 golden years of classic MOTOWN music. 100% LIVE, and guaranteed to have you dancing 'All Night Long'.

Featuring hit after hit of legendary Motown artists The Temptations, The Four Tops, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Martha Reeves, The Jacksons, Lionel Richie, and more!

The Hexagon

Thursday 21 & Friday 22 May, 8pm

Derren Brown

SOLD OUT

If you only know him from his Channel 4 shows you're in for a real treat. Apart from being the best thing to happen on television in years, his pioneering blend of psychology, illusion and showmanship makes for a stunning theatrical evening in the hands

of a master performer. There's nothing like it anywhere else in the world: don't miss this.

The performance is not suitable for children under 12 years.

"Clearly the greatest dinner party guest in history... or the scariest man in Britain" - The Guardian

South Street

Friday 22 May, 8pm

Wil Hodgson

Straight Outta Chippenham

£10, Concessions £8

Perrier Award Best Newcomer Winner

Punk rock folk storyteller hits the road again with more tales of Spice Girl dolls, street fighters and small town alienation. As odd as it sounds, and also very funny.

"The light at the end of the tunnel for British comedy" - Mark Thomas

In the MacDevitts Studio.

South Street

Friday 22 May, doors 8pm

Samba 101

£8, Concessions & Advance £6

Advance tickets from www.WeGotTickets.com or email beatroots@yahoo.com to reserve a place.

Workshop 8.15pm-9.45pm

Performance 10pm-10.30pm

Beatroots is Reading's Samba drumming group. Having spent over ten years entertaining audiences at events around the country, this is your chance to join in. This 90-minute workshop is suitable for complete beginners, rusty drummers and those who just want a challenge. The experienced tutors will have you drumming in no time. Followed by a full performance with workshop participants welcome to join in at the end.

www.beatroots.co.uk

The Hexagon

Saturday 23 May, 8pm

The Solid Silver 60's Show

£21.50, £19.50

The UK's original and premier 60s show is back once again! Bringing together the unforgettable talents of The Searchers, Wayne Fontana, The Merseybeats and very special guest, John Walker (of the Walker Brothers) and The Dakotas.

Headlining another classic Solid Silver 60s line up, **The Searchers** are a firm favourite on the Solid Silver 60s tour, still going strong since their first number one hit in 1963 in with *Sweets For My Sweet*. They are joined by one of the many talented artists to come out of Manchester during the 1960s beat boom, **Wayne Fontana**. Plus one of the true surviving bands from the golden age of '60s pop, **The Merseybeats**. Completing the impressive line-up, we are delighted to bring you **John Walker**.

South Street

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May, 8pm

AJ's Calypso Tent 2009

Calypso - The Ultimate World Music

£8, U16 & 60+: £5

South Street once again welcomes the spirit of the Carnival season, as AJ's Calypso Tent comes to town for another fine weekend of family entertainment to herald the 32nd Reading Community Carnival.

The evening will feature original Calypsos specially written for the Season and performed by local and internationally renowned artists; all backed by the fabulous AJ's All Stars and The Kaiso Gems.

We are especially pleased to be presenting AJ's Junior Calypsonians on the Sunday, who in the last two years they have been nothing short of magical.

Enjoy a taste of the Caribbean during the interval on both days.

www.ajscaribbeanscene.com

South Street
Tuesday 26 May, 3pm & 7pm

Potted Pirates

£10, Concessions £8

After the hilarious success of Potted Potter, CBBC's Dan and Jeff return with this new compressed caper. In search of talking parrots and mysterious buried treasure they will be telling tall tales of the seven seas, from Long John Silver to Blackbeard.

Will Dan persuade Jeff to let him play Jack Sparrow? And how will Jeff keep things ship-shape with that scallywag Dan aboard? A show for everyone, even those who don't know their skull and crossbones from their pieces of eight.

www.pottedpirates.com

Suitable for ages 6+

The Hexagon
Tuesday 26 May, 8pm
10cc Live in Concert
£24.50, £22.50

One of the most successful groups of the 70's embark on a nationwide tour to coincide with the release of their album, *The Greatest Hits and More* on Universal.

Join 10cc as they perform hit after hit with over 10 top ten hits including 3 No 1s:

Rubber Bullets, I'm Not In Love, Dreadlock Holiday
Donna, Art For Art's Sake, Good Morning Judge, The Things We Do For Love
I'm Mandy Fly Me, Life Is A Minestrone, The Dean And I, The Wall Street Shuffle

10cc are Graham Gouldman, Rick Fenn, Paul Burgess, Mick Wilson and Mike Stevens.

