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Season Release August 2011 – February 2012

## GUILDFORD'S YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON

Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre launches its New Season, packed with award-winning drama, star-studded comedy and musical delights. Stunning guests join us for one-night-only appearances, and we are delighted to feature world premiere productions of Ben Brown's political thriller *Three Days in May*, Michael Morpurgo's *Friend or Foe*, Propeller's unique take on *Henry V* and Alan Ayckbourn's seventy-fifth play *Neighbourhood Watch*.

### On the Main Stage

Award-winning author of *How to Catch a Star* and *Lost and Found*, Oliver Jeffers returns with an inter-galactic tale about a little boy seeking adventure. With original music and plenty of audience participation, ***The Way Back Home*** (Thursday 18 – Saturday 20 August) is suitable for children ages 3+ and their friends and family.

Love, suspense and danger all combine to create this haunting mystery of mistaken identities and stolen fortunes, heroism, high drama and volatile passions, as Wilkie Collins' first ever detective novel ***The Woman in White*** (Monday 22 – Saturday 27 August) is adapted for the stage. This fast-paced story set in Victorian England promises to captivate and delight the modern audience.

Based on Ingmar Bergman's film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, PH Production's present ***A Little Night Music*** (Tuesday 30 August – Saturday 3 September); a witty musical set in waltz time. Featuring the well-known songs *Send in the Clowns*, *A Weekend in the Country* and *Everyday a Little Death*, and with a cast and orchestra of over 35, this musical treat promises to make you smile.

It's time to *Shake, Rattle and Roll* all the way back to the fantastic 50's with ***Rock Around the Clock*** (Monday 5 – Wednesday 7 September). Travel back to the time of Teddy Boys, quiffs, Brylcreem, poodle skirts and blue suede shoes. Featuring a phenomenal cast of singers, dancers and musicians, this non-stop hit parade of Rock and Roll classics is guaranteed to leave you dancing into the night.

Come along to ***Eric Knowles' Antique Antics*** (Thursday 8 September); a mini *Antiques Roadshow* where you can meet the affable and knowledgeable Eric Knowles. Enjoy tales of his fascinating life (with and without antiques) before being thrilled by his expertise as he casts light on selected antiques brought by members of the audience. Don't forget to bring your own treasures for a chance to have a free valuation.

Join Kit Hesketh-Harvey, one half of the hilarious musical comedy duo, Kit & The Widow, in a new and explosive combination with two-time Olivier Award-winning actress and singer Janie Dee, whose recent London cabaret season was a sell-out. Accompanied by James McConnell and introducing a ravishing young sensation from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, chanteuse Gus, ***Kit Hesketh-Harvey in Cabaret with Janie Dee*** (Friday 9 September) is not to be missed.

The fascinating musical tale ***Richard Durrant: Danza Paraguaya*** (Saturday 10 September) sees Agustín Barrios Mangoré's greatest and most popular guitar works heard alongside those of his contemporaries and beyond, all delivered by the UK's most imaginative concert guitarist, Richard Durrant. This musical event demonstrates just how far one man can expand the expressive range of this instrument.

Press Release



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# Press Release

Known to millions through his broadcasting on BBC Radio, in particular BBC Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, **Rabbi Lionel Blue** (Monday 12 September) makes a welcome return to our Main Stage to tell a selection of stories, incidents and conversations whose dotty inconsequential flavour will appeal to people from all religions... and from none!

A regular presenter on the BBC, Dan Cruickshank is known for many popular television series, including *The Country House Revealed*, *Adventures in Architecture*, *Britain's Best Buildings*, and *Around the World in 80 Treasures*. His work has led him through many countries, uncovering the story of civilisation through man's greatest achievements and the world's greatest treasures. **An Audience with Dan Cruickshank** (Tuesday 13 September) recounts the adventures of his travels.

Chase the blues away with a cocktail of uplifting songs and stories from the last great depression as **Midnight in Mayfair with Michael Law's Piccadilly Dance Orchestra** (Wednesday 14 September) takes to the stage. Wallow unashamedly in pure nostalgia for the lost, magical world of Broadway and Hollywood music from between the wars.

Enjoy an evening with the veteran Liberal Democrat politician, Baroness Williams of Crosby – better known to us all as Shirley Williams: one of the “Gang of Four” who dramatically left the Labour Party in 1980 to form a new political party, the Social Democratic Party. Renowned for her political integrity and sharp wit **An Audience with Shirley Williams** (Thursday 15 September) should certainly be one to remember.

