MISSION & PURPOSE

The REP’s mission is to produce excellent theatrical experiences, to entertain, enlighten and engage audiences and, wherever possible, to reflect the diversity of Birmingham and the surrounding region.

This supports our vision, which is to –

- Inspire the city of Birmingham to a lifelong love of theatre
- Be a leading cultural destination in the region
- Offer a creative hub and magnet for theatrical talent

Making theatre from scratch remains at the heart of the theatre's work, and we aim to continue to be one of the UK’s leading producers of new theatre. We commission a range of original works from both established and emerging writers and theatre-makers. We actively support the development of emerging artists, particularly from the West Midlands region. We seek ways to involve members of the city-region’s diverse communities in our work and to link emerging artists with those communities. We seek and pursue opportunities to tour and/or transfer the work we produce on our three city-centre stages to other theatres around the UK and beyond.

We believe that –

- Theatre offers a richer and more potent experience when a diversity of perspectives is reflected
- Support and development of culturally diverse artists will address the in-balance in mainstream arts provision
- All audiences, whether actual or potential, deserve a challenging, diverse and stimulating programme of work
- The arts have a duty to take positive action to enable equality of access and to respond to changing demographics
- The diverse nature of Birmingham’s communities makes a positive contribution to our cultural offer
“The REP has been a jewel in Birmingham’s crown for a hundred years. The city simply could not be as great as it is without such a prestigious asset.” - Sir Ian McKellen

About The REP

For over a century, the internationally renowned Birmingham Repertory Theatre has been one of the country’s leading cultural institutions at the forefront of theatre in the UK. As the City’s only producing theatre, many of our productions go on tour, championing Birmingham and positively contributing to its national and international reputation. In this way, we have developed strong links with cities and cultural partners across the UK, Europe and the world.

Established in 1913, The REP was the first purpose built repertory theatre in the country and became one of the most exciting theatre companies in the UK, inventing the idea of Shakespeare in modern dress, presenting many world premieres and launching the careers of an array of great British actors, including Sir Laurence Olivier himself. In 1971 we moved to Broad Street to a new theatre building; housing a stage of epic proportions and a democratic auditorium with no balconies, pillars or boxes. Here, new generations of artists launched their careers, and they continue to do so.

The REP’s iconic building is at the heart of the city’s current architectural and cultural renaissance. The REP enjoys a prominent location on the newly developed Centenary Square, is adjacent to the Midland Metro extension and alongside a host of new neighbours in the Paradise development.

It is our mission to create a vibrant programme of world-class performances and activities that enrich the lives of the communities we serve and inspire artists to make their best work with us. We are passionate about creating work with, for and by the people of Birmingham, enabling the city’s residents to see themselves and their stories reflected on our stages. In recognition of our commitment towards making theatre accessible for D/deaf and disabled artists and audiences, we were extremely proud to win the UK Theatre Award for Promotion of Diversity.

The REP’s acclaimed learning and outreach programme is one of the largest and most diverse of any arts organisation in the country. Every year we have over 70,000 contacts with young people and adults in the community on projects from drama or writing workshops to large-scale productions. With the help of our corporate partners we can continue to nurture the region’s talented young artists, to commission exciting new works, welcome new audiences and to reach out to the communities of Birmingham and beyond.
We have an absolute feast of newness for you to explore throughout 2019!

- New casual dining options
- New cocktail menu
- New extended ‘happy hour’ 4-6pm / 8-11pm Monday-Friday and all day on Saturdays
- New independent coffee and cake suppliers offering unique roasts and vegan options
- New terrace on the redeveloped Centenary Square
- New programme of live music events
- New pre-theatre dining menu - still great value, convenient and always delicious
  - 2 courses for £19.50
  - 3 courses for £24.50

Visit birmingham-rep.co.uk and look under ‘Our Place’

Or call our Marmalade team on 0121 245 2080 for more information or to book your table.

Come and join us!

Marmalade team

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A FOND FAREWELL

Birmingham is a great city and deserves a great theatre. It’s been a privilege to be part of a highly skilled, passionately committed team, who are driven by the desire to produce high quality art, deepen The REP’s relationship with the city, and welcome in the myriad of communities we serve. Standing in the foyer on a busy night or at the back of the auditorium when the house is full is the biggest buzz a girl can get. So thank you for being Britain’s Best Audience.

The offer of world class arts for everyone is one of the things that makes this city unique. Remember, if you love local theatre please make your voice heard: use social media, write to The REP, write to your council and write to the Arts Council. Tell us why a particular show or experience has mattered to you and continue to support us so we can create work for you.

So, welcome to our Autumn/Winter season

Back by popular demand are The Lovely Bones and An Inspector Calls, two gripping and eerie stories about searching for the truth.

We’re delighted to share with you two well-known titles: My Beautiful Laundrette, an adaptation of the touching, funny, coming out film and a charming, imaginative version of Pride And Prejudice (‘Sort Of’). We are producing two new plays: Prism, the life of a British Oscar-winning cinematographer, director and photographer, and Rebel Music, a play about the impact of the 70’s Midlands’ music scene. And we’re excited to present Barber Shop Chronicles, a theatrical spectacular which gives us an insight into that most intriguing of worlds.

At Christmas, the hugely talented Liam Steel, who delighted so many with his inventive The Wizard Of Oz, returns with our Christmas spectacular, Peter Pan.

Other familiar favourites to return this season include Fierce and Bedlam festivals, the much-loved Janice Connolly, alongside other actors, delivering three brand-new monologues by local female artists in Prime Time and our captivating children’s production Penguins, after a successful international tour.

All that’s left is for me to say is thank you all so much for your continued loyalty and support for this incredible theatre. I shall miss it and you enormously. As ever, I urge you to try something new, but this season, maybe re-visit something familiar too.

Roxana Silbert
Artistic Director
THE LOVELY BONES

By Alice Sebold
Adapted by Bryony Lavery

The spectacular stage adaptation returns due to popular demand.

Susie Salmon is just like any other young girl. She wants to be beautiful, adores her charm bracelet and has a crush on a boy from school. There’s one big difference though – Susie is dead.

Now she can only observe while her family manage their grief in their different ways. Her father Jack is obsessed with identifying the killer. Her mother Abigail is desperate to create a different life for herself. And her sister Lindsey is discovering the opposite sex with experiences that Susie will never know. Susie is desperate to help them and there might be a way of reaching them…

Alice Sebold’s novel The Lovely Bones is a unique coming-of-age tale that captured the hearts of readers throughout the world. With a talented cast, incredible set design and a soundtrack combining 70’s favourites with original music, this wonderfully creative production brings her vision to life in an exciting, emotional and uplifting theatrical experience.

DIRECTOR MELLY STILL
DESIGNER ANA INÉS JABARES-PITA
COMPOSER DAVE PRICE
LIGHTING DESIGNER MATT HASKINS
SOUND DESIGNER HELEN SKIERA
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR MIKE ASHCROFT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LUCY BIRD

“Nothing short of a masterpiece” Stage Review
“A mesmerising spectacle” The Guardian
“Spellbinding adaptation” The Daily Mail

From £15
Previews (6 – 9 September) and weekday matinee (19 September) from £10
BARBER SHOP CHRONICLES

By Inua Ellams

DIRECTOR BIJAN SHEIBANI

Following two sell-out runs at the National Theatre and a world tour, Inua Ellams’ acclaimed Barber Shop Chronicles comes to The REP.

Newsroom, political platform, local hotspot, confession box, preacher-pulpit and football stadium. For generations, African men have gathered in barber shops to discuss the world. These are places where the banter can be barbed and the truth is always telling.

Directed by Olivier award-winning director Bijan Sheibani and designed by Rae Smith (War Horse), Barber Shop Chronicles is a heart-warming, hilarious and insightful new play that leaps from a barber shop in Peckham to Johannesburg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos and Accra over the course of a single day.

From £15
Matinee (28 September) from £10

GET INVOLVED

Have you always wanted to try acting?
We have lots of ways to get involved with our Adult Drama Company, master classes and opportunities to appear on stage in one of our community shows. If you would like to get involved with our adult engagement, please email learning@birmingham-rep.co.uk.

Do you want to discover more about The REP?
Enjoy the free audio tour A Journey Round My Theatre by KILN and hear from The REP’s architect, Graham Winteringham. (Audio players are available from our box office.)

Are you a writer?
Send us your unsolicited scripts and we will read them. Or develop your writing further and learn more about the craft of playwriting by signing up for a Play In A Day Workshop. Email scripts@birmingham-rep.co.uk for further details.

We also work with Bold Text Collective – a group of working playwrights who aim to create more opportunities and platforms for mid-career writers in the West Midlands. Email boldtextcollective@gmail.com for further details.

Would you like to tickle the ivories?
Play the piano in our foyer. Ask at the box office counter for access.
Following a sold-out run at London’s Hampstead Theatre, the astonishing true story of the man who made Hollywood’s greatest divas beautiful comes to The REP.

