



ROSE THEATRE

AUTUMN 2026 - SPRING 2027
FREE

ENTERTAIN AUDIENCES

Explore the latest productions, live music, comedy, talks, and events at the Rose.

ELEVATE ARTISTS

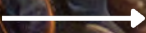
Meet the talented creatives who bring our productions to life on stage.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Opportunities through education, accessibility, and sustainability.

STAY ON THE ROSE

STEP INSIDE OUR STORY



Standing ovation at the *Our Town* press night. Photo: Csilla Horváth

JOHN

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LEWIS

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Two years after we first published *Spotlight on the Rose*, so much has happened. I've been energised by - and at times, am in awe of - the artists who've come to Kingston to create exciting new work and the audiences who have embraced bold productions, ranging from *Never Let Me Go* to *Emma* and, this past spring, *Our Town*. Collaborating with Michael Sheen and his team to bring the Welsh National Theatre's inaugural production to life was exciting for our team and audiences alike.

This coming season is one of our most ambitious yet, bringing audiences a hilarious new adaptation of the local classic *Three Men in a Boat*, a new staging of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and a new story based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

As you dive into this current issue, I hope you'll get more than a glimpse of what's planned and will appreciate the creativity and vision of the individuals who are going to make magic on our stage. We'd love to see you in the house not once or even twice but many times in the year ahead. I promise - you won't be disappointed.

Let's be entertained together.



Christopher Haydon
Artistic Director at Rose Theatre

Christopher Haydon in Rose Theatre.
Photo: Jayne Sanderson



CLICK THE QR CODE TO SEE
WHAT'S ON AT ROSE THEATRE

ROSE EVERYWHERE

We've had a breathtaking year at the Rose, entertaining audiences not only in Kingston but in theatres throughout the UK and around the world.

KINGSTON & NATIONAL TOURS

First presented in 2024, we welcomed the return of *The Boy At the Back of the Class*, our original production based on the bestselling book by **Onjali Q. Raúf**, in February. The production then toured the UK with our co-producers, Children's Theatre Partnership, and was seen by close to 50,000 young people and their families in 12 theatres across the UK, from Edinburgh to Cardiff, Bristol and London's Southbank Centre.

In March, the play was awarded the 2026 Olivier Award for Best Family Show, where Rose Theatre Artistic Director **Christopher Haydon** accepted the statuette on behalf of playwright **Nick Ahad**. It was a stunning way to celebrate the journey we've taken with this production since Executive Producer **David Sloan** first suggested we commission the stage adaptation during the pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Throughout 2025 and early 2026, *The Koala Who Could*, based on the bestselling illustrated children's book by **Rachel Bright** and **Jim Field** and first presented in Kingston in March 2024, toured internationally, delighting family audiences throughout the UK, Ireland, Singapore and Hong Kong. We co-produced this charming musical with Nicoll Entertainment, Curve, Mayflower Southampton and Unicorn Theatre, demonstrating the reach we can achieve with world-class producing partners.



Christopher Haydon and Monique Touko with Olivier Award. Photo: Charlie Flint



Marie and Rosetta at Rose Theatre. Photo: Marc Brenner.

WEST END

After co-producing the UK premiere of *Marie and Rosetta* with Chichester Festival Theatre in spring 2025, a production that celebrated the life and career of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the "Godmother of Rock 'n' Roll," we were thrilled to see it transfer to the West End the following spring. Olivier Award-winning actress **Beverley Knight** and emerging star **Ntombizodwa Ndlovu** reprised the roles they had originated on our stage, under the direction of award-winning director **Monique Touko**. Audiences at @sohoplace enjoyed an updated in-the-round staging of the production.

STREAMING

We co-produced Thornton Wilder's American classic *Our Town* with the Welsh National Theatre earlier this year. The production starred **Michael Sheen**, who founded the company to create English-language theatre for Welsh audiences, and opened in Swansea before touring across Wales. We welcomed the production to Kingston in late February, where it played to capacity audiences and was captured for streaming. If you missed live performances (or want to revisit this magical production), you can now watch it on National Theatre at Home.

All this to say - we are fortunate to call Kingston our home and are committed to entertaining audiences near and far.

CLICK THE QR CODE TO
STREAM OUR TOWN ON
NATIONAL THEATRE
AT HOME



Michael Sheen in *Our Town* at Rose Theatre. Photo: Helen Murray

The Koala Who Could at Rose Theatre. Photo: Pamela Raith

Drama

Comedy

THREE MEN IN A SONG

When Chris Haydon asked me aboard *Three Men in a Boat*, the conversation quickly turned to song. Al Smith's hilarious adaptation is shot through with vaudevillian panache: physical comedy routines, long runs of clever wordplay, a tangle of Himalayan contortionists... There is a sense that the three main characters are always performing - their own lives as much as anything else. Reading the script, it felt as though the footlights of the Edwardian music hall were only ever a few feet away. So when Chris asked if I thought the play could take a few songs, I immediately said, "Absolutely."

'SO WHEN CHRIS ASKED IF I THOUGHT THE PLAY COULD TAKE A FEW SONGS, I IMMEDIATELY SAID, ABSOLUTELY'

Fifteen years ago I wrote and performed the songs for Richard Bean's *One Man, Two Guv'nors* at the National Theatre - a play that had a similar variety-show spirit. In that production we used songs to help establish the period, to flesh out the world of skiffle player Francis Henshall (James Corden), and to introduce thematic ideas without advancing the plot. I assembled a four-piece band called The Craze, complete with sharp 60s suits, and we took to the stage before the show, during the interval and between each scene, performing original songs inspired by Lonnie Donegan, The Kinks and the Beatles, with a little of the Beverley Sisters thrown in for good measure.