**An Audience with John Humphrys** (Friday 16 September) delivers fascinating anecdotes from the broadcaster and presenter's illustrious career. Winner of the Sony Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement among other accolades, John Humphrys has been a journalist for more than half a century. As well as being known for presenting *Mastermind*, his tough questioning as a journalist made him a notorious figure for both the Conservative and Labour parties.

Victor Borge was a brilliant pianist, virtuoso comedian and, at one point, the highest paid entertainer in the world. In **Rainer Hersch's Victor Borge** (Saturday 17 September) his extraordinary life is retold and his classic routines are re-imagined for the 21st century by his acclaimed successor, Rainer Hersch.

Icarus Theatre Collective presents a bold and exciting performance of Shakespeare's most bloody and fear-filled tragedy, **Macbeth** (Monday 19 – Tuesday 20 September). Unrivalled on the battlefield, Macbeth is rewarded with rank and favour by a grateful king. But violence breeds violence, and a reign born in blood quickly spirals out of control as Macbeth's actions return to destroy him.

In 2005 Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter was committed to reading a selection of his poems at a benefit, but illness had impaired his speaking voice. He asked Julian Sands to step in. With reflections, commentaries and anecdotes drawn from their time together, **Julian Sands in a Celebration of Harold Pinter** (Wednesday 21 September) opens the door between Pinter's poetry and theatre.

In this revival of Peter Knapp's English performing adaptation of the popular opera and play **Carmen** (Thursday 22 – Saturday 24 September), 13 performers and 12 musicians breathe vibrant new life into this glorious musical masterpiece. All revolves around the iconic gipsy heroine, Carmen; tobacco worker, entertainer, lover of men of daring... Will José's dangerous obsession with her bring about their downfall?

Acting colossus Simon Callow brings to life **Dr Marigold & Mr Chops** (Monday 26 September – Saturday 1 October): two one-man plays by Charles Dickens, following a sell-out London run. In an absorbing theatrical event he tells the stories of Dr Marigold, a travelling salesman who adopts a little deaf and dumb girl, and Mr Chops, a freak-show turn who wins the lottery and a place in society. This show is sponsored by Saxton Bampfylde.



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Shakespeare's comic masterpiece **Twelfth Night** (Monday 3 – Tuesday 4 October) is relocated to the last days of the Raj where a young girl is found washed up on a beach along the Indian coast. As she struggles to find her feet in this strange new world the forces of change and fate conspire around her as Shakespeare's greatest tale of love, identity and new beginnings unfolds in all its hedonistic and tragic glory.

Arthur Bostrom and Lucy Speed star in Philip King's 1945 farcical gem **See How They Run** (Wednesday 5 – Saturday 8 October). A sequence of dog-collared strangers turn a homely wartime vicarage in peaceful Merton-cum-Middlewick completely upside down as a maverick soldier, an escaped POW, a Bishop and a few vicars get tangled up in a case of mistaken identity. Chaotic, uproarious and daring, this is one of the finest farces ever written.

Pamela Churchill Harriman, daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill, adventuress, socialite and the most famous courtesan of the twentieth century is facing an awesome crisis in **Swimming at the Ritz** (Monday 10 October): she is being sued for 40 million dollars... You are cordially invited to Pamela's sale of a lifetime, which includes a sensational account of her amazing exploits.

Was giving up ever an option? May 1940, Downing Street. Warren Clarke, Simon Ward and Jeremy Clyde star in the world premiere production of Ben Brown's political thriller **Three Days in May** (Tuesday 11 – Saturday 15 October), taking us behind the doors of Number Ten during three of the most pivotal days in British History, when, extraordinarily, giving in to Hitler was considered by some to be a 'viable option'.

Michael Morpurgo's thrilling tale of extraordinary friendship, **Friend or Foe** (Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 October) is set at the height of the Second World War. Evacuated from London, war seemed far away from David and Tucky's new lives in the Devonshire country. Until one night, the skyline is lit up with gun flashes and the distant crump of bombing shatters their new found peace.

From New York's Broadway in 1956 to London's Theatre Royal Haymarket in 2011, Peter has starred in many successful West End plays, and iconic TV series. **Ask Me If I'm Happy – Peter Bowles in conversation with David Freeman** (Thursday 20 October) explores the personal story of an actor who was told on leaving drama school that he would never play an Englishman (and almost didn't), to becoming known as the quintessential Englishman (and certainly isn't).