Robert Lindsay is ‘magnetic’ (The Guardian), ‘perfect’ (The Times) and ‘glorious’ (Mail On Sunday) in Terry Johnson’s delightfully witty and poignant play based on the extraordinary life of double Oscar-winning cinematic master Jack Cardiff; ‘the man who made women look beautiful’ (Vanity Fair).

The legendary Jack Cardiff has retired to the sleepy village of Denham, Buckinghamshire. His days of hard work – and play – on some of the most famous film sets in the world are now long behind him, as are his secret liaisons with some of the most famous women in the world. Surrounded by memorabilia from a lifetime of ‘painting with light’, the writing of an autobiography should be an easy matter – were it not that Jack would now rather live in the past than remember it.

Multi-award-winning Terry Johnson’s many hits include Hysteria, La Cage Aux Folles, Mrs Henderson Presents and Dead Funny.

Double Olivier Award-winner Robert Lindsay’s theatre credits include Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (West End) and The Entertainer (Old Vic Theatre). Television credits include My Family and Genius.
Drawing on over two-hundred years of romantic pop history, this is Blood of the Young’s unique take on a beloved novel – the highly acclaimed Pride And Prejudice* (*Sort Of).

Six young women have a story to tell. You might have seen them, emptying the chamber pots and sweeping ash from the grate; the overlooked and the undervalued making sure those above stairs find their happy ending. Of course, they’ve always been running the show – after all ‘You can’t have a whirlwind romance without clean bedding’ – but tonight, the servants are also playing every part.

Men, money and microphones will be fought over in this loving and irreverent all-female adaptation of Jane Austen’s unrivalled literary classic. Let the ruthless match-making begin!

“Unfettered joy from start to finish”
The Herald

“A have-your-cake-and-eat-it adaptation in which the gags are plentiful even when the stakes are high”
The Guardian

From £15
Weekday matinees (17, 24 & 31 October) from £10
This November, Hanif Kureishi’s iconic and Oscar-nominated screenplay *My Beautiful Laundrette* comes to the stage. This bold new drama will be presented against a funky backdrop of 80’s music and culture and explores cultural conflict, gender equality, class and generational strife.

Set in London during the Thatcher years, *My Beautiful Laundrette* tells the story of young British Pakistani, Omar, who transforms his uncle’s run-down laundrette into a thriving business. After being confronted by a fascist gang, Omar recognises school-friend Johnny and uses their history to diffuse the situation. As they renovate the laundrette together, love blossoms between them. This culture clash comedy is also a subversive work of social realism, sprinkled with magic and joy running through the rich veins of Kureishi’s writing.

**From £15**

Weekday matinee
(7 November) £10
Hailed as the theatrical event of its generation and winning more awards than any other production in history, Stephen Daldry’s production of JB Priestley’s classic thriller has enthralled more than 4 million people worldwide.

When Inspector Goole arrives unexpectedly at the prosperous Birling family home, their peaceful dinner party is shattered by his investigations into the death of a young woman. His startling revelations shake the very foundations of their lives and challenge us all to examine our consciences.

More relevant now than ever, this is a must-see for a whole new generation of theatre-goers.

“Spectacular. If you haven’t seen it, you must. If you have, see it again”

The Mail On Sunday
By J. M. Barrie

All children, except one, grow up…

One night, the headstrong Wendy Darling is visited by a mysterious boy floating outside her window. The mischievous stranger introduces himself as Peter Pan, and after teaching Wendy and her two brothers to fly, invites them on a quest to an enchanted island called Neverland. It is a world of feisty fairies, malevolent mermaids and a raucous gang of abandoned Lost Children.

But a crew of ruthless pirates, led by the dastardly and vengeful Captain Hook, also await in Neverland. Can Wendy, Peter, and his gang unite to win the day as they cross paths and swords with the pirates? And will Wendy and her brothers ever find their way back home?

Filled with swashbuckling adventure, the eternal classic Peter Pan has enthralled audiences across generations.

Liam Steel returns to direct after his highly acclaimed retelling of The Wizard Of Oz here last year. This striking new version for the young, young at heart and forever young is set to make you fall in love with this family favourite all over again.

By arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children’s Charity And Samuel French Ltd.

Peter Pan is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD, a Concord Theatricals Company.
MUSHY: LYRICALLY SPEAKING

An uplifting tale inspired by the true story of Musharaf Asghar (Educating Yorkshire).

Dewsbury, 2013. Mushy, a young man with a debilitating stammer, finds himself at the centre of a television documentary. In a moment of inspiration from his teacher, Mr Burton, he starts to find a rhythm in his voice through music. Social media erupts hailing it a miracle cure and both teacher and pupil become overnight celebrities. But Mushy’s journey to find his voice has only just begun...

Rifco Theatre Company (Pyar Actually) bring you the world premiere of this heart-warming new play written by Pravesh Kumar (Laila The Musical, The Deranged Marriage) infused with rap and lyrics by award-winning British rapper Raxstar (Keep It Undercover).

From £15
**BEDLAM Arts And Mental Health Festival**

BEDLAM festival returns to celebrate the arts, mental health and wellbeing. This year is bigger than ever with new partners Geese Theatre Company joining The REP, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Midlands Arts Centre and Sampad South Asian Arts to promote positive mental health.

There will be theatre, dance, visual art and workshops across the city. More details on the full festival programme will be available at birmingham-rep.co.uk.

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**4 – 5 October**

Les Enfants Terribles and Birmingham Repertory Theatre present

**THE THING**

*How am I meant to come to terms with the fact that the thing most likely to kill me in this world is myself?*

Did you know men in the UK aged 20 – 49 are more likely to die from suicide than anything else?

Join Olivier-nominated Les Enfants Terribles as they investigate this rising epidemic for the BEDLAM Festival. The company delve into the crisis of identity, depression and anxiety which exists within all of us. They ask what it’s like to try and survive in a world where we’re constantly told to ‘man up’ and ‘make our mark’.

From £10

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**8 October**

Hearth Centre presents

**REVOLVING DOOR**

*By Polly Wright*

A coroner conducts an inquest into the suicide of Martin – a nineteen year-old gay man. He calls a GP, a psychiatrist, a mental health nurse and Martin’s mother as witnesses and asks the question: Why did this young man, with apparently everything to live for, take his own life? But this is no ordinary hearing… the coroner is Martin himself.

After the play, Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Erin Turner will be in conversation with award-winning mental health campaigner Jonny Benjamin MBE about suicide prevention. This will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.

From £8

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**9 – 10 October**

Geese Theatre Company present

**PLAYING THE GAME**

*Created by Helena Enright*

Obviously you’re under the rules and restrictions of being in prison. So you have to play the game. You know you have to… you can’t really be true to yourself.

Playing The Game is a theatre of testimony play created as part of a Wellcome Trust-funded research project with the University of Warwick. It uses material from a series of drama workshops and interviews conducted with residents and staff at HMP Peterborough alongside archival materials and testimonies from the past.

A cast of four take you on a journey through a century of maternal incarceration and ask not only has anything changed but is prison really the right place for mothers?

From £10
Fierce Festival fills the city with performances from across the globe in theatres, galleries, warehouses and other out-of-the-ordinary spaces from 15 to 20 October.

Expect heart-popping happenings, intimate moments of discovery and banging parties!

“crammed full of people and sweat and noise... so many people are gathered to see live performance”

Exeunt on Fierce 2017

For full listings please visit wearefierce.org

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15 – 17 October

Fierce Festival presents

IN MANY HANDS
By Kate McIntosh

In recent years, audiences to Kate McIntosh’s shows have been involved in many different ways – they have been invited to take part as accomplices, craftspeople, orchestra-members and rain-makers.

Returning to Fierce Festival for the third time, with her new work In Many Hands, Brussels-based McIntosh dives into the tactile and the multi-sensory, inviting the audience to test, touch, listen, search and sniff.

“After about 45 minutes, there is probably no one in the room whose hands are not completely filthy... A rare and wonderful offer to concentrate on yourself without losing sight of your fellow human beings.”

kultur.kino.ruhr

Suitable for 12+

£15

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17 – 19 October

Fierce Festival presents

FAMILIAR
Written and performed by Gillie Kleiman and Greg Wohead

A Fierce commission from two of the UK’s leading contemporary makers, Familiar is a twinset of performances on significant otherness. One is authored by Kleiman and performed by Wohead, the other authored by Wohead and performed by Kleiman.

Woven through with references to Twin Peaks and witches, the works in Familiar play out what it means to be companions, where we think we know everything about each other whilst facing the fact that we can’t.

This is a completely new evening of performance made by two critically acclaimed artists working together for the first time.

£12

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19 October

Fierce Festival presents

WORKING WITH CHILDREN
Written and performed by Nicola Gunn

Working With Children is a performance essay that looks at the problem of intimacy and exposure. You are invited to wonder about the effect of language on the body with an apparently unconnected collection of anecdotes, which may or may not be true.

Australian Nicola Gunn is an award-winning writer, director, performer and designer who combines text, choreography and visual art to make contemporary performance in response to a self-generated impulse to tell a story or explore a form.

