



Cultural Quarterly
Spring 2011

Brighton Rock

Eastbourne Festival

Swimming At The Ritz



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Despite poor predictions for 2010 the results we achieved for most of our clients were substantially better than anyone could have expected. Given that we sold more property in 2010 than in the last year of the almost forgotten 'boom market' we are hoping to see a repeat of last year's performance.

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Richard Rager



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Cultural Quarterly
Spring 2011

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Cultural Quarterly

A quarterly niche carving magazine dedicated to Eastbourne's flourishing arts and theatre scene, packed with insightful content and stunning visual appeal. CQ is distributed from various locations around Eastbourne, including the cultural quarter's venues.

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Eastbourne Rocks!

It's estimated that one in ten people visit the UK because of British films. CQ speaks to Jason Wheeler, location manager for *Brighton Rock*, and extra Alan Gower on why Eastbourne is attracting major film shoots.

Eastbourne has a secret. Quietly it is becoming a sought after film location. The latest film shot in Eastbourne to hit the big screen has been the remake of *Brighton Rock*, released in early February.

The film, adapted from Graham Greene's 1939 novel and not on the original film by screenwriter Rowan Joffe, charts the struggle of Pinky, a razor-wielding disadvantaged teenager who is hell bent on clawing his way through the ranks of organised crime. Set against a 1960s backdrop, the film is a mixture of British

gangster classic and film noir and stars up-and-coming Sam Riley and Andrea Riseborough, as well as Helen Mirren and John Hurt.

With Eastbourne's unspoilt Victorian pier, classic architecture and nearby South Downs, the town fitted perfectly into Joffe's vision of 1960s fictional Brighton.

Jason Wheeler, location manager for *Brighton Rock*, said: "Very rarely, we shoot in the place that the film is set. We tried to shoot as much as we could in Brighton, but it's a very cosmopolitan city and is moving forward. That said,

Brighton Pier was very supportive. However, Eastbourne had the right feel to it, with its unspoilt architecture and preserved pier.

"Brighton Rock was great fun and Eastbourne was very welcoming. We had fantastic support from the film liaison unit, and the residents of Eastbourne were very enthusiastic.

"There were some inconveniences, but the town was invited to be part of the process, and they were very supportive. The hotels were brilliant and worked with us. We even had spectators who remembered the

*(Above)
Sam Riley and Andrea Riseborough
in Brighton Rock.
Photo: Optimum Releasing.*

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Eastbourne Rocks!

riots. They were watching the Mods and Rockers scene and were taking sides!”

The iconic scene involved 100 period Lambrettas riding up and down the seafront.

Jason, who has worked on films, such as *Nowhere Boy* and *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*, said: “I was desperate to do the film. I had read the book when I was a teenage and it sticks with you. I met with Paul Webster and Rowan to talk about the ambitions of the film and loved it.”

The film crew based themselves in Eastbourne for three weeks in 2009 and filmed on Eastbourne Pier, the seafront, Cavendish Hotel, Cavendish Place, Eastbourne beach, Beachy Head and Birling Gap.

It’s estimated that Brighton Rock brought £500,000 to the local economy during filming. Over 250 local people were cast as extras, including admin assistant for the customers’



(Left)
Brighton Rock extra
Alan Gower.

(Below)
One iconic scene involved
100 period Lambrettas
riding down the seafront.
Photo: Mark Jarvis.

services office Alan Gower and his 80-year-old father.

Alan said: “I was the ice cream seller and the Punch and Judy puppeteer in the film. I was going to be a pier passerby with my dad but, luckily for me, the original bloke wasn’t able to commit to the six days of shooting, and I could!”

“My ice creams were mash potato with shaving cream on

top. They had a very keen eye for detail. The ice-lollies had the ‘60s packaging, while the stones that were being thrown during the fight scene were actually plastic. The prop department had painted the fake stones and had placed them on the beach. It was an aggressive scene and was very realistic.”

For Alan, no two days were the same, although there was a lot of

“We had fantastic support from the film liaison unit, and the residents of Eastbourne were very enthusiastic.”



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“Normally I’m quite shy, but I like playing a character and I enjoy being in costume.”

waiting in hotels with copious amounts of tea and coffee.

“There was no typical day, but it was very long. I was usually there from 6am to 6pm. There was a lot of hanging around, but I really enjoyed it.

“The filming was very well organised. They had sheets in alphabetical order and used a mini bus to get people to the locations. Everything ran smoothly, and everyone knew what was going on.

“The director would tell you exactly what he wanted. They were very specific and I wanted

to be perfect. One day they wired me up, I guess to record the background noise, and I had to say “ice cream and candyfloss for sale”.”

Alan, who has lived in Eastbourne all his life, is no stranger to a film set. He started extra work in the late 1980s and has never stopped. His first film was *A Piece Of Cake* and starred Michael Caine.

“Normally I’m quite shy, but I like playing a character and I enjoy being in costume. I also like seeing locations that I recognise.”

In order to keep within the

1960s theme, the film liaison unit spent months planning the logistics. In all, 66 road signs were taken down, 161 parking spaces were suspended and four road closures took place. Seven cranes were used to light up the seafront and Downs near the Belle Tout lighthouse, and over 100 of the council’s stewards helped with crowd control in both Eastbourne and Brighton and moving equipment.

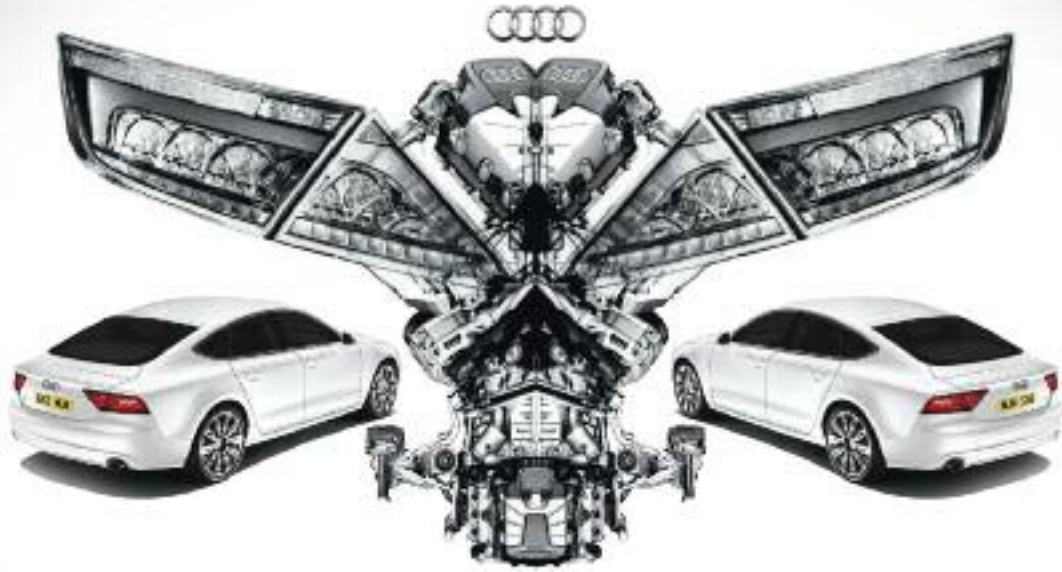
This remake of *Brighton Rock* is the latest in a long list of big and small screen productions to have been filmed in Eastbourne and made the BAFTA long list. Other films shot in the town include *Children Of Men*, which showed the characters driving over the South Downs towards a concentration camp and *Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging*, which was based in Eastbourne. Scenes from *Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire* were filmed at Beachy Head, and critically acclaimed *Notes On A Scandal* had a three-day shoot at a private house opposite Fisherman’s Green, the Cavendish Hotel, Beachy Head and the pier.