CLICK FOR A DASH OF MISCHIEF



'ABOVE ALL, I HOPE THE SONGS PROVIDE THE PERFECT SOUNDTRACK FOR MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER'

The songs in *Three Men in a Boat* would have to do a slightly different job. This time, the three main characters would perform every song themselves. Each number has the flavour of a music hall turn, but with the lyrics carrying story as well as character.

I am fascinated by the kind of subtext that song can bring out. Not necessarily in the way Rogers and Hammerstein did so brilliantly in "If I Loved You", where the characters are denying what we know is in their hearts by publicly feigning disinterest, but in a more meta-theatrical way. What if the characters have just had a blazing row, yet find themselves singing about their enduring brotherhood through gritted teeth? What if, because of the mess the characters are in, they suddenly forget all the lyrics? What if the songs become another way of magnifying their frustrations, triumphs, and disasters?

For *Three Men in a Boat*, I've found the formal elegance of the Edwardian parlour song, together with the lyrical dexterity of music hall and light operetta, to be a wonderfully playful sandpit to romp around in. Above all, I hope the songs provide the perfect soundtrack for messing about on the river.

Grant Olding

Music & Lyrics, Orchestrations, Musical Direction and Sound Design, *Three Men in a Boat*.

SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL EVENTS

When I first started working at the Rose it was at stage door. I witnessed so many different productions come through, and the planning of those events and the buzziness of all that planning coming together was always really exciting to me.

I didn't think I was a natural organiser or planner, but since managing the Hires and Events department, it has become a core skill that I use regularly to handle the multitude of hires we host each year.

What I love most about our events is the variety we get, including graduations and prize givings, corporate conferences, performing arts concerts, festivals, and music gigs with our local record store, Banquet Records.

Each one is unique and requires a tailored approach. Georgie Devereaux, the Deputy Head of Production, and I have been working on hires together for around four years, and we have honed a formula that guides both us and the client through the planning stages. It shapes each event down to the last detail while allowing each event to have its own shape and life, keeping them fresh and exciting, but ensuring nothing is missed.

We deliver graduation ceremonies for Kingston University, London twice a year. Despite being such a regular event, they always manage to bring something new. I love that we help create an occasion for these (literally thousands of) shiny new adults that celebrates all their hard work and sends them out into the world in their high heels and smart suits.

Rose Theatre Auditorium. Photo: Rachael Lowndes

I especially adore all the music concerts, literature festivals, and prize givings for young people that we host. There's always a lot of work in the run-up, and sometimes all that admin and preparation can detract from the final event, so I make a point of going in to watch some of them. It makes all that work worthwhile, seeing how joyful they are and recognising how important it is to get young people into theatre, whether they are performing on stage, receiving a prize, or watching a show created for them.

Hannah Edwards

Front of House and Events Manager at Rose Theatre

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Discover our beautiful,
versatile event spaces.

Click the QR code
to find your ideal venue.



THE BRAVERY TO WANT MORE

Drama

I find *Jane Eyre* incredibly provoking; there's something inescapably infectious about Jane; we watch this little figure consistently refusing to be anything other than herself, despite huge pressures on all sides to do differently. Jane feels things so strongly and refuses to conceal or suppress who she is, what she thinks, or how she feels. That's what moves me most strongly in Jane's story: the scale and velocity of her internal world, and the way she insists on treading her own path, in spite of her fear. It's a constant battle to do so, but there is huge freedom in her victory.

'THERE IS HUGE FREEDOM IN HER VICTORY'

So maybe one lesson in the novel, and the play, is that courage is liberation. Fear can cause great cruelty, but courage can also open the way to a huge, expansive world! And I suppose that's what I'd like audiences to take from the show; that we all could probably do with being a little braver at times, a little bolder, in pursuit of what we want. This doesn't mean acting without

but in spite of it - having the courage to live the lives we know we're worthy of, and to stand up for the worlds we truly believe in.

'COURAGE CAN ALSO OPEN THE WAY TO AN EXPANSIVE WORLD!'

A career in the arts can be a bit like this! So I hope the show makes it clear to audiences at the Rose that this is what the team - cast and creatives - are trying to do. We'll try to bring the scale and velocity of Jane's internal world to Rose's amazing auditorium, and be as bold and daring as we can along the way. I'm grateful to **Christopher Haydon** for always insisting that we make the show that's most exciting for the audience, even if it feels like a risk. This project is reminding me that those leaps are worth taking - and giving me glimpses of the worlds on the other side.

Lily Dyble

Director of Jane Eyre.



Lily Dyble accepting the 2025 RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award. Photo: Royal Theatrical Support Trust (RTST)

A FAMILY ADVENTURE

BRIMMING WITH LAUGHTER, HEART AND MUSIC

I am so passionate about Christmas shows! I think they're the absolute life-blood of theatre in this country. I just find it so extraordinary that there's this moment in the year when literally millions of people - from Kingston upon Thames to Kingston upon Hull - stick silly jumpers on, buy Bucks Fizz and Brussel sprouts, and get their whole families tickets to the theatre. It's what we do, and to be involved in making those shows is an honour, but also a big responsibility.