The Hexagon
Wednesday 27 May, 7.30pm
TCT Music & Kilimanjaro Live Present
Seth Lakeman
All tickets £17

Mercury Music Prize nominated Seth Lakeman is one of the fastest-rising stars on the folk roots scene. His 2006 album '*Freedom Fields*' helped build on his traditional cult following, finding a whole new audience for his rhythmic, captivating brand of indie-folk song writing.

Named Folk Singer of the Year at the prestigious Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2007, his latest album '*Poor Man's Heaven*' represents a clear progression, to a fuller, rockier sound. It is also the closest

representation on record of Seth's live show yet, capturing the rhythmic, raw energy seldom seen in any other acoustic band.

"A new folk hero" - The Times

www.sethlakeman.co.uk

The Hexagon

Thursday 28 & Friday 29 May, Thu 3.30pm & Fri 2pm

Fifi Live

The Fairy & the Flowertots

Adults £13, U16s £11, Family of Four (max. 2 adults) £44, Groups of 10+: 1 in 10 free

For the first time ever, Fifi and the Flowertots will be appearing live on stage!

It's a stormy day in Flowertot garden, and look what's been blown in on the breeze - a magical fairy! But wait - her wand has been swept away in the wind and the lost fairy has to get it back to return home. Who better to help her than everybody's favourite Flowertot - Fifi Forget-Me-Not and her Flowertot friends!

Come along and join in the fun as we take you on a marvellous, magical, musical journey in this brand new production, featuring these much-loved characters.

South Street

Thursday 28 & Friday 29 May, 8pm

Lucy Porter

The Bare Necessities

£14, Concessions £12

Lucy has been a huge, sell-out hit at the Edinburgh Festival and on tour with her distinctive, bouncy, feel-good style. 'The Bare Necessities' is Lucy's most thought provoking show to date as she

talks about the important things in her life: The erosion of our civil liberties, the rise of surveillance society, the infantilization of grown-ups, the reason why so many comedians are depressive alcoholics and the ingredients for a really excellent dirty martini.

The show may also feature: A Puppy Aquarium! Helium-filled Flying Craft! Nudity! Xylophone Playing! A Bear! Biscuits!

Concert Hall

Thursday 28 May, 7.30pm

Lo'Jo

£12, Concessions £10

Their songs, hot from the pen of lead singer and Gallic visionary Denis Péan, are snappily dressed in a mixture of French musette, chanson, African, Arabic, gypsy, dub, funk and jazzical sounds that makes Lo'Jo's music so unique and indefinable.

Having toured the world extensively they were also instrumental in staging the first *Festival in the Desert* in Mali and it was Lo'Jo who first brought the hugely successful Tinariwen to European attention.

"They have to be one of the best live bands in the world" - The Independent

"Lo'Jo should be playing big stadiums and festivals. Anyone able to catch them in a small club should count themselves very lucky"
- The Guardian

South Street

Saturday 30 May, doors 8pm

The Handsome Family

All tickets £12

The Handsome Family return to South Street with their own brand of stunning Americana and poetic grace in support of new album *Honey Moon*, released in April 2009.

Over the last two decades husband and wife duo Brett and Rennie Sparks have recorded a series of albums that established them as one of America's finest songwriting partnerships and has seen them hailed as "country music's answer to the White Stripes" and as "the Beatles of the folk world".

Support comes from
Smoke Fairies.

South Street
Sunday 31 May, 7pm
Theatretrain
Bugsy and Other Musical Notes!
All tickets £13.50

Reading Theatretrain come together to present a fantastic show of musical numbers focusing on the classic story of Bugsy Malone!

Theatretrain have recently showcased Tommy The Rock Opera at The London Palladium and Songs of the Century at The Royal Albert Hall!

For more information contact Christine Hinton on 0118 9429400 or reading@theatretrain.co.uk

JUNE 2009

The Hexagon

Tuesday 2 - Saturday 6 June, 7.30pm

Masquerade Theatre Company present

the much anticipated production of the Broadway hit musical

The Full Monty

£22 - £18, Concessions: £2 off, Groups 10+: 10% discount

Tuesday evening: All tickets £18

The musical adaptation of the record breaking and Academy Award nominated box office hit movie of the same name, written by four-time Tony Award winner Terrence McNally and David Yazbek, tells the humoristic and heartfelt story of how a night out for the ladies became a way out for the guys.

Set in Buffalo, New York, *The Full Monty* depicts the lives of six average guys of odd shapes, various ages and very different backgrounds out to earn some respect and a few dollars by stripping as a last way out.