So, it seems that Eastbourne is not just famous for being the Sunshine Coast, but is fast becoming the Hollywood of the south.

(Above)
Andrea Riseborough and Helen Mirren film a scene on Eastbourne’s cliffs.
Photo: Optimum Releasing.

(Left)
Director Rowan Joffe and crew.
Photo: Optimum Releasing.





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Festival Showcases Eastbourne's Talent

Now in its fourth year, Eastbourne Festival 2011 aims to bring out the hidden art and culture in our coastal town.

This year's Eastbourne Festival will take place from April 23–May 15 and will showcase a diverse range of art and culture within the town. As a taster, artists and performers will kick-off a preview on April 23, which will take place at the Terminus Road precinct.

Highlighting contemporary, traditional and experimental work, Eastbourne Festival is aiming to establish the town as an area of artistic and cultural activity.

Julian Sutherland-Beatson, one of the directors of the Eastbourne Festival, said: "We want to get people to appreciate what a unique place Eastbourne is and celebrate the link between the seafront, the built environment and the Downs."

This year sees the launch of Eastbourne Festival Fringe, with On The Edge events planned during the festival. A Tokyo based Manga-graffiti live

performance artist will be holding a multimedia event, while the demise of last year's Gildredge Park Horse Fayre will see the Green Fayre take its place. The new fayre will feature green workshops, Fairtrade and organic stalls, acoustic music and a catwalk show of recycled fashion by Sussex Downs College.

Julian continued: "The festival is going from strength to strength with an exciting



programme of events on offer. Full details will be available online and our full colour brochure and listings will be available in March."

The Boudoir Bliss Burlesque Evening is returning to the festival this year, with performances from Boudoir Bliss' London and South East burlesque troupes. Students from the art and design foundation course at Sussex Downs College will be showcasing their 1920s–50s fashion on the catwalk with a raffle in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness campaign. There will also be an over 18s Showgirl & Burlesque workshop for those who want to release their inner diva.

Once again, Towner will be exhibiting work by local artists for its annual East Sussex Open exhibition, and gigs organised around the town will include guitarist John Williams, John Renbourn, Robin Williamson,



Eastbourne Festival
23 April–15 May

(Top)
Artists' Open Houses are back for Eastbourne Festival.

(Left)
Letter Home by Mary Beaney.

FORTHCOMING HOTEL EVENTS



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Festival Showcases Eastbourne's Talent



the Songs Of Edith Piaf and the Feast Of Fiddles at Eastbourne College.

The Lamb Theatre will be hosting a series of events, including more fiddle playing, Irish poetry, a work in progress

photograph album of the 1850s.

Keeping company with Mary's artistic endeavours is Adam Beaney's wildlife photography, which includes images of Alaska, his Kenyan safari, and the wildlife

taking part in cultural activities.

Eastbourne Parish Church will be hosting a series of festival concerts, including the town's new Early Music Chamber Choir, a programme of Celtic music with Anita and Nick Haigh, and Practicall Musicke showcasing early music for voice, recorder, violins, violas, organ and harpsichord.

Nurturing young talent, schools across Eastbourne will be presenting their annual Youth Arts section, and will be holding a series of workshops, exhibitions and theatre performances.

If you like a sing along, then

(Left)
John Williams.

(Below)
Eastbourne Festival will highlight contemporary, traditional and experimental work.

"We want to get people to appreciate what a unique place Eastbourne is and celebrate the link between the seafront, the built environment and the Downs."

show, and the popular Ska Toons from Lewes. World-renowned harpsichordist Hendrik Bouman will be playing a concert alongside prominent baroque players Heiko ter Schegget and Tormod Dale.

The Artists' Open Houses are back, showcasing the talent of Eastbourne's artists, including Ann Johnson and founder of Art On The River group Mary Beaney.

Mary Beaney said: "I decided that I was finished with exhibiting in my home, but the pull was too strong, so I am back without ever going away! Nearly every wall of my home will be dripping with landscapes, still life, flowers, etc, using various and interesting mixed media, including collage with a photographic element to create unbelievable textures."

Mary continues her project, inspired by Byzantine icons, utilising her family's Victorian

of Pevensey and the Sussex countryside.

The Leaf Hall Community Arts Centre will hold a free talk about natural beekeeping, creative taster workshops, African drumming and a May Day craft fair. St Mary's Church in Old Town will again host a full programme of traditional music, with Kings Church

head down to Eastbourne Shout, which is being planned for the second year. Members of the public are encouraged to join in and sing along to a number of favourites in the great outdoors.

Keep up-to-date with Eastbourne Festival on Facebook or by visiting the website at www.eastbournefestival.co.uk



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Playing the Game

CQ speaks to actors Felicity Dean and Jos Vantylar and producer Tony Milner about *Swimming At The Ritz's* many connections to Eastbourne.

Swimming At The Ritz, a two handed play starring Felicity Dean and Jos Vantylar, started life at the Congress Theatre as a reading and returned as part of the New Play Festival in 2010. In March, it returns to Eastbourne again as a fully formed play. A one-month tour will kick-start at the Devonshire Park Theatre, continuing on to Guildford, Greenwich and Worthing before landing in the West End.

