

Thursday 12 February 2026

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL 2026

Chichester Festival Theatre's Festival 2026 season, encompassing March to October, is announced today by Artistic Director, Justin Audibert and Executive Director, Kathy Bourne.

As six previous Chichester productions play in London and around the country, Festival 2026 includes eight world premieres, a classic summer musical and Shakespeare's most popular comedy.

Classic musicals and dramas:

- Chichester's first ever production of **Lerner & Loewe's *My Fair Lady*** will be directed by **Rachel Kavanaugh**, with set & costume design by **Peter McKintosh** and choreography by **Stephen Mear**
- **Justin Audibert** and **Hannah Joss** co-direct **Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***, set amidst the Sussex raves of the 1990s, with **Munya Chawawa** as Bottom and **Jemima Rooper** as Titania

World premieres:

- **David Haig** plays Arthur Conan Doyle in his own new play ***Magic***, with **Hadley Fraser** as Harry Houdini, directed by **Lucy Bailey** in the Festival Theatre
- ***Eclipse*** by **W1A & Twenty Twenty Six** writer and director **John Morton** launches the Minerva season, with **Sarah Parish** and **Rupert Penry-Jones** leading the cast
- **Ian McEwan's** masterpiece novel ***Atonement*** is adapted for the stage by **Christopher Hampton**, directed by **Adam Penford**
- **Geraldine James** makes her Chichester debut in ***45 Years***, adapted for the stage from **Andrew Haigh's** film by **Hannah Patterson**, directed by **Prasanna Puwanarajah**
- ***Atlantis*** by **Emily White**, about a family battling climate change, is directed by **Guy Jones** in a co-production with **Theatr Clwyd**
- ***a small and quiet light*** by **Stephanie Street**, with **Priyanga Burford** as the SOE operative Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan, will be co-directed by **Diyan Zora** and **Elin Schofield**, in a co-production with **Orange Tree Theatre**
- ***Antigone Exits*** by **Nina Segal**, bringing Greek tragedy blazing into the 21st century, is directed by **Jeff James**

For family audiences:

- **Roald Dahl's *The BFG***, adapted by **Tom Wells**, with additional material by **Jenny Worton**, in a co-production with the **Royal Shakespeare Company**, **Singapore Repertory Theatre** and **Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay**, and **Roald Dahl Story Company**, comes to Chichester direct from Stratford-upon-Avon to open Festival 2026, directed by **Daniel Evans**

- **Hey! Christmas Tree**, written by **Vicki Berwick**, based on a poem by **Michael Morpurgo**, with music and lyrics by **Eamonn O'Dwyer**, returns following its 2024 premiere directed by **Dale Rooks**
- **Chichester Festival Youth Theatre** present **Stiles & Drewe's Peter Pan – a musical adventure** for Christmas
- **21,000 £10 & £15 tickets** will be available across the season; as well as **10,000 £5 Prologue tickets** for 16 – 30 year olds
- **The Nest**, Chichester's vibrant new studio space for work by emerging artists, has a constantly updating schedule to be found online, with comedy, music and fringe drama
- Off-stage events, backstage tours, free live music and family activities

Justin Audibert and Kathy Bourne said:

'As we announce our brand new season, six previous Chichester Festival Theatre productions are playing in London or around the country – reaching 472,000 people in 2025. It's a powerful testimony to the quality and appeal of the shows we make here that many go on to delight audiences far beyond West Sussex.

'Festival 2026 features no fewer than eight world premieres, as well as our eagerly anticipated summer musical and Shakespeare's most popular comedy. In the Festival Theatre are five shows with spectacle and theatricality at their very heart, including Chichester's first ever production of *My Fair Lady*. In the intimate Minerva, five new plays explore family and our place in the world on a very human level. All ask searching questions about ourselves and our society, while often making us laugh too.

'They'll be brought to life by a superb group of directors, designers and actors. We're delighted to be working in partnership with the RSC, Singapore Repertory Theatre and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and Roald Dahl Story Company on *The BFG*; and with Theatr Clwyd and Orange Tree Theatre on later productions this season.

'Our new studio space The Nest, which opened in 2025, has brought something utterly different and unique to Chichester's nightlife, with a constantly refreshed programme. December brings a welcome second chance to see the enchanting *Hey! Christmas Tree*, and our brilliant Youth Theatre with a sparkling musical version of *Peter Pan*.'