From award-winning children's book illustrator and writer Eric Carle, **The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Little Cloud and The Mixed-Up Chameleon** (Thursday 20 Saturday 22 October) are beautifully retold in this glowing stage adaptation with puppetry in black light. Children will delight in the caterpillar's adventures, the little cloud's antics and the chameleon's quest.

The ultimate celebration of the sweet sound of Motown is back by popular demand! A stunning live show, **Motown's Greatest Hits – How Sweet It Is** (Friday 21 October) combines first-class music with slick choreography and an amazing band to deliver truly outstanding performances for the best Motown experience you will ever have.

In association with Guildford Book Festival, accomplished actress and comedienne **Celia Imrie** (Saturday 22 October) joins us to discuss her life and her recent autobiography, *"The Happy Hooper"*.

Perrier-nominated comedian Tim FitzHigham and Radio 4 musician Duncan Walsh Atkins pay homage to the masters of musical comedy in **Flanders and Swann - At the Drop of a Hippopotamus** (Saturday 22 October): an evening of the wittiest songs ever written. Lifelong fans and the uninitiated alike will delight in seeing the boys breathe new life into all the favourites including *The Hippopotamus Song* and *Madeira M'Dear*.



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Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious hit comedy **Season's Greetings** (Monday 24 – Saturday 29 October) is back following several successful productions, including a recent sell-out season at the National Theatre. It's Christmas at Belinda and Neville's house. Take one frustrated wife, add a seductive stranger, two eccentric uncles and a mechanical monkey, and watch the hilarity unfold in Ayckbourn's explosive festive treat. This show is sponsored by Stackhouse Poland.

One of Alan Bennett's biggest hits, **The Madness of George III** (Monday 31 October – Saturday 5 November) sees one of the UK's most versatile actors David Haig play King George. With its huge cast of 24, this epic production combines drama, politics and humour into a vivid theatrical portrait of English history when it seemed that the future of the very monarchy was at stake. This show is sponsored by Investec.

Nationalism at its most dangerous and exciting, **Henry V** (Wednesday 9 – Saturday 12 November) tells the tale of the greatest British warrior in English folklore. In a time when increasing numbers of British servicemen and women are seeing active service, Propeller returns to the Yvonne Arnaud with its own unique take on one of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

The award-winning festive production **The Holly and the Ivy** (Monday 14 – Saturday 19 November) returns as a perfect pre-Christmas treat. Set in a Norfolk vicarage on Christmas Eve 1947, the vicar's family gather for the festive season. Peace and goodwill radiates, until the arrival of two irritable aunts and an errant daughter. Skeletons tumble from closets as family members are forced to confront their secret anxieties.

Golden Globe winner Amanda Donohoe stars as theatrical grand dame Lorraine Barrie in Noël Coward's deliciously funny final play, **Star Quality** (Monday 21 – Saturday 26 November). Taking us behind the scenes of a new West End production, Coward conjures up a wickedly observant satire of the backstage world of talent and treachery, and a gallery of unforgettable characters. This show is sponsored by Lampard & Partners.

Following her triumphant success on Broadway starring in *Chicago*, we are thrilled that Surrey-born actress, dancer and entertainer Bonnie Langford will star in this year's magical family pantomime, **Jack and the Beanstalk** (Friday 2 December – Sunday 8 January). One of the country's top cabaret performers Kit Hesketh-Harvey, Eagle Radio's Breakfast Show Host Peter Gordon, Guildford favourites Lloyd Hollett and Royce Mills, and the talented Emma Thornett complete our star cast. This show is sponsored by the Surrey Advertiser.

Broadcaster and writer Joan Bakewell has been one of the most important figures in broadcasting since she began her career with the BBC in the 1950s. In **An Audience with Joan Bakewell** (Tuesday 10 January), she talks about her life and times and the many controversial programmes she has presented on sex, nudity and religion.

Doctor's – even those leading their field – rarely become household names. Professor Lord Winston is an exception to that rule. A professor of fertility studies at Imperial College London, a founder member of the British Fertility Society and part of the team who created the first 'test tube baby', Louise Brown, **An Audience with Robert Winston** (Wednesday 11 January) is your opportunity to be entertained by this famously engaging man.