“Bizarrely, perhaps, her humour reminds me of Jane Austen, who also wrangled a very sharp needle in her micro-tapestries of daily middle-class life.”

witnessperformance.com

£15
26 October

HUMBLE PI

Matt Parker’s
Comedy Of Maths Errors

Humble Pi explores the greatest mathematical near-misses and mishaps involving planes, bridges, the internet, big data and more. Matt Parker shows us the bizarre ways maths trips us all up. Being wrong has never felt so right.

Matt Parker is a stand-up comedian, mathematician and Discovery Channel presenter. His YouTube videos have been viewed over 85 million times and he is also the first person to use an overhead projector at the Hammersmith Apollo since Pink Floyd.

“Visibly so genuinely excited about maths that it’s infectious. Likewise, his comedy is unmistakeable”

Broadway Baby

“Magician-like skills with tables of numbers”

The List

From £15

23 November

Off The Kerb Productions presents

ANDY PARSONS

Healing The Nation

Andy has a message for these uncertain times…

It was the day after the Referendum, and I found myself in a supermarket contemplating a meal deal. I only wanted a sandwich but given that I could get a snack and a drink for only 5p more it seemed financially irresponsible not to.

The lad on the till scanned the first two items no problem but the third item he couldn’t get to scan at all. Then to his credit, he went ‘bip’ himself and chucked it through. And it was at that moment I thought “oh we’ll be alright as a country we will”.

Trust me. I’m not a politician.

You’ve seen him on Mock the Week, Live At The Apollo, QI and repeats on Dave. Now see him live at The REP.

“Cracking adlibbing…a joke-rich rallying call for a better Britain”

The Guardian

From £15

9 November

SHOUT Festival and Birmingham Repertory Theatre present

QUEER AND NOW

A whirlwind showcase of short work-in-progress performances from the next generation of queer Midlands theatre-makers.

Join us for a packed evening full of delicious new queer theatrical goodness, where local artists have the chance to test and develop new performance ideas in front of a live audience for the first time. Showcasing the extraordinary skill of LGBTQ+ artists from the West Midlands, expect theatre, stand-up, music, drag, and all manner of performance yet to be imagined!

From £5

16 November

Split Britches presents

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCES (UXO)

By Lois Weaver, Peggy Shaw & Hannah Maxwell

Performed by Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw

Combining a Dr Strangelove-inspired performance with a daring forum for public conversation, Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) explores ageing, anxiety, hidden desires and how to look forward when the future is uncertain.

In our Situation Room, twelve audience members are invited to become a Council of Elders to discuss the global issues of the day, as the company weave in satirical insights and humour.

From £15

Presented as part of SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture.
For full listings please visit shoutfestival.co.uk.
19 September – 5 October
From £10

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, in association with Middle Child, presents

REBEL MUSIC

By Robin French

It’s the sweltering hot summer of 1976. The country is in economic turmoil. The far right is on the march. Rock Against Racism puts white punk bands and black reggae bands on the same bill – determined to win the culture war and defeat the National Front.

Three teenage music fans, Denise, Trudi and Andrew, join the fight for the soul of working class Britain. The trio navigate racial politics and social upheaval in Birmingham alongside their own turbulent teenage years. Can their friendship survive?

The new play from Robin French (BBC’s Cuckoo) and JMK Award-winning director Alex Brown is a celebration of the diverse musical legacy of the Midlands. The REP have united with award-winning gig theatre specialists Middle Child (All We Ever Wanted Was Everything) for this raucous story of people power, set to a soundtrack of Punk, Reggae and 2Tone. Join the rebellion.

DIRECTOR & CO CREATOR ALEX BROWN
SOUND DESIGNER JAMES FREWER
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR LUCY WILD
DRAMATURG PAUL SMITH

Supported by
When a young man jumps in front of a train Cyrus is driving, the mysterious circumstances prompt him to search for answers. In pursuing the truth of Sonny’s final hours, Cyrus is led to laundrette worker Christine, as the past begins to catch up with people whose lives are changed forever.

Award-winning playwright Winsome Pinnock (Rockets And Blue Lights) joins forces with Graeae’s former Associate Director and The REP’s new Deputy Artistic Director Amit Sharma (The Solid Life Of Sugar Water, Cosmic Scallies) to explore the fragility of human relationships in a reimagining of One Under.

This evocative play about the power of guilt and the quest for atonement features creative captioning and audio description.

By Winsome Pinnock

From £10

ONE UNDER

PRIME TIME

Written by Maeve Clarke, Rachael Mainwaring & Rochi Rampal

Featuring Janice Connolly with further casting to be announced

Comprising of three monologues by three different playwrights, this funny, moving and intimate production explores the wide-ranging experiences of women of retirement age.

Developed through research, Prime Time reflects upon how women’s professional and personal lives have impacted on their current choices or lack of them and explores the deep-rooted gender issues that this stage of our lives often exposes.

Prime Time is the third collaboration between The REP and Women & Theatre exploring themes of women and work following the success of For The Past 30 Years in 2014 and Starting Out in 2016.

From £10
Lyngo Theatre presents
WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD
Before anything new is made it must be dreamed. From our moon-base in the Sea of Tranquility we get a great view of the Earth and it’s time to make a new one just like we do every night! What shall we put in tomorrow’s world? Snowballs and flamingos of course! So all aboard the sleeper train as it takes us on our dream voyage.

We start with putting the stars in the sky and move through history, creating life, discovering fire all over again and finally arriving at the one-world tree where we celebrate the new home that we made all together. This is an amazing romp through the universe where you can get your hands on the stuff of creation!

For ages 2-5

14 September

The Play House presents
DOWN IN THE DUMPS
Bea is creative and feisty. Stiggy is clever and quiet. Both are outsiders. Bea is new in town. She’s exploring the local scrapyard looking for things to build her dream rocket with when she stumbles across Stiggy in his den. Will they become friends and pull each other up from down in the dumps?

Part of BEDLAM Festival (see page 20), Down In The Dumps is an interactive theatre performance that explores mental health with children and their families.

For ages 7+

5 October

BACKSTAGE TOURS
Delve behind the scenes on our guided backstage tours. As well as regular tours we have specially tailored tours for families and school groups.

Tours start at 11am (10.30am for school groups) and last approximately 90 minutes (60 minutes for school groups). See the Diary on page 38 for dates. Schools may also book by appointment.

£6
£4.80 per person for school groups
15% off for family groups of 2 to 7 (including one under-14) for tour.

Combine a tour with a sandwich lunch in Marmalade for £14

Contact us on
Tel: +44 (0) 121 245 2066
Email: Enquiries@uniquevenuesbirmingham.com
Visit uniquevenuesbirmingham.com

FIRST STAGES
Theatre for children and their families
From £10 Babes In Arms £2
Family Ticket 2-7 people (with at least 2 under 14s) 15% off
When being different brings the most wonderful of surprises...

Roy and Silo are two male Chinstrap Penguins. Just like the other penguin pairs at Central Park Zoo, they walk, play, swim and dance together. When the duo decide to try and hatch a rock in place of an egg, they find themselves on an adventure that could mean raising a chick for real!

Penguins is a unique and engaging show for children about friendship, fun, identity and the ever-changing meaning of family. This delightful new theatre and dance production is inspired by a true story reported in the New York Times that touched hearts worldwide. The acclaimed show for children ages 3 and up returns after wowing audiences in the UK and US.

From £8

“...charming and significant in many ways”
Sincerely Amy

Penguins

Created and directed by Paul Bosco McEneaney

19 – 21 December

Search For The Second Star

To coincide with our Christmas production of Peter Pan (see page 16), young people will be invited to fly with us to the second star and journey through a colourful and interactive environment full of beautiful sounds and delicious smells.

Search For The Second Star is an immersive theatre experience developed in partnership between The REP and Open Theatre Company and designed to engage young people with learning disabilities including those with complex needs.

From £3

(Free carer places available)

26 October

How Does This Politics Thing Work Then?

With Tiernan Douieb & Tatton Spiller

Politics is boring. Politics is for adults. Rubbish! Politics is actually super important and can be made really fun, if you know how. Luckily Tatton Spiller (Simple Politics) and Tiernan Douieb (Comedy Club 4 Kids, CBBC’s The Slammer) know exactly how and will show you just how to make sense of it all.

You might not be able to vote yet. You do have opinions, though. Also, you want to have fun. Comedy Club 4 Kids specialise in making children laugh and Simple Politics specialise in making them understand how politics works in a clear, informative and fun way. So they’ve teamed up for a show that keeps you entertained, engaged and informed so you can also shout at the telly along with your parents during Question Time!

From £12

Under 14s from £8

4 – 14 December

Penguins

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Cahoots NI and Prime Theatre present

PENGUINS

Created and directed by Paul Bosco McEneaney

Choreographer
Carlos Pons Guerra
Set & Costume Designer
Sabine Dargent
Lighting Designer
Simon Bond
Composer
Garth McConaghy

“A piece of children’s theatre that is both charming and significant in many ways”
Sincerely Amy

From £8

Comedy Club 4 Kids & Simple Politics present

How Does This Politics Thing Work Then?

