

SPOT ON

LIVE SHOWS ACROSS LANCASHIRE

AUTUMN 24



**FIND OUT WHAT'S ON THIS SEASON | READ ABOUT OUR BURNLEY PROJECTS
DISCOVER MORE ABOUT LANCASHIRE COUNTY OF SONG**

WELCOME TO THE **SPOT ON** AUTUMN 2024 SEASON

We're pleased to bring you this season's programme, all promoted by excellent volunteers and librarians across the county who work hard to bring culture to your doorstep. It's an exciting Autumn with international artists, shows inspired by the people of Lancashire and stories to warm your heart and enthrall your senses.

This season we're taking you on a series of adventures from the comfort of your theatre seat. Explore the music of Canadian shores, enjoy the dances of India, laugh at the quirks of the traditional English B&B and delve into history with one of our famous Lancastrians.

Our music programme boasts two international shows - We start the season with Wanderlust, a classical flute and guitar duo from Canada. Christine Tassan et les Imposteures are a high energy Gypsy Jazz quartet who have toured the world, bringing a touch of Quebecois.

We're enjoying other cultures with an insight into Kathak dance from PagraV Dance Theatre,

Swedish folklore from storyteller Dominic Kelly, and a quirky take on the history of the traditional British seaside holiday from Black Liver. We welcome Just Some Theatre back to the county with their latest comedy drama 'The Plot Thickens', learn more about Blackburn's songbird Kathleen Ferrier and finish the season with a round of toasted crumpets with 'Barbara' - a heartwarming show which gently touches on the role of caring for loved ones as they get older.

If you want something to keep the family busy over the school holidays we have The Blahs bringing The Hidden Garden, their children's show inspired by audiences in Lancashire, to three venues. We're inviting Stories in The Dust, an eco-fable about caring for our planet, to deliver workshops and shows in eight locations! As usual, we'll be planting a tree for every show we host to show our commitment to protecting the environment we live in.

We'd love to hear what you think about the events we host. Get in touch with us via phone, email or social media.



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For more information please contact:

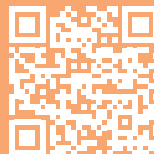
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Lara Deutsch & Adam Cicchilitti

WANDERLUST

Canadian classical duo Adam Cicchilitti (guitar) and Lara Deutsch (flute) evoke the music of diverse cultures from around the world.

Their show celebrates traditions and folklore from countries far and wide. Given the rich inspirations behind these works, Lara & Adam take the opportunity to be storytellers as much as they are musicians, interspersing their performances with intriguing anecdotes about the composers, the historical circumstances (and controversies!) which shaped the repertoire, and their own personal connection with this music as artists.

Known for their onstage charisma and camaraderie, Lara & Adam began performing together in 2019 after discovering their mutual love for the music of Piazzolla. One of the primary focuses of the duo is to perform and promote the works of their Canadian friends and colleagues internationally. The Wanderlust tour promotes the duo's first album of the same name.



Tuesday 8th October: 7pm
Oswaldtwistle Library

Wednesday 9th October: 7pm
St Annes Library

Thursday 10th October: 7pm
Clitheroe Library

Sunday 13th October: 2pm
Burnley Mechanics Front Room

Suitable for ages 10+

leaf-music.ca/wanderlust

Dominic Kelly

MARA

T

he hardest thing of all is to see what is really there.

It's 1868. Discharged from the army with malaria, Morten scrapes a living on the edge of Sweden's ancient forests. Suddenly he begins to suffer nightmares and mysterious visits as he sleeps. A friend tells him he's plagued by a Mara - a possessed person who visits another in spirit form. To free himself from the Mara, he must discover their identity. But who is it? To find out, he begins to closely watch the world around him. But as he becomes aware of his neighbours' lives and the life of the ancient forest, his own begins to transform...

Entertaining, unsettling and moving, this solo storytelling performance is a whodunnit, a dive into the dreamscape of Swedish folklore, a love story, a journey into Europe's ancient forests, a playful look at our relationship with sleep and an exploration of what it really means to be awake.

Friday 11th October: 7pm
Great Harwood Library

Saturday 12th October: 3pm
Cherry Tree Library

Suitable for ages 14+

dominickelly.eu

Black Liver

DEVILLED EGGS

W

elcome to the Dakota Guest House! The most glamorous B&B this side of Blackpool!

The Dakota is the true spirit of Variety; comedy, music and mystery are resident guests here and every room has its tale to tell.

