

A very warm welcome to the autumn members newsletter

We have so much exciting news to tell you, it's hard to know where's best to start. However, before we delve into what's coming up there is one thing that we really need to shout from the very top of the building.....

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

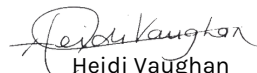
We just cannot say it enough. Thank you for standing with us, for your patience and your steadfast support. There were points over the past few years and throughout the pandemic when the outlook was bleaker than hoped. With the unbelievable support of our friends, champions, patrons & benefactors as well as every single person who has bought a ticket, made a donation or even clicked 'share' and recommended us to friends - we are very excited about what the future has to offer.




It has been a slow drawn out process for the theatre world to remove itself from the survival mode that we all found ourselves within. We at Tobacco Factory Theatres were down to the bare bones of a team, however behind the scenes we have been building, creating and planning, and the team have worked tirelessly to get us to where we are today.

We're working to fulfil a vision for our theatre that has creativity, community, kindness and diversity at its heart. These are values that we are passionate about, and which align with the history of our theatre - a labour of love for the community of creative people who started it.

Thank you for enabling our creative adventures as we strive to bring to you a hub of welcome & wonder. Without you, none of this would be possible.


Heidi Vaughan
Artistic Director & CEO


David Dewhurst
Executive Director

OLIVER GETS MORE

Oliver Twist has broken all box office records for the first 2 months of sale for a production made at Tobacco Factory Theatres. It breaks the previous record held by The Borrowers at Christmas in 2018.

Over 5,500 tickets have been sold across 71 performances, including 1,500 school children at our school matinee performances, which are filling up fast.

We are thrilled to have revealed our new promotional artwork for Oliver Twist in the last few weeks. We hope you love it as much as we have loved producing it with Bristol designer, Joe Robinson Roberts. Check out some of the exciting members-only events running alongside Oliver Twist on page 4.

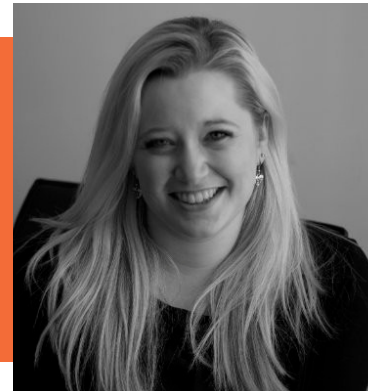




Following our Join The Journey recruitment campaign over the summer, we're delighted to introduce 6 new roles to Team TFT. Working across our Arts, Operations and Sales teams these six, dynamic new team members join us at a pivotal moment in our journey as we explore a thrilling new vision for our theatre.

Introducing our new Fundraising Manager, and your direct line to Tobacco Factory Theatres, Aimée Arscott...

Aimée comes to TFT from the Exeter Chiefs Foundation where she was Charity Secretary for the rugby team's community and charity work. Aimée would love to hear from you so please take a moment to drop her a note: aimée@tobaccofactorytheatres.com



Also joining us are:

Daphne Syrpis becomes our new Operations Assistant. Daphne previously worked at Bristol Improv Theatre, where she was Box Office Co-Ordinator and started her new role in August.

Our new Executive Administrator is Pippa Thornton. Pippa is joining us from The Rondo Theatre in Bath where she is Deputy Director. She also recently directed Manic in our Spielman Theatre.

Our new Marketing and Sales Manager is Roberta Pia (Bob) who has been promoted from the role of Marketing Officer. Her previous roles have included Marketing & Audience Engagement Manager for Take Art in Somerset and Marketing & Communications Officer for The Architecture Centre.

Our new Young People's Programme Co-ordinator is Lizzie Wiggs who has already been working with us on Get Involved projects such as Factory Tapes and our recent Summer Schools programme. Lizzie joins us having recently worked with the National Theatre on their Connections programme.

Finally, our new Creative and Community Officer is Stefan Boakye. Stefan comes to us from Trinity Arts Centre and is a co-founder of Bristol Ballroom community and ambassador for Bristol Fun Palaces.

We hope you can join us at future members-only events (see Page 4) where team members old and new will be joining us to say hello to members.

