

**SPOT ON**

# LIVE SHOWS ACROSS LANCASHIRE

**SPRING 24**



**FIND OUT** WHAT'S ON THIS SEASON | **READ ABOUT** LANCASHIRE STORIES WITH AN EBOOK EXCERPT BY BEVERLEY ADAMS | **LEARN ABOUT** SPOT ON COMMISSIONS TOURING THIS SPRING

# WELCOME TO THE **SPOT ON** SPRING 2024 SEASON

We're pleased to bring you this season's programme, all delivered by excellent volunteers and librarians across the county who work hard to bring culture to your doorstep. It's an exciting Spring! with new investment from Arts Council England delivering more fabulous activities in markets during the school holidays in Blackburn with Darwen as well as some brilliant dance performances from the Rural Touring Dance Initiative. The first of which is Coalesce Dance Theatre's 'Pants' which we've helped to support during its development phase through our Rekindle project.

This season is all about exploring what makes you feel happy/comfortable/safe, whether that's challenging stereotypes and finding your tribe or just dancing like nobody's watching.

Our music programme boasts shows from all over the country and internationally - Graffiti Classics are a high energy classical quartet who have toured the world. Gareth Davies-Jones is a North East folk artist, who's show 'All Things Come' focuses on his gigs and travels. Rum Ragged are a folk band from Newfoundland we encountered on our recent adventure to The Maritimes. We end the season with Meraki Duo who are based in Manchester and Oslo.



We're exploring other cultures, and histories through our theatre offer, firstly with Scratchworks Theatre's 'Hags': a magical theatrical show about the witch trials. Kevin Dyer and Storm In The North take us to Syria to break bread over a story of hope in a war zone with their latest show 'Idlib'. Badapple Theatre invite us to a night at the cinema (how it used to be) in their comedy 'The Regalettes'.

If you want something to keep the family busy over the school holidays we have Seven Circles bringing their dance show 'Club Origami' to Blackburn Library this Easter. In May half term we're inviting Northbound Dance to dust off their dancing shoes in their show about cleaning with

'Miss Baines', and Dommy B asks us all to 'Make Some Noise'. The Spot On programming team continue to deliver free activities in Blackburn and Darwen Markets over the half term holidays - with shows, crafts and skills to learn and share. But our BIG news is that we'll be hosting our first ever Spot On Festival in Poulton in June! (check out page 15 for more info).

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

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE



## Coalesce Dance Theatre **PANTS**

**Pants! is a coming of age story where we discover who we are, and who we want to be.**

Join us in our weird and wonderful wardrobe world, as we search through this closet of cluttered memories.

Aimed at ages 14 - 21 this show is a fun and sensitive exploration of self-acceptance and finding where you fit. This striking and athletic duet is accompanied by poetry and an original music score. With research gathered from young people in Burnley, Trafford, Blackpool and Blackburn, Coalesce have embedded these stories and experiences into this exciting new show.

There's a fast fashion workshop after the performance



Wednesday 27th March: 6pm  
 Darwen Library

Thursday 28th March: 6pm  
 Blackburn Central Library

Suitable for ages 14+  
[coalescedancetheatre.com](http://coalescedancetheatre.com)

## Seven Circles **CLUB ORIGAMI**

**Rip, fold and scrumple!**

Shall we see what we can make with a single square of paper?

As you scrunch the paper, see how your imagination begins to dance... Dive into the magical world of Club Origami, an immersive and interactive dance show inviting family audiences to create, imagine and explore whole new ways of thinking, playing, and moving.

Dance, fashion, and live music meet the magic of origami to sweep us up on a spirited and inspiring adventure in a land made purely of paper and play.



Thursday 11th April: 11am & 2.30pm  
 Blackburn Central Library

Suitable for ages 0-6 years

Commissioned and produced by Little Big Dance, supported by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative and Big Imaginations

# River Tours: The Lune

13-14 April and 20-21 April

**T**his spring Lancaster Arts and the Sewing Cafe Lancaster bring a unique and multi-disciplinary theatrical performance to communities along the river Lune.

River Tours was commissioned in 2022 in partnership with renowned theatre company, Stan's Café as part of their international touring project on the rivers of the world. With an intricate textile map created out of recycled materials by Sewing Cafe Lancaster, a beautiful text by Claire Dean and actor, Orla Cottingham as our guide, River Tours: The Lune is a collaborative project exploring the river's environment, wildlife, social history, and folklore.