'I AM SO PASSIONATE ABOUT CHRISTMAS SHOWS!'

Lots of children sitting in the audience for *The Wind in the Willows* might be seeing their very first play - how exciting is that! And many other people only go into theatres at Christmas time. So for those of us lucky enough to work making shows, we all know that this is the time of year, more than any other, when we simply have to give people a brilliant time. I know that sounds a bit simplistic, but it's true: if we manage to do that, we're helping to grow and sustain people's love of theatre, we're encouraging people to watch different kinds of live performance through the year, and who knows, one of those children sat watching their first ever show might be a future Judi Dench.

'WE SIMPLY HAVE TO GIVE PEOPLE A BRILLIANT TIME'

And speaking of the wonderful Judi D, I was very lucky that the first time I ever saw a show at the Rose was seeing her, playing Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* back in 2010, when my sister-in-law was studying art nearby.



John Biddle. Photo provided by John Biddle.

Then more recently, I got to know the theatre from the other side when I did the music and sound for *Lord of the Flies*.

Now it's an absolute treat to be working on something a little less dystopian: this gorgeous story of friendship between a mole, a toad, a rat and a badger, for the seasonal magic of a Kingston Christmas!

I can honestly say that, working together on this new version of the story, **Rob Evans** (the writer) and I have been moved to tears, and laughed till we cried some more. I think in some ways the story has crept up on me.

'GORGEOUS STORY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A MOLE, A TOAD, A RAT AND A BADGER'

I had the book as a kid, with the wonderful scrawly, characterful illustrations by E.H. Shepard, and I remembered the warmth and cosiness of that riverbank world. Although, I'd slightly forgotten all the twists and turns of the story, whether it's Toad and his reckless driving, or the weasels and stoats overrunning the Hall.



Family

It's given me an absolute treasure trove to work with as a composer. With everything from beautiful tender moments of emotion, to big bombastic action sequences, and even (in our version) the sound of the distant icy north bringing a frosty, Scandi feel to the gathering of the weasels!

I can't wait to bring it all together with our incredible adult and children's cast, the dream production team of the Rose, and most important of all: the good people of Kingston.

John Biddle

Composer and Co-Lyricist, *The Wind in the Willows*

The Wind in the Willows artwork. Designed by MUSE Creative

CLICK THE QR CODE FOR MORE ON THE MUSIC OF THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS



THE MONSTER RUNS AMOK

In my creative process, what I'm always trying to do is take an idea or a story from a long time ago and make it live today. So, I'm looking to create a production that feels like it couldn't have been made ten years ago, let alone two hundred years ago, but also a show that truly honours the interest and magic of the original story. This is no different with this new version of *Frankenstein*.

Mary Shelley's famous story goes to the heart of our fears about the future and technology. I've watched a lot of the many film adaptations of *Frankenstein*, and it's so interesting how much they reflect the anxieties, fears or hopes that people have at the time they were made.

'THERE ARE STILL TECHNOLOGIES THAT ARE COMPLETELY TERRIFYING TO US'

It's a story that's now two centuries old, but it still feels incredibly pertinent to the new technologies that we're discovering today. But obviously the future looked very different in the early 1800s when Shelley wrote the novel. The scientific advances that seemed scary to her then, like electricity for example, are everyday to us now. But there are still these technologies that are completely terrifying to us, from the nuclear bomb to artificial intelligence. So, I set out to find a way that I could follow the arc of Shelley's story, but also, bring the story into the 21st century.

'THOSE ELEMENTS ARE MYTHIC AND ALMOST COSMIC'

Since Shelley first wrote her extraordinary novel, the story has itself become a *Frankenstein's monster* that people can cut up and reassemble in different ways. A scientist creates a monster; the monster runs amok. If you've got that structure, you know it's *Frankenstein*. In the novel, the first act is his discovery of how to make the monster. The second act is the monster working out that he is a monster, he's trying to connect to people, but they reject him. The third act is the monster's reckoning with his creator. I think those elements are mythic and almost cosmic.

Placing this core narrative alongside different fears through history, my new adaptation starts in the near future, the 2030s, and then it goes back in time to the 1950s, finally going back in time again to the end of the 18th century, where Shelley set her novel. We meet a scientist, in each of those times, and we also meet a monster.

One thing that's really fun is that over the three different time periods, each of the three actors plays a monster. I'm really leaning into that idea that depending on your perspective, depending on whether you're inside someone's head or on the outside, everyone is a monster and everyone is a human.

Jeff James

Writer & Director of Frankenstein



WHAT'S ON

ROSE PRODUCTIONS

CLICK TO BOOK



THREE MEN IN A BOAT

18 SEPTEMBER - 10 OCTOBER 2026

Rose Theatre presents

A riotous new comedy by **Al Smith**
With original songs by **Grant Olding**
Based on the novel by Jerome K. Jerome
Directed by **Christopher Haydon**

Jerome, George and Harris are lifelong pals. So what could possibly go wrong as they set out on a carefree boat trip up the Thames - from leafy Kingston to Oxford's dreaming spires? This is a rollicking story of three men, one boat and three dozen angry swans.