When a local male strip show is quite a hit with the town's ladies, these cash strapped and unemployed steelworkers, a security guard and a has-been disco dancer, figure they can cash in big time if they go "*The Full Monty*".

If they can pull it off is quite another matter!

The highly entertaining show promises an evening of vibrant musical theatre, genuine humour and exposure to a variety of hilarious and vivacious songs ranging from big band Broadway to Rock and all the way back again.

Suitable for ages 16+

Non-professional performance

Audio described performance on Friday 5 June (insert AD logo)

Concert Hall

Wednesday 3 June, 7.30pm

Clive James in the Evening

All tickets £16.50

Writer, broadcaster, raconteur and Australia's finest export, Clive James has been a British institution for longer than he cares to remember.

In an unprecedented feat of strength he carries his latest book on stage and then talks about almost anything else, after which he answers questions about everything except his liaison with Margarita Pracatan.

When asked if he was actually really a stand-up comedian, he lay back in his sun-lounger beside the swimming pool of the Four Seasons hotel in Los Angeles and said "What does it look like?"

Concert Hall

Thursday 4 June, 8pm

Newton Faulkner

Re-arranged new date

Sold Out

Having postponed his January date at the Concert Hall due to a broken wrist, Newton Faulkner finally arrives - fully recovered, and keen to live up to his reputation as a genuine grass-roots phenomenon.

Touring heavily for the past two years and building up from low-key gigs and support shows to headline performances and main-stage festival slots at home and abroad, Newton has won over fans and critics alike with his unique mixture of mind-boggling virtuoso guitar techniques and natural wit.

The Hexagon

Monday 8 - Saturday 13 June, 7.30pm, Wed & Sat matinee 2.30pm

Bill Kenwright presents

Cabaret

Monday - Thursday 7.30pm & Sat matinee: £30.50, £28.50, £26.50

Friday & Sat 7.30pm: £32.50, £30.50, £28.50

Wednesday matinee: All £21.50

Concessions: £3 off, Groups of 10+: £5 off, YRP: £2.50 off (Tues-
Thurs evening only)

Schools: £10 + 1 in 10 free (Tues - Thurs eve and Wed matinee
only)

Limited 2 for 1 on Monday night

WILKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME...

Since its Broadway premiere in 1966 and the famous movie version with Liza Minnelli, Michael York and Joel Grey, **CABARET** has won a staggering number of stage and screen awards including 8 Oscar's, 7 BAFTA's and 13 Tony's. This "Sensational" Double Olivier Award Winner and Variety Club Awards 'Best Musical', which enjoyed a record breaking run in London's West End, turns Weimar Berlin of 1931 into a sassy, sizzling haven of decadence...

SAMANTHA BARKS, the hugely popular runner-up from the hit BBC series 'I'd Do Anything', stars as the legendary Sally Bowles, who performs nightly at the infamous Kit Kat Klub in 'a shimmering masterpiece of a show, guaranteed night after night!'. She joins world renowned dancer and TV favourite **WAYNE SLEEP**, who reprises his role as the notorious Emcee.

From the creators of hit musical Chicago, **CABARET** features show-stopping choreography, dazzling costumes and some of the most iconic songs in musical theatre including Mein Herr, Maybe This Time and of course Cabaret.

Come to the Cabaret - it's divine decadence darling!

Audio described performance on Friday 12 June (insert AD logo)

South Street

Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 June, doors 7pm

Thames Valley University Dance Show

Unique Steps

£6, Concessions £4

Dance4Eight, a company of final year Dance students from Thames Valley University's National Diploma Performance course, present an exciting evening of original dance work.

From Contemporary to Ballet to Street, the show contains something for everyone as these graduating students show off their unique talents in a diverse programme of new and original choreography.

Concert Hall

Thursday 11 June, 7.30pm

Classical Music Alive

Angela Hewitt, piano

£22-£111, Concessions & Student Standby tickets available

Rameau Pieces de clavecin (selection)

Dukas Variations on a Theme by Rameau

Couperin Sixieme Ordre

Ravel Le Tombeau de Couperin

Angela Hewitt has become one of piano's cult figures. She is renowned for her supremacy in the interpretation of the works of JS Bach and her recordings of his complete keyboard music has been called one of the recording glories of our age. Here she presents a beautiful programme of French music, diverse yet artfully connected, spanning three centuries.

Pre-concert talk 6.15pm-7pm The Town Hall (FREE)

The Hexagon

Monday 15 June, 8pm

Here Come The Boys!