The play centres on Pamela Churchill Harriman, daughter-in-law to Winston Churchill, who was described as “the greatest courtesan of the century” due to her numerous marriages and affairs with powerful men. Based on real accounts, Charles Leipart’s comic play sees the washed up English socialite give a no holds barred account of her life, including intimate details of her liaisons.

Played by Felicity Dean, who has starred alongside actors, such as Vanessa Redgrave and Dame Judi Dench, Pamela’s life unfolds as she prepares to sell off the Picasso, the Renoir, the Matisse after being sued for \$40 million.

Felicity said: “William Paley, an American film mogul in the ‘50s and ‘60s, said that she was possibly the greatest courtesan of the century. She slept with men for money, position and power and talks about it in the play, why and what she got out of it and how these men supported her. They gave her everything – cars, apartments and clothes – and she tells you what she gave in return.

“The older generation knew of her through the press and her marriage to Randolph Churchill, and the younger ones think she’s so outrageous they want to find out a bit more about her.”

Alone at the Ritz, Pamela

turns to Pietro, the Ritz valet played by Jos Vantylar, for comfort.

Jos said: “Pietro is marvellous, he’s Italian and works at the Ritz, aiding Pamela. You see her with another human and the way she behaves. He acts out famous meetings she’s had with various men.

“You many not know of her, but you can’t help but be aware of the people that she talks about – Hilary Clinton, the Rothschilds, Churchill. Pietro and Pamela are very similar. One on one, they’re both playing the game. He’s doing the valet for tips, just like she did for money and power.”

Since its inception over a year ago as a new play, *Swimming At The Ritz* has been shaped by audience opinion through question and answer sessions.

Tony Milner, the producer

Swimming At The Ritz
Congress Theatre
14–16 March

(Above)
Felicity Dean in
Swimming At The Ritz.

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Playing the Game

and owner of production company New Vic Productions, who lives in Eastbourne, said: "The play is much shorter than the original reading. For a two hander, such as this, it is such a burden on the actors in terms of lines and length. You have to be very careful with what you add and what you lose."

Jos continued: "The Q&As are very popular and people ask interesting questions. We did a tiny reading at the Congress and had a Q&A session at the end of it. It was really helpful. It was an hour of people saying what they thought of it."

Both Jos and Felicity have personal connections to



(Left and below)
Felicity Dean and
Jos Vantylar play
the game.

"I'm thrilled that we are going to be opening here. It's terrific. The Devonshire Park Theatre is one of my favourite theatres."

Eastbourne. Jos' grandparents live in the town.

He said: "I'm thrilled that we are going to be opening here. It's terrific. The Devonshire Park Theatre is one of my favourite theatres."

"The first time I worked here was for Tony when we did

Underfoot In Showbusiness, which was the previous job that I did with Felicity. We rehearsed here, so it wasn't as if we rehearsed in another town, did the show and left. You see the same faces and people say hello. There's a big community feel and I love that."

For Felicity, Eastbourne holds happy memories of her family.

She said: "I spent a lot of summer holidays as a child here. My father died when I was 12 so Eastbourne represents family and happy times and, most importantly, reminds me of my dad."

In the same week that *Swimming At The Ritz* appears at the Devonshire Park Theatre, New Vic Productions will also present a new comedy by award-winning Charlotte Jones. Based on the life of Philipa Stanton, the play combines songs and humour and packs an emotional punch.

Philipa realises that she was born in the wrong place at the wrong time. She does all the ordinary things, such as falling in love, getting married and having a baby. But everything goes wrong when her husband leaves her, her best friend dies and her X-Factor becomes a hideous ex-factor.



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Jazz Heroes

Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald are probably jazz's most famous female singers. But where are the women instrumentalists and promoters? CQ speaks to Under Ground Theatre volunteer Annette Keen and musician Jo Fooks to find out if we need more women in jazz.

Even in the most unlikely places, there seems to be a gender divide. On the jazz scene, there are numerous female vocalists – Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, for example. But how many women musicians can you name?

Annette Keen, volunteer at the Under Ground Theatre (UGT), who has been running a jazz programme for the past 11 years, believes there are not enough women instrumentalists and promoters on the scene.

She said: "It's a very male dominated industry. Women make up less than 10 per cent of

players, except for those on keyboards, who make up 14 per cent. However, women vocalists make up 80 per cent.

"Maybe it's because girls aren't encouraged the way that boys are. There is a change, but it's quite slow. But then, I only see the musicians when they come out of college."

Jo Fooks, on the other hand, teaches primary school children and is seeing an uptake of young girls playing the saxophone and clarinet. Jo, a rising star in the jazz scene, is a tenor saxophonist, and will be playing at the UGT on March 25 with her band.

Jo said: "There are a lot of

women coming onto the scene I would say in the last 10 to 20 years. It seems to be going in the right direction.

"My experience, as a woman, has been very positive. Because jazz has a small music scene, it's very friendly. The average age is 50+ and it's more of a social club and a safe place for people to meet. Even if you're shy, you can go to a club and talk to people in between the music.

"Jazz isn't a popular form of music, but we love it! There isn't a huge platform for jazz, but promoters, such as Annette, has created this platform.

"We need more people like

*(Above)
Jo Fooks.*

Jo Fooks Quintet
Under Ground Theatre
25 March

Annette. They are the heroes. It's a thankless task.

"I've never played at the Under Ground Theatre before and I'm really looking forward to it. Usually, I play guests spots up in London, so it's a rare opportunity when I can pick my own musicians."

Jo, who won the Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year in 1992, was invited to join British trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton's eight-piece band after she sent out her CD. He described her as "a brilliantly inventive player and composer who has developed into a bright star".

She said: "I was lucky enough to play with Humphrey Lyttelton and his band. He's a clever guy who puts on excellent shows."

"Jazz is an entertainment industry, and there is an image. As a woman, I suppose I bring some glamour, which is a massive advantage. People assume that you won't be good,

and are surprised."

One reviewer said he wasn't confident about a female sax player who had to follow the powerful sound of Simon Bates and Dave Quincy, but changed his mind after hearing her play.

Jo also played in Jools Holland's Big Band two summers ago.

She said: "I'm usually awestruck when I meet famous people. I never know what is going to happen around the corner, but I just keep doing what I do and hope for that lucky break."

Since Annette joined the UGT, she has expanded the jazz offering. The 2011 winter/spring season not only sees Jo making her debut in Eastbourne, but also saw trumpeter and vocalist Sue Richardson and her quintet return to the UGT stage in January. The end of February saw the Roy Hilton Quintet

return to the UGT to celebrate the work of Horace Silver, and trumpeter Steve Fishwick and the Osian Robert Quintet will take to the stage in March, with the acclaimed John Turville Trio completing the season in April.