Age guidance: 12+

Supported by Kingston University

Kingston
University
London



JANE EYRE

13 - 24 OCTOBER 2026

A Rose Theatre, Mercury Theatre Colchester, and Storyhouse Chester production in association with Northern Stage and supported by a grant from The Royal Theatrical Support Trust

Directed by 2025 RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award-winner **Lily Dyble**

Based on **Sally Cookson, Mike Akers** and the **original company's** adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's novel

Orphaned as a young girl, the passionate and sensitive Jane longs to escape the clutches of her cruel aunt. Freedom beckons when she is offered the job of a governess in the house of the brooding and secretive Mr Rochester.

Age guidance: 12+



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

25 NOVEMBER 2026 - 3 JANUARY 2027

A Rose Theatre production

A play by **Rob Evans**

Music by **John Biddle**

Based on the novel by **Kenneth Grahame**

Directed by **Owen Horsley**

Get cosy, gather round the tree and listen to Mole's tale - of how four friends saved not only the Wild Wood, but Christmas itself. So start your engines Kingston, head to the River Bank for Christmas 2026, poop-poop!

Age guidance: 4+

Supported by Bentall Centre Kingston

BENTALL
CENTRE
KINGSTON

FRANKENSTEIN

16 APRIL - 8 MAY 2027

A Rose Theatre and Leeds Playhouse production

Written & Directed by **Jeff James**

After **Mary Shelley**

Ever since its publication over two centuries ago, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has captivated readers. As science advances, it is a story that becomes ever more relevant. *Frankenstein* is a warning from the past about the perils of the future.

It's a story that challenges us to consider whether we now live in the future that Mary Shelley foresaw, or whether those horrors are still yet to come.

Age guidance: 12+



COMEDY



LIVE AT THE ROSE

5 SEPTEMBER 2026 & 30 JANUARY 2027

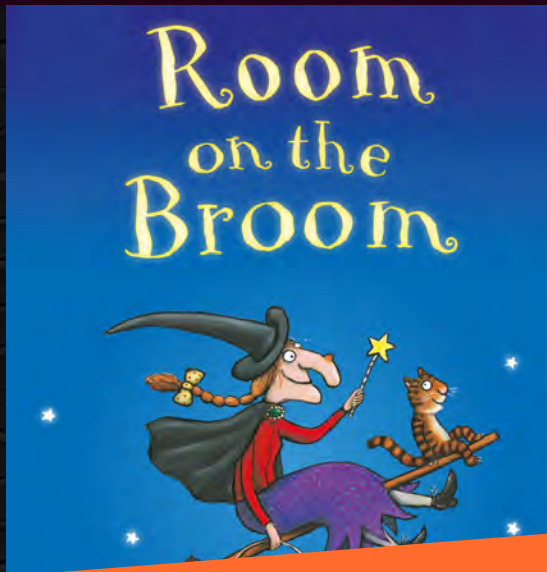
Live at the Rose is back with a brand-new line-up of top-tier comedy!

Headlining the night live at the Rose is internationally acclaimed stand-up star **Lou Sanders**. She is joined by an outstanding supporting cast: **Eshaan Akbar**, **Jeff Innocent**, and **Eli Hart**.

Live at the Rose returns in 2027 with an unforgettable evening of comedy headlined by comic, actor, presenter, and master impressionist **Rory Bremner**. Joining Rory is a stellar supporting line-up: **Stephen Bailey**, **Finlay Christie**, and **Samira Banks**.

Age guidance: 16+

FAMILY



ROOM ON THE BROOM

27 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Jump on board the broom with the witch and her cat in Tall Stories' fun-filled adaptation of *Room on the Broom*, the much-loved picture book by **Julia Donaldson** and **Axel Scheffler**.

Will there ever be room on the broom for the witch and her four passengers? Find out in the magical Olivier Award-nominated show for audiences aged 3 and up.

Age guidance: 3+

TALKS



TIM PEAKE: ASTRONAUTS THE QUEST TO EXPLORE SPACE

4 OCTOBER 2026

Up until now, **Tim Peake** has brought his own incredible journey to life through unparalleled storytelling and extraordinary archive footage. In this new show, Tim will share the remarkable stories of some of his fellow astronauts and explore the spectacular evolution of space travel.

Age guidance: All ages welcome

MUSIC



THE UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE

8 JANUARY 2027

In 2027, the UK Pink Floyd Experience celebrates the 50th anniversary of *Animals* with a landmark tour honouring one of the band's most powerful and enduring albums. Audiences will experience a complete live performance of *Animals*, delivered with the precision, atmosphere, and sonic detail that have made this production a favourite with fans across the UK.

Age guidance: All ages welcome



CLICK FOR MORE COMEDY



CLICK FOR MORE FAMILY



CLICK FOR MORE TALKS



CLICK FOR MORE MUSIC

BOOK EARLY, BOOK OFTEN

Our memberships are designed to give an option to everyone who wants to come and enjoy a show at the Rose. Not only are they a fantastic way to show your support for the theatre, but they also come with a variety of offers that make them a worthwhile purchase for any Kingston resident.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

This membership has it all, from brilliant discounts to presale access on Rose Theatre productions. This is the best way to access our artistic programme.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Our Family membership reflects the growth of children's productions we are proud to present, many of which we have had a hand in producing and that now tour the country. This tailored membership provides discounts on select family shows, our annual family Christmas production and selected Rose Participate courses.

30 & UNDER MEMBERSHIP

Our 30 & Under membership is practically gold dust for students and young people looking for easy access to see more theatre. With £5 tickets on offer for our Rose Productions, you should make sure anyone you know who is lucky enough to be 30 or under takes advantage of this rare and lucrative offering.