Live on stage, **The Edwardian Farm Roadshow** (Thursday 12 January) sees Archaeologists Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn, and domestic Historian Ruth Goodman share their experiences of how they worked their socks off doing a thousand and one jobs for a whole year, recreating the experience of early 20th century farm life for *The Edwardian Farm*; the sequel to the BBC's *Victorian Farm*.



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Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra presents a sparkling evening of magical music from 18th and 19th century Vienna to ensure the New Year begins in style. You are invited to bring out your masks and ballroom finery for **A Night in Vienna** (Friday 13 January), ready to enjoy an evening that traditionally attracts the best-dressed audience of the year!

Phil Hammond is a GP, writer, broadcaster and possibly the only comedian to have appeared at a public inquiry. He is *Private Eye's* medical correspondent and has appeared on many shows such as *Have I Got News for You*. **Dr Phil's Rude Health Show** (Saturday 14 January) is rude about everything; from politicians and doctors to death, drugs and sex.

Theft, petty crime, vandalism are all on the increase on Things are not right on the Bluebell Hill Development. Resolving to take action, what starts as a well-intentioned neighbourhood watch scheme soon develops into something altogether more sinister. A world premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's cautionary tale of the dangers of taking the law into your own hands, **Neighbourhood Watch** (Wednesday 18 – Wednesday 28 January) is his seventy fifth play.

## In the Mill Studio

In honour of Joyce Grenfell's centenary year, the comedy revue **Turn Back the Clock** (Thursday 1 – Saturday 3 September) features some of her more delicate and poignant pieces. This gem of nostalgia from the golden age of revue is suitable for all. Delight in the truthful, funny and moving characters; revel in the evocation of one of the greatest female entertainers of the twentieth century.

Re-imagined and re-located to the festive and ceremonial world of 1940s British royalty and complete with live music and an original score, featuring the best of Oxford University's theatrical and musical talent, this **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 September) promises to get inside your imagination. The royal couple request the pleasure of your company at their wedding reception, a spectacular garden party.

An exhilarating adaptation of Shakespeare's tumultuous farewell to the stage, Guildford's nationally acclaimed AJTC Theatre Company present **The Tempest** (Thursday 15 and Saturday 17 September). With an enchanting mesh of mime, masking, movement and the music of voice, storms and apparitions are conjured, and treasons and counterplot are laid bare, before finally transporting you to a brave new world of love and reconciliation.

On the cusp of her thirtieth birthday Claire takes a man home for the very first time; a man who also claims to be Jesus Christ. Fascinated by her story, he attempts to help her work through her past and problems with her estranged brother and the struggle of losing both parents. **One the Third Day** (Thursday 22 – Saturday 24 September) deals with difficult themes and challenges the audience's perspective of familial relationships.

Following another sell-out performance, Rosemary Hawthorne returns to the Mill Studio as **The Knicker Lady** (Thursday 29 September – Saturday 1 October); the hit show that romps through the history of the humble knicker with a tempo and hilarity that leaves audiences – both male and female – spellbound and dying for more!

An exciting new play, **Street Child** (Thursday 6 – Friday 7 October) tells the story of Jim Jarvis, an orphan who survives in the dangerous and lonely streets of Victorian London. Follow Jim's many adventures, including his meeting with Dr Barnardo who was inspired to set up his famous children's homes. An engaging family show, **Street Child** is enjoyed in many schools as part of the Key Stage 2 curriculum.



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An award-winning new play, **An Evening with Dementia** (Saturday 8 October) sees the poignant and humorous perspective of an old actor cut loose from society by his failing memory. Former Royal Shakespeare Company actor, Trevor T. Smith's bitter-sweet play fresh from Edinburgh Fringe allows us to empathise with the state-of-being called dementia.

A provocative new drama from award-winning playwright Fraser Grace, **Kalashnikov: in the Woods by the Lake** (Thursday 13 – Friday October), is an exploration of Mikhail Kalashnikov – the Russian soldier and inventor of the world-famous AK47 assault rifle, and a decorated Soviet hero.

Dave Cookson was a nobody, tormented by schoolyard bullies and un-noticed by the girl he loves. But then Dave's life is changed forever. Now he's 17 stone of rippling muscle, ready to take control of his destiny and secure revenge. **Beef** (Saturday 15 October) is a funny, shocking comedy about a young man's struggle to better himself in a world that doesn't seem to make sense.

