

PRESS RELEASE

January 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Season at Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham

January – April 2019

Queen's Hall Arts once again has a packed new season of the highest quality drama, live music, film, exhibitions and much more...

You can view our new January - April 2019 season brochure [here on our website](#)

There is so much in this new season it is hard to pick out everything... so here are a few selected highlights... oh, and did we mention [Jason Donovan](#) will be here!!

- QHA's youth theatre group **Creatives** is taking part in the prestigious National Theatre London Connections scheme and as part of this they are presenting two shows of a new play by Dawn King called **Salt**.
- **Deeds Not Words** is a dance drama piece commissioned by Queen's Hall Arts and performed by Abbott Dance Theatre, who last year brought us Launch Day. Deeds Not Words, a moving, energetic piece of dance theatre highlighting and commemorating women's suffrage in the UK marks the 2018 centenary of the Representation of the People's Act 1918 (where some women over 30+ won the right to vote in the UK).
- There's plenty of **Great Drama** this season as New Old Friends return with **Crimes on the Nile**, the hilarious follow up to last year's Crimes Under the Sun directed by James Farrell who worked on the West End show of The 39 Steps. Elysium Theatre also return with August Strindberg's **Miss Julie** whilst the UK's leading full mask company explores Post Traumatic Stress in **A Brave Face**.

- There's jaw-dropping magic mixed with standup comedy with [Pete Firman](#), a lot to talk about with political comedian [Matt Forde](#) in Brexit through the Gift Shop, Canadian comedian [Tom Stade](#) on his solo tour, Radio 4's Kate Fox in [Where There's Muck There's Bras](#), and the unique humour of [Cannon and Ball](#) – Rock on Tommy!!
- Films this season include the extreme mountain climbing films of the [BritRock Film Tour](#), whilst [Eddie](#) stars Sheila Hancock in the uplifting story of an 83 year old off to climb the imposing Suilven in the Scottish Highlands.
- **PAY WHAT YOU DECIDE** drama [Tensile Strength](#) (or How to survive at Your Wit's End) gives you the chance to pay after the show. Book a free ticket then decide how much the show is worth once you've seen it!
- We've some great [live music](#) lined up over the next few months. Watch out for our **Live in the Library** music nights with bluegrass from Boston's [Mile Twelve](#) whilst percussion & accordion duo [The Hut People](#) will be kicking up a storm with music and dancing between the books!!
- There's also [music](#) in the main theatre from Scottish trailblazers [Tannahill Weavers](#), leading Rolling Stones tribute band [The Stones](#), swing and jive from the [Jive Aces Big Beat Revue](#), and a who's who of fiddle players in [Feast of Fiddles](#).
- Hexham & District Music Society continue their concert season with Last Night of the Proms saxophone starlet [Jess Gillam](#) and the [Heath String Quartet](#) playing Haydn, Ligeti and Beethoven.
- Opening this weekend Saturday 19 January and running through into March is a Hayward Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre London... [Beneath this Mask](#) by French female photographer Claude Cahun exploring gender and identity. Two other major exhibitions opening later in March are Dave Barden's [Beautiful Ruins](#) and Anna Macdonald's digital installation [I made everything](#).
- Add in David Harper, a poetry evening, Northumberland Young Farmers, Astral Circus, Opera North, the Jimmy Shand Story and many mores events....

New Artistic Director, Katy Taylor is available for interview.

Katy says 'I am thrilled to be presenting such a wonderful season. The season includes Deeds Not Words, a dance performance commissioned by QHA, Old Boy with a Northumbrian cast, and Opera North's Mini Magic Flute for pre-schoolers. There's live music from the Jive Aces and Feast of Fiddles, theatre from Elysium Theatre (Miss Julie) and a whole host of comedy stars!

I am delighted to welcome The Beaumont Hotel as our first ever Season Sponsor. We are thrilled to have their support. Why not enjoy dinner at The Beaumont before joining us for a performance?

Queen's Hall Arts' Youth Theatre is now part of the National Theatre Connections scheme for the first time, and their production of Salt will certainly be one of the highlights of this season. We'd like to extend a big thank you to Nicholson Portnell Solicitors for sponsoring our involvement in NT Connections.

There have been some exciting new developments too with the staff team taking over the bar. Every penny of profit from sales now helps to support the arts. We have also welcomed a new café operator who is filling the building with the delicious smells of baking.

I have received the most wonderful welcome to Hexham and I look forward to welcoming you all to Queen's Hall. Do drop in to enjoy an exhibition, a show, a workshop or a scone very soon!

Queen's Hall Arts Centre

Beaumont Street

Hexham

NE46 3LS

Box Office (Open 10.00am – 5.00pm Mon to Fri, 10.00am – 4.00pm Sat)

T: 01434 652477

E: boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk

Online booking at www.queenshall.co.uk

For further information on any of the events listed, to request images, to arrange interviews or any further press enquires please contact

Simon Haworth, Marketing Manager

T: 01670 624514 (*not advertised*)

E: simon.haworth@queenshall.co.uk

About Queen's Hall Arts

- Based in the heart of Hexham, Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is a registered charity and multipurpose arts centre. We develop and deliver a vibrant arts programme offering a wide range of shows, exhibitions, concerts and special events, support professional and aspiring artists, provide opportunities for our community to take part in the arts and offer a valuable creative resource to our local area. Through the arts we make life better, having positive impacts on our community and the individuals who live and work within it.
- Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is the company that manages the Queen's Hall Arts Centre venue within the Queen's Hall, Hexham.
- The Queen's Hall building is a magnificent early Victorian building which faces Hexham Abbey (dating from 647AD). From its christening as an arts centre in 1983 until the hand over to the charitable organisation, Queens Hall Arts, in 2001 the building was under local authority control.
- Queen's Hall Arts Centre boasts a 350-seat theatre and two galleries managed by Queen's Hall Arts. Queen's Hall has established itself as a strong base for an extensive range of artistic activity, attracting the best international and national artists from music, drama, dance and national touring comedy to non professional shows put on by local community groups.

- In addition to activity in the building, QHA delivers an extensive outreach programme bringing workshops and performances to communities throughout Northumberland.

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