A great benefit of all our memberships is the 15% discount in the Rose Bar and Cafe. Whether it's for that pre-theatre experience or simply a relaxed daytime drop-in, the discount is there for you to indulge in.

Beyond the Rose, you can use any of our memberships to access exclusive discounts across the town, including, at the time of writing, discounts with **Fenwick, Prezzo Italian, Waterstones** and many more!

Head to our website to see all of the fantastic offers available in these three memberships; you never know, maybe this was the theatre deal you'd been waiting for.

Brett Foulser Bishop

Head of Marketing & Ticketing at Rose Theatre



**CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIPS**



YOUR CREATIVE SPACE

In the heart of Kingston, the Rose Cafe has quietly become much more than somewhere to grab a coffee. It has evolved into a vibrant community hub where creativity, conversation and connection flourish every day.

Whether you're meeting friends, catching up with family, studying, or working remotely, the Rose Cafe offers a warm welcome and an inspiring environment.

COMMUNITY

Recent months have seen a growing programme of free community activities attracting visitors of all ages. Board game days have proved especially popular. They bring together families and friendship groups around tables filled with laughter and friendly competition. Passionate about bringing people together, committed gamers Shakes & Ladders bring board game day to the Rose Cafe. Hundreds of games are available to play free of charge, creating a unique experience that encourages people to put down their phones and enjoy time together. Drop by to revisit old favourites or discover something new.

FREE MUSIC

Music lovers have also embraced our free lunchtime jazz sessions, which provide the perfect soundtrack to a relaxed lunch break or mid-morning coffee. These informal performances bring many talented Kingston-

based musicians and appreciative audiences together, adding a touch of creativity and culture to the everyday.

CREATE & COLLABORATE

Alongside these events, the Rose Cafe has become an alternative workspace for students, freelancers and remote workers. With a variety of comfortable seating, excellent refreshments, and a welcoming atmosphere, it offers an ideal setting to focus, study, write, create, or collaborate. Join a mindful art workshop, listen to our local community choir, or take a seat at our Chatty Cafe 'Chatty Table' and make new friendships.

The cafe's success reflects Kingston's appetite for spaces that bring people together. It is a place where ideas are shared, friendships are formed and the arts are part of daily life. Everyone is welcome at the Rose. Come and join us!

As the Rose Cafe continues to grow from strength to strength, we invite everyone to make it their own. Come for a coffee, stay for a game, enjoy some live music, meet friends, study, work or simply relax.

The Rose Cafe is your creative space.

Lesley Rowden

Head of Operations at Rose Theatre



The Cafe Jazz Band performing in the Rose Cafe. Photo: Paul Stead
Rose Bar & Cafe. Photo: Csilla Horváth

**CLICK TO EXPLORE
EVENTS IN OUR CAFE**



THE POWER OF YOUTH THEATRE

ROSE YOUTH THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS

Working as producer for Rose Participate means I get to see all of our shows come to life, from our first production meeting to the final bow. The variety of work, and the hundreds of young people I've gotten to meet, are the joy of the job.

Each year, we create six different productions with Rose Young Company groups, but that only scratches the surface. Within each project, every show is different, with each director bringing their own creative interpretation of the text. This is encapsulated during show weeks.

Whilst I may see the same script multiple times the young company makes each performance a unique experience. From Juniors stepping on stage for the very first time, to Lower Seniors creating their own work and characters, and Upper Seniors developing the nuance and maturity needed for the professional stage.

Youth theatre gave me amazing opportunities, the best friends, and space to be silly in my teenage years (when the burdens of exams and growing up can feel so daunting). Now I get to watch as our students experience that for themselves, and it's an honour.

The Baskerville Hound by **Nicole Burley**. An adaptation set in the 1980s, with our young company dancing to 80s music (which most of them hadn't heard before).

Dracula by **Josh Mathieson**. Our Upper Seniors created a slick ensemble with a focus on movement.



Dracula. Photo: Csilla Horváth.

Swallows and Amazons by **Josh Mathieson**. Our directors and cast rose to the challenge of sailing, with no physical boats!



Swallows and Amazons. Photo: Csilla Horváth

Echoes of Agatha by **Lucy Dennis-Morrell**. Four unique devised pieces created together that started from one idea. This is what youth theatre is all about.

Education, Education, Education by **The Wardrobe Ensemble**.

The Gallery transformed into a 90s classroom, with added Easter eggs from the actors made along the way.

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare. This outdoor production always brings joy, especially when the sun stays shining!



Much Ado About Nothing. Photo: Csilla Horváth.

Charli Weston
Participate Production Coordinator at Rose Theatre



OPENING THE DOOR TO THEATRE

Every child deserves the chance to experience the magic of live theatre.

Rose Routes is our fully funded inclusion initiative dedicated to ensuring that young people, regardless of their financial circumstances, can access inspiring theatrical experiences. Over the past few years, we have built strong relationships with educators and schools across South West London and beyond, creating opportunities for thousands of young people to discover the transformative power of the arts.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, more than 3,000 young people attended our productions free of charge last year. For many, it was their very first visit to a theatre.

From the excitement of *Cinderella* to the powerful storytelling of *The Boy at the Back of the Class* and the humour of *Emma*, these productions sparked imagination, built confidence, and created lasting memories.

This year, we aim to reach an additional 1,500 young people, expanding access to theatre for those who might otherwise miss out. Alongside free tickets, we have delivered 10 fully funded workshops and backstage tours, giving students and teachers unique insights into the creative world behind the curtain.