Susan is a long-term supermarket checkout operator from Oldham. She's never had to give much thought to role models until she gets promoted and is forced to adopt one. Oscar-winning actress and international star Helen Mirren is an unlikely choice, but Susan's life changes dramatically when she starts to ask herself, **What Would Helen Mirren Do?** (Thursday 20 October) This comedy drama is about love, work, letting go and finding out who we really want to be.

Starring Nicholas Osmond (BBC TV's *The Sarah Jane Adventures*), **Phys Ed** (Saturday 22 October) is a heart-warming comedy about triumph over adversity. Neville Trellis' identical twin is the greatest player on the planet. Now the time has come for rugby-obsessed PE teacher Neville to claim some glory of his own. Two things stand in his way: his childhood bully, and fifteen oversized, weirdly hairy twelve year olds.

**Camp Horror** (Monday 24 – Friday 28 October) is a cleverly funny, multi-layered parody of the teen horror movie. It's *Glee* meets *Grease* meets *Scream*. You'll be jumping out of your seats with fright, rolling in the aisles with laughter, screaming for more and tapping your toes along with the Rock and Roll style musical numbers.

Jim is fat, fifty-eight and fed up with everything. He'll moan about it all, from speeding cars to noisy neighbours, making Victor Meldrew look like an amateur. And doesn't his wife Lucy know it? Stuck at home with him rabbiting on every day since his early retirement, and nowhere to escape to... she's **Housebound** (Saturday 29 October). A comedy for anyone who ever felt frustrated but didn't know what to do once they were.

A classic tale of plucky British pioneers **Those Magnificent Men** (Thursday 3 – Friday 4 November) is the hilarious, heart-stopping story of Alcock and Brown and the first ever non-stop transatlantic flight. Critically-acclaimed comedy writing duo Brian Mitchell and Joseph Nixon have turned the story of the race to conquer the skies over the Atlantic into a fast and furious comic tour-de-force.

When an agony aunt reaches sixty, she can lie like a trooper, jump off a bridge – or take to the stage. **The Virginia Monologues: Why Growing Old is Great** (Saturday 5 November) explains why unlimited free drugs, fun funerals, grandchildren and sex – or, even better, no sex – make the sixties the best – and funniest – time of your life.

Stephen Jeffreys' adaptation of Charles Dickens' saga **Hard Times** (Thursday 10 and Saturday 12 November) is set in the north of England at the height of the Industrial Revolution. Louisa and Tom Gradgrind take on the visiting circus performers, stuffy business men, downtrodden workers, oppressed women, rural rascals and finally reveal that even in the gloomiest of social landscapes, honesty, loyalty and jolly good times are possible.



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With whatever talent they can muster, Pat Abernethy and Dave Marsden present **Probably the Best Comedy Songs in the World, Ever** (Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 November). This brand new show does exactly what it says on the tin, possibly – a host of comedy songs covering a number of years by a host of great names and a few surprises. If you want to see grown men having fun at their own expense, and maybe yours, then step right up.

Paul Robeson is a great and famous actor, singer and civil rights campaigner. When he gets too radical and outspoken for the establishment's liking, he is branded a traitor to his country, is harassed, and denied opportunities to perform or travel. Winner of the Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence, **Call Mr Robeson** (Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 November) follows the rollercoaster journey through Robeson's remarkable life.

Bob Kingdom's portrayal as the brilliant and tortured, adorable and wicked writer of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood* has spellbound audiences all over the world. Now the award-winning production **The Truman Capote Talk Show** (Thursday 15 – Friday 16 December) returns, giving audiences the chance to share in a unique, bitchy, chic and heart-breaking evening with the infamous Truman Capote.

Following a sell-out season at the Mill Studio and adding a touch of festive sparkle is the classic **Dylan Thomas: Return Journey and A Child's Christmas in Wales** (Saturday 17 – Saturday 24 December). This legendary and critically acclaimed production was recently voted one of the greatest solo shows of all time.

Clive Francis returns to the Mill Studio with his highly acclaimed and hugely popular RSC performance as the misanthropic Ebenezer Scrooge in **A Christmas Carol** (Saturday 18 – Saturday 31 December). Bringing to life a whole host of Dickensian characters from the spectral Jacob Marley to the warm and loving Bob Cratchit and his son Tiny Tim, not forgetting, of course, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

No less than the wondrously complex landscape of the human heart is the subject of this haunting, intensely emotional one-act chamber opera, **Passion** (Wednesday 4 – Saturday 14 January). A remote military outpost in 1863 Italy, a handsome army captain, separated from his beautiful – but married – mistress, is forced to re-evaluate his beliefs about love when he becomes the object of the obsessive, unrelenting passions of Fosca, his Colonel's plain, sickly cousin.