You Never Forget Your First Time

All tickets £27.50

The sizzling new show from 'Simply the Best'!

The Chippendales troupe of American muscle bound hunks Original cast sold out every theatre in the UK and now Here Come The Boys! Looking better than ever with some stunnign new faces, exceptionally talented singers, dancers and an outstanding new show.

www.herecometheboys.com

Adults Only

The Hexagon

Thursday 18 June, 7.30pm

One Night with Elvis

£21.50, Concessions £1.50 off, Groups of 10+: £2 off

'Elvis on Tour - The Legend Continues' features a full evening show paying tribute to the early days of 'pure hip-swivelling' rock n roll, the '68 Come Back Special' and Elvis's Las Vegas performances.

The production features LEE 'MEMPHIS' KING, the UK's most successful Elvis impersonator, finalist in "The Worlds Greatest Elvis" and in the special edition of "The Weakest Link" both on BBC One. With his outstanding band and singers, his spectacular recreation of Elvis Presley on stage is a true 'must see'! Don't miss it!

South Street

Friday 19 June, 8pm

Presented by roots/round/about

Fatima Spar and the Freedom Fries

£10, Concessions £8.50

Over the past few years, the band around front woman Fatima Spar has found its own particular sound. They confidently move in a self-conscious style between tradition and modern age. Without giving in to the music hypes of the day or sacrificing their own musical edges to the market, Fatima Spar and The Freedom Fries instinctively succeed in finding their place between Alternative, World and Jazz.

The Hexagon

Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm

Boot-Led-Zeppelin

£17.50, Concessions £16

Boot-Led-Zeppelin offer the definitive tribute to one of the world's most legendary rock bands, Led Zeppelin.

Capturing the magic and excitement of Zeppelin's concerts from the 70s, the band faithfully perform their classic songs, from mellow acoustic tracks such as *Going To California* and *That's The Way*, to epics such as *Whole Lotta Love*, *Kashmir* and *Stairway To Heaven*.

Their close attention to detail, and sheer presence and energy on stage, ensure to take their audience on a journey back in time. Big Sound, big flares and big hair! Boot-Led-Zeppelin are back to deliver the ultimate Zeppelin experience!

"The nearest thing I have heard to the lords of rock! You seriously won't get any closer than this!" - Fearne Cotton, BBC Radio 1

Concert Hall

Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm

Reading Symphony Orchestra

Popular Classics

£14, £12, Concessions £11.50, £9.50, U16s: £2

Soloist You-Chiung Lin

Reading's highly-acclaimed Symphony Orchestra end their concert season with a rousing evening of popular classics. The Bolero by Ravel, Wagners spectacular Flying Dutchman and Debussy's masterfully atmospheric La Mer ensure the programme will appeal to a large audience.

International piano soloist You-Chiung Lin is very popular with Reading audiences and will perform Addinsell's passionate and dramatic Warsaw concerto, the single movement concerto written for 1941 film, *Dangerous Moonlight*.

The Hexagon

Sunday 21 June, 7.30pm

Wokingham Schools present

Right to Survive

Tickets £7 and £6 available from the organiser on 07769 777 955

This concert seeks to deal with issues of how we live and what we do to our world. A variety of conservation matters are placed in the spotlight and investigated through drama, dance and song.

Wokingham Schools continue to provide opportunities for pupils in the region to make music together, this year sharing the experience of being part of a choir of over 400 voices.

The Hexagon
Tuesday 23 June, 7.30pm
Bjorn Again
20th Anniversary Tour
£16.50, Concessions £14.50

Back by popular demand following a sold-out date in March.

Formed in 1988, Bjorn Again are no longer seen as just a tribute band but as stars in their own right. Join us once again, as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the band that has kept the greatest hits of ABBA alive in our hearts.

Featuring the legendary voice of radio DJ Tony Blackburn, playing all the UK hits of 1988 together with Bjorn Again performing the greatest hits of ABBA, this promises to be a great summer party night out for people of all ages.

South Street
Thursday 25 June, 12.15pm & 7pm
Theale Green Community School and Performing Arts College
present
Much Ado About Nuthin'
£5, Concessions £4

White hats and black hats, cowgirls and aegits abound in dusty Messina. This striking new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic promises to be a show you will never forget.

This is the second tour to South Street for Theale Green Students since the success of Hamlet last year.

Photo courtesy of US National Archives and Records Administration
(in tiny letters under photo)

The Hexagon
Friday 26 June, 7.30pm
That'll Be The Day
£20.50, £18.50

Often referred to as the hottest show in town, the legendary That'll Be The Day, the nation's most successful touring production returns.