Rose Routes is a programme that I have wanted to develop since joining the Rose in 2019. I am incredibly proud of what our team has achieved in creating and growing this vital initiative, helping thousands of young people access theatre for the first time. I am excited to see the programme continue to grow, reaching even more young people in the years ahead.

The impact is clear:

"THE MAJORITY OF THE CHILDREN HAD NOT BEEN TO A THEATRE BEFORE AND IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THEIR FACES LIGHT UP AS THEY WALKED INTO THE AUDITORIUM"

— Primary School Teacher

With regular support, we can continue to remove barriers, inspire young minds, and ensure that even more young people experience the joy, creativity, confidence, and sense of belonging that theatre can bring.

Lucy Dennis-Morrell

Head of Learning and Participation at Rose Theatre

CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Theatre is a fast-paced, constant engine, active and open most days of the year. It is vital to keep it running and operational, all while understanding and incorporating sustainability values and ensuring the work we do is as green as possible.

In March 2026, with support from GreenMark and Kingston Council, the Rose achieved GreenMark Level 1. GreenMark is a sustainability accreditation that helps organisations develop environmental policies which will result in meaningful impact. As a member of the Rose's Green Team, I was delighted to work with GreenMark directly. With their help, we were able to identify areas in which the Rose excelled as well as where there was room for improvement.

Achieving GreenMark Level 1 is just the start of our green journey. We also aim to achieve the Basic Standard of the Theatre Green Book, an industry-wide initiative in response to the climate crisis, by the end of the year. To be successful, we must reuse at least 50% of stage sets across all of our productions. We have already taken many steps in implementing greener building operations and have created a sustainability plan, so we are well on course to reaching this goal.

I am honoured to be leading the way with some of this work, as navigating a path to sustainability is so crucial. When I began working with GreenMark, I was nervous that we would be expected to make huge, potentially unobtainable changes. However, I came to realise that it's the small things, from using the right waste bins to scheduling our building system correctly, which help minimise our emissions and result in a positive impact. In time, these small changes will naturally lead to bigger ones, and we will be one step closer to our ultimate goal of net zero.

Lap Yau

Front of House and Operations Supervisor at Rose Theatre

Lap Yau in the Rose Cafe. Photo: Sarah Heather



Young adults in the auditorium. Photo: Simon Thompson

CLICK THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY FOR THE ROSE ROUTES SCHEME



THE THINGS YOU NEVER SEE

Every theatre tells stories. Some unfold on stage, while others happen quietly behind-the-scenes. When everything is working perfectly, you never think about how it all happens. You don't notice the lighting system illuminating an actor, the sound equipment carrying words to the back row.

For nearly two decades, the Rose has been quietly doing just that. Since opening in 2008, this building has welcomed an estimated 2.5 million+ audience members, nurtured one of the UK's largest venue-based Youth Theatres, and produced work that has gone on to tour internationally and transferred to the West End (not to mention winning an Olivier Award). While the stories on our stage continue to evolve, our building is beginning to show its age.

For almost twenty years, the Rose has faithfully served our community.

Now, it needs our community to look after it. The Next Act capital campaign aims to raise £500,000 over three years to safeguard essential infrastructure. Grants from the **Christina Smith Foundation** and the **Backstage Trust** have allowed us to begin this work, replacing our failing houselights system this summer and a grant from the **Greenslade Family Foundation** towards our broken PA system.

When you invest in the Rose, you're not simply helping us replace lights or sound equipment. You're investing in every young person discovering theatre for the first time, every artist finding their voice, and every audience member who walks through our doors.

Sarah Ruff,
Development Director at Rose Theatre

"I URGE YOU TO JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING THE ROSE. YOUR GENEROSITY WILL HELP EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION, GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A STAGE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND LEARN THE VALUE OF CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION"
DAME JUDI DENCH



Dame Judi Dench in A Midsummer Night's Dream at Rose Theatre. Photo: Nobby Clark

JOIN US IN THE CIRCLE

Please consider supporting Rose Theatre. You'll help transform lives through the power of theatre. Together, we're creating a welcoming space where everyone in our community can take part, have fun, and learn.

Those who want to make an even bigger impact can join our Rose Circle from £50 per month, becoming part of a special community of supporters and enjoying exclusive behind-the-scenes access and benefits.

**PRESS
NIGHT
TICKETS**

**SUPPER
EVENINGS**

**MEET
THE
CAST**

**ADOPT
A SEAT**

VIP LINE

**SUPPER
EVENINGS**

**SIGNED
PLAY
SCRIPTS**

**LAST
MINUTE
SEATS**

(Kingston Theatre Trust is a registered charity, Charity Number 1000182)



Michael Sheen with young children at Rose Theatre's Our Town Gala Event.
Photo: Andy Sillett

**CLICK THE QR CODE TO FIND
OUT MORE ABOUT HOW
YOU CAN SUPPORT US**

Or contact Sarah Ruff
at sarah.ruff@rosetheatre.org



THE FINAL BOW IS NEVER THE END

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Help ensure future generations continue to discover theatre, creativity and community. We need your support for:

- Bursaries, learning and participation for children in need.

- The maintenance of our building.

- Ensuring our world class theatre productions are inclusive and accessible to all.