Let your hosts, Roman and Prudence flip through their guest book and regale you with showbiz stories and anecdotes. From their heyday as the B&B to the stars to their present day haven of secrets, Ro and Pru will introduce you to the characters that reside in The Dakota. Expect songs, sketches and verse as each guest room opens.

From acclaimed theatre makers Black Liver, Devilled Eggs is their latest two-hander play about a guest house over the span of a one night stay (breakfast included).



LIKE THE EGGS THE DAKOTA SERVES AT BREAKFAST, THIS SHOW IS FRESH, CHEEKY AND DEVILISHLY SPICY!

Thursday 17th October:
2pm

Thornton Library

Friday 18th October:
6.30pm

Freckleton Memorial Hall*

Saturday 19th October:
7.30pm

Tockholes Village Hall

Suitable for ages 14+

blackliver.co.uk/devilled-eggs

**Freckleton Library promoted event*

The Mechanics Theatre Presents...

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING: THEATRE, ART AND CULTURE IN BURNLEY THIS AUTUMN

You might have noticed some extra dates for Spot On shows happening in venues in Burnley.

That's because we are working with the Mechanics Theatre to create a programme of accessible and engaging art events across Burnley as part of the 'Mechanics Theatre Presents...' project.

We've been working with the Mechanics in their 'Front Room' space with a group of community promoters to host Jazz, folk music and new theatre, and we're now taking that ethos and working in community-run spaces across Burnley.

From children's theatre shows to specialist art workshops for adults, we are asking the people of Burnley what they want to see in their venue and then making it happen (just like we do with Spot On). Some of our Burnley events are entirely free, some are Donate What You Decide and some are ticketed - this way, we ensure that as many people as possible have access to fantastic art and culture experiences.

This season we're hosting a heritage open day at the Mechanics (15th September), a series of arts & crafts workshops at West End and Gannow Community Centres, and children's theatre The Hidden Garden at DownTown (25th October).



For more information about the project and to see a full list of public events, visit blcgroup.co.uk

This project is funded by Arts Council England and run in partnership with Culturapedia and Burnley Leisure & Culture.

Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah

THE HIDDEN GARDEN

A magical tale of a blooming unlikely friendship.

Hidden amongst the concrete high-rises and the redbrick buildings is something pretty unexpected. A place bursting with colour where flowers, fruits and vegetables come to life in every corner growing up walls, twisting around drain pipes and planted in unusual objects.

A curious child discovers this hidden garden and meets the man who has created his own little paradise to brighten up the grey and to feed those for whom hunger is never far away.

Join this unlikely duo and be part of the bond that sprouts when they go on an enchanting adventure together.



Wednesday 23rd October: 1.30pm & 6pm
Mellor Village Hall

Thursday 24th October: 11.30am & 2pm
Haslingden Library

For children age 5+ and their grown-ups

blahs.co.uk

This show is brought to you with support from Big Imaginations

CELEBRATE HALF TERM

*with activities and performances
in both Blackburn and Darwen markets*

Check out
spotonlancashire.co.uk
for details



Saturday 19th October | Monday 21st October
Wednesday 23rd October | Friday 25th October
Saturday 26th October

Anna Harriott and Iona Johnson

STORIES IN THE DUST

The sun beats down on two travellers, journeying across a mysterious land in a contraption they've built themselves.

They sing, play games, and tell stories inspired by a collection of precious things they've gathered from a time gone by.

With live music and puppetry, *Stories in the Dust* is a funny, heartfelt and hopeful eco-fable that takes you to another world. A world where an ancient book guides your way, a drop of rain changes everything and a mighty lion holds its secrets in an old clay pot.

Will our intrepid explorers make it? They're full of ideas and full of hope but dangerously low on baked beans.

Thursday 24th October: 10am
The Isaac Dixon Boathouse,
Fairhaven Lake

Thursday 24th October: 3pm
Poulton Library

Friday 25th October: 10am
Rishton Library

Friday 25th October: 3pm
Mill Hill Community Centre & Library

Saturday 26th October: 10am
Halton Mill

Saturday 26th October: 3pm
Heysham Library



Ideal for ages 5-12 but suitable for all the family

storiesinthedust.co.uk

Christine Tassan et les Imposteures

ON THE ROAD

Thursday 7th November: 7pm
Downtown, Burnley

Friday 8th November: 8pm
Borwick & Priest Hutton
Memorial Hall

For twenty years Christine Tassan and the Imposteures have been making their mark around the world.

