
PRESS RELEASE

BAC presents:

CHRISTMAS CHAPTER 2009

BAC, 2nd DECEMBER 2009 – 23rd JANUARY 2010

BAC offers a sack load of festive - and not so festive - shows this Christmas and beyond, with major new performances by Blind Summit Theatre and Amanda Lawrence (of *Kneehigh* and *Told by an Idiot*), John Hegley's seasonal family show, Adam Bohman's cult festival of experimental music and the return of Nic Green's much celebrated Edinburgh hit, *Trilogy*, amongst others. These highlights are accompanied by an eclectic collection of Scratch performances from artists including 1927 and NIE.

Those who find their teeth are set on edge by the Christmas saccharine overload should be tempted by *1984*, a dark new co-production with leading puppetry innovators, **Blind Summit Theatre**, based on George Orwell's novel. The internationally celebrated puppeteers, who have worked with Anthony Minghella and *Complicite*, bring together a brilliant new ensemble in their bold, low tech staging. BAC's work with Blind Summit Theatre on *1984* is the latest phase of a long standing relationship: the company were BAC-supported artists for 2003-2005, during which time BAC supported the development of their acclaimed show, *Lowlife*.

Amanda Lawrence brings *Carry On* regular Charles Hawtrey to the stage in her strikingly accurate one-woman portrait of the troubled star, *Jiggery Pokery*. Well known for her roles with *Kneehigh* and *Told By An Idiot*, Amanda is directed by Paul Hunter (*Told by an Idiot*, *Young Vic* and *RSC*) in this intimate exploration of a true English eccentric.

Nic Green will provide a visionary and inspiring start to the New Year with her award-winning show *Trilogy*. Possibly the most discussed and celebrated work at 2009's Edinburgh Festival, *Trilogy* is a vibrant reflection on the history of feminism and feminism today, including a triumphant naked dance that celebrates the female body, performed by volunteer women. BAC is looking for volunteers to participate in this extraordinary experience; please contact Sally (sallyr@bac.org.uk) for more information.

These three major shows all developed through BAC's Scratch process, with audiences taking a strong role in their growth, offering suggestions. Audiences can continue to play a role in the development of future Christmas productions, by sampling bold, experimental new works-in-progress, such as **Matthew Robins' *The Death of Flyboy***, featuring puppetry and hand made films, and **NIE's *Around the World in 80 Days*** complete with trademark physical comedy, live music and visual theatre, and feedback to artists, perhaps over a drink afterwards.

BAC continues its commitment to the theatre makers of the future with a series of performances created by young people sitting at the heart of the programme. Our **Beatbox Academy** will share the results of their work with some of the UK's leading beatboxers including Jester and MC Zani (UK Beatbox Champion 2008) and members of BAC's **Young People's Theatre** have created original works with leading professional artists, including YPT 3's show, created with LookLeftLookRight, the company behind 2008's *The Caravan* (Royal Court Theatre).

"After last year's sell out Christmas run of 1927's *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* we're delighted to offer another brilliant dark tale for cold winter nights in our co-production with Blind Summit Theatre of George Orwell's *1984*. We're also cooking up plans for future Xmas shows this year with new ideas from The Paper Cinema, NIE and from 1927. Come and join us at BAC for a sneak preview of the future of theatre."

David Jubb and David Micklem, Joint Artistic Directors, BAC

www.bac.org.uk

LISTINGS OVERLEAF

FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

David Gale

Dash Dash Dash

Unit 2: The Flutters

Unit 3: The Fastness

Commissioned by BAC

After decades in the scripting saddle, playwright David Gale turns to a new performance challenge. *Dash Dash Dash* is a grand theatrical experiment which consists of several individual shows, each lasting twenty five minutes. Working with a team of hot young theatre designers from Wimbledon College of Art, David will write and direct a play a month for six months then combine them into one final omnibus. For full details of each instalment visit www.bac.org.uk

£5 (£3 concs)

19-21 November, 7.30pm

14-16 January, 7.30pm

YPT, BEATBOX AND DEVAS SHOWS

Beatbox Academy Showcase

YPT 3 Show (17-25 years)

Devas Showcase

YPT 1 Show (12-14 years)

YPT 2 Show (14-16 years)

Come and support young and talented performers as they showcase the culmination of a term's hard work and collaboration.

Beatbox Academy Showcase Pay What You Can

All other shows £5 (£3 concs)

21 November, 7pm

26-28 November, 8pm

27 November, 7pm

7&8 December, 7pm

10-12 December, 7pm

Yara El-Sherbini

Universality Challenge

Universality Challenge is a live game show inspired by the popular BBC programme that playfully examines knowledge and universal experiences. In this Christmas special join two teams as they battle it out answering witty question on art, religion and popular culture.

£10 (£6 concs)

4 December, 7pm

Amanda Lawrence

Jiggery Pokery: An Homage to Charles Hawtrey

Commissioned by Homotopia, BAC and The Corn Exchange, Newbury

A provocative, funny and moving show inspired by the double life and lonely death of Charles Hawtrey. Famous for his many appearances in the *Carry On* films, his unique physicality and distinctive voice made him one of Britain's best loved comedy actors- but that was only part of the story.

Well known for her roles with Kneehigh and Told by an Idiot, Amanda Lawrence is directed by Paul Hunter (Told by an Idiot, Young Vic and RSC) in this intimate exploration of a true English eccentric.