For a confidential conversation about leaving a legacy gift and the related benefits, please contact Sarah Ruff at sarah.ruff@rosetheatre.org. If you have already made a gift in your will, please be in touch as we would love to celebrate you and your legacy.

Legacy gifts may offer inheritance tax benefits depending on your individual circumstances. We recommend seeking independent legal and financial advice.



NAME A SEAT

Whether marking a special anniversary or remembering someone who shared your passion for theatre, a personalised plaque on one of our auditorium seats creates a permanent connection with the Rose. Every performance becomes part of their story.



Name plaque on seat in auditorium. Photo: Georgia Chambers.

'After Stephen died, our three adult children and I thought an engraved seat plaque a lovely tribute. The engraving we chose was a quote by Alexander Pope, a famous 19th century poet who was also local to the area. It reads "Act well your part, there all honour lies." Stephen, although an excellent husband and father, was not at all sentimental. He was logical and didn't suffer fools gladly! He believed that success was measured by how you fulfilled your life's duties rather than from wealth or status. The quote sums up well how he lived his life. We think of him every time we book that seat.' **Kim Bailey, Rose Supporter.**

To find our more contact kate.harland@rosetheatre.org (Name a Seat donors receive a complimentary Silver Rose Circle Membership for one year).

ACCESSIBILITY AT OUR VENUE AND PERFORMANCES

The Rose Theatre is at the centre of a thriving and diverse community in Kingston with so many wonderful activities to get involved in – from seeing a show, taking part in a course or enjoying a coffee in our cafe! Everyone belongs at the Rose and we're committed to make sure we're an accessible and inclusive space for all to enjoy.

To make sure that everyone has a great night out at the theatre, we offer a range of adapted performances. These include: audio described, captioned, BSL and relaxed performances.

Following a hugely successful fundraising campaign to support our access work, we're delighted to be offering even more! We're now offering relaxed performances for our Rose productions, with the first date scheduled for *Three Men in a Boat* in September. Grab your tickets while you can!

If you're visiting the theatre, you can expect a warm welcome from our front of house team. You'll find low counters at the box office and bar, lift access to all floors and accessible toilets on each level. We have a designated access bay in our auditorium for wheelchair users, with the option to transition to a seat, should you need it. If you're interested in joining a Rose Youth Theatre or Participate course, our team is on hand to discuss any support you might require. Check out our new access video for an insight into everything we have on offer!

Young adults taking part in a Rose Youth Theatre course. Photo: Csilla Horváth

Connecting with our local community is one of the best parts of my job and it's been a pleasure to meet staff from local charities and schools at our Access events. These are a great way to chat about all of the opportunities at the Rose. Previous events have included tours of the auditorium, and a fascinating insight into how captioned performances work. Most importantly, it's been invaluable to hear first hand about the challenges that some of our patrons face accessing live theatre, and how we can make adaptations to support our local community.

I'm really excited to build on all of the positive connections we've made, so more people can feel like the Rose Theatre is a place where they belong.

Sarah Chipperfield

Schools & Access Manager at Rose Theatre



CLICK TO WATCH
OUR ACCESS VIDEO



MORE INFORMATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

Online

The easiest way to book is via our website rosetheatre.org. Simply select What's On in our navigation bar and select the production you wish to buy tickets for.

Phone

Call our Box Office on 020 8174 0090
Calls cost 5.1p a minute from a BT landline, mobiles may vary.

Lines open Monday to Saturday,
10am - 6pm.

In Person

Visit our Box Office in the Rose main foyer.

Box Office opening hours:

Monday to Saturday, 12pm-4pm
and reopens at 6pm for an evening
performance (performance days), 12pm-
4pm (non-performance days) and Sunday

at least 1 hour prior to performance start
(closed if no performance).

ACCESS PERFORMANCES

Across our season of productions, we aim to offer a wide range of accessible performances to ensure an enjoyable experience for all our customers. We host Audio Described, Captioned and British Sign Language Interpreted Performances. Additionally, we often offer Touch Tours of the set and props preceding the performances for Visually Impaired customers. We also offer Relaxed Performances – open to everyone and specifically adapted for people with learning disabilities and other sensory and communication needs.

HOW TO GET TO THE ROSE

Rose Theatre
24-26 High Street
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 1HL

Where possible, we encourage visitors to use public transport and consider the environment before travelling; we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and increasing environmental sustainability at every opportunity.

ON FOOT

We are opposite the Guildhall and Kingston Police Station, a one-minute walk from Kingston Historic Market. For the best walking directions, visit walkit.com.

BY BICYCLE

The nearest bicycle stands to the Rose are outside Oxfam (opposite the theatre or in Kingston Historic Market).

BY BUS

The following routes serve the town centre: K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, X26, 57, 65, 71, 85, 111, 131, 213, 216, 281, 285, 371, 406, 411, 418, 465, 481.

Please note travel information is subject to change. Please check with the service provider before you travel.

BY TRAIN

Kingston station: South Western Railway, 28 mins from Waterloo, then a 10-minute stroll through Kingston town centre to the theatre (directions available from walkit.com).

Surbiton Station: South Western Railway, 16 mins from Waterloo, then a 10-minute

bus ride (465, 281, 71, K2, K3 from outside Waitrose, bus stop NC) or a short taxi ride to the theatre.