With Tiernan Douieb & Tatton Spiller

Politics is boring. Politics is for adults. Rubbish! Politics is actually super important and can be made really fun, if you know how. Luckily Tatton Spiller (Simple Politics) and Tiernan Douieb (Comedy Club 4 Kids, CBBC’s The Slammer) know exactly how and will show you just how to make sense of it all.

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From £12

Under 14s from £8

From £3

(Free carer places available)
Our Corporate Partners Are

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Anthony Collins Solicitors
Colour Cubed
Q Park
Snappy Snaps

With Thanks
We are immensely grateful to all of our REP Friends, REP Understudies, REP Believers and REP Creators, and all our current donors, funders and corporate sponsors for their invaluable support and generosity. We would also like to thank all the trusts and foundations who make a vital contribution to our work.

REP First is proudly supported by our campaign ambassadors, Sir Lenny Henry, Jason Donovan, Meera Syal and Ian McDiarmid.

“If anybody is feeling charitable and has a little to spare, you couldn’t find a better cause”
Ian McDiarmid

Support The REP today with REP FIRST, our one million pound campaign!

Now entering its third and final year, our REP First campaign has raised over £660,000. The REP is a registered charity and the money raised will have a dramatic impact on the work we can produce and the opportunities we can offer. By supporting REP First, you can play your part in ensuring the sustainability of The REP for the next generation of theatre makers, participants and audiences. REP First provides a range of ways in which you can directly support our ambitions and influence our future, such as becoming a REP Friend, naming a seat or funding a bursary. To find out more and to share your love of theatre, please visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/support-us.

REP First is proudly supported by our campaign ambassadors, Sir Lenny Henry, Jason Donovan, Meera Syal and Ian McDiarmid.

Beneath The City

Upstart Theatre presents

Beneath The City

After the death of her mother, a young woman flees from her home. She arrives in a new city, asking for sanctuary. But before it’s granted, furious bureaucrats demand their own justice. As she is put on trial for a crime she denies, the community wrestles with its commitment to the people and to power.

Beneath The City is one part of The Chorus Project, an international collaboration between Upstart Theatre in the UK, Pathos München in Germany, Theater am Lend in Austria, and MKC Youth Cultural Centre in the Republic of Northern Macedonia. This production is made in Birmingham with a chorus of Young REP members, Adult Drama Company members, refugees and asylum seekers. Inspired by Greek tragedy, critically-acclaimed Upstart Theatre combine music, lyrical writing and movement to tell a tale about how the decisions we’ve made haunt us.

From £12

Birmingham Repertory Theatre presents

REP Foundry Festival

Be the first to see exciting new work by the next generation of theatre artists.

REP Foundry is our artist development programme that mentors the best and brightest emerging writers, directors and theatre makers.

Following the success of its first year, the REP Foundry Festival returns to present their work in a festival comprising full productions, staged readings, and scratch performances.

Previous Foundry artists have gone on to win awards, work on large scale productions or have their shows commissioned by The REP, so this is your opportunity to see the future of theatre first.

Full details will be announced at birmingham-rep.co.uk.

REP Foundry is principally supported by the Leverhulme Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation with additional support from Ramps On The Moon.

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**REP MEMBERSHIPS**

Choose the membership that best suits your lifestyle and pocket. Start saving money and join our REP family today!

## Membership benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REP CLUB</th>
<th>REP CLUB FAMILY</th>
<th>REP CLUB PREVIEW Max</th>
<th>PREVIEW CLUB</th>
<th>REP ACCESS</th>
<th>REP ACCESS REGISTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>20% off full-priced tickets when buying six or more tickets at the same time – save money and see more theatre.</strong>*</td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Priority booking period – gain access to our lowest priced seats first!</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10% off Marmalade’s à la carte menu &amp; bar – make a night of it!</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free guest tickets on a selected production each season – introduce your loved ones to the joy of theatre.</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free ticket exchange or re-sale – be prepared should the unforeseen happen.</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free backstage tour – get to see behind the scenes.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free brochure twice a year – plan your entire season of theatre in your favourite armchair with a cuppa!</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Email updates – be the first to hear our exciting news announcements.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Free family workshop – enjoy a fun theatrical activity together.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Competitions – your chance to win prizes or simply play together.</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Save an extra 10% when booking your family to see a show in The HOUSE at Christmas – make it a Christmas to remember!</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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<td><strong>Free cloakroom – enjoy the show clutter-free.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>£5 tickets on selected preview performances – see the theatre you love for less than the price of a cinema ticket!</strong></td>
<td>★</td>
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</tbody>
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**Annual price per membership**

- **£45**
- **£50**
- **£25**
- **FREE**
- **FREE**

*Terms and conditions apply. *Not bottom price. **Same production only.

## DIARY KEY

- **AD** Audio Described with Pre-Show Backstage Touch Tour
- **BSL** British Sign Language Interpreted
- **BT** Backstage Tour
- **CAP** Captioned
- **FBT** Family Backstage Tour
- **PSD** Post-Show Discussion
- **REL** Relaxed Performance
- **SBT** Schools Backstage Tour

### Backstage Touch Tours

Our Backstage Touch Tours give you the chance to explore our wonderful sets and feel the props and costumes that are used in our productions. You will also be able to take a trip to our rehearsal rooms, paint shop, wardrobe, and wigs/make up studio! Guide dogs are welcome and the tours will last approximately 90 minutes. (As this is a working theatre we cannot always guarantee access to all areas of the set.) This tour is open to everyone but is specifically designed as a touch tour for people who are blind or visually impaired.

### Relaxed performances

Relaxed performances are designed for people that would benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. These performances take a relaxed approach to movement, entering and exiting the auditorium and noise. The production may also make slight amendments to the lighting and sound. Relaxed performances are of particular benefit to people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, sensory disorders or a learning disability.

## GUIDANCE SYMBOLS

These symbols are to help you make a more informed decision when deciding which shows to book.

- **N** Nudity
- **S** Scenes of a Sexual Nature
- **SL** Strong Language
- **V** Violence

### Winner of three What’s On Readers’ Awards 2019

- Best Birmingham Arts/Theatre Venue
- Best Kids Show – The Snowman
- Best Home Produced Show – The Wizard Of Oz
## AUTUMN & WINTER DIARY 2019/20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SHOW</th>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<td>The Lovely Bones</td>
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<td>The Lovely Bones</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Barber Shop Chronicles</td>
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<td>Barber Shop Chronicles</td>
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<td>Down In The Dumps</td>
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<td>Prism</td>
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<td>9-Oct Wed</td>
<td>Revolving Door</td>
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<td>10-Oct Thu</td>
<td>Playing The Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-Oct Fri</td>
<td>Playing The Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Oct Tue</td>
<td>Pride and Prejudice (*Sort Of)</td>
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<td>16-Oct Wed</td>
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<td>22-Oct Tue</td>
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## AUTUMN & WINTER DIARY 2019/20

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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Peter Pan</td>
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### DECEMBER (CONT’D)

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<td>Thu</td>
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OUR PRICING

Prices for most of our productions start at just £10 or £15. We offer a percentage of seats at these low prices as an alternative to standard concessions. These seats are available for anyone to book so if you love theatre but have limited means, we recommend you secure your seats as early as possible.

We also release seats for sale in stages, starting with the front third of the auditoria. This helps to ensure a better and more intimate experience for both actors and audience members.

FAMILIES & GROUPS

We offer discounts for families and groups for the majority of our shows. Families of 2 to 7: save 15%* Groups 10+ save 10%, 20+ save 15% & 50+ save 20%*. School Group Bookings Tickets start at just £15.50 for schools signed up to our free REP Ed membership scheme. We offer a free teacher place for every 15 tickets booked.

*Please note that family and group discounts do not apply to all price bands and that family groups must contain at least one under-14.

NEW & NURTURED

Buy tickets for all of the below shows for just £21.

Rebel Music
The Thing
Prime Time

DIRECTOR’S CHOICE

We have paired up shows that we feel complement or contrast with each other to help you when choosing which shows to see. Book for the below shows at the same time and receive a £5 discount on the cost of each ticket. (Please note that this discount does not apply to the lowest ticket prices and only one discount applies per ticket.)

1. The Lovely Bones & Prism
2. Barber Shop Chronicles & My Beautiful Launderette
3. Pride and Prejudice* (‘Sort Of) & The Lovely Bones
4. Prism & Rebel Music
5. Rebel Music & Prime Time

Follow us online:
Facebook: /birminghamrep
Twitter: @birminghamrep
Instagram: @therepbirmingham

TERMS & CONDITIONS

We charge a transaction fee of £2.50 on all payment types. This covers administration costs and postage and enables us to provide a dedicated booking service. This charge does not apply to transactions under £10, group bookings over 50 and school group bookings. We also waive this charge if you are a REP Friend.