Annette said: "It's very unusual to have two female bands in one season. It wasn't intentional. I'm now working on the autumn season, which can get quite confusing at times!"

"There used to be one jazz gig a year before I became involved. Now it's four or five. We've got an audience here in Eastbourne, and a core of supporters who come to almost every gig. I'm very pleased with what I've achieved."

"It's very rare to have women promoters too. But, generally, everyone is really supportive and I don't get treated any differently than any other promoter."

"The jazz world is full of wonderful people."

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Art Joins Literature at Charleston

With a visual arts slant and extra dates, the twenty-second Charleston Festival is a baptism of fire for new festival manager Niamh Pearce. CQ finds out what visitors can expect this year.

Nestled in the South Downs, Charleston will be opening its doors to the eclectic Charleston Festival on May 20–29. This year will again see an array of fiction, history, biography and travel, but also introduce visual arts and design for the first time.

The literary and intellectual festival will see authors, such as Paul Theroux, Joanna Trollope and PD James, visit this unique museum near Lewes to talk



about their books and writing. More than just a shrine to its famous residents of the Bloomsbury Group, Charleston was preserved and opened to the public in 1989 to ensure that it remained vibrant and hospitable to new ideas and contemporary creativity. Not long after Charleston opened its doors, the festival was born.

Niamh Pearce is the latest addition to the Charleston Festival family. Now living in Eastbourne, she has previously worked at the University of Ulster as the cultural development officer and event manager at the Barbican Centre before landing her job as the festival manager at Charleston.

She said: “It’s a baptism of fire for me – a new job and a new home. I’ve never been to the festival before, and was blown away by the history, venue and the setting of Charleston. It’s a real pleasure



(Clockwise from top)
Edmund de Waal will talk about his book *The Hare With Amber Eyes*.

Paul Theroux.

PD James.

to be part of it.

“The post of festival manager is not new, but this is the first time it was externally recruited rather than from within the Charleston family. My job entails overseeing all of the operational and marketing issues relating to the festival, from liaison with the authors and publishers to booking portaloos and catering supplies. From the sublime to the mundane!”

Charleston Festival

Charleston
20–29 May



Niamh points to a quote by The Society Of Authors relating to author appearances that says ‘Charleston is repeatedly praised for atmosphere and authors being well treated and having a good time’.

She said: “It’s a real vote of confidence from the authors themselves! We have a variety of programmes with some top-

James’ Bible, and Emma Bridgewater will talk about her new book about the Stoke-on-Trent ceramic industry and its social aspects.

“We also have Edmund de Waal, who is an award winning pottery and ceramic artist, who has written a bestselling book called *The Hare With Amber Eyes*. It’s a biography about his

addition to the festival.”

Also confirmed to appear are novelists Esther Freud and Edward St Aubyn, who will be talking about their work and how they mine personal experiences for their fiction. This will be followed by Evan Davis, best known for being the presenter for *Dragon’s Den*, who will be talking about the decline of the British manufacturing industry. The event, called *Made In Britain*, ties in with a BBC TV series presented by Evan. Travel writer Paul Theroux will also be appearing with Colin Thubron.

The intense and controversial Charleston debate will be returning. This year’s motion asks if our obsession with the past distracts us from reality. Chairing the debate will be former member of the Arts Council and chairman of The Arts Foundation William

“I’ve never been to the festival before, and was blown away by the history, venue and the setting of Charleston.”

(Top)
Melvyn Bragg.

(Below)
Evan Davis.

notch fiction, history, biography, travel and arts. I’m really looking forward to it. Our artistic director Diana Reich, who has been in that role since the festival started 22 years ago, has a wealth of experience and an amazing list of contacts.”

The Charleston Festival has now expanded to 27 events this year and will include three new midweek slots.

Niamh continued: “We’ve had a good response from the authors and writers, so we’re adding a 3.30pm, 6pm and 8pm event on three of the days. The first will be Melvyn Bragg on the 25th talking about the St

family and their collection of Japanese netsuke (very small sculptures), which he is inheriting. It’s about memory, family and collecting. It’s a beautiful book and is a nice



Sieghart, with speakers Sarah Bakewell from *How To Live: A Life Of Montaigne*; comedian, journalist and broadcaster Natalie Haynes, and former director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, writer and broadcaster Ekow Eshun.

Niamh said: “We are lucky to attract top names and take people out of their comfort zones. Charleston is not your typical festival. The setting is so unique and the authors enjoy coming here to relax in the beautiful setting. Most of the authors makes themselves available to sign books after the event, which is a great treat for enthusiastic fans!”



Register to receive CQ's e-newsletter by April 28 and be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 voucher for Sapphire Lights in Seaside, or two tickets to Calendar Girls at the Congress Theatre.

Email your name, address and telephone number (so we can let you know if you've won) to faye@prgltd.co.uk with the subject heading 'CQ competition'.

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- District General Hospital, *Kings Drive*
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- Eastbourne Central Library, *Grove Road*
- Emma Mason Gallery, *Cornfield Terrace*
- Enterprise Centre, *Station Parade*
- Farley Farmhouse, *Chiddingly*
- Fitness First, *The Crumbles*
- Grand Hotel, *King Edwards Parade*
- Hydro Hotel, *Mount Road*
- Langham Hotel, *Royal Parade*
- Nigel Greaves Gallery, *Compton Street*
- Plantations Coffee Shop, *Carlisle Road*
- Thai Village, *Willingdon*
- The Star Inn, *Alfriston*
- Tourist Information Centre, *Cornfield Road*
- Town Hall, *Grove Road*
- Towner, *Carlisle Road*
- University of Brighton, *Darley Road*
- W Bruford, *Cornfield Road*
- Waitrose, *High Street*
- Yummy Noodle Bar, *Enterprise Centre, Station Parade*

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Taking a Risk

Local painter Ann Johnson is exhibiting at the Hop Gallery in Lewes this April and taking part in Eastbourne Festival. CQ chats to Ann about her inspiration and taking risks.

Ann Johnson is not a professional artist. She prefers to call herself a working painter. A former fashion journalist, she likes colour, shape and risks.

She says: "All the best designers take risks. I don't take enough."

Painting in her studio nearly every day, a blank canvas doesn't daunt Ann.

"I don't have an idea, I just go into my studio and paint. I walk in, full of hope, and start to experiment. I have been painting all my life and it doesn't get any easier. I have a very workmanlike attitude and I never have a problem with what to paint. If I don't like it, then I'll just paint over it."