BY CAR

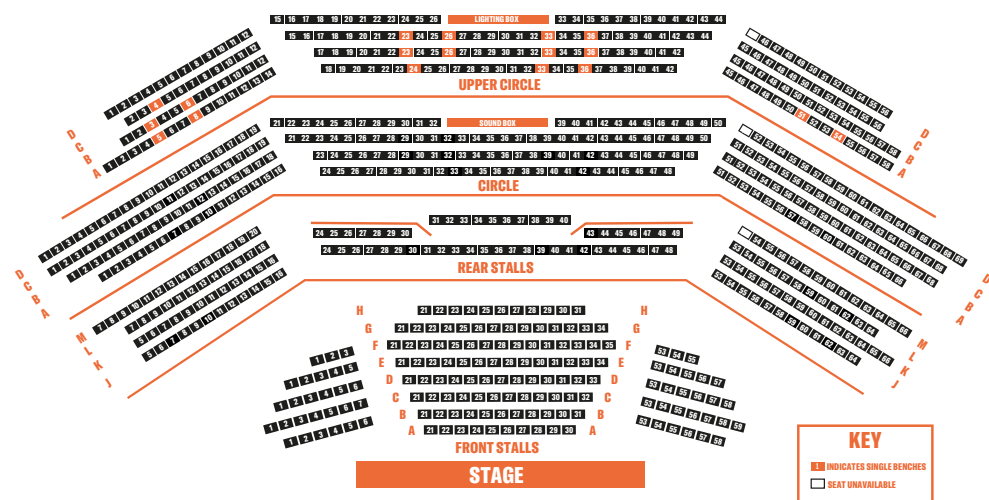
The nearest parking is the Rose Car Park, the entrance to which is on East Lane (KT1 2NN).

Thanks to Kingston Council we are now able to offer a 50% discount on parking rates for our matinee and evening audiences parking in the Rose Car Park. This discount is applicable for up to five hours parking and is only available when the car park is entered after 1pm.

We can validate your car park ticket at the Box Office pre-show, or alternatively have it ready for our staff to validate as you leave the theatre. In a change to the previous system, Rose staff will validate your parking ticket and you will then be charged the discounted rate at the payment machine in the car park. Please pay before leaving the car park.

The Rose Car Park is often particularly busy prior to performances. Please build enough time into your journey to allow for parking at busy times.

ROSE THEATRE FULL AUDITORIUM PLAN



CLICK THE QR CODE FOR
MORE ABOUT HOW TO
GET TO THE ROSE



FAQS

At what age do I need to buy a ticket for my child?

It is the theatre's policy that anyone under the age of 18 months does not need their own ticket and is welcome to be a babe in arms and to sit on your lap for the performance.

What are the age restrictions within the Rose Theatre auditorium?

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by someone over the age of 16 while in the auditorium.

What age constitutes a child concession?

Anyone 17 and under qualifies for a child concession.

Does the Rose have a car park?

The nearest parking is the Rose Car Park, the entrance to which is on East Lane (KT1 2NN). For more information on discounted parking rates, please refer to the previous page.

Does the Rose have booster seats available for my child?

The Rose has a very limited supply of booster seats, which are handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please speak to our ushers on the doors to the auditorium. For children under 3ft we recommend you bring your own booster/cushion.

How far is the theatre from Kingston station?

The theatre is approximately 10 minutes walk through the town centre.

Do I need to print my tickets?

No, as long as you have access to your e-tickets on your mobile phone. These can be found as a PDF in the email sent when you purchased them, or via the text link you will receive a few hours before the show.

How can I pre-order refreshments for a show?

You can now pre-order your drinks, ice creams, and more with your tickets via our crowdEngage service. You will be sent a text a few hours before the show and this will enable you to purchase these.

Do we have a brochure?

All our programming and events are available online. At the Box Office we have a selection of individual flyers for upcoming productions.

Can I hire the venue?

Yes, we have five spaces available to hire, including the main auditorium and Rose Cafe. For more information on each space and to hire us for your next event, simply email hires@rosetheatre.org.

SPOTLIGHT AUTUMN 2026 / SPRING 2027

Designed by **Sarah Heather**, Editors **Chris Sharrock** and **Georgia Chambers**, Marketing Director **Alex Chisholm**, Head of Marketing & Ticketing **Brett Foulser-Bishop** and Development Manager (Trusts & Corporates) **Georgina Cox-Munn**. Contributors John Biddle, John Bond, Sarah Chipperfield, Alex Chisholm, Lucy Dennis-Morrell, Lily Dyble, Hannah Edwards, Brett Foulser Bishop, Kate Harland, Christopher Haydon, Jeff James, Grant Olding, Lesley Rowden, Sarah Ruff, Charli Weston and Lap Yau.

THIS FEELS LIKE STAYING LONGER

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
9:30AM - 7PM

THURSDAY
9:30AM - 8PM

SATURDAY
9AM - 7PM

SUNDAY
11AM - 5PM

BENTALLCENTRE.CO.UK

BENTALL CENTRE
KINGSTON



AT A GLANCE

THREE MEN IN A BOAT

18 September - 10 October 2026

JANE EYRE

13 - 24 October 2026

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

25 November 2026 - 3 January 2027

FRANKENSTEIN

16 April - 8 May 2027

**WITH COMEDY, MUSIC, TALKS, FAMILY SHOWS, AND
MORE ALL YEAR ROUND!**

rosetheatre.org
020 8174 0090

Kingston Theatre Trust
is a registered charity
(charity number 1000182)



**CLICK THE QR CODE TO VISIT US
ONLINE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
DETAILS OF WHAT'S ON**