£12 (£8 concs); Tuesdays Pay What You Can

1-19 December, 8pm

Blind Summit Theatre and BAC present George Orwell's
1984

2-23 December & 4-9 January (exc. Suns), 7.30pm
3, 7, 10, 15 December, 7&9 January, 2.30pm

With its predictions of globalisation, surveillance paranoia and control through language, George Orwell's classic futuristic tale is strikingly relevant for our time. It is brought to life by the sensational Blind Summit Theatre, the internationally celebrated puppetry company that has worked on Anthony Minghella's Olivier Award winning *Madam Butterfly* for the English National Opera and their exquisite puppetry in Birmingham Repertory Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse's *His Dark Materials*.

£16 (£12 concs)

Previews (2-5 December) £14 (£10 concs)

Matinees £10

Tuesdays Pay What You Can

AMY FENECK

The Running Ensemble and You'll Never Walk Alone

A BAC Scratch Commission

A film installation of two moving image works made from Amy's performances during this year's BURST Festival.

FREE

7-19 December, 2-10pm

SCRATCH

Leo Kay

9.30pm

It's Like He's Knocking

Developed at BAC

An intimate, biographical and stripped-back performance, exploring heritage, memory and the serendipity of coincidence across three generations.

£5 (£3 concs)

9&11December, 6pm &

10 December, 6.30pm

The Paper Cinema

The Night Flyer

Commissioned by BAC

Following a sell-out run in autumn 2008, *The Night Flyer* returns to BAC. The story tells of a hero crossing the night on a mysterious tain to find the lost girl of his dreams. Using love video animation featuring the hand-drawn marionettes of Nicholas Rawling and a semi-improvised score by Kieron Maguire, this is the company's first full length show.

The evening will also present the workings behind The Paper Cinema's new major Scratch adaptation of *The Odyssey*.

£8 (£5 concs) includes Greek-inspired refreshments

14-23 December, 7.45pm
(except 20 & 22 December)

SCRATCH

Dom Lawton

Dom Coyote and The Raun

Developed at BAC

'There's a tree in the middle of my room and I can hear it singing. Or maybe it's me singing.'

An apocalyptic fairy tale with crunky bankos and haunted songs.

£5 (£3 concs)

16&17 December 7.15 pm
18 December 8.45pm

SCRATCH

New International Encounter (NIE)

Around the World in 80 Days

Commissioned and developed at BAC

Based on Jules Verne's popular novel, prepare to take a high speed, madcap adventure against time with physical comedy, visual theatre and live music.

£5 (£3 concs)

18 December 7.15pm
& 19 December 6.15pm

CURTAIN RAISER SCRATCH

Matthew Robins

The Death of Flyboy and Other Stories

Developed at BAC

Puppets, singing, a live band, hand made films and possibly some cakes.

FREE

18 & 19 December, 7pm

John Hegley

Christmas at the Batterseaside

2pm

A regular sell-out at the Edinburgh Festival, John Hegley is widely known as one of the country's most innovative comic poets with several best-selling volumes of poetry to his name. With this latest show expect sun, fun and Father Christmas' parrot. A chance to make palm trees and footprints in the sand castle, seasonal and unseasonal songs, and poems seasoned with audience drawing and chorus.

£12 (£7 concs)

Family Ticket Deal: £30 for 4 people (must include at least one child)

21-23 December, 7pm
Matinee, 22&23 December,

SCRATCH

1927

1927 Presents A Few Skewed Scenes From Their New Show

Co-commissioned and developed at BAC, London and The Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne

1927 (the company behind last year's smash hit *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*) introduces you to a new nightmarish world and its inky inhabitants. Performed in the company's unique style merging animation, live actors and music, this work-in-progress features a few scenes from the show to be complete in late 2010.

£5 (£3 concs)

7-9 January, 7pm

BAC and The Arches present

Nic Green's *Trilogy*

Revival supported by barbicanbite 10

Expect passion, beauty, and a glorious naked dance performed by female volunteers in Nic Green's highly acclaimed, award winning show. Part anarchic celebration, part reaction to the raucous 1970s feminist panel discussion *Town Bloody Hall*, Green and her superb company give their all in this thrilling show designed to challenge, inspire and make way for positive change.

£12 (£7 concs)

12-16 January, 7pm

Bohman Bros

8.30pm

New Year New Sounds

BAC's celebration of experimental music returns featuring an international line-up of musicians, free improvisers and audio artists. Be ready to hear sounds from various everyday objects as well as traditional instruments (but probably not as you've heard them before).

Full line up and ticket prices will be available at www.bac.org.uk after 20 Nov.

18-23 January,

The Baked Bean Theatre Company
7.30pm

20-22 January,

The Eclipse

A stranger returns to a quite suburban street to discover that most of the inhabitants are hiding something. He sets out to reveal the dark secrets behind curtains in this original gripping drama of clandestine affairs of the past. Scrutinizing the notion of community, this snapshot of modern times is devised and performed by The Baked bean Theatre Company, a group of professional actors with learning disabilities.

£8 (£5 concs)

Listings Information

Venue:	Battersea Arts Centre
Address:	Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
Dates:	Various
Times:	Various
Price:	Various
Box Office:	020 7223 2223
Transport:	Clapham Junction overground station