After the captivating premiere two years ago, Lancaster Arts and Sewing Cafe Lancaster are now bringing this work to rural locations along the river itself, travelling to Tebay, Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale, Arkholme, Halton, Glasson Dock and Sunderland Point.

*This tour is supported by Arts Council England and the Lune Rivers Trust.*

Please join us to uncover some of the meandering landscapes and tales of your local river. Expect to find the performance in libraries, churches, village halls, a bowling green, a polytunnel and right by the river itself!



River Tours: The Lune is a collaborative project exploring the river's environment, wildlife, social history, and folklore.



Saturday 13th April  
Sunday 14th April  
Saturday 20th April  
Sunday 21st April

Locations along the River Lune

See Lancaster Arts' website for details  
[lancasterarts.org](http://lancasterarts.org)



SEE LANCASTER ARTS' WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.



SCAN CODE

## Scratchworks Theatre Company

# HAGS

**I**n Bideford in 1682, the final witch trial in Britain took place. Three women were accused of witchcraft, tried & hanged.

Now fast forward to the present day and name one female magician... pretty tricky. But tonight, three fearless females are climbing out of their boxes, shaking off the sequins and investigating what really happened in a small town in North Devon 340 years ago.

Packed full of magic tricks, physical comedy & live music, our magiciennes explore the witch-hunt mania that swept the country and sent hundreds of innocent women to the gallows. With mind-blowing illusions, stupendous stunts and the occasional disappearing rabbit, 'Hags' sets the record straight for thousands of falsely accused women with all the joy, silliness & spectacle these three can muster.

**Friday 19th April: 8pm**  
Arkholme Village Hall

**Saturday 20th April: 8pm**  
Burnley Mechanics: Front Room

**Content warning:** contains themes of death and depictions of violence towards women.

Suitable for ages 11+

[facebook.com/ScratchworksTheatreCompany](https://facebook.com/ScratchworksTheatreCompany)

"HAGS ENCHANTS AND CHARMS AS DARK SECRETS, SLEIGHT OF HAND AND HISTORICAL HORRORS UNFOLD."

British Theatre Guide



## Graffiti Classics

# THE COMEDY STRING QUARTET

**I**6 strings, 8 dancing feet and 4 voices with 1 aim: to make classical music wickedly funny and fantastically exhilarating for audiences everywhere!

Graffiti Classics bursts the elitist boundaries of the traditional String Quartet with its hilarious all-singing, all-dancing musical comedy show. It's a classical concert, a gypsy-folk romp, an opera, a stand-up comedy set and a brilliant dance show all rolled into one! This world-class show never fails to get audiences laughing, clapping and singing along.

IT'S A CLASSICAL CONCERT, A GYPSY-FOLK ROMP, AN OPERA, A STAND-UP COMEDY SET AND A BRILLIANT DANCE SHOW ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!



**Wednesday 1st May: 7pm** (doors 6.30pm)  
Bolton-Le-Sands Library

**Thursday 2nd May: 7pm**  
Whitworth Library

**Saturday 4th May: 7.30pm**  
Tockholes Village Hall

Suitable for ages 14+

[graffiticlassics.com](https://graffiticlassics.com)

## Storm In The North

# IDLIB

**W**e make bread - the Syrian way. We mix the ingredients, add water, wait for it to rise. We hear the story of a displaced Syrian woman.

When the dough is ready, the room fills with the smell of freshly-baked bread. We share it with our friends and neighbours – and enjoy it with Syrian Meze.

When he was in Turkey, writer Kevin Dyer was told by a Syrian refugee, 'Do not forget Syria'. This is our attempt, with baking, and a thrilling piece of drama, to keep the proud people of that country in our minds – with food and a story of hope

**Thursday 2nd May: 7.30pm**  
Downtown, Burnley

**Friday 3rd May: 7pm**  
The Rainhall Centre, Barnoldswick

Suitable for ages 14+  
(Strong language as spoken by a Russian soldier.)

[storminthenorth.com](http://storminthenorth.com)



## Gareth Davies-Jones

# ALL THINGS COME

"A troubadour evening of exceptional musical storytelling to gather folk together and inspire the collective imagination."

**G**areth Davies-Jones - singer, songwriter, story-teller and producer has been writing, recording and performing as a professional musician for twenty years.

The lead songwriter from Howay The Lasses, a collaborator with folk luminaries like Megson, Calum Stewart, Celtish and Yvonne Lyon, from community halls to concert halls, he has travelled the length and breadth of the country armed with a rich distinctive voice and now two decades worth of perceptive and compelling songwriting spanning some sixteen albums and song-writing collaborations.

Having garnered a loyal following on the independent roots/acoustic scene, his solo performances are known for gathering people together, inviting audiences to travel with him into a world of landscapes, history, characters and causes all underpinned with assured vocals and the warmth and vibrancy of a beautifully played array of stringed instruments. From stories of heroism on the Irish Sea to gentle praise for a Loire Valley village, from insight into the lives of pitman painters to musical tributes to the iconic lighthouses and captivating landscapes that define Northern Britain an evening with Gareth is as much story-telling adventure as it is musical entertainment.

"All Things Come" sets out to share a life in song-writing to warm the heart and soul.

"...AN ACCOMPLISHED LIVE PERFORMER.... OBSERVANT OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC BUT BUILDING ON IT, PLAYING AND SINGING ELEGANTLY; TIME IN THE COMPANY OF SOMEONE YOU MAY JUST HAVE COME ACROSS - AND YOU'RE RATHER GLAD THAT YOU HAVE."

Suitable for ages 10+  
[garethdavies-jones.com](http://garethdavies-jones.com)



**Wednesday 15th May: 7pm**  
St Annes Library

**Thursday 16th May: 7.30pm (doors 7pm)**  
Garstang Library

**Friday 17th May: 12noon**  
Whalley Library

**Saturday 18th May: 8pm**  
Helmshore Mills Textile Museum

## Badapple Theatre

# THE REGALETTES

ORIGINAL COMIC THEATRE  
WITH A FUSION OF FILM,  
MUSIC, AND CLOWNING  
ELEMENTS TO MAKE CERTAIN  
YOUR AUDIENCES HAVE A  
RIGHT REGAL NIGHT OUT.

**O**ur story heads back to the 1930s where two sisters are about to have their quiet world turned upside down when a new Hollywood film is to premiere at the tiny Regal Cinema in Bottledale.

Celebrity and rural life clash head on in this brand-new comedy from Kate Bramley when The Regalettes inadvertently find themselves at the heart of an extraordinary journey. Expect the usual Badapple signature style of original comic theatre with a fusion of film, music, and clowning elements to make certain your audiences have a right Regal night out in the company of the irrepressible Regalettes.

Friday 17th May: 7pm  
Clitheroe Library

Saturday 18th May: 7pm  
Heysham Library

Sunday 19th May: 7.30pm  
Longton VM Club

Suitable for ages 10+

badappletheatre.co.uk



## Dommy B

# MAKE SOME NOISE

A funny and heart-warming show for children (aged 5+) and their grown ups written and performed by Dommy B.

Noise can be gentle, quiet, loud, lots of fun and full of feelings. Dommy B shares a surprising story about growing up, finding a brilliant (but naughty) imaginary friend, becoming 'Junk the Punk' and joining a great school band (Whizzkid and the Veggie Burgers)!

There'll be rhymes, jokes, and lots of opportunity to make some noise in a celebration of the power of sound and friendship.

Tuesday 28th May: 11am  
Ormskirk Library

Thursday 30th May: 11am  
Roman Road Library

Friday 31st May: 6.30pm  
Poulton-Le-Fylde Community Hall

Saturday 1st June: 2pm  
Halton Mill

Suitable for ages 5+

dominicberry.net

Brought in partnership with Big Imaginations and with funding from Rekindle



## Northbound Dance

# MISS BAINES

'Miss Baines' takes inspiration from a real-life Lancastrian woman who worked as a Council Housing Officer, inspecting people's homes in the 1930s/40s.

The show is a quick-fire, comical guide on 'how to clean the home' vintage-style, taking inspiration from the old 'Pathe' newsreels and documentaries.

Join Miss Baines, as she encourages the audience to "roll up their sleeves" and get involved. Whether it's scrubbing giant knickers on a washboard whilst doing the Charleston, or the throwing socks into the washing basket, this accessible show includes everyone - no matter their age!

Tuesday 28th May: 2.30pm  
Mill Hill Community Centre

Wednesday 29th May: 2pm  
Knott End Library

Suitable for ages 4+

northbounddance.co.uk

Brought in partnership with Big Imaginations and with funding from Rekindle



# RUM RAGGED

**R**um Ragged take a bold approach to the distinct folk music of their home, the Eastern Canadian island of Newfoundland.

With a reverence for their roots and a creative, contemporary edge, this young band has quickly become known as the finest performers of their great, living, musical tradition. Boasting bouzouki, fiddle, bodhran, banjo, guitar, and button accordion, these new champions of East Coast music enliven and enlighten audiences with their signature brand of Newfoundland folk.

Always honest, thought-provoking, and often humorous, it's Rum Ragged's live show that makes them a fast favourite with any audience.

Their combination of striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship, and captivating storytelling gives concert-goers an experience they won't soon forget. Since their inception in 2016, Rum Ragged has maintained a rigorous tour schedule, performing at some of the world's premier folk, celtic and roots venues all while managing to record four acclaimed, award-winning studio albums. Rum Ragged is not your run-of-the-mill folk band, they are the genuine article.



**Thursday 30th May: 7.30pm**  
Bleasdale Parish Hall

**Monday 3rd June: 7.30pm** (doors 7pm)  
Chorley Library

*\*The band will also be performing in Poulton as part of our Spot On Festival 14-16 June 2024*

Suitable for ages 10+

[rumragged.com](http://rumragged.com)

RUM RAGGED IS NOT YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL FOLK BAND, THEY ARE THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

# MERAKI DUO

**W**inners of the International Chamber Music Competition for Flute & Guitar 2023 in Spain, Meraki Duo have spent the past decade performing extensively in the UK with programmes which offer a distinctively diverse pairing of flute and guitar.

**"TRULY AN OUTSTANDING CONCERT. THE MASTERY OF THEIR INSTRUMENTS IS A GIVEN, THEIR MUSICIANSHIP IS EXCEPTIONAL. WHAT IS ASTONISHING IS THEIR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH FEELS TANTAMOUNT TO A DEEP AND COMBINED INTUITION SO THAT WE ARE LISTENING TO ONE REMARKABLE AND COMPLETELY ENCHANTING INSTRUMENT. THE EXPERIENCE IS BREATHTAKING, BEAUTIFUL AND INSPIRING."**

Bryan Fox, concert director  
(Emmanuel Church, Didsbury)

**Monday 17th June: 2pm**  
Morecambe Library

**Tuesday 18th June: 7.30pm**  
Longridge Library

*\*The band will also be performing in Poulton as part of our Spot On Festival 14-16 June 2024*

In their recitals, flautist Meera Maharaj features the alto flute in works such as Takemitsu's *Toward The Sea* and Miroslav Tadic's *Four Macedonian Pieces*, while they always incorporate arrangements by James of music spanning as widely as Messiaen's wordless songs, Bacharach, and Brazilian folk-jazz of Hermeto Pascoal. Meera and James both studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, where they quickly connected through a shared passion for chamber music, jazz, Latin American styles, and contemporary works.



Suitable for ages 10+

[meeramaharaj.co.uk/meraki-duo.htm](http://meeramaharaj.co.uk/meraki-duo.htm)

**D**id you know that we plant a tree for every event or show that Spot On promotes.

We don't claim that a few trees alone will save the planet, but every little bit helps. Our trees are part of the Culturapedia Forest and have been planted all over the world. So far, the forest contains over 600 trees.

You do your bit, too. By bringing artists to libraries and village halls across Lancashire, we dramatically reduce the number of road miles used and efficiently extend the use of existing spaces.

We encourage the artists and companies we tour to you to think about the environment, too. They are not carting round big sets that will then go to landfill, or using high-powered lighting and sound equipment. Wherever possible, we use recycled paper and use our print efficiently.

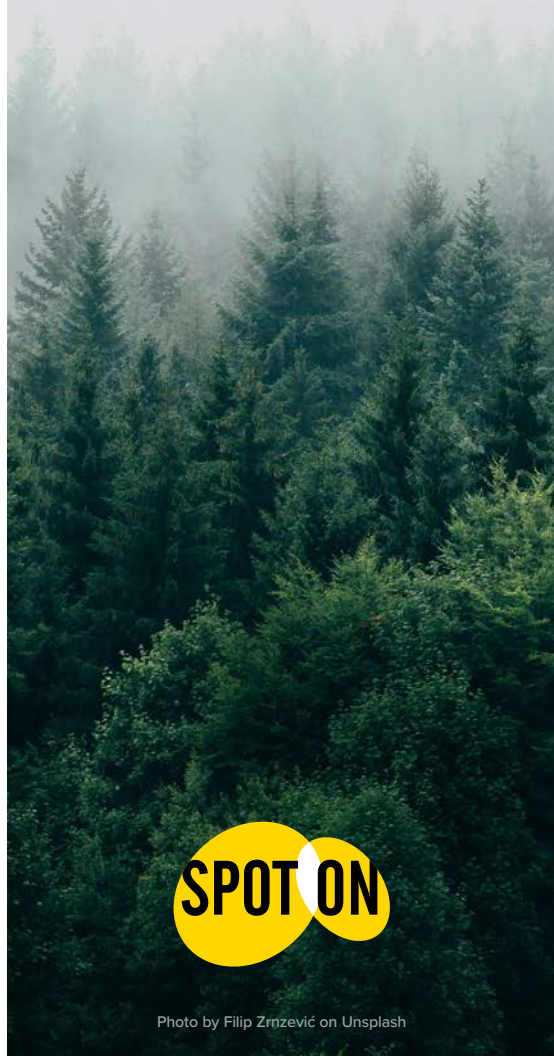


Photo by Filip Zrnzević on Unsplash



# Performances at a glance

Date	Time	Show	Venue	Postcode	For Ticket Bookings
Fri 10 March	7pm	Ladies That Dig	The Rainhall Centre, Barnoldswick	BB18 5DR	01282 345200
Sat 11 March	7.45pm	Ladies That Dig	Longton VM Club	PR4 5DL	07711 290975
Sun 12 March	6.30pm	Ladies That Dig	Bolton-Le-Sands Library	LA5 8DN	bolton-le-sands.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Thu 16 March	7pm	Roshni	Helmshore Mills Textile Museum	BB4 4NP	helmshoremuseum@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 24 March	7.30pm	Janice Burns & Jon Doran	Garstang Library	PR3 1EX	garstanglibrary@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 25 March	8pm	Janice Burns & Jon Doran	Borwick & Priest Hutton Memorial Hall	LA6 1JP	01524 782053
Sat 25 March	8pm	If we just keep going, we will get there in the end	The Dog Inn, Bethorn	BB1 2NY	admin@thedoginnatbethorn.net
Fri 31 March	7pm	Beneath The Banner	Whitworth Library	OL12 8AA	whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 1 April	7.30pm	Beneath The Banner	Tockholes Village Hall	BB3 0NQ	07889 105 969
Sun 2 April	7.30pm	Beneath The Banner	Bleasdale Parish Hall	PR3 1UY	01995 606511 / 01995 643499
Wed 5 April	10am	Pirate Bonnie	Burnley Library	BB11 2BD	burnleylibrary@lancashire.gov.uk
Wed 5 April	3pm	Pirate Bonnie	Read & Simonstone Village Hall	BB12 7PS	stephen@randsvh.co.uk
Thu 6 April	10am	Pirate Bonnie	Omskirk Library	L39 2EN	omskirk.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 8 April	10am	Pirate Bonnie	Thornton Library	FY5 2SZ	thornton.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 8 April	3pm	Pirate Bonnie	The Isaac Dixon Boathouse, Fairhaven Lake	FY8 1BD	fairhavenbookings@fyide.gov.uk
Fri 14 April	10am	Cardboard Cosmos	Heysham Library	LA3 2BJ	heysham.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 14 April	2pm	Cardboard Cosmos	Halton Mill	LA2 6ND	07582 789406
Sat 15 April	10am	Cardboard Cosmos	The Bureau Centre for the Arts, Blackburn	BB1 6HQ	01254 664215
Sat 15 April	2pm	Cardboard Cosmos	The Barlow, Edgworth	BL7 0AP	www.thebarlow.co.uk/whats-on
Thu 20 April	7pm	Long Lost Home	Citheroe Library	BB7 2DG	citheroe.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Fri 21 April	7pm	Long Lost Home	St Annes Library	FY8 1NR	stannes.library@lancashire.gov.uk
Sat 22 April	7pm	Long Lost Home	Morecambe Library	LA4 5DL	morecambe.library@lancashire.gov.uk

## PARTNERS



Supporting creative practice, funded by  
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Refresh

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