Featuring back to back non-stop nostalgia classic gold hits from the 50's through to the 90's mixed with feel-good comedy routines, this definitely is a show not be missed!

If you love classic-gold pop music and you like a good laugh, come and enjoy over two hours of non-stop nostalgia and take the ultimate trip down memory lane!!

We guarantee you'll be on your feet and dancing before the night is over!!

Early Booking Advisable!!

www.thatllbetheday.com

South Street
Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June, 7.30pm
An Evening with Reading Gay Chorus
Songs for a Hot Summer Night
£12, Concessions £10

The ladies and gentlemen of Reading Gay Chorus invite you to a passionate feast of classic and contemporary music.

Reading Gay Chorus offers opportunities for the local LGBT community to enjoy singing together in a supportive environment.

For ALL advance tickets, call 07749 949485

www.rgc.gb.com

The Hexagon
Saturday 27 June, 6.30pm
Naach Gaana 2009
£7 (price includes snack)

An evening of Indian music and dance performances organised by Indian Community Association of Reading and Wokingham. This event is a part of **Dhoom Dhamaka 2009** - Reading's annual celebration of Asian arts.

Arts Devt
Saturday 27 June - Sunday 19 July
DHOOM DHAMAKA
A Celebration of Asian Arts in Reading

Dhoom Dhamaka, Reading's annual celebration of South Asian inspired arts and culture, takes place between 27 June - 19 July 2009.

Experience the rich diversity of contemporary and traditional music, dance, visual arts and craft taking place within communities, and at venues throughout Reading.

JULY 2009

South Street
Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 July, 8pm
Mark Thomas: It's the Stupid Economy!
£15, Concessions £10

Mark Thomas attempts to answer some of the more pressing questions about the state we are in. Is Britain the new Iceland? If we own a couple of banks can we lend ourselves money and use their phones to call Australia? And what on earth is a “derivative” and is it possible to use the word without also mentioning “Keane” and “Travis”?

“Thomas the polemicist deploys the comedian’s eye for a situation’s dark absurdities” - (5 stars) The Guardian

The Hexagon

Friday 3 & Saturday 4 July, Fri 11am & 2.30pm, Sat 10.30am & 1.30pm

FIVE TV and Dan Colman present

Milkshake! Live in My First Concert

Adults £14.50, U16s £12.50, Family of Four (max. 2 adults) £50, Groups of 10+ £10

For the first time ever Milkshake! is hitting the road with a colourful LIVE concert! Join the Milkshake! TV presenters and all your favourite Milkshake! TV characters in a brand new, action packed show. Enjoy your favourite Milkshake! songs, stories, dances and much more!

It’s a guaranteed feel good treat for your children, bursting with the infectious energy you can only expect from the Milkshake! gang. It’s a fabulous opportunity to enjoy all the tunes and dance steps that have made Milkshake! one of the most successful children’s TV experiences ever!

The Hexagon

Sunday 5 July, 4pm & 7pm

Reading Music Centre

Extravaganza Concerts

£7.50, £6.50, Concessions £2 off
£2 off if both performances are booked together.

This annual Extravaganza Concert showcases the various instrumental ensembles and choirs of the Reading Music Centre - a great opportunity to hear young people of all ages perform a wide range of music.

Classical and contemporary music from brass bands, string orchestras, jazz bands, wind ensembles, guitar groups and choirs - come and hear what Berkshire Maestros is all about.

Concert Hall

Sunday 5 July, 4pm

Bracknell Music Centre String Gala Concert

£7, Concessions £5

Berkshire Maestros' String Orchestras from Bracknell and Wokingham join together to present a varied programme of classic string orchestra repertoire and popular pieces in their biannual String Gala Concert.

One of the highlights of the afternoon will be a performance of "Old Macdonald Had A Party" by well known local composer, Tony Osborne, played by primary school pupils who have taken part in string Wider Opportunity projects across Wokingham.

The Hexagon

Monday 6 - Thursday 9 July, 7pm

Reading Youth Prom

Adults £6, Concessions £3

In our schools and young people's organisations, we represent the diversity of our cultures in Reading in so many different ways. The town itself has such a richness of different experiences and faiths living in harmony with each other. We are proud of such diversity.

These evenings attempt to portray and celebrate that diversity through the performing and visual arts.

Concert Hall

Wednesday 8 July, 7.45pm

World Champion Barbershop Choir from California

The Westminster Chorus

£15, Concessions £12.50

In 2007 the bright, clear sounds of this 60-strong young chorus (almost all in their 20's) were crowned 2007 International Champions - and now they are coming to Reading!

