

2018 saw a fundamental shift in Bristol Old Vic's relationship with its city as the organisation heralded in a new era. It unveiled a new building to transform the front of house into a welcoming place for the city to come together; a new heritage experience, interpreting the theatre's 252-year history, and a new studio theatre built to support and inspire the theatre makers of the future.

The year gave rise to a programme of work at Bristol Old Vic exploring the theme of change; from *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Elephant Man* through to *Touching the Void* and *A Christmas Carol*, each production reflecting on changes of society or changes of attitude, through to the radical changes that can take place in the human heart.

The theatre also grasped the opportunity to address its own relationship with the wide range of communities in Bristol and found new ways to reflect and represent the city through City Conversations, the Seeds of Change Week and a celebration of abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Click on the icon
to find out more.

YEAR OF
CHANGE

'Year of Change' launches. Inspired by associate company Ujjima Radio, Bristol Old Vic works in partnership with organisations across the city to address Bristol's reputation as the most segregated core city in the UK and looks at ways of reconnecting communities from across Bristol. Bristol Old Vic was inspired through the Year of Change to renew its ambition to be a place in the city where everybody can feel at home.



NEW BRAND LAUNCHES

Design consultancy Eureka! creates a bold and welcoming new brand using the theatre's extensive archives as inspiration.

A LONG DAY'S
JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

After its sell-out West End run at Wyndham's Theatre, *A Long Day's Journey into Night* opens at BAM Harvey Theater in New York, before transferring to The Wallis in LA. Directed by Richard Eyre, starring Lesley Manville and Jeremy Irons.



200th
ANNIVERSARY OF
FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Event takes place across Bristol celebrating the life of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth. Starring Kwame Kwei-Armah, Vanessa Kisuule, Danny Sapani, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Marvin Rees and Carleen Anderson.



THE ELEPHANT MAN

Co-production with Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and Diverse City explores the integration and presentation of disability on stage, challenging our own preconceptions about representation and access. Jamie Beddard is cast as Joseph Merrick.



'My impairment is part of who I am, one of many characteristics. I am as complex, flawed and nuanced as the next man...'

Jamie Beddard speaking to The Guardian



TOUCHING THE VOID

Touching the Void becomes the theatre's most critically acclaimed show.

- ★★★★★ The Times
- ★★★★★ The Telegraph
- ★★★★★ The Guardian
- ★★★★★ StageTalk Magazine
- ★★★★★ Mail on Sunday
- ★★★★★ Sunday Times
- ★★★★★ The Stage
- ★★★★★ Bristol Post

THE MEANING OF ZONG

Bristol Old Vic presents a rehearsed reading of Giles Terera's first play *The Meaning of Zong* to an audience of 300 people as part of building-wide 'Seeds of Change' week.



THE WESTON
STUDIO OPENS

The Weston Studio theatre opens with a weekend of sample performances, showcasing its five strands of activity, which support and celebrate the theatre makers of tomorrow:

- New Writing
- Ferment
- Young Company
- Work for Children
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School



The Engagement department remounts its Young Company production *T**k you* and introduces *Acts of Resistance*, a project featuring young people from across Bristol, as part of the opening weekend.

Ferment-developed shows *A Little Death* and *Hollering Woman Creek* are both supported to full production in The Weston Studio.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

2018 Christmas show breaks Box Office records with Tom Morris' new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Lee Lyford.

Year 9 Children from every school in Bristol see *A Christmas Carol* as part of Future Quest Project.

The show is announced as Bristol Old Vic's 2019 Christmas production, back by popular demand.



JAN

THE GRINNING MAN

Following its transfer to Studio 1 at Trafalgar Studios in Dec 2017, *The Grinning Man* extends its West End run until Apr 2018.