

# ABBNEY THEATRE ST ALBANS

*The Weekend*

*Nine*

*Constellations*

*Hauntings*

*Parfumerie*

*Wind / Rush Generation(s)*

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
and more*

# SEPTEMBER 2023- JANUARY 2024



Comedy, Drama, Music  
& Storytelling

**Box Office:** 01727 857861  
[www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk)

Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill,  
St Albans AL1 2DL

# Weekends, Wooing, Wardrobes and Windrush

Welcome to the new season at the Abbey Theatre. We've a great programme of comedy, drama, music and mystery coming up – something for everyone.

Join us on Saturday 2 September for our **Open Day** and take a sneak peek behind the scenes of our amazing theatre. You may even catch a glimpse of a rehearsal for the season's first production by our resident Company of Ten. Called **The Weekend**, the show is a comedy by national treasure Michael Palin of Monty Python and travelogue fame.

Then, two very different but equally intriguing plays about love. **Constellations** by Nick Payne is an observation of the infinite possibilities in one couple's relationship. **Parfumerie** by E. P. Dowdall is a heart-warming tale played against the backdrop of a 1930s perfume shop. The inspiration for hit romcom *You've Got Mail*, it's the perfect pre-Christmas treat.

Our December family classic, **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** will delight the whole family. The Pevensie children take us on an adventure to Narnia – but will the majestic lion Aslan triumph over the evil White Witch?

In January, we venture into the world of Dungeons & Dragons with **She Kills Monsters** by Qui Nguyen, a fantasy adventure with cult status in the States among youth companies.

We're looking forward to taking part in Black History Month this year. Our youth production of **Wind / Rush Generation(s)** by Mojisola Adebayo will commemorate the 75th anniversary of HMT Empire Windrush.

In addition to our Company of Ten productions we welcome a varied programme of other events, many by returning talents. Donna Borg will once again exhibit her paintings as part of **Herts Open Studios**, with live



demonstrations and a workshop. Following the success of their Sondheim revue, Ever After Productions returns with **Nine** by Maury Yeston, a compact musical based on the Fellini film *8½*. Gerard Logan brings his one-man show, **Hauntings** – three thrilling ghost stories presented in the intimate atmosphere of our Studio, including a spine-tingling late-night performance, and in November, **The Femmes** return with their festive concert of close-harmony favourites.

We're also hosting the first ever **TEDx** conference to be held in St Albans. It'll be based around the captivating topic of Connection and it promises to be a chance to enjoy meaningful conversations that leave you feeling energised and motivated.

With so much happening here, why not think about joining our **Abbey Theatre Friends** scheme? It offers a members' discount on two tickets for each in-house production. Or if you'd like to get more involved, either onstage, backstage, or front of house, maybe **Company of Ten** membership is for you. You'll find new interests, learn new skills and make new friends here – what's not to love?





## SEPTEMBER OPEN DAY

COMPANY OF TEN

The Abbey Theatre will be opening its doors to welcome everyone at the start of the new season. Take a tour of the venue, find out about what we do and how you could get involved in the fun. There will be workshops and demonstrations, the bar will be open and refreshments will be on sale.

2 Sep 2023, 10am-4pm



## OCTOBER CONSTELLATIONS

By Nick Payne  
COMPANY OF TEN

This intimate two-hander about life, love and friendship follows the relationship of Roland and Marianne from a chance meeting at a barbeque through all its infinite possibilities across the multiverse. He's a beekeeper, she's a physicist with a poet's soul. At every point, with every choice, different futures open up for them in this witty romance where timing means everything – and nothing.

6–14 Oct 2023, 8pm  
Sunday matinée 8 Oct,  
2.30pm  
Booking opens 1 Jul 2023  
Studio



## SEPTEMBER DONNA BORG EXHIBITION

HERTS OPEN STUDIOS

Local artist, Donna Borg, will be exhibiting again as part of Herts Open Studios. She specialises in portraits, still life and landscapes of St Albans and beyond. Originals of her work and limited-edition prints will be on sale. The exhibition is free to attend, with demonstrations at some sessions, see times below. Donna will also run a drawing and painting workshop on Sunday 10, 10.30am-1.30pm.