Hosted by Reading's own **Thames Valley Chorus** the evening's entertainment will be a fabulous combination of vibrant close-harmony songs and exciting choreography. The Show is part of Westminster's preparation for competing at the 2009 Llangollen Eisteddfod's "Choir of the World".

More details at www.tvchorus.co.uk

South Street

Friday 10 & Saturday 11 July, 8pm

RedCape Theatre

in association with South Street present

End of the Road

(a Work-in-Progress)

Ticket details to be announced

After their debut show 'The Idiot Colony' garnered Fringe First & Total Theatre Awards, South Street's resident company RedCape Theatre return from touring to work on their follow up.

Two elderly sisters, an old synchronised swimming double act, return to their childhood home to discover a shifting coastline had moved it to the 'end of the road'. RedCape collaborate with New

York playwright Suli Holum on their new production, which promises to be another visually arresting treat.

End of the Road is being developed as part of South Street's Art Council funded residency programme.

The Hexagon

Saturday 11 July, 7.30pm

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra present

Symphonic Rock

£45, £35, £25

Following sell-out shows at London's Royal Albert Hall, The Hexagon is proud to play host to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra once again, for a very special evening of great rock anthems and classic pop tracks.

Featuring hits by Queen, The Moody Blues, The Beatles, Procol Harum, U2, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Tina Turner, Meatloaf and Eric Clapton. Plus a very special tribute to The Rolling Stones.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

This concert is promoted by the Berkshire Freemasons.

Concert Hall

Saturday 11 July, 7.30pm

Berkshire Maestros

A Celebration of Choral and Organ Music

£10, Concessions £8

The talented singers of the Berkshire Youth Choir, Senior Girls Choir and Berkshire Young Voices join with Berkshire Organists' Association for an evening of choral and organ music.

Once described as 'The Manchester United of the choral world', the Youth Choir is the jewel in Berkshire's choral crown. It is a choir of exceptional quality, which has a string of awards to its name - most notably the 1996 'Choir of the Year' in the Sainsbury's competition, and 'Youth Choir of the Year' in 2000.

The Hexagon

Wednesday 15 July, 7.30pm

An Audience with Sally Morgan

All tickets £19.50

Back by over-whelming public demand following a sold out performance here in January, Sally Morgan the 'stars psychic' returns.

Her reputation has been built from her close relationship with many high profile celebrities and she is now rated as one of the world's top mediums.

Since realising she had psychic abilities when just a child, Sally now brings her amazing abilities and her tremendous personality to the stage with a unique theatrical experience, which is both hugely entertaining and enlightening.

This show has taken the UK by storm!! Early Booking Advisable!!

www.starpsychic.co.uk

Parental Guidance Advised

Town Hall

Tuesday 14 July, 7pm

WHODUNNIT?

Murder Mystery Evening

with Crème de la Crime independent publishers

Tickets £10 per team of up to four people

As a prelude to this year's Reading Festival of Crime Writing in September, Innovative independent publishers *Crème de la Crime* are inviting you and fellow crime fiction fans for a criminally fun evening of murder, mystery and crime solving.

Everyone loves a mystery, and ours offer a real tangled web. Teams of budding sleuths are to piece together the clues from a package of witness statements and other evidence, to solve the crime and discover 'whodunnit'. Earn points for every element of the mystery you solve - and of course, points mean prizes!

www.readingfestivalofcrimewriting.org.uk

South Street

Saturday 18 July, 8pm

Thin White Duke

£9 in advance, £11 on the door

Thin White Duke are a 5-piece David Bowie tribute band that capture the look, the music and the energy of David Bowie, playing all the hits from 1969 onwards - The tribute band made by Bowie fans, for Bowie fans!

The Hexagon

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 July, Sat 7.30pm & Sun 3pm

Mo's Stage Schools proudly present

Mo's Musical Extravaganza

£12.50, Concessions £8

This spectacular show includes songs and dance from popular shows.

Over the past 26 years Mo's has given Reading's talented youngsters many opportunities to perform in their own local Hexagon Theatre.

Book now to enjoy their latest show - this is a performance not to be missed!

South Street

July 2009

Reading Comedy Festival presents

Edinburgh Previews

Replacing Around the Fringes, Reading Comedy Festival previews some of the most innovative, exciting new comedy shows before they head north of the border and cause a stir on the Edinburgh Fringe.