Powerful, literary and moving, **Phoenix Rising: D.H. Lawrence – Son & Lover** (Friday 27 – Saturday 28 January) portrays a colourful portrait of extraordinary artist D. H. Lawrence, and the personalities and events which shaped his early life. Lawrence is revealed as a man of song with a profound gift for story-telling and an ability to challenge the sexual mores of his generation.

**Pulling Faces** (Friday 3 – Friday 4 February) is an acerbic, topical comedy about society's obsession with youth, beauty and transformation. Louise Jameson plays twelve different characters and tells us what has brought her to this critical point in her life. Should she go under the knife to enhance her looks, or... to hell with it, on a date with her toy boy?

From Carnegie Award-winning author Berlie Doherty, **Thin Air** (Friday 10 – Saturday 11 February) is the supernatural story of a First World War fighter pilot who returns home from the horrors of the war. He is in possession of a secret that will haunt his community for generations to come.

Elinor keeps her head, Marianne loses her heart... Jane Austen's classic novel of two sisters and their search for love in a society bound by financial fortune, **Sense and Sensibility** (Thursday 23 February – Saturday 3 March) is brought to the stage. Helen Tennison directs this comedy of manners, marriage and much much gossip.



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Dennis Potter's childhood tale **Blue Remembered Hills** (Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 March) is set in 1943 Gloucestershire as a group of silly seven year-olds spend a summer's afternoon playing in the woods and fields. But it's not all fun and games when around every corner could be an escaped prisoner of war, a German parachutist, or an angry farmer!

### Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre Shows in the Mill Studio

Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre: Act Two presents **The Selfish Giant** (Thursday 1 – Saturday 3 December). When the Selfish Giant chases the children from his beautiful garden, he builds a high wall to keep them out. Winter is the garden's only visitor until one day a small child finds his way in... This beautiful adaptation of Wilde's gem of a fairy tale stays faithful to the text, with enchanting music bringing all the magic and wonder of his timeless classic to the stage.

Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre: Interval presents **Lord of the Flies** (Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 December). A plane crashes on an uninhabited, tropical island. The only survivors, a group of school children, wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds, dark blue seas and endless games. But at night their dreams are haunted. Sense of order fades, and fears are transformed into something deeper and more primitive in William Golding's Nobel prize-winning story.

Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre: Act One presents **His Dark Materials** (Thursday 22 – Saturday 31 March). Lyra and Will come from different worlds with different aims but they and their destinies are thrown together as they move through even more worlds on their search. As they seek Will's father, Lyra's pal Roger and the answer to the mystery of Dust, it becomes clear that these are no ordinary children and they are embroiled in the greatest of all battles.

### Children's Shows in the Mill Studio

Let us whisk you away to a land of make-believe with this musical adaptation of David McKee's **Elmer the Elephant** (Monday 29 – Tuesday 30 August). Told with breath-taking puppets, original music and stunning scenery, this heart-warming, funny story will thrill all who experience it. Most suitable for ages **4-7 years**.

Join the giant, cuddly, loveable Mr Panda and his friend Rainbow Bigbottom, for **Magical Showtime** (Saturday 3 September). This show is full of fun, incorporating educational facts about Giant Pandas, magic, singing, balloon art, puppets and audience participation. Don't forget to bring along your cameras and your own favourite cuddly bears! Most suitable for ages **3-8 years**.

Liang dreams of being a painter but is too poor to buy himself a paintbrush. Join him on a magical adventure in **Liang and the Magic Paintbrush** (Saturday 17 September) to find out if dreams can come true. This inventive and gentle show combines puppets, origami, live painting and video images, bringing this well-loved Chinese tale to life. Most suitable for ages **4 years plus**.

Adapted from Steven Lee's first collection of short stories, written especially for parents to enjoy with their children, **How the Koala Learnt to Hug** (Saturday 24 September) is a charming new musical about the magic of family, with great stories, sing-along songs, superb games and, of course, the importance of a nice warm hug! Most suitable for ages **4 years plus**.

Plop was a baby Barn Owl. He was exactly the same as every barn owl – except for one thing. He was **The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark** (Saturday 1 October). One day, Mrs Barn Owl suggested that Plop fly down into the world and find out about the dark for himself. And so began Plop's adventure... Most suitable for ages **3-7 years**.

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**Mr Panda and the Mean Green Witch** (Saturday 15 October) is a spooky, fun theatre show full of music, magic, and mystery! Join the loveable Mr Panda in his adventure to capture the Mean Green Witch and return the golden pumpkin to the Genie of the Flame. Most suitable for ages **3-8 years**.

Genies in teapots and hat-munching squirrels are just a few of the characters you'll meet in **A Bird in Your Ear** (Saturday 22 October). Each story has been created by children from UK primary schools and is brought to life with puppetry, song and opportunities to jump on stage and join in. Most suitable for ages **3-11 years**.

Each **Claytime** (Saturday 5 November) is totally unique – creating its own world, its own characters and its own stories drawn directly from its young audience's imaginations: a world of fabulous forms, amazing animals and morphing monsters. This is interactive theatre at its most engaging. Most suitable for ages **3-6 years**.

Inspired by the Ladybird book, **The Elves and the Shoemaker** (Saturday 12 November), follows cobbler and craftsman Elvis Schumacher who has worked all his life creating the most beautiful footwear. But now everyone's buying boring shoes from the evil businessman, Bunyan Sole-less. Can anyone help him? Most suitable for ages **3-9 years**.

The birds are getting ready to leave town. Robin remains, he's got lots to do like posing for Christmas cards. But the snow is on its way... Is everyone ready? **Robin and the Big Freeze** (Saturday 19 November) is a festive feast of a show featuring fantastic puppets, live music, and bird-watching for everyone who is going away for Christmas or staying at home! Most suitable for ages **4 years plus**.

Mr Panda needs your help to find his girlfriend, Miss Penny Panda. Along the journey you'll meet the Genie of the flame and sing with the Rainbow Bigbottom Clownettes. **Mr Panda and the Magical Bamboo** (Saturday 26 November) combines environmental facts with song, dance, magic and laughter. Most suitable for ages **3-8 years**.

Follow Emma on **The Night Before Christmas** (Tuesday 13 – Tuesday 27 December) as she stares out of the window, hugs her teddy and waits excitedly for the morning. In the corner a little mouse called Eddie can't understand why only humans are allowed to celebrate and get presents, so he sets off in search of Father Christmas to find out for himself. Most suitable for ages **3-7 years**.

Ollie can't see the point of his Great Gran. She can't run, jump, skate, anything. She can hardly stand. However she can do something he can't. She can swim. Rather well, in fact. Follow Ollie in **Great Gran's Great Games** (Wednesday 28 – Saturday 31 December) as he learns about the time when Gran swam at the 1948 Olympic Games in London. Most suitable for ages **4 years plus**.

**New Season shows open for general booking on Monday 22 August 2011. You can book your tickets by calling the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Box Office on (01483) 44 00 00 or by visiting our website at [www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk](http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk).**

**\_ENDS\_**

## Notes to Editors

Please turn over for a full list of the New Season press nights. For further information, interview requests, press review tickets or images please contact Laura Butler in the Press Office: 01483 44007 [lbutler@yvonne-arnaud.co.uk](mailto:lbutler@yvonne-arnaud.co.uk)



Press & PR Officer

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[www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk](http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk)

Registered in England  
Registration No. 814453  
Charity reg No. 238436

## New Season Press Nights

The Woman in White	Monday 22 August at 7:45pm
A Little Night Music	Tuesday 30 August at 7:45pm
Carmen	Thursday 22 September at 7:45pm
Dr Marigold & Mr Chops	Monday 26 September at 7:45pm
See How They Run	Wednesday 5 October at 7:45pm
Three Days in May	Tuesday 11 October at 7:45pm
Friend or Foe	Monday 17 October at 7pm
Season's Greetings	Monday 24 October at 7:45pm
The Madness of George III	Monday 31 October at 7:45pm
Henry V	Thursday 10 November at 7:45pm
The Holly and the Ivy	Monday 14 November at 7:45pm
Star Quality	Monday 21 November at 7:45pm
Jack and the Beanstalk	Tuesday 6 December at 7pm
Neighbourhood Watch	Monday 23 January at 7:45pm

# Press Release



Press & PR Officer

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