9-13 Sep 2023  
9 Sep 2023 (opening),  
6–9pm  
10 Sep, 10am–3pm  
11–13 Sep, 10am–1pm  
and 5–8pm  
Club Room



## OCTOBER HAUNTINGS

By E. F. Benson and M. R. James  
GERARD LOGAN

An evening of three thrilling ghost stories from the pens of two of the genre's leading writers. *Naboth's Vineyard*, *The Hanging of Alfred Wadham* and *Oh, Whistle and I'll Come to You, My Lad* are presented by the award-winning actor, Gerard Logan. These spine-tingling stories are guaranteed to get hearts pounding on a chilly winter evening in our intimate Studio. Includes a special late-night performance.

21 Oct 2023, 7.30pm  
& 10pm  
Booking opens 1 Sep 2023  
Tickets £14 full price,  
£12 concession  
Studio



## SEPTEMBER THE WEEKEND

By Michael Palin  
COMPANY OF TEN

World-weary Stephen Febble is definitely not looking forward to a visit from his daughter and her family. As the weekend progresses, he manages to offend and alienate everyone, from his wife to his best friend, with his deliberately argumentative ill-humour. Michael Palin's first stage play takes a sharply observed and darkly humorous look at family relationships, friendship and failure.

15–23 Sep 2023, 8pm  
Sunday matinée  
17 Sep, 2.30pm  
Booking opens 1 Jul 2023  
Main Stage



## OCTOBER WIND / RUSH GENERATION(S)

By Mojisola Adebayo  
THE COMPANY OF TEENS

A noisy ghost brings a group of students face-to-face with Britain's colonial past. What follows is a rollercoaster ride as they confront this country's difficult imperial history of racism and prejudice. Written specifically for youth groups, this is an exciting and challenging script. Part of Black History Month, commemorating the 75th anniversary of HMT Empire Windrush.  
**Contains strong language.**

25–28 Oct 2023, 8pm  
Booking opens 1 Sep 2023  
Tickets £8 full price,  
£7 concession,  
£5 18 & under  
Studio

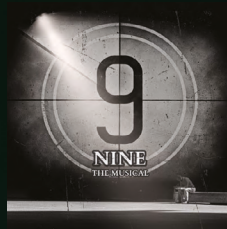


## SEPTEMBER NINE

By Maury Yeston, Book by Arthur Kopit  
EVER AFTER PRODUCTIONS

From the romantic streets and canals of Venice comes this captivating story. Famed Italian film director, Guido Contini, is suffering from debilitating writer's block, as his marriage breaks down during a mid-life crisis. He calls on the nine closest and most powerful women in his life to put him back on the road to success and happiness. Based on Federico Fellini's Academy Award winning semi-autobiographical film *8½*.

28–30 Sep 2023, 7.30pm  
Saturday matinée  
30 Sep, 2.30pm  
Booking opens 1 Jul 2023  
Tickets £20,  
no concessions  
Main Stage



## OCTOBER CONNECTION

TEDx ST ALBANS

Join us at TEDx St Albans as we dive into the captivating topic of Connection - a fundamental human need that shapes our lives. This is your chance to connect with like-minded individuals, explore fascinating topics, and enjoy meaningful conversation that will leave you feeling energised and motivated.

26 October 2023,  
9.30am–6pm  
St Albans website  
Tickets £75 including lunch  
Main Stage





## NOVEMBER PARFUMERIE

By E. P. Dowdall  
COMPANY OF TEN

This charming, gentle comedy is set just before Christmas in a perfume shop in 1930s Budapest. Deception, misunderstanding and mistaken identity threaten to disrupt the lives of the owner and his employees, until all is happily and unexpectedly resolved. The story inspired the 1940 film, *The Shop Around the Corner* and the 1998 film, *You've Got Mail*.