Previous years have featured Michael McIntyre, Russell Howard, Rich Hall and even Flight of the Conchords! In 2008, Mark Watson, Plested and Brown and Dan Antopolski appeared; each going on to earn a plethora of 4 and 5 star reviews for their new shows! Look out for more information on what this year has in store. All will be announced soon. Don't miss out!

readingcomedyfestival.com

Images from 2008 shows

AUGUST 2009

The Hexagon

Monday 27 July - Saturday 8 August, Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

The Hexagon Summer Youth Project

Culminating in a performance of **Around the World in Eighty Days**

£140, YRP holders £130 (includes a published copy of the script)

Do you fancy being tutored by a team of theatre professionals?

This two-week course, suitable for young people aged 8-18, is a great way to find out more about the theatre and gives you a chance to perform on The Hexagon stage as the project culminates in the performance of 'Around The World in 80 Days'.

The Technical Youth Project again runs alongside, for 14-18 year olds, offering you the opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding and working knowledge of the main elements of technical theatre.

Call the Box Office on 0118 960 6060 for further information and an application pack.

Casting takes place in June, so book early to avoid disappointment.

The Hexagon

Saturday 8 August, 7pm

The Hexagon Summer Youth Project presents

Jules Verne's

Around the World in Eighty Days

Adults £6, Children £3

A spectacular musical adventure for the whole family.

Around the World in Eighty Days, freely adapted from the novel by Jules Verne, set in 1873, delightfully tells the story of Phileas Fogg and his servant, Passepartout's, whistle-stop journey, as they try to satisfy a wager that they can circumnavigate the world in eighty days. With bandits, nasty villains around every corner and transport problems that force them to continue via hot air balloon then by a performing elephant, will they make the deadline?

The Hexagon

Saturday 1 August, 6.30pm

The Salvation Army

Territorial Music School Final Festival 2009

All tickets £8, available on 020 7367 4862

The Salvation Army's annual Territorial Music School brings together many of the UK's best young Salvationist musicians.

The final concert here at The Hexagon gives the school's students an opportunity to perform some of the music that has been rehearsed and prepared during their week-long course. The programme will reflect the wide and varied range of repertoire of music used by The Salvation Army, including vocal, brass band and instrumental music.

South Street

Saturday 15 August, 4.30pm & 7pm

StageAbility Summer Workshop 09

Annie Junior

Music by Charles Stouse. Lyrics by Martin Charnin. Book by Thomas Meehan.

All tickets £7

Call Jackie for more information and tickets for the show on 0845 050 8245

StageAbility is staging the musical ANNIE for kids who love to ACT, SING & DANCE.

What better way to spend the holidays?

All ages and abilities catered for in our two-week fun-packed workshop culminating in two performances at South Street.

Based on the Tribune Media Service Comic Strip: Little Orphan Annie

The Hexagon

Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 September, 2.30pm & 6.30pm

Scooby Doo and the Pirate Ghost

THE CARTOON CLASSIC RETURNS WITH
A BRAND NEW SHOW!

£18.50, £16.50, U16s: £6 off, Groups of 10+: £12.50, Family of
Four (max. 2 adults) £58, £50

Scooby-Doo and the gang are back! Following their sell-out success with 'Stagefright', the ultimate cartoon classic bursts onto the stage once again with 'Scooby-Doo and the Pirate Ghost' - a brand new show to entertain the whole family.

Join Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, Velma, Daphne and Fred as they encounter a new case to solve in their trade mark Mystery Inc. style. Hold onto your seats as the adventure unfolds with perplexing clues, pirate ghosts and an abundance of Scooby snacks. It's Scooby-Doo and the gang at their finest and funniest, live on stage.

REGULAR EVENTS

South Street

Thursday 16 April - Thursday 20 August, doors 8pm

Thirsdays Blues

£10, Members £7.50

Every month the best of blues, national and local, from acoustic through jump and jive to nu and alt.blues...

The season starts with the Guy Tortora Band. Guy Tortora is a man well in front of the game - his album 'Living on Credit' predicted financial meltdown before Northern Rock sank like... a rock? His

band demonstrate how Blues encompasses Gospel with minimal instrumentation to out and out Rock and Roll.

Full Season Line-up

16 April **Guy Tortora Band**
21 May **Peabody and Power**
18 June **Michael Roach and Sonny Black**
16 July **The Mercury Blues Band**
20 August **Slim Lightfoot and the Backbones**

For more information please go to www.readingarts.com

South Street

Friday 17 April - Friday 21 August

Poets' Café

Doors open at 8pm, poetry begins at 8.30pm

£6, Concessions and Poets £4

Writer, comedian and champion of all things poetical, A.F. Harrold comperes Reading's longest running and best-loved poetry platform. Every month the night is made up of an open mic section welcoming anyone to read their work in a friendly atmosphere and a full reading by some of the country's finest poets.