Ann paints in oil on canvas and acrylic on paper. Self taught, her paintings are mainly about rhythm and tension.

"I'm inspired and excited by 'other' art, such as Aboriginal, African and Native American.

These artists have never been to art school, so are not influenced by the 'establishment', who try to emulate lifelike forms.

"I like to surprise people and put something unexpected in my paintings, whether it be contrast, colour, different marks. I like to have some edginess to my paintings."

When CQ spoke to Ann, she was getting ready for her exhibition Crossings at the Hop Gallery in Lewes.

"I don't like to paint for an exhibition. I like to select what I have from my body of work that I feel is worthwhile to show. With this exhibition, there is a crossover of things, drawings into paintings, paintings that cross over into drawings."

Ann will be exhibiting a collection of new paintings during Eastbourne Festival at Meads Books in Meads Street from April 3–25, then as part of the Eastbourne Group of

Artists' Words And Images exhibition at Eastbourne College's Casson Gallery.

Ann said: "There is a lot of creativity around, with a lot of art schools. I'm a big fan of the Open Houses as it's initiated at grass roots level."

Last year, Ann decided to enter the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition for fun, and her painting was selected out of 11,000 entries.

"I never thought my pictures would be selected as I thought my style wouldn't fit in. All I needed to do was submit my work. It was a thrill to be chosen. There is always a lot of controversy at the Royal Academy."

Ann is planning on entering the Summer Exhibition again this year.

"I am on a journey and there's so much further to go. It's like a puzzle that I'm never going to crack."

Crossings
Hop Gallery
16–28 April

(Above)
Ann Johnson prefers to call herself a working painter.



Eastbourne's Littlest Theatre

The Little Theatre hopes to prove the old adage that good things come in small packages. CQ speaks to Bruce Sibley and Luke Sibson to find out what we can expect from the little black box.

Five pounds doesn't get you much these days. But if you do have a spare fiver, exchange that note for a ticket at Eastbourne's newest state of the art theatre. The Little Theatre aims to bring the finest in comedy, music and art at affordable prices. You may even get change.

Although sited at Cavendish School in Eldon Road, the theatre is a separate entity to the school and has a flexible performance space to offer Eastbourne's theatregoers a different experience.

Bruce Sibley, assistant head at Cavendish, said: "It's a black box with state of the art equipment – lighting, sound, staging. It's flexible, meaning we can make any configuration and are able to record live as well.

"We want to bring a variety of styles to Eastbourne, and to offer slightly more alternative productions. We've had a lot of

interest and want to strike up a balance from professional to semi-professional to amateur. Quality is very important to us.

"It's early days and we've got so much further to go. We want to be affordable, but we have to be self-sustainable. "

Being based at a school enables Cavendish students to gain valuable work experience in a professional setting.

Bruce said: "It's a great opportunity for students to be in this environment. They love working on the shows. They do everything, from manning the box office to looking after the technical aspects. It's a fantastic resource and gives the students an insight into working in a theatre."

Able to seat 50 people, the current programme, which runs until April, also hosts yoga and rehearsals.

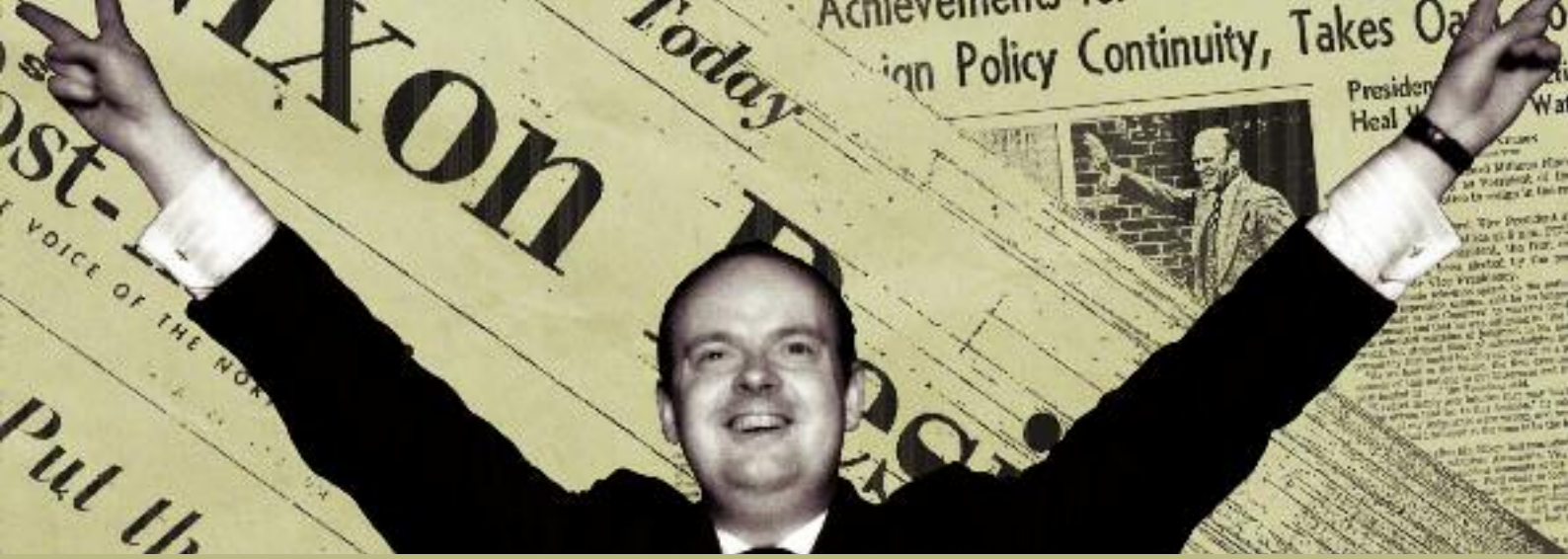
Luke Sibson, community and extended schools manager,

said: "It is open to the community as well. For example, the Cav Bar showcases young bands. These kids from the Archery Youth Group, who come from difficult backgrounds, get to play a gig in a professional setting and we offer to record their stuff to use as a demo."

The theatre is also gearing up for Eastbourne Festival. As part of the Youth Arts Festival, there will be an Art Trail and a range of professional exhibitions and workshops. The festival will also see phase one of an ongoing project called the Cavendish Project.

Luke explained: "We are planning a large scale installation to display photos and memorabilia. Anyone can come and have a look. We are working with local photographer Rob Walker to get a sense of Cavendish and what it means to be part of the school."

