BRISTOL OLD VIC

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

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.

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'Year of Change' launches. Inspired by associate company Ujima 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.



Design consultancy Eureka! creates a bold and welcoming new brand using the



NEW BRAND LAUNCHES

theatre's extensive archives as inspiration.



FEB

MAR

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.



THE CHERRY ORCHARD

The first show to mark Bristol Old Vic's Year of Change, directed by Michael Boyd, receives rapturous reviews.

'Few productions are as vital as this'

The Times ★★★★



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.



DANCE WEEK PLAYS TO PACKED HOUSES

Features Bristol favourites BalletBoyz and Hofesh Shechter, and an acclaimed first visit from Ballet Black.



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



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 $\star\star\star\star\star$ The Guardian ★★★★★ StageTalk Magazine ★★★★ Mail on Sunday ★★★★ Sunday Times ★★★★ The Stage ★★★★ Bristol Post

JUN

THE GRINNING MAN CAPTURED IN 3D

take place in Feb 2019 at Bristol Old Vic.

Andy Serkis' production company Imaginarium records the entirety of *The Grinning Man* using motion capture technology with plans to present the show using augmented reality headsets.



JUL

/EEK-LONG PLACEMENTS

Big Work Experience week launches, offering 100 pupils interviews and 25 pupils week-long placements during which they learn all about the inner workings of a regional theatre and achieve a bronze Arts Award.

The first of four City Conversations takes place at City Academy exploring the question: How can we make racial segregation a thing of the past in Bristol? City Conversation 2 took place at Merchants' Academy, Withywood and City Conversation 3 took place at Cotham School later in the year. The final City Conversation will



Bristol Old Vic, Sally Cookson's A Monster Calls opens to critical acclaim at our sister venue, The Old Vic, in London.



SEP

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.



GRAND REOPENING

the city.

Bristol Old Vic's front of house redevelopment project opens on time and on budget. Built by award-winning architects Haworth Tompkins, the ancient facade of the 252-year-old theatre is revealed to the city for the very first time, beautifully framed by a new foyer, bar and catering offer, new studio theatre and events spaces, all in the spirit of welcome to the people of

opened, Bristol Old Vic has hosted:

NEW COMMERCIAL BUSINESS OPENS

Since the new 1766 Bar & Kitchen and event spaces



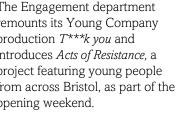
THE WESTON STUDIO OPENS

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.

NOV

OCT

TWELFTH NIGHT Second co-production with Royal

Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, following Touching the Void, celebrates gender-bending fresh interpretation of Shakespeare's



Pre-show dinners

Christmas Parties

Wedding

Events in Coopers' Hall

HERITAGE LAUNCH New installations explore the

unique history of the theatre through a variety of displays and interactive exhibitions. Aardman and Limbic Cinema present The House is Open, a projectionmapped film recounting the history of Bristol Old Vic. Since November, the new heritage programme has welcomed:

Tour participants



DEC

Guiding volunteers

SNEAK PREVIEW OF 2019

JAN

MAR

Angela Carter. Ferment Fortnight returns to showcase new ideas, works-in-progress

and scratch performances from the South West's up-and-coming

APR

MAY

partnership with Headlong brings together community groups to Inua Ellams' acclaimed Barber Shop Chronicles comes

to Bristol Old Vic.

as 2019 Christmas production.

of another UK-wide tour.

Oxford Playhouse).