17 April **James Byrne**
15 May **Fiona Robyn**
19 June **Maurice Riordan**
17 July **Alan Buckley**
21 August **Open Mic Special**

Concert Hall

Wednesday 13 May & Wednesday 8 July, 1pm

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

All tickets £4

The Concert Hall presents a series of lunchtime organ recitals by locally and nationally renowned organists. All recitals last approximately 45-minutes.

Wednesday 13 May

Christopher Cipkin, Wesley Methodist Church, Reading.
Programme to include works by Bach, Dubois and Sousa.

Wednesday 8 July

Nick Lee, a student from Eton College.
Programme to include works by Bach, Reger, Franck and Howells.

South Street

Monday 20 April - Monday 20 July

Reading Youth Theatre

Offering young people the opportunity to develop their drama skills in a relaxed and fun environment, led by experienced tutors.

Saturday mornings: 25 April - 18 July (excluding 2, 23 & 30 May)
£45 per term

Reception - Year 2	10am - 11am
Year 3 - Year 5	11.15am - 12.15pm
Year 6 - Year 8	12.30pm - 2pm

Monday evenings: 20 April - 20 July (excluding 4 & 25 May)
£50 per term

13-18 year olds	6pm - 8pm
-----------------	-----------

For more details call South Street on 0118 901 5234

Town Hall
The Town Hall, Reading
Your Perfect Wedding Venue

Licensed for civil ceremonies

Receptions for 40 - 250.
Concert Hall, Victoria Hall and Waterhouse Chamber.

Enjoy your wedding celebration in the stunning surroundings of a building that provides the perfect backdrop to your special day.

Located in the heart of Reading, adjacent to the beautifully renovated Forbury Gardens this outstanding historic venue comes complete with state-of-the-art technical facilities if required.

The Town Hall Events Team can advise you on every aspect of your wedding day providing outstanding cuisine, fine wines and the very best service and attention.

Telephone: 0118 939 9809
Email: townhall.admin@reading.gov.uk

Reading Arts
September - December 2009
PREVIEWS

Reading Festival of Crime Writing (logo)
11 - 13 September - Various venues

The Bohemia Ukulele Orchestra
5 September - South Street

The Gruffalo
8 & 9 September - The Hexagon

Reading Comedy Festival

2 - 18 October - inc. Tim Minchin

Bloc Party

30 October - Rivermead

Ed Byrne: Different Class

24 November - The Hexagon

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The Arts team is part of Reading Arts and Venues and runs a number of outreach and community activities. Our aim is to enable people to use the arts to make a positive and lasting difference to their lives. Much of our work is about involving people who have less opportunities to participate in the arts. We work in partnership with many of the artists and arts organisations in Reading as well as artists from further afield.

Here are some of the activities we are involved in:

Arts and Education - working in partnership with local primary and secondary schools and artists of all kinds we develop projects that use the arts to encourage creative learning across the curriculum. Recent projects have included a visual artist working with primary school pupils to design and build an outdoor learning space and Foundation Stage pupils working with a dancer and theatre company to develop speaking and listening skills.

Arts and young people - over this year we will be working in partnership with Readipop, Berkshire Maestros and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to deliver the next Urban Orchestra project. Funded by Youth Music, the project will be a creative collaboration between young urban musicians and young orchestral musicians.

Theatre residencies - as well as an exciting programme of events South Street is hosting a 2 year theatre residency project. Funded by Arts Council England the residencies enable six theatre companies to research, develop and share new work. Resident company Redcape Theatre have gone on to receive critical acclaim for their piece "The Idiot Colony", winning an Edinburgh Fringe First and a Total Theatre award.

Artist training - CIBAS Reading (Creative Industries Business Advisory Service) is a programme of professional development for arts practitioners. Seminars have covered exploring and developing creativity, business planning, marketing and financial management.

Artists in the City - through Reading's public art programme we work with artists on projects and commissions which contribute to Reading's public realm. Artist Marion Coutts recently unveiled her Morris Columns, 2 artworks commissioned by Muse Developments for Chatham Place.

Further information about our work can be found online:

Arts Development projects -

www.readingarts.com/artsdevelopment

Arts and Education - www.readingarts.com/education

Artists in the City - www.artistsinthecity.org.uk