*(Above)
The Little Theatre aims to bring the finest in comedy, music and art.*



Tricky Politics

CQ speaks to Steve Scott about why, after 37 years, we still have a fascination with Tricky Dicky Richard Nixon.

One of America's biggest scandals brought down a president and turned a relatively unknown British journalist into a household name. Now, the Lamb Theatre is hosting two plays about Richard Nixon.

In 1977, former US president Richard Nixon agreed to be interviewed by talk show host David Frost. At the time, Frost was seen to be a political lightweight with a playboy reputation.

The interviews exposed Nixon and his part in the Watergate scandal, which rocked the political world. The first episode drew a record-breaking 45 million viewers. The famous exchanges were subsequently turned into the play and film *Frost/Nixon*.

Steve Scott, one of the founders of the Lamb Theatre, said: "The *Frost/Nixon* TV interview took place in 1977

and was an intellectual boxing match. I find Nixon a fascinating character. He has more fables about him than any other leader and he's the only president to have resigned. No one thought Frost would get one over on him."

At the time, Nixon was writing his memoirs. The interview, which Frost had paid for himself, was supposed to bring Nixon to the masses through the medium of television. For Frost, it was make or break for his TV career.

Steve continued: "Nixon didn't look good on camera. He looked shifty, had jowls and looked like he needed another three hours sleep. In comparison, [John] Kennedy was handsome and dashing. You have to remember that Nixon was a trained lawyer. There are so many twists and turns during this interview, where Nixon justifies himself."

As a prelude to *Frost/Nixon*, the Lamb Theatre will be showing *Nixon's Nixon*, a satire of the night before his resignation.

Steve said: "Originally, we were going to put on the *Frost/Nixon* play, but then I researched further and came across *Nixon's Nixon*, which complemented the main play. It's 80 minutes long, and there are just two characters – Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon."

These larger-than-life characters spend their last evening at the White House re-enacting scenes of their political triumphs and devising a plot to keep Nixon in power.

"It's always good fun playing people who existed," said Steve. "Nixon and Reagan are well imitated and the danger is to do an impersonation. Actors are like amateur psychologists and Nixon is a fascinating person to delve into. I see why he became suspicious and distrustful."

Frost/Nixon
Lamb Theatre
7–11 June

(Above)
Steve Scott will play
Richard Nixon.



Summer in Provence

CQ spoke to Nigel Greaves about his new exhibition and his recent portrait of Eastbourne's Mayor.

Since his retirement in 2008, Nigel Greaves has indulged his passion for art and opened a gallery to showcase his work in Compton Street. The gallery has gone from strength to strength, and his customers come from as far afield as France.

When walking into Nigel Greaves Gallery, you can't help but notice the colour in his paintings. According to Nigel, the only way to get the desired vibrancy is to crush up the pigment and mix the acrylics yourself.

He said: "I like to experiment and I love colour. I'm inspired by nature – the sea, land, sky. Although my paintings are vibrant, they have a tranquil feel to them."

Nigel studied under Robert Tavener, Bob Miller and Geoffrey Flint as a student at Eastbourne College of Art & Design in the 1960s, but it was only two years



ago that he opened his gallery after taking early retirement.

Many of his paintings have been inspired by his trips to the south of France. His current exhibition – running in tandem with his retrospective exhibition – features paintings of his last trip.

He said: "I love the lush vegetation and everything being sun kissed in France. Last year, I was between Cannes and Nice. I paint in my studio from working drawings that I've done. Occasionally I'll use photographs, but only occasionally.

"I like to experiment, so when people visit my gallery, they see lots of different styles. I don't reproduce any of my

art. Everything is a one off as everyone likes to own original pieces.

"For the new summer exhibition, starting in May, I have 20 new pieces of work that have been from my study trip to France."

Recently, Nigel was commissioned to paint a portrait of Mayor of Eastbourne Cllr Carolyn Heaps, which was presented to her at the end of January.

Nigel said: "She was very happy with the portrait. She wrote me a lovely letter to say how thrilled she was. The Mayor was a joy to paint.

"She is such a bubbly, helpful person who sat still and did as she was told. She has a very natural smile. I had some difficulty with painting the intricate chain and the medallion, but I'm very pleased with it. It's now hanging in the Mayor's Parlour."

*(Above)
Nigel is inspired by trips to the south of France.*

*(Left)
Nigel presented his portrait to Eastbourne's mayor in January.*



Designer Destination

A local picture framing company is hoping to rekindle a love of the old-fashioned railway poster. CQ speaks to Lucy Newport of Eastbourne Framing Centre to find out more.

The current interest in all things retro has sparked a competition to design a destination railway poster. Inspired by her six bestselling prints, Lucy Newport, owner of Eastbourne Framing Centre in Terminus Road, is hoping to find a winner that captures the essence of Eastbourne.

Lucy said: “We’ve seen a resurgence of retro posters, with our bestsellers being six vintage prints. We thought it would be fun to launch a competition to design a railway poster for Eastbourne. Since the launch, we have secured the support of Mayor of Eastbourne Cllr Carolyn Heaps, Stephen Lloyd MP and East Sussex County Council, and the competition is taking on a life of its own.

“Our goal is to find a new, definitive railway destination poster, an image that strikingly and vividly shows the world

what a glorious, inspiring and entertaining place Eastbourne is to visit and experience.”

Lucy says the poster should draw from the past but look to the town’s future.

She said: “The design needs to be vivid and engaging, with inspiration being drawn from the old classic railway posters, but combined with Eastbourne’s developing contemporary identity. The image needs to be supplied as A3 in pen, ink, paint, pencil, graphic, computer generate, textile, charcoal or chalk, or any combination of them. Entrants do not need to live in Eastbourne, but the posters have to be of the town.

“We will blow up the winning entry to A0 and it will be hung around Eastbourne in vacant shops, Towner, Eastbourne Central Library and various other prominent places in the town. We’re also

hoping to hang the posters at Eastbourne railway station.”

The two age categories for the competition are 11–16 and over 17 years. The winners will receive their original entry framed and a framed A1 reproduction. The runners-up and highly commendable winners will receive a framed A1 reproduction and artist kits. The winners will also have their prints on sale as A2 limited editions, with proceeds going to the entrant, and the prints will be included in a mini touring show around Eastbourne.

Lucy added: “Two schools in Eastbourne are entering over 350 pupils between them, and we have provided over 100 people with entry forms so far. I believe there is quite a buzz surrounding the competition around town. It’s taken on a life of its own. It’s delightful.”