THEATRE FROM ALL ANGLES...

One of only a few theatres in the UK with a purpose built 'in the round' auditorium, Tobacco Factory Theatres (TFT) will offer a special, inaugural season of performances, in the round, in our beautiful Factory Theatre this autumn.

This thrilling programme will culminate with a glorious new adaptation of Oliver Twist, written by Olivier Award-Winning Bristol playwright Adam Peck and directed by TFT's Artistic Director Heidi Vaughan, from Thursday 30 November 2023 to Sunday 21 January 2024.



Mark Thomas's new state-of-the-nation show, England & Sons, will open the season from 17 to 19 October. Turn to page 4 for more information on our opening night Members event on Tuesday 17 October.

Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's seminal novella, Jekyll & Hyde from the students of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School will be a radical reimagining in the round of the Gothic classic, running from Saturday 04 to Saturday 11 November.

Tickets for all performances are on sale now, with a special opening night members event planned for England & Sons on Tuesday 17 October. See the back page for more info.



TFT IN NUMBERS:

In the last 12 months your invaluable support has helped us to:

- Stage 286 performances, enjoyed by 41,891 audience members.
- Co-produce 91 performances, made in Bristol at Tobacco Factory Theatres to 18,169 audience members.
- Offer creative learning and participation opportunities for 9,000 local people.
- Provide training for 11 Bristol-based emerging producers.
- Provide 5,028 opportunities for Young People aged 3 to 19 to create and perform theatre.
- Award 28 fully funded bursary places for workshop places.
- Issue 1,284 financial difficulty tickets and places for productions and workshops.
- Sell 17,838 tickets for children's theatre and family shows.
- Give 577 free 'Share the Story' tickets to young people who don't currently access theatre, removing the barriers that can make certain cultural events feel exclusive or unattractive.
- Introduce the TFTFiver - an offer of £5 tickets for 16 to 25 year-olds to enjoy productions at TFT. 317 tickets have been sold across 11 productions so far.



EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS' EVENTS



DIRECTOR'S TALK - Tuesday 16 January 2024, 6pm

Join Heidi Vaughan in her first Director's TALK at TFT. Hear her ambitions for Tobacco Factory Theatres to become a place of Welcome & Wonder and discover what is in the pipeline for 2024. This event is available to Champions, Patrons and Benefactors.

PRESS NIGHT - England & Son - Tuesday 17 October 2023, from 7pm

Opening our inaugural In The Round Season will be England & Son, a one-man play written specifically for the award-winning political comedian Mark Thomas by award-winning playwright Ed Edwards (The Political History of Smack and Crack, Paines Plough's Roundabout, Soho and UK tour). Join us for a pre-show drink on press night, a limited number of tickets will be made available to purchase on a special 2 for 1 members offer for all Champions, Patrons & Benefactors on a first come, first served basis.

DIRECTORS' LUNCH - Friday 20 October 2023, 12pm

Join CEO and Artistic Director, Heidi Vaughan, and Executive Director, David Dewhurst for lunch as they announce our exciting new Spring Season for 2024. Be the first to find out what we have planned for our stages early in the New Year. This event is available to Patrons and Benefactors. When booking your place with Aimée please remember to let her know of any dietary requirements.

BEHIND THE SCENES - TECHNICAL REHEARSAL - Oliver Twist

Monday 27 November 2023, 3.30pm-4.30pm

Come along to a rehearsal of our brand new production of Oliver Twist. See the cast navigate Adam Peck's script and stick around afterwards for a Q&A with members of the cast and creative team over some tea and snacks. This event is available to Champions, Patrons and Benefactors on a first come, first served basis.

PRESS NIGHT - Oliver Twist - Wednesday 6 December 2023, from 6pm

Attend the press night of Oliver Twist and enjoy a complimentary drink on arrival as theatre critics and friends of Tobacco Factory Theatres come together to enjoy the official opening of this year's Christmas production, Oliver Twist. A limited number of tickets will be made available for purchase for all memberships (Friend, Champion, Patron & Benefactors) on a first come, first served basis.

To book for any of the events listed above, please email Aimée Arscott:
aimee@tobaccofactorytheatres.com.