Reservations must be paid for within three working days of the reservation (or before 1 hour prior to the performance if your reservation is made within three days prior to it). Ticket exchanges are subject to availability, only possible for the same production, incur a fee of £2.00 per ticket, are available up to 48 hours before the performance and a price difference may occur. Tickets are non refundable. Full terms and conditions can be found at birmingham-rep.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

ACCESS REGISTER

Members of our Access Register can enjoy priority booking and discounts on accessible performances. If you are Deaf or disabled (or book on behalf of someone who is), you can join the register by calling the Box Office. The Register also offers accessible publicity and complimentary companion seats for those who require it.

Guide dogs are welcome throughout the theatre and can be taken into the auditorium or left with a member of staff during the performance. So that we can provide the best possible service, please mention that you have an assistance dog when making your booking.

HOW TO BOOK

By phone
0121 236 4455
(Groups 0121 245 2082)

Online
birmingham-rep.co.uk

Phone Service
Monday-Saturdays: 11am – 6.30pm.
Counter service available 12pm until 15 minutes after the start of the last performance or 5.30pm when there is no evening performance.

Sundays/Bank holidays: Open two hours before performances.

Latecomers

Please arrive in plenty of time for your chosen performance. We endeavour to admit latecomers but cannot guarantee this for all of our auditoria.
Welcome to Our Latest Season From the New Artistic Team

“Hello, I’m Sean Foley, and I couldn’t be more excited and honoured to have been appointed Artistic Director at The REP.

Alongside the existing REP team and my two new management team mates, Deputy Artistic Director, Amit Sharma and Executive Director, Rachael Thomas, I look forward to sharing my own first full season of work Autumn 2020, but in the meantime, our programme of work from January through to Summer continues.

The REP’s reputation for creating and presenting amazing theatre that ignites our collective imagination.

Across our three stages, we present a real diversity of voices and stories. In an era when the very idea of ‘the other’ – an outsider – comes with extraordinary social tension, many of these plays – even the comedies – take a look at the conflict that can come from standing up, being different, or defiantly not fitting in. In a city of great diversity, and at a time of tremendous national debate around identity, these plays create great and essential evenings at the theatre through their unique takes on the human experience.

Celebrating its UK premiere is the acclaimed Asking For It – a theatrically explosive and relevant piece of theatre presented by Landmark Productions and Everyman, Cork in association with the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. It’s an extraordinary piece of contemporary Irish theatre that broke box office records in two sold-out seasons and won the Audience Choice Award at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards by a landslide earlier this year. I’m sure it will equally astound Birmingham audiences. I’m looking forward to us bringing more national and international work of this calibre to our stages – our audiences deserve the best!

With our near neighbours, the RSC, we present the Birmingham premiere of the hilarious Molière comedy about religious fanaticism and hypocrisy, Tartuffe. Directed by Birmingham’s own Iqbal Khan, and set in Sparkhill, this is already a celebrated and incredibly funny show – don’t miss it.

In a new co-producing arrangement with the Lyric, Hammersmith and Headlong we present an incredible retelling of the classic Faustus story, Faustus: That Damned Woman – definitely one to try.

In our smaller theatre, The DOOR, a new relationship with London’s famous new writing theatre the Bush, gives us The High Table – an epic family drama and debut play from newcomer, Temi Wilkey.

The REP is for you. Through everything from affordable ticket prices, to accessible performances, and not least our transformational learning and participation programme, we aim to make theatre for all. As part of The REP team, I want to continue the tradition started by our founder, Sir Barry Jackson – to inspire and entertain the people of Birmingham and the wider world, wherever they come from. Now and in the future I aim to make your visit to The REP a life-affirming good night out.”

“I passionately believe this theatre should represent the wonderful people that make up this city. Inspired by Sean’s vision of ‘theatre for all’, I will work to ensure The REP continues to be a place for anyone who has a creative spark - whatever their background; that our community and engagement work, as well as our relationships with local artists and organisations help to create waves in Birmingham, across the UK, and internationally.

Most of all, we want The REP to be a place where audiences and artists come together to share stories that will entertain them, change them and represent them. I’m really excited to be working at this wonderful theatre.”

Sean Foley
Artistic Director

Amit Sharma
Deputy Artistic Director

Image: Kris Askey
By Louise O’Neill
Adapted for the stage by Meadbh McHugh
in collaboration with Annabelle Comyn

Landmark Productions and The Everyman’s sensational adaptation of Louise O’Neill’s devastating novel about sexual consent makes its UK première at The REP following huge acclaim, including a sold-out season at Ireland’s National Theatre, The Abbey.

One night in a small town in County Cork, where everyone knows everyone, things spiral terrifyingly and violently out of control and a young woman’s life is changed forever. What will happen to Emma now? – her reputation in tatters, and her attackers believed.

Theatrically extraordinary and brought to life by a powerful ensemble, led by Lauren Coe as Emma, this stunning multimedia production vividly portrays what it’s like to be young in this hyper-sexualised, hyper-scrutinised age. It’s a heart-breaking and truthful examination of the consequences of rape and society’s penchant for victim blaming.

Asking For It is that rare thing – a necessary show about now and an unforgettable night at the theatre.

DIRECTOR ANNABELLE COMYN
SET DESIGNER PAUL O’MAHONY
COSTUME DESIGNER NIAMH LUNNY
LIGHTING DESIGNER SINÉAD MCKENNA
SOUND DESIGNER PHILIP STEWART
VIDEO DESIGNER JACK PHELAN

For more information visit www.askingforit.ie

Produced by Landmark Productions and The Everyman in association with The Abbey Theatre

From £15
Previews (29 January – 3 February) and matinees (8 & 13 February) from £10
A new play by Chris Bush
Award-winning playwright Chris Bush (Standing At The Sky’s Edge and Steel, Sheffield Crucible Theatre, The Assassination Of Katie Hopkins, Theatr Clwyd and Pericles, National Theatre) reimagines the darkly compelling tale of Doctor Faustus, inspired by the works of Marlow, Goethe and other versions of the Faust Myth.

I was born almost four hundred years ago.
I gave my soul to achieve the impossible.
I watched this city grow sick and I swore to heal it.
I might be damned, but I would save the world to spite the Devil.

In this radical retelling, Johanna Faustus makes the ultimate sacrifice and sells her soul in order to time travel across the centuries and change the entire course of history. But can she now escape eternal damnation?

Caroline Byrne (Spring Awakening, Young Vic, All’s Well That Ends Well, Sam Wanamaker Theatre, Oliver Twist, Regents Park and Taming Of The Shrew, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre) directs this gripping Faustian drama which explores what we must sacrifice to achieve greatness, and the legacy we leave behind.

This devilishly provocative story is told from a female perspective and promises to thrill purists whilst captivating new audiences.

DIRECTOR CAROLINE BYRNE
SET DESIGNER ANA INÉS JABARES-PITA
COSTUME DESIGNER LINE BECH
LIGHTING DESIGNER RICHARD HOWELL
COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGNER GILES THOMAS
VIDEO DESIGNER IAN WILLIAM GALLOWAY
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR SHELLEY MAXWELL
CASTING DIRECTOR ANNELIE POWELL CDG

A Headlong co-production with Lyric Hammersmith, in association with Birmingham Repertory Theatre

From £15
Matinee (5 March) from £10
TARTUFFE
By Molière
A new version by Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto

Tartuffe has the gift of the gab. A spirituality. A certain aura about him… that comes only when you claim to have Allah on your side, hundreds of Twitter followers and access to the family’s bank account. Eventually, the lies and deceit unfold in this wickedly hilarious Brummie satire of faith, family and #fakingit, penned by BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning writers, Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto (The Office, Goodness Gracious Me, The Kumars at No.42, Boomers).

DIRECTOR IQBAL KHAN
DESIGNER BRETTA GERECKE
LIGHTING DESIGNER RICHARD HOWELL
COMPOSER SARAH SAYEED
SOUND DESIGNER JEREMY DUNN
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR SHELLEY MAXWELL

Presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the RSC

The work of the RSC Literary Department is generously supported by The Drue and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust

From £15
Previews (20 – 23 March) and matinees (26 March & 4 April) from £10
"And where two raging fires meet together, they do consume the thing that feeds their fury."

You know the story.
A long standing dispute.
A fleeting encounter that sparks a love affair.
A love so powerful it’s enough to risk losing respect and even life for.
This is the greatest love story ever told.

Shakespeare’s iconic story of romantic woe is transported from Verona to Birmingham in a contemporary heart-stopping version for today.

Join us in a celebration of all-consuming love as The REP’s Deputy Artistic Director, Amit Sharma (The Solid Life Of Sugar Water, One Under), directs a talented cast from across the city in an ambitious, new version of this timeless love story.

This production features dance, music and innovative staging as well as relaxed, audio described and captioned performances throughout.

DIRECTOR AMIT SHARMA
DESIGNERS EBRAMH NAZIER, MARGARET REES & CHRIS TAIT
COSTUME DESIGNER KAY WILTON
LIGHTING DESIGNER ALEX BOUCHER

Birmingham Repertory Theatre presents The Young REP, Lightpost Company and REP Adult Drama Company

From £15
Previews (16-19 April) and matinees (19 & 25 April) from £10
A new play by Bryony Lavery
Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens

Born into poverty and misfortune, Oliver Twist escapes the workhouse for a life of adventure where he joins Artful Dodger, Fagin and their mischievous gang of pick pockets. But the enjoyment is short lived as he falls under the influence of the vicious Bill Sykes.