Eastbourne Framing Centre must receive entries by March 31.



(Top)
L–R: Stephen Lloyd, MP;
Lucy Newport,
Eastbourne Framing Centre;
Paul Wyborn, Southern Rail,
and Mayor of Eastbourne
Cllr Carolyn Heaps.

Eastbourne Presents...

THE SECRET LOVE LIFE OF OPHELIA

LITTLE THEATRE
Wed 9–Fri 11 March, 7.30pm

TRIAL BY JURY

LEWES CROWN COURT
Sat 9 April, 7.30pm, Sun 10 April
3.00pm & 7.00pm

STEVE FISHWICK & OSIAN ROBERTS QUINTET

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 11 March, 8.00pm

ROMY MCCABE

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 12 March, 10.00am

PETER PAN ON ICE

CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 9–Sun 13 March,
7.30pm (not Sun)
Thu, Sat & Sun Mat, 2.30pm

SHERLOCK HOLMES...

THE LAST ACT
LAMB THEATRE
Sun 13 March, 3.00pm

SWIMMING AT THE RITZ

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Mon 14–Wed 16 March, 7.45pm
Wed Mat, 2.30pm
See page 14

EASTBOURNE TEA DANCES

WINTER GARDEN
Tue 15 March, 2pm

THE DIVA IN ME

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Thu 17–Sat 19 March, 7.45pm
Sat Mat, 2.30pm

EASTBOURNE AREA MUSIC CENTRE GALA CONCERT

CONGRESS THEATRE
Fri 18 March, 7.30pm

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND

CONGRESS THEATRE
Sat 19 March, 7.30pm

ART BY DEREK BAULCOMB

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 19 March, 10.00am

GRAFT

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 19 March, 7.30pm

JUS' LIKE THAT

LAMB THEATRE
Sat 19 March, 7.30pm

RAVEN TRIO

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sun 20 March, 3.00pm

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

CONGRESS THEATRE
Tue 22–Sat 26 March, 7.30pm
Thu & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

THE BLACK VEIL

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 22–Sat 26 March, 7.45pm
Wed & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

THE DUMB WAITER

LITTLE THEATRE
Wed 23–Thu 24 March, 7.30pm

JO FOOKS QUINTET

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 25 March, 8.00pm
See page 18

SCREAMING BLUE MURDER COMEDY CLUB

WINTER GARDEN
Fri 25 March, 8.00pm

PERFORMANCE FACTORY PRESENTS THE WIZARD OF OZ

ROYAL HIPPODROME THEATRE
Sat 26 March, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

BLACK STRAP MOLASSES

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 26 March, 10.00am

WICKED WOMEN

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 26 March, 7.30pm

SLIM CHANCE

HAILSHAM PAVILION
Sat 26 March, 7.30pm

MY DARLING CLEMMIE

LAMB THEATRE
Sun 27 March, 3.00pm

LIEUTENANT COLUMBO IN PRESCRIPTION: MURDER

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 29 March–Sat 2 April, 7.45pm
Wed & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

STRICTLY COMEDY & DANCING

ROYAL HIPPODROME THEATRE
Tue 29–Wed 30 March, 8.15pm

JOE BROWN

CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 30 March, 7.30pm

BOURNE SCHOOL PRESENTS

BOURNE TO BE NO. 1
CONGRESS THEATRE
Thu 31 March, 7.00pm

G*MANIA

CONGRESS THEATRE
Fri 1–Sat 2 April, 7.30pm
Sat Mat, 2.30pm

JONNY SPICE ORCHESTRA

WINTER GARDEN
Sat 2 April, 7.30pm

ART BY MIKE BLABER

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 2 April, 10.00am

THE MAN WHO LEFT

THE TITANIC
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 2 April, 8.00pm

RATTON GALA CONCERT

CONGRESS THEATRE
Sun 3 April, 7.30pm

DUO

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sun 3 April, 3.00pm

JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

CONGRESS THEATRE
Tue 5–Sun 10 April,
7.30pm (not Sun)
Wed, Thu & Sat Mat, 2.30pm,
Sun Mat, 2.00pm & 5.00pm

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Wed 6–Sat 9 April, 7.45pm
Thu & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

PERFORMANCE FACTORY PRESENTS RENT

ROYAL HIPPODROME THEATRE
Sat 9 April, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 9 April, 10.00am

ALBERT LEE & HOGAN'S HEROES

HAILSHAM PAVILION
Sat 9 April, 7.30pm

TUNES OF GLORY

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sun 10 April, 2.10pm

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

WINTER GARDEN
Mon 11 April, 2.30pm

LILIES ON THE LAND

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 12–Sat 16 April, 7.45pm
Wed & Sat Mat 2.30pm

STRICTLY COMEDY & DANCING

ROYAL HIPPODROME THEATRE
Tue 12–Wed 12 April, 8.15pm

SCIENCE MUSEUM

LIVE ON TOUR
CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 13 April, 7.00pm

ROLLERMANIA

CONGRESS THEATRE
Fri 15 April, 7.30pm

ART BY BERESFORD PONT

UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 16 April, 10.00am

HEIDI TALBOT WITH JOHN MCCUSKER & IAN CARR

HAILSHAM PAVILION
Sat 16 April, 7.30pm

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

CONGRESS THEATRE
Sun 17 April, 3.00pm

EASTBOURNE STAGERS PRESENTS ANNIE

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 19–Sat 23 April, 7.30pm
Thu & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

EASTBOURNE TEA DANCES

WINTER GARDEN
Tue 19 April, 2.00pm

RATTONIANS PRESENTS BEAUTY & THE BEAST

CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 20–Sat 23 April, 7.30pm
Thu & Sat Mat, 2.30pm

To book tickets:

Charleston: **01323 811626** www.charleston.org.uk

Congress Theatre, Devonshire Park Theatre, Royal Hippodrome, Winter Garden: **01323 412000** www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk

Eastbourne College Theatre: **01323 452255** boxoffice@eastbourne-college.co.uk

Friends of the Towner (FOTT): **01323 731607** www.friendsofthetowner.org.uk

Lamb Theatre: **01323 720545** www.thelambtheatre.co.uk

Under Ground Theatre: **01323 737677** www.undergroundtheatre.org.uk

SCREAMING BLUE MURDER COMEDY CLUB

WINTER GARDEN
Thu 21 April, 8.00pm

R'N'R
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 23 April, 10.00am

FEAST OF FIDDLES
EASTBOURNE COLLEGE
Sat 23 April, 7.30pm

**JOHN REBOURN &
ROBIN WILLIAMSON**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 24 April, 7.30pm

LARRY
LAMB THEATRE
Sun 24 April, 3.00pm

APRIL IN PARIS
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 26–Sat 30 April, 7.45pm
Wed & Thu Mat 2.30pm