Twenty years of spreading Gypsy jazz and swing songs, both on prestigious stages and in small villages far from major urban centres, in Labrador, Newfoundland, on Vancouver Island, and in France. It's by reminiscing about this incredibly rich and adventure-filled journey that the musicians came up with the idea of creating "On the Road." Join the band as they musically tour through magnificent landscapes and delightful anecdotes.

Get ready for the ascent of the Great Wall of China, a bike ride in Stanley Park in Vancouver, crossing the Rockies in a snowstorm, or visiting Samois-sur-Seine, Django Reinhardt's village.



Suitable for ages 10+
christinetassan.com

Lucy Stevens

KATHLEEN FERRIER: WHATTALIFE!

W

hattalife! Tells the story of the great Lancashire-born contralto, whose voice and recordings are treasured to this day.

Just like Kathleen during her short but full life, the show has a great sense of fun and talks straight from the heart.

This charming, poignant and delightful show portrays the vivacious, private side of Kathleen's very public life.

Friday 8th November: 7pm
The Rainhall Centre, Barnoldswick

Saturday 9th November: 6.30pm
(doors 6pm)
Bolton-Le-Sands Library

Sunday 10th November: 7.30pm
Mellor Brook Community Centre

★★★★

"LUCY STEVENS AS FERRIER, CAPTURING THE SINGER'S RADIANT PERSONALITY MOST WINNINGLY...ALWAYS AT HOME IN THE FERRIER SONGBOOK, THE WARMTH IN HER OWN VOICE, MATCHING TO A LARGE DEGREE FERRIER'S OWN CONTRALTO, CAUSES A FRISSON IN THE AUDIENCE."

Musical Theatre Review

Suitable for ages 10+

kathleenferrierwhattalife.com

Pagray Dance Theatre

AUNUSTHAN

Aunusthan is a joyous celebration of classical Indian dance performed by the very best home-grown British-Asian talent.

The performance showcases the brilliance of classical tradition through dazzling spins and speed-of-light, bell-jangling footwork - moving with the powerful and mood-lifting sounds and colour of South Asian culture to create an hour of pure delight. The soaring melodies and riotous beats of the music carry your mind to far-off places and bring you home again, exhilarated.

This show is a vibrant and dazzling experience for all - whether you're already familiar with Kathak or not.



Friday 8th November: 7.30pm
Poulton-le-Fylde Community Hall

Suitable for ages 8+
pagraydance.com

This show is brought to Lancashire through the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI)

Just Some Theatre

THE PLOT THICKENS

Madeleine has never been the main character in her own story – until the final chapter...

It's inexperienced Alex's first day on the job. But before he can even get to grips with the tea urn and stationery cupboard, he is given his first task – which proves to be absolute murder...



Meanwhile a man known only as The Ghost is determined to execute the perfect festive killing and bag another MUD (Most Unique Death award) at the office Christmas party. But it seems that a combination of fate, Nigel Havers, a medium called Brenda, and a packet of Jammy Dodgers may disrupt his sinister plan...

As secrets are revealed, alliances are tested and backs are stabbed, will The Ghost succeed in fulfilling his deadly brief? Can Alex avoid the wrath of Lindsey from HR? And will Madeleine manage to change the narrative and escape with her life?

Friday 15th November: 7pm
Morecambe Library

Saturday 16th November: 7pm
Longridge Library

Sunday 17th November: 3pm
Blackburn Central Library

Suitable for ages 14+

justsometheatre.co.uk

County of Song

CELEBRATING LANCASHIRE VOICES

County of Song, Lancashire's celebration of community voices, teamed up with Spot On as part of the Spot On Festival in June 2024, supporting the programming of local choirs and hosting workshops to open up the joy of taking part in singing.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The Aims of Lancashire County of Song:

- To showcase the quality of Lancashire's rich and diverse singing traditions.
- To highlight the benefits of singing specifically for health, and more broadly for social connection and pride in place.
- To promote singing as an "easy access" activity, with groups available for all kinds of people.
- To raise awareness of local vocal opportunities right across the county in every district.
- To leave Lancashire's grassroots singing scene stronger and better connected after 2024.

This year, County of Song has had a particular focus on the benefits of singing for people affected by dementia. This has included supporting research with local groups on the power of singing for both people with dementia, and promoting an intergenerational concert in Blackburn.