This bold, brutal and beautiful new version of Oliver Twist sends you on a dark adventure through the twisted streets of London. Adapted by award-winning playwright Bryony Lavery, every performance of Oliver Twist will feature the use of integrated creative sign language, audio description and captioning.

DIRECTOR AMY LEACH
Presented by Leeds Playhouse
in co-production with Ramps On The Moon

Now in its fourth year, Ramps On The Moon is a pioneering initiative from seven major UK theatre companies, including The REP, committed to putting D/deaf and disabled artists and audiences at the centre of their work.
Britain’s biggest theatre circus spectacular is back by popular demand! Cirque Berserk! returns with all your favourite acts, and some thrilling new ones, all created especially for the theatre. Combining contemporary cirque style artistry with adrenaline fuelled stunt action, this astoundingly talented international troupe includes over thirty jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, drummers and daredevil stuntmen showcasing the finest in traditional circus thrills and skills. Featuring the world’s most hair raising circus act – the legendary motorcycle ‘Globe of Death’.

Presented by Zippos

18 – 23 February

“Great for kids and even better for adults!”
The Sun

“A NutriBullet of contemporary circus”
The Times

“A full tilt thrill ride that almost literally sets the stage alight”
The Daily Express

From £15
Family Ticket 2-7 people
(with at least 2 under 14s) 15% off

GIRAFFES CAN’T DANCE

Based on the bestselling book by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees

Now every year in Africa they hold the Jungle Dance, where every single animal turns up to skip and prance. And this year when the day arrived, poor Gerald felt so sad, because when it came to dancing, he was really very bad...

Gerald the Giraffe longs to go to the great Jungle Dance, but how can he join in when he doesn’t know how to tango or two-step? Everyone knows that giraffes can’t dance! But with a little help from a wise and kind cricket, Gerald discovers his rhythm – because sometimes when you’re different, you just need a different song!

With a company of five actors playing warthogs, lions, rhinos chimps and, of course, the violin-playing cricket, Giraffes Can’t Dance encourages everyone to dance to their own tune like Gerald the Giraffe.

Simon Friend presents the Curve and Rose Theatre Kingston production in association with Hachette Children’s Group and Coolabi Group

13 – 17 May

Adults from £14.50
Children from £12.50
Nostalgic, naughty and perfect for now, Malory Towers is a musical of high jinks, high drama and high spirits.

Darrell Rivers is starting school with an eager mind and fierce heart. Unfortunately, she also has a quick temper! Can she learn to tolerate the infuriating Gwendoline Lacey, or value the kind hearted Sally Hope? Can she save the school play and rescue terrified Mary Lou from the grip of a raging storm? If she can do these things anywhere, she will do them at Malory Towers!

Adapted and directed by Emma Rice (Wise Children, Kneehigh’s Tristan & Yseult and Brief Encounter), this is a show for children and all of us grown up children who still dream of midnight feasts, pillow fights and headmistresses like Miss Grayling.

David Pugh presents a Wise Children production

From £15
Weekday matinee
(28 May) from £10

From £15
Weekday matinee
(9 July) from £10

Based on the novels by Enid Blyton
Adapted and directed by Emma Rice

“It is magic”
The Guardian

“Goes to the top of the class!”
The Sunday Times

“Jolly good stuff”
The Daily Mail

“It makes you want to cheer”
The Times

Following the success of The Wipers Times and Trial By Laughter, the Everyman Theatre Company is proud to present Ian Hislop and Nick Newman’s hilarious comedy A Bunch Of Amateurs.

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of Shakespeare, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of starring alongside Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from ruthless developers.

Jefferson’s monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson’s career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner Lear!

Presented by Trademark Touring, Anthology Theatre, Karl Sydow and the Everyman Theatre Company

From £15
Weekday matinee
(29 May) from £10

Prior to West End
Seeing a show? Need to dine? 
Look no further

If you love good food and pleasant surroundings we have a new and delicious menu for you to enjoy.
Seasonal produce locally sourced and packed with flavour, our **pre-theatre dining menu** offers excellent value and unrivalled convenience for theatre goers.

2 courses for £19.50
3 courses for £24.50

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**Love cocktails?**
**Happy times ahead**

At Marmalade we enjoy sharing a 'Happy Hour'. But why have one when surely four is even happier?

Our Happy Times are from **Monday to Friday 5pm to 9pm** and **throughout the weekend**!

During these times we offer a selection of cocktails from our extensive menu at just **£5.00** each.

Visit [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) and look under 'Our Place'.
Call Marmalade on **0121 245 2080**

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**Breakin’ Convention**

[Breakin’ Convention](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk), the world’s ground-breaking festival of hip hop dance theatre, is back with a fresh new line up! Expect jaw-dropping and inspiring performances from internationally celebrated poppers, lockers, b-boys and b-girls, including South Korea’s acclaimed Jinjo Crew, France’s Géométrie Variable, and the UK’s very own Spoken Movement, in a festival that showcases local talent alongside global sensations.

Hosted and curated by UK hip hop theatre legend and Breakin’ Convention Artistic Director Jonzi D, the festival also features DJs, graffiti artists and freestyle sessions taking place all over the building.

**Breakin’ Convention** is an integral part of Sadler’s Wells artistic programme.
In 1910 the unknown Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel set sail for New York as part of Fred Karno’s famous music hall troupe. On this journey, Charlie and Stan shared a cabin and then spent two years together touring North America, with Stan as Charlie’s understudy. Stan returned home, later finding success with his soulmate Oliver Hardy. Charlie developed his Little Tramp character and within five years became one of the most famous figures in the world.

In Charlie Chaplin’s highly detailed autobiography Stan Laurel is never mentioned.

Stan talked about Charlie all his life.

Playing fast and loose with the facts and with an original piano score composed by Mercury Award Nominee Zoe Rahman played live each night, The Strange Tale Of Charlie Chaplin And Stan Laurel is no nostalgic bio-drama, but a hilarious and deeply moving homage to two men who changed the world of comedy forever.

The events in this play are fictional. This play is certainly not endorsed by the estates of Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel or anyone else for that matter!
A coming of age story inspired by Dizzee Rascal’s seminal album.

In a strict Mormon household somewhere in the seam between East London and Essex, a girl is given Dizzee Rascal’s ground-breaking grime album *Boy In Da Corner* by her best friend SS Vyper.

Precisely 57 minutes and 21 seconds later, her life begins to change – from feeling muted by dyslexia to spitting the power of her words; from being conflicted about her sexuality to finding the freedom to explore; from feeling alone to being given the greatest gift by her closest friend.

Step into a technicolour world where music, dance and spoken word collide, and experience this semi-autobiographical story about how grime allowed Debris Stevenson to redefine herself.

**POET IN DA CORNER**

By Debris Stevenson

Feat. Jammz

“**It’s incredible**”

*Dizzee Rascal*

★★★★★

“One of the most exciting things I’ve seen all year”

*Evening Standard*

“Thrilling... Stevenson appears like the Kate Tempest of grime”

*The Guardian*

Originally co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW and the Royal Court Theatre in 2018, supported by Jerwood Arts.

**DIRECTOR**

OLA INCE

**From £15**

**PRESENTED BY**

The Royal Court Theatre

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**NEW**

**YOUNG REP REBELS**

Inspired by the current resurgence in youth protest, The Young REP explore what it means to stand up for injustices and demand change, presenting a season of work celebrating Birmingham’s identity as a hotbed for resistance and political voice since the 19th Century.

**27 – 28 March The STUDIO**

**LORD OF THE FLIES**

By William Golding

Adapted by Nigel Williams

Performed by the Young REP Seniors

A plane crashes on a deserted island. The only survivors are a group of students. They live in a land of bright exotic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are inhabited by a terrifying beast. A tale of isolation, power, identity and violence.

**DIRECTOR**

REBECCA DEEKS

**3 – 4 April The STUDIO**

**ANGRY BIRDS**

By Dougal Irvine

Performed by the Young REP Seniors

A new punk musical for the politically cynical. In a failing school a class learn about a group of ‘posh birds’ who won the vote for women 100 years ago. But as they grasp the story they realise that the battle is still raging and they are on the front line. Suffragette? It’s not over yet!

**DIRECTOR**

FILIZ OZCAN

**27 – 28 March The STUDIO**

**POET IN DA CORNER**

By Debris Stevenson

Feat. Jammz

“This is incredible”

*Dizzee Rascal*

★★★★★

“One of the most exciting things I’ve seen all year”

*Evening Standard*

“Thrilling... Stevenson appears like the Kate Tempest of grime”

*The Guardian*

**PRESENTED BY**

The Royal Court Theatre

**From £15**

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**12 – 13 June The DOOR**

**IF I RULED THE WORLD**

Performed by the Young REP Juniors

If you were a ruler for a day what would you do? Join our Young REP Juniors as they take you on a royal journey through their kingdom.