**2011 BE YOUR BEST
ROCK CHALLENGE**
CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 27 April, 7.00pm

SPITFIRE SOLO
EASTBOURNE COLLEGE
Thu 28 April, 7.30pm

JOHN TURVILLE TRIO
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 29 April, 8.00pm

NOEL TREDINNICK
CONGRESS THEATRE
Sat 30 April, 9.00pm

JEWELLERY BY LINDA PARRISH
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 30 April, 10.00am

**EASTBOURNE COLLEGE
CHORAL SOCIETY &
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
Sun 1 May, 7.30pm

**THE MORRISON STRING
QUARTET**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sun 1 May, 3.00pm

STRICTLY COMEDY & DANCING
ROYAL HIPPODROME THEATRE
Tue 3–Wed 4 May, 8.15pm

THE MIKADO
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 3–Sat 7 May, 7.30pm
Wed & Sat Mat 2.30pm

LADIES OF COUNTRY
CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 4 May, 7.30pm

**EVE LOISEAU PERFORMS
EDITH PIAF**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sun 1 May, 8.00pm

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
HAILSHAM PAVILLION
Sat 7 May, 7.30pm

**ART BY SYLVIA GUGGAI &
ALISON SMITH**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 7 May, 10.00am

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S VERDICT
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Mon 9–Sat 14 May, 7.45pm
Wed & Sat Mat 2.30pm

SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA
CONGRESS THEATRE
Tue 10 May, 7.30pm

EASTBOURNE TEA DANCES
WINTER GARDEN
Tue 10 May, 2.00pm

SHAOLIN WARRIORS
CONGRESS THEATRE
Wed 11 May, 7.30pm

SOLID SILVER SHOW
CONGRESS THEATRE
Thu 12 May, 7.30pm

**EASTBOURNE COLLEGE
SYMPHONY & STRING
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**
ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
Fri 13 May, 6.45pm

THE SOVEREIGN SINGERS
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 14 May, 10.00am

THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 14 May, 7.30pm

**JOHN WILLIAMS &
RICHARD HARVEY**
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Sat 14 May, 7.30pm

BOUDOIR BURLESQUE
VIA BAR
Mon 14 May, 8.00pm

THE FUREYS & DAVEY ARTHUR
HAILSHAM PAVILLION
Sun 15 May, 7.30pm

**HOW PLEASANT TO
KNOW MR LEAR**
LAMB THEATRE
Sun 15 May, 3.00pm

ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
WINTER GARDEN
Mon 16 May, 7.00pm

**EASTBOURNE STAGERS
PRESENTS ANNIE**
DEVONSHIRE PARK
Tue 17–Sat 21 May, 7.30pm
Thu & Sat Mat 2.30pm

JOHN MANN MUSIC SHOW
WINTER GARDEN
Wed 18 May, 2.30pm

**IAN SHAW AND
CLARE MARTIN**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 20 May, 8.00pm

CHARLESTON FESTIVAL
CHARLESTON
Fri 20–Sat 29 May
See page 20

THAT'LL BE THE DAY
CONGRESS THEATRE
Sat 21 May, 7.30pm

THREE BONZOS & A PIANO
HAILSHAM PAVILLION
Sat 21 May, 7.30pm

ART BY IAN PARRATT
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 21 May, 10.00am

**RICHARD LEACH'S SEVEN
STARS OF JAZZ**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Wed 25 May, 7.30pm

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY
OF MUSIC**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 27 May, 8.00pm

**MARK LAURENT AND
BRENDA LIDDIARD**
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 28 May, 10.00am

LOOK BACK IN ANGER
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 28 May, 7.30pm

**SCREAMING BLUE MURDER
COMEDY CLUB**
WINTER GARDEN
Sun 29 May, 8.00pm

EASTBOURNE TEA DANCES
WINTER GARDEN
Tue 31 May, 2.00pm

**EODS PRESENTS LA CAGE
AUX FOLLES**
DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE
Tue 31 May–Sat 4 June, 7.30pm,
Sat Mat 2.30pm

JOHN MANN MUSIC SHOW
WINTER GARDEN
Thu 2 June, 2.30pm

MAGIC HAT ENSEMBLE
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Fri 3 June, 8.00pm

ART BY TANIA LONG
UNDER GROUND THEATRE
Sat 4 June, 10.00am

**LONDON PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**
CONGRESS THEATRE
Sun 5 June, 3.00pm

Frost/Nixon
Lamb Theatre
7–11 June
See page 25



Presenting For Your Enjoyment...

There are several amateur dramatic societies in Eastbourne. Here CQ gives a roundup of what some of them have to offer this season.

Eastbourne Stagers

Eastbourne Stagers will present *Annie* at the Devonshire Park Theatre on April 19–23. Set in the 1920s, the musical sees Annie, a spunky Depression-era orphan, determined to find her parents, who abandoned her on the doorstep of a New York orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan.

Songs from the show include *Hard Knock Life* and *Tomorrow*. The production team is led by a new directing partnership of Luisa Veitch and Nathan Morris, supported by musical director Daniel Goodger and choreographers Teresa Smith and Fiona Dean.

Performance Factory

The Performance Factory will present two shows this spring. The under 15s group will introduce *The Wizard Of Oz* at the Royal Hippodrome Theatre on March 25. Developed from the 1939 screenplay, it will feature all the songs from the Oscar winning movie score, including *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*, *Follow The Yellow Brick Road*, *If I Only Had A Heart* and *We're Off To See The Wizard*.

The over 15s group will present the award winning *Rent* on April 9 at the Royal Hippodrome Theatre. A community of young artists struggle to make their mark in New York's rapidly changing East Village of the 1990s.

Rattonians

With a cast of over 100, the Rattonians will perform the Disney musical *Beauty And The Beast* at the Congress Theatre on April 20–23. An enchantress transforms a handsome but spoiled and selfish prince into a hideous Beast, and the castle servants into everyday objects. Can the beautiful Belle break the spell?

Alex Adams will play the Beast, with Chloe Shearer as Belle.

Eastbourne Operatic & Dramatic Society

On May 31–June 4, EODS will paraded all the glitz and glamour of St Tropez's nightlife in the Tony award winning musical *La Cage Aux Folles*. Former EODS member turned professional Stuart Simons will direct and choreograph.

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