As County of Song Community Champion Ryan Dixon puts it:

"...sessions aim to provide the participants with an immersive musical experience within a down to earth, friendly and inclusive group. They are encouraged and invited to sing, regardless of whether or not they have a previous musical background, and this most often creates a fun, joyful environment where people can really express themselves. In addition to the musical benefits, these sessions give participants a sense of community - a place to meet like-minded people and socialise."



Find out more at: artslancashire.org.uk/county-of-song

Keep up to date with latest news: countyofsong.substack.com

Find a singing group near you: artslancashire.org.uk/county-of-song-map

Mark Croasdale

BARBARA

Barbara and Bernard invite you, their esteemed guests, to an evening of a bygone era featuring music, polite conversation and exceptional hosting.

A warm and affectionate show with plenty of belly laughs and a good sing-song, Barbara sensitively explores dementia, revealing what it means to care for someone you love when they lose their way.

Soundtracked by a plethora of tasteful tunes and with plenty of crumpets, join us for a captivating evening that's sure to warm your heart.



Friday 22nd November: 8pm
Whitworth Library

Saturday 23rd November: 3pm
Darwen Library

Suitable for ages 14+

markcroasdale.com/barbara

Performances at a glance

Date	Time	Show	Venue	Postcode	For Ticket Bookings
Tue 8 October	7pm	Wanderlust	Oswaldtwistle Library	BB5 3HS	oswaldtwistle.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Wed 9 October	7pm	Wanderlust	St Annes Library	FY8 1NR	stannes.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Thu 10 October	7pm	Wanderlust	Clietheroe Library	BB7 2DG	clietheroe.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 11 October	7pm	Mara	Great Harwood Library	BB6 7AL	greatharwood.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 12 October	3pm	Mara	Cherry Tree Library	BB2 5NX	cherrytree.library@gmail.com
Sun 13 October	2pm	Wanderlust	Burnley Mechanics	BB1 1BH	01282 664400
Thu 17 October	2pm	Devilled Eggs	Thornton Library	FY5 3SZ	thornton.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 18 October	6.30pm	Devilled Eggs	Freckleton Memorial Hall	PR4 1PJ	freckleton.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 19 October	7.30pm	Devilled Eggs	Tockholes Village Hall	BB3 0NQ	07889 105969
Wed 23 October	1.30pm & 6pm	The Hidden Garden	Mellor Village Hall	BB2 7EW	07385 240017
Thu 24 October	11.30am & 2pm	The Hidden Garden	Haslingden Library	BB4 5QL	haslingden.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Thu 24 October	10am	Stories In The Dust	The Isaac Dixon Boathouse	FY8 1YD	01254 660360
Thu 24 October	3pm	Stories In The Dust	Poulton Library	FY6 7DH	poulton.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 25 October	10am	Stories In The Dust	Rishton Library	BB1 4LA	rishton.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 25 October	3pm	Stories In The Dust	Mill Hill Community Centre	BB2 4DT	millhill.library@gmail.com
Sat 26 October	10am	Stories In The Dust	Halton Mill	LA2 6QQ	venue@haltonmill.org.uk
Sat 26 October	3pm	Stories In The Dust	Heysham Library	LA3 2BJ	heysham.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Thu 7 November	7pm	On the Road	Downtown, Burnley	BB11 1AD	01282 686402
Fri 8 November	8pm	On the Road	Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall	LA6 1JP	01524 782053
Fri 8 November	7pm	Kathleen Ferrier 'What A Life	The Rainhall Centre	BB18 5DR	01282 345200
Fri 8 November	7.30pm	Pagray Dance Theatre	Poulton-le-Fyde Community Hall	FY6 7BE	07486 363099
Sat 9 November	6.30pm	Kathleen Ferrier 'What A Life	Bolton-Le-Sands Library	LA5 8DN	bolton-le-sands.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sun 10 November	7.30pm	Kathleen Ferrier 'What A Life	Mellor Brook Community Centre	BB2 7PR	07377 788716
Fri 15 November	7pm	The Plot Thickens	Morecambe Library	LA4 5DL	morecambe.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 16 November	7pm	The Plot Thickens	Longridge Library	PR3 3JA	longridge.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sun 17 November	3pm	The Plot Thickens	Blackburn Central Library	BB2 1AG	library@blackburn.gov.uk
Fri 22 November	8pm	Barbara	Whitworth Library	OL12 8AA	whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 23 November	3pm	Barbara	Darwen Library	BB3 3BU	darwen.library@blackburn.gov.uk

PARTNERS



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