**From £5**

**COMING SOON**

**MADE IN BIRMINGHAM**

Written and performed by the Young REP Intermediates & Adult Drama Company

From Rock Against Racism in 1976 to Saffiyah Khan’s viral EDL resistance in 2017, our Adult Drama Company and Young REP Intermediates join forces to explore Birmingham’s history of protest, what activism feels like today in the youngest city in Europe and why the city is a hotbed of political voice.

Look out for more Young REP Rebels events at birmingham-rep.co.uk.
PUSS IN BOOTS
A show by Marcello Chiarenza
Adapted and performed by Patrick Lynch
Would you trust a talking cat? You never know, he might turn you from a pauper to a prince just like the hero of this story, brought to vivid life on our incredible sloping stage by Patrick Lynch from CBeebies.
Using smoke and mirrors and hidden trapdoors Patrick will show you how this sure-footed feline fools both the King and the Ogre to put his master at the top. With a host of puppets, a working windmill and an avalanche of fruit and nuts come and see this classic furry tail, it’s the cat’s whiskers!
Presented by Lyngo Theatre

NORI
Come and take a trip to the seaside and meet Old Pete, the last resident of beautiful Bonnie Cove. He’d love to take you beach combing and tell you a tale or two. Out at sea, Nori, a lonely creature from a far-away land, has been watching Pete and is about to arrive on the shore. How will Nori share her story, and will they get along?
This delightful, interactive performance uses puppetry, music and storytelling to explore what it means to be friends.
Presented by The Play House

I WISH I WAS A MOUNTAIN
Written and performed by Toby Thompson. Based on Faldum, a fairy tale by Hermann Hesse
On the day of the famous annual fair, the town of Faldum receives an unexpected visitor. A wanderer offers to grant a wish to anyone who wants one. Before long, the city is transformed. Mansions stand where mud huts once squatted, and beggars ride around in horse drawn carriages. And one man wishes to be turned into a mountain.
Through a mix of poetry, laughter, storytelling and live music, Toby Thompson beautifully evokes this strange and wondrous story to gently engage young minds on themes of needing and wanting and what makes us truly happy.
Presented by the egg and Travelling Light Theatre Company

Theatre for children and their families
Our First Stages shows are the ideal way to introduce a new generation to the delights of theatre and are especially created for nursery and primary school-aged children. They take place in our most intimate theatre space, The DOOR.

From £10
Babes In Arms £2
Family Ticket 2-7 people (with at least 2 under 14s) 15% off

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Part of BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL 22 – 30 May
PILOT NIGHTS

PILOT Nights, the much-loved West Midlands work in progress platform, is landing back at The REP.

Be the first to see brand-new extracts of theatre in an evening of eclectic performance from some of the UK’s most exciting theatre makers. Then stick around afterwards for a drink and tell the artists what you thought!

Keep an eye out for the call out information and line up at www.pilotnights.co.uk and on social media – Facebook: pilotnights Twitter: @pilotnights Instagram: @pilotnights

Presented by PILOT Nights
From £6

TO MOVE IN TIME

Written and directed by Tim Etchells
Performed by Tyrone Huggins

The Guardian The List

Imagine you can travel through time. Backwards and forwards. What would you do? Go back into history to change the present? Get rich using knowledge of the future?

Written by Tim Etchells and powerfully performed by Tyrone Huggins, To Move In Time is an unfurling trail of thought in which extraordinary and impossible fantasies are dreamt up, lived out and then discarded. An obsessive stream of consciousness, tangled and contradictory, the work combines Etchells’ text with Huggins’ powerful performance to walk a line between comic absurdity and melancholia.

Presented by Tim Etchells and Forced Entertainment in collaboration with Tyrone Huggins
From £10

HOME OF THE WRIGGLER

By Stan's Cafe

“Gentle, poetic and powerful ... a clever, entertaining and ultimately moving piece of theatre.”
Birmingham Post

Set far into the future, in a post-oil world, Home Of The Wriggler follows four investigators enthusiastically piecing together the interwoven stories of families that once lived in the shadow of the Longbridge car plant.

Ambitious and witty, alive with ideas, built from true stories and industrial history, Home Of The Wriggler is a playful kaleidoscopic soap opera. Its industrious performers, turning dynamos to light the stage with car headlights, bring to life dozens of humdrum fragments of everyday moments. Together they create a poetic and heartwarming story of a community getting on with living their lives while a huge corporate drama unfolds around them.

From £10
The dresses are chosen, the venue’s been booked and the RSVPs are flooding in. But with her wedding to Leah drawing nearer, Tara’s future is thrown into jeopardy when her Nigerian parents refuse to attend. This kind of love is unheard of, they say. It’s not African.

High above London, suspended between the stars, three of Tara’s ancestors are jolted from their eternal rest. Stubborn and opinionated, they keep watch as family secrets are spilled and the rift widens between Tara and her parents. Can these representatives of generations passed keep the family together? And will Tara’s decision ever get their blessing?

An epic family drama played out between the heavens and earth, The High Table is the hilarious and heart-breaking debut play from Temi Wilkey.

Presented by Bush Theatre and Birmingham Repertory Theatre
LAVA
By James Fritz

“Compassionate, warm and funny”
The Stage

Boy meets girl. Boy can’t talk to girl. And a small asteroid has hit the capital city. It was ridiculous. Impossible. But it happened. As London adjusts to life after unthinkable disaster, in a small town elsewhere a young man called Vin finds he can no longer speak.

Vin’s friend Rach is determined to help him recover his voice. But when a charismatic and articulate survivor arrives in town, who thinks talking – or even singing – about your suffering is the way to heal, Vin’s plight is suddenly eclipsed...

From award-winning playwright James Fritz, LAVA is a funny, tender, necessary story about human connection in the face of the inexplicable.

Presented by Fifth Word and Nottingham Playhouse. Originally developed in association with Derby Theatre.

From £10

AMSTERDAM
By Maya Arad Yasur

“The vibrancy and cheek of the production – the theatricality – is the kind that British theatre sees all too rarely.”
Theatre Va Va Voom!

A violinist, living in her canal-side Amsterdam apartment. Nine months pregnant.

One day a mysterious unpaid gas bill from 1944 arrives. It awakens unsettling feelings of alienation. Stories of a devastating past are compellingly reconstructed to try and make sense of the present.

Amsterdam is a strikingly original and audacious play.

DIRECTOR MATTHEW XIA
An Actors Touring Company, Orange Tree Theatre and Theatre Royal Plymouth production

From £10

THE CANARY AND THE CROW
By Daniel Ward
Music by Prez 96 and James Frewer

“The audience was on their feet before the show was even finished in this outstanding piece of politically charged theatre”
The List

Grime and hip hop-inspired gig theatre about the journey of a working class black kid who’s accepted to a prestigious grammar school.

Middle Child present an award-winning lyrical, semi-autobiographical show from writer and performer Daniel Ward, with original live music by Prez 96 and James Frewer.

Grime, hip hop and theatre combine to tell a story of the struggle between a new environment that doesn’t accept you and an old one that has no opportunity.

A Middle Child production

From £10
GET INVOLVED

Do you have a story that you are itching to share? Or are you just curious about what happens backstage? This is your opportunity to get involved.

We have lots of ways to get involved with our Adult Drama Company, masterclasses, Play Reading Group and opportunities to appear on stage in one of our community shows. If you would like to get involved with our adult engagement, please email learning@birmingham-rep.co.uk

Are you a West Midlands writer?
Send us your script and we will read them. Or develop your writing further and learn more about the craft of playwriting by signing up for a Play In A Day Workshop. Email scripts@birmingham-rep.co.uk for further details.

We also work with Bold Text Collective – a group of working playwrights who aim to create more opportunities and platforms for mid-career writers in the West Midlands. Email boldtextcollective@gmail.com for further details.

Would you like to tickle the ivories?
Play the piano in our foyer. Ask at the box office counter for access.

Want to learn from the experts?
This spring we will be hosting a series of masterclasses:
• Theatre Making with Sean Foley, Artistic Director
• Directing Masterclass with Amit Sharma, Deputy Artistic Director
• Audition Preparation For Actors with Madeleine Kludje, Assistant Director
Register your interest by emailing foundry@birmingham-rep.co.uk

Do you love reading plays?
Discover a range of playwrights, styles and periods with our fun monthly Play Reading Group which meets at Thimblemill Library, Sandwell. Each month the plays are picked to complement the shows being performed at The REP. Visit birmingham-rep.co.uk/get-involved/for dates and plays.

Are you a teacher?
The REP is an amazing learning resource for schools and colleges. Take a look at our website or email learning@birmingham-rep.co.uk for details.

Are you a budding artist?
Join our weekly art classes which are run by an experienced local tutor on Thursday mornings. They cater for different skill levels and cost just £5. Email learning@birmingham-rep.co.uk for further details.

Do you like to explore?
Take a wander around our foyer and enjoy our latest exhibition or see behind the scenes on a backstage tour (see page 20).