10–18 Nov 2023, 8pm  
Sunday matinée 12 Nov,  
2.30pm  
Booking opens 1 Sep 2023  
**Main Stage**



## JANUARY–FEBRUARY SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By Qui Nguyen  
COMPANY OF TEN

This action-packed adventure through the world of fantasy role-play follows Agnes, a young high school teacher, as she tries to come to terms with the deaths of her parents and teenage sister in a car accident. Having found Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she sets out to discover who her sister really was.

**The play deals with issues of grief and sexual identity, and contains strong language and fantasy violence.**

26 Jan–3 Feb 2024, 8pm  
Sunday matinée  
28 Jan, 2.30pm  
Booking opens 1 Nov 2023  
**Studio**



## NOVEMBER THE FEMMES FESTIVE CONCERT

THE FEMMES

Oozing with Golden Age Hollywood glamour, this trio of starlets whisk the glory of the 1940s to today. The Femmes infuse classic vintage numbers with your favourite current hits, so expect everything from Frank Sinatra to Britney Spears. With more fizz than a glass of champagne, these gals will ensure you jump and jive the night away!

25 Nov 2023, 8pm  
Booking opens 1 Sep 2023  
Tickets £14 full price,  
£12 concession  
**Main Stage**



## DECEMBER THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

By Glyn Robbins,  
adapted from the book by C. S. Lewis  
COMPANY OF TEN

Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy Pevensie are evacuated from London to a large country house. There they discover a mysterious wardrobe which leads them to the magical land of Narnia, ruled by the White Witch. They set out on a fantastic adventure to save Narnia from everlasting winter, meeting Mr Tumnus, the faun and even Father Christmas, but will they be able to help the mighty lion, Aslan, triumph over the White Witch's evil power? This perennial favourite will delight all ages.

Booking opens 1 Sep 2023  
Tickets: £15 full price, £13 concession,  
£9 children (13 & under)  
**Main Stage**



16 Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm
17 Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm
21 Dec	7.30pm
22 Dec	7.30pm
23 Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm
27 Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm
28 Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm

## FEBRUARY–JULY 2024

### STEEL MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling

### ELGAR AND ALICE

By Peter Sutton

### PRESSURE

By David Haig

### LOVE LETTERS

By A. R. Gurney

## BOOKING TICKETS

01727 857861  
Box Office opening hours  
**Monday–Friday, 9.30am–12 noon**

Please note that the Box Office closes from mid-July until 1 September.

You may book online at any time on our website.

Company of Ten productions: £14 full price.  
£12 concession (Other ticket prices may vary)

[www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk)

Please note that all productions are subject to alteration. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.



# BOOKING

**ONLINE** at [www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk) where you may also sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

**BOX OFFICE** on 01727 857861 Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12 noon, and thirty minutes before each performance. Closed from mid-July until 1 September.

M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	M		
L	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	L	
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	K
J	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		J
H	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	H
G	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		G
F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			F
E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		E
D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			D
C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				C
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					B
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16						A

MAIN STAGE



In the main auditorium, rows A to C are at ground level, rows D to M are raked. In the Studio, seats are unreserved.

If ordering by phone or online, please allow a week for postal delivery. Discounts are available on bookings of more than ten full price seats.

The Box Office opens thirty minutes before each performance for collection of tickets. Latecomers will only be admitted at the discretion of the management.

All productions and dates may be subject to alteration. Please check online or contact the Box Office.

## VISITING

The Abbey Theatre is at Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 2DL, a short distance from the centre of St Albans and the Cathedral. There's plenty of parking nearby, including a number of blue badge bays.

We have a licensed bar, and coffee and ice cream are available during intervals. For the hard of hearing, Sennheiser infrared headsets are available from the Manager's Office. We warmly welcome wheelchair patrons but, as spaces are limited, please check availability when booking.

## JOINING

The Company of Ten is St Albans' longest established and most prestigious theatrical group, and the resident company at the Abbey Theatre. Although, as members, we are unpaid, we aim to run the theatre to a professional standard. Anyone can join. Besides acting, there are opportunities in stage management, design and construction, sound, lighting, props, wardrobe, marketing and front of house. You can also support us by becoming an Abbey Theatre Friend.

To find out more, please visit [www.abbeytheatre.org.uk](http://www.abbeytheatre.org.uk)

Follow us on:

