

HIPPO NEWS

DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY 2017

LADIES' DAY

15-18th February

**MANFORD'S
COMEDY CLUB**

24th February

Nine to Five

4-8th April

The Pitman

Painters

21st-24th June

LADIES' DAY

Wednesday 15th -Saturday 18th February

Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when they have a day out and go to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York. Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as they do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races.

LADIES' DAY is a comedy drama from Amanda Whittington about four unlikely lasses from Hull who decide to take a day trip to the races; it focuses on the friendship between the four distinctly different women.

This play has a feel-good factor which should help you forget (for a short time at least) any winter blues.

The four ladies are played by: Gillie Walker who makes a welcome return to the Hippodrome stage; Christine Kidd, one of our regular performers; Rebecca Crampton, who we saw in our foyer production of Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy and Phoebe Farrington, a welcome newcomer, while James Claxton (is he old enough to be a veteran?) bravely takes on all of the six male characters in this play.

Nine to Five - Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th April 2017

"Three unlikely friends take control of their office and learn there is nothing they can't do, even in a man's world."

We have just gone into rehearsal for our first adult musical in two years and we are very excited to get underway. The production team is old friends Justine Sutcliffe and Helen Clarkson, and this year we are delighted to have Lisa Parker on board as our choreographer. Lisa has worked with Alex on HYT shows and is keen to put our cast through their paces! Our cast is a mix of old and new faces and we have people traveling from quite a distance to join us this time – it seems our reputation is growing!

9 To 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, is based on the hit movie. Set in 1979, this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking, and even a little romantic. Pushed to the boiling point, three female co-workers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy - giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

This high-energy show has a jubilant score and easily relatable characters, making *9 To 5* the perfect show for us at Todmorden Hippodrome – book your tickets now!

The Pitmen Painters 21st - 24th June

Our Summer play this year will be The Pitmen Painters written by Lee Hall (who is probably best known for Billy Elliot). This will be directed by **Shaun Vause** and **Claire Walker** and requires 7 men and 2 women. The 5 "Pitmen" need to perform with a Northumberland accent. **Auditions are yet to be arranged** – please look out on Facebook/website or register your interest with Justine (07970857258) if you are not an internet user.

The Ashington Group were Northumberland miners in the 1930s. They engaged Robert Lyon (Master of painting at Kings College Newcastle) to teach a series of evening classes on Art Appreciation – although none of them knew what Art Appreciation was. Once Lyon got to know the men, and realised his usual teaching methods were never going to reach them, he decided to teach them appreciation through creation by developing the men's own talent as artists – with amazing results.

The Pitmen Painters is a moving story of the hopes, dreams, determination and the camaraderie of these miners.

Voices of Tod 2016

Our bi-annual writing competition was performed in November and, despite the floods being a very recent event, our theme of "water" saw a wide range of entries.

Many thanks, as ever, to the writers, directors and performers without whom the project would crumble.

Congratulations go to **Andy Fraser**, who wrote the judges' winning entry **Alkahest**. And congratulations too, to **Katrina Heath** who performed **Nora's Flood** which was voted the Audiences' Choice on both evenings.

Voices will be launched again late this year, with a different theme. If you would like to be involved in performing, directing or promoting the competition and performances, please contact Justine or Martin.

NODA Nominations for District 3 and 12 awards are in, and we have a bumper set of nominations, including multiple nominations in some categories!! Congratulations to all.

Female comedy in play: Emily Rawlinson: Dibley
Male comedy in play: Andy Fraser: Dibley
Supporting youth performer: Ellie Spooner, Iris Palmer, Sarah Brierley: CATS (3 separate nominations)
Supporting female in play: Justine Sutcliffe: Accrington Pals, Emily Rawlinson: Dibley
Supporting male in play: Brendon Barclay: Accrington Pals
Staging: Accrington Pals
Leading Youth performer: James Waring: Cats, Alyse Costello: Cats
Female lead in play: Emily Coup: Accrington Pals, Justine Sutcliffe: Dibley
Male lead in play: Steven Hooper: Accrington Pals
Artistic direction of youth: Martin Cook: Cats
Artistic direction of play: Martin Cook: Accrington Pals, Rachel Rogers: Dibley
Best youth show: Cats
Best play: Accrington Pals, Dibley
 The awards evening is Sat 21st Jan.

Why not buy a Season Ticket?

You can choose to either **pay in one go**, or **spread the cost** by paying on a monthly Standing Order.

It can be purchased at any time and runs from the date of first payment.

A Season Ticket gives you:

A ticket for each of the 5 TAODS auditorium productions held in any consecutive 12 months

A programme for each production

A drink of choice at each production

Priority booking

A full price season ticket is currently priced at £60 per year or £5 per month by standing order.

If you are aged under 17 or over 60 a concession price season ticket is £52 per year or £4.33 per month by standing order.

Season Ticket holders can also choose to be given their own private booking codes so that they can book their tickets on-line.

For more information contact Sylvia on 01706 815502