Want to discover more?
Visit our free Discovery Day to discover what happens behind the scenes and take part in fun workshops. Look out for the date at birmingham-rep.co.uk.

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Anthony Collins Solicitors
Colour Cubed
Q Park
Snappy Snaps
Vibro Suite Health and Wellness Club

With Thanks

We are immensely grateful to all of our REP Friends, Understudies, Believers and Creators, and all our current donors, funders and corporate partners for their invaluable support and generosity. We would also like to thank all the trusts and foundations who have made a vital contribution to our work.

“I’m very proud to support The REP. Culture gives soul to a city and it’s really important that people who love the arts contribute if they can.”

Current REP Donor

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Charity No.223660

Coming Soon

BE FESTIVAL

BE FESTIVAL returns with their packed annual programme of exceptional theatre, dance, circus and visual arts. Welcoming artists from Europe’s four corners, this year will feature (amongst others) some spectacular interventions from visual artist Francesc Serra in our festival HUB.

Every night, audiences can see up to four 30-minute shows, eat together at the famous festival dinner and can stay late to enjoy a free programme of live music and DJs.

It’s ‘a truly unique festival experience’ (Total Theatre) in the heart of Birmingham.

Stay tuned for the full programme announcement at www.befestival.org.

Unique Venues Birmingham provides all the conferencing and events space you need for the moments that matter.

We offer a variety of quirky spaces to hire across The REP and The Library of Birmingham, including theatre auditoria, a spectacular five-storeys high rotunda and a beautiful roof terrace with panoramic views across the city.

For corporate events, meetings, weddings and parties delivered with style, quality and care choose UVB.

Our venues change everything. Let us show you how.

0121 245 2066

enquiries@uniquevenuesbirmingham.com
uniquevenuesbirmingham.com

We need your support!

As we approach the end of our million pound REP First appeal, we have so far raised a fantastic £850,000. As a registered charity, The REP relies on the generosity of its audiences, donors, funders and sponsors. The money raised through REP First continues to have a dramatic impact on our activities both on and off stage, such as funding bursaries for local young people, providing training for emerging artists and offering activities in the community. By supporting The REP, you can play your part in securing our future and nurturing the next generation of theatre makers and audiences. We invite you to sponsor a seat, become a friend, fund a bursary or make a donation. To find out more and to share your love of theatre, please visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/support-us.

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For Promotion of Diversity

Winner of three
What's On Readers' Awards 2019
Best Birmingham Arts/Theatre Venue
Best Kids Show – The Snowman
Best Home Produced Show – The Wizard Of Oz

GUIDANCE SYMBOLS
These symbols are to help you make a more informed decision when deciding which shows to book.

DIARY KEY
AD*  Audio Described with Pre-Show Backstage Touch Tour
BSL  British Sign Language Interpreted
BT  Backstage Tour
CAP  Captioned
FBT  Family Backstage Tour
PSD  Post-Show Discussion
REL**  Relaxed Performance
SBT  Schools Backstage Tour

* Backstage Touch Tours
Our Backstage Touch Tours give you the chance to explore our wonderful sets and feel the props and costumes that are used in our productions. You will also be able to take a trip to our rehearsal rooms, paint shop, wardrobe, and wigs/make up studio! Guide dogs are welcome and the tours will last approximately 90 minutes. (As this is a working theatre we cannot always guarantee access to all areas of the set.) This tour is open to everyone but is specifically designed as a touch tour for people who are blind or visually impaired.

**Relaxed performances
Relaxed performances are designed for people that would benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. These performances take a relaxed approach to movement, entering and exiting the auditorium and noise. The production may also make slight amendments to the lighting and sound. Relaxed performances are of particular benefit to people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, sensory disorders or a learning disability.

SPRING AND SUMMER DIARY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SHOW</th>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
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**SPRING AND SUMMER DIARY 2020**

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<th>AFTERNOON</th>
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<td>24-Apr Fri</td>
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<td>1-May Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-May Sat</td>
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<td>5-May Tue</td>
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<td>7-May Thu</td>
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<td>12-May Tue</td>
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<td>Giraffes Can’t Dance</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
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</table>
Choose the membership that best suits your lifestyle and pocket. Start saving money and join our REP family today!

**Membership benefits**

- **20% off full-priced tickets when buying six or more tickets at the same time – save money and see more theatre.***
- **Priority booking period – gain access to our lowest priced seats first!**
- **10% off Marmalade’s à la carte menu & bar – make a night of it!**
- **Free guest tickets on a selected production each season – introduce your loved ones to the joy of theatre.**
- **Free ticket exchange or re-sale – be prepared should the unforeseen happen.**
- **Free backstage tour – get to see behind the scenes.**
- **Free brochure twice a year – plan your entire season of theatre in your favourite armchair with a cuppa!**
- **Email updates – be the first to hear our exciting news announcements.**
- **Free family workshop – enjoy a fun theatrical activity together.**
- **Competitions – your chance to win prizes or simply play together.**
- **Save an extra 10% when booking your family to see a show in The HOUSE at Christmas – make it a Christmas to remember!**
- **Free cloakroom – enjoy the show clutter-free.**
- **£5 tickets on selected preview performances – see the theatre you love for less than the price of a cinema ticket!**

**Annual price per membership**

<table>
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<th><strong>REP CLUB</strong></th>
<th><strong>REP CLUB FAMILY</strong></th>
<th><strong>REP CLUB PREVIEW MAX</strong></th>
<th><strong>Preview Club</strong></th>
<th><strong>REP ACCESS REGISTER</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>£45</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>£25</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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Terms and conditions apply. *Not bottom price. **Same production only.
OUR PRICING

Prices for most of our productions start at just £10 or £15. We offer a percentage of seats at these low prices as an alternative to standard concessions. These seats are available for anyone to book so if you love theatre but have limited means, we recommend you secure your seats as early as possible.

We also release seats for sale in stages, starting with the front third of the auditoria. This helps to ensure a better and more intimate experience for both actors and audience members.

FAMILIES & GROUPS

We offer discounts for families and groups for the majority of our shows. Families of 2 to 7: save 15%*  
Groups 10+ save 10%, 20+ save 15% & 50+ save 20%*.  
School Group Bookings  
Tickets start at just £15.50 for schools signed up to our free REP Ed membership scheme. We offer a free teacher place for every 15 tickets booked.  
*Please note that family and group discounts do not apply to all price bands and that family groups must contain at least one under-14.

NEW & NURTURED

Buy tickets for all of the below shows for just £25.  
• Home Of The Wriggler  
• Women & Theatre Podcast & Publication Launch  
• The High Table  
• Confessions Of A Cockney Temple Dancer

DIRECTOR’S CHOICE

We have paired up shows that we feel complement or contrast with each other to help you to discover a broader theatrical experience when choosing which shows to see. Book for the below shows at the same time and receive a £5 discount on the cost of each ticket. (Please note that this discount does not apply to the lowest ticket prices and only one discount applies per ticket.)

Asking For It & Romeo & Juliet  
Faustus & Oliver Twist  
Tartuffe & A Bunch Of Amateurs  
The High Table & Romeo & Juliet

TERMS & CONDITIONS

We charge a transaction fee of £2.50 on all payment types. This covers administration costs and postage and enables us to provide a dedicated booking service. This charge does not apply to transactions under £10, group bookings over 50 and school group bookings. We also waive this charge if you are a REP Friend.

Reservations must be paid for within three working days of the reservation (or before 1 hour prior to the performance if your reservation is made within three days prior to it). Ticket exchanges are subject to availability, only possible for the same production, incur a fee of £2.00 per ticket, are available up to 48 hours before the performance and a price difference may occur. Tickets are non refundable. Full terms and conditions can be found at birmingham-rep.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

ACCESS REGISTER

Members of our Access Register can enjoy priority booking and discounts on accessible performances. If you are D/deaf or disabled (or book on behalf of someone who is), you can join the register by calling the Box Office. The Register also offers accessible publicity and complimentary companion seats for those who require it.

Guide dogs are welcome throughout the theatre and can be taken into the auditorium or left with a member of staff during the performance. So that we can provide the best possible service, please mention that you have an assistance dog when making your booking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Main focus</th>
<th>Outcome/ what will be learned</th>
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<tr>
<td>31 Aug – 12 Oct 2020</td>
<td>Production dir. visiting director</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: The Door followed by community tour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 October – Mid December</td>
<td>Christmas Production dir. visiting director</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: The House</td>
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<tr>
<td>January - August 2021 (ongoing)</td>
<td>New Commission dir. TBC</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: The Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>April – June 2021</td>
<td>Production dir. Amit Sharma</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Venue: The House</td>
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<tr>
<td>August - September 2021</td>
<td>Production dir. Sean Foley</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Venue: The House</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2021</td>
<td>Production dir. Madeleine Kludje</td>
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<td>Venue: The Door followed by tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>November – December 2021</td>
<td>Christmas production</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<td>Venue: The House</td>
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<tr>
<td>January – March 2022</td>
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