NEWLY ANNOUNCED FESTIVAL 2026 PRODUCTIONS – APRIL TO OCTOBER

World Premiere

David Haig and **Hadley Fraser** in

MAGIC

By **David Haig**

Directed by **Lucy Bailey**

24 April – 16 May, Festival Theatre

Press night: Tuesday 5 May

A new play by **David Haig**, *Magic* has its world premiere at Chichester Festival Theatre from 24 April – 16 May, with a press night on 5 May. The cast is led by **David Haig** and **Hadley Fraser**, directed by **Lucy Bailey**. Based on extraordinary historical events – 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Houdini's death – *Magic* asks what we're prepared to believe, and why.

Harry Houdini is the greatest illusionist the world has ever known. Arthur Conan Doyle is the creator of literature's most brilliant detective, Sherlock Holmes.

Their mutual admiration blossoms into a profound friendship, even as they discover a shared obsession with spiritualism. Conan Doyle believes fervently in the psychic world and the promise of reunion with his dead son; Houdini is determined to demonstrate it's a cruel fraud. Which of these sparring partners will be proved right: the genius writer of fiction or the infallible magician?

David Haig's play *Pressure* (in which he also starred) premiered at Chichester in 2014 and went on to West End and international success; the movie will be released this year. An award-winning actor whose many credits include *Yes, Prime Minister* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* at Chichester, and on screen *Killing Eve*, *COBRA*, *Etoile* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, David Haig will also play Conan Doyle.

Hadley Fraser plays Houdini, returning to Chichester where he last appeared in *The Deep Blue Sea*; his London credits include *The Lehman Trilogy*, *2:22* and *City of Angels*.

The company also includes **Jenna Augen** (*Kyoto*, *Nachtland*, *Leopoldstadt*) as Bess Houdini, **Ben Jones**, **Claire Price** (*The Capture*, *In Praise of Love*, *King Lear*) as Jean Conan Doyle, **Marc Serratos**, **Ella Tekere**, **François Testory**, **Jade Williams** and **Kristin Wei Wong**.

Director **Lucy Bailey** returns to Chichester where her previous work includes *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Tonight at 8.30*.

The designer is **Joanna Parker**, lighting designer **Aideen Malone**, illusion designer **John Bulleid**, composer **Orlando Gough**, sound designer **Beth Duke**, video designer **Dick Straker**, movement director **Ayse Tashkiran**, fight director **Kate Waters** and casting director **Ginny Schiller CDG**.

World Premiere

Sarah Parish and **Rupert Penry-Jones** in
ECLIPSE

Written and directed by **John Morton**

8 May – 6 June, Minerva Theatre

Press night: Thursday 14 May

Eclipse, written and directed by **John Morton**, receives its world premiere at the Minerva Theatre from 8 May – 6 June (press night: 14 May). The cast is led by **Sarah Parish** and **Rupert Penry-Jones**.

In the kitchen of an old Devon rectory, the daughter who stayed and the son who moved away make conversation with their current and former partners, the milkman, the postman, the care workers. They talk about the weather, the roads, the toaster, the bins. About anything except the simmering tensions between them, as their father lies mortally ill in the next room.

Until the unspoken emotions and conflicts of years boil over.

Eclipse is a painfully funny, acute and delicate play about our struggle to communicate, in the face of life and of death. And our infinite capacity for drinking tea.

Writer and director **John Morton's** award-winning TV series include *People Like Us*, *Twenty Twelve*, *W1A* and the forthcoming *Twenty Twenty Six* in the run-up to the World Cup; this is his first stage play.

The company is led by **Sarah Parish**, whose recent TV credits include *W1A*, *Piglets*, *Industry* and *Bancroft* and who last appeared at CFT in *Way Upstream*; and **Rupert Penry-Jones**, returning to the stage after many screen series including *Spooks*, *Silk*, *Whitechapel*, *The Strain* and *The Feud*.

Eclipse will be designed by **Simon Higlett**, with lighting design by **Emma Chapman**, and sound design by **Ed Clarke**; the casting director is **Matilda James CDG**, and the associate director is **Fiona Dunn**.

Eclipse was originally commissioned and developed by ROYO, in association with Wessex Grove.

World Premiere

ATONEMENT

By **Ian McEwan**

Adapted for the stage by **Christopher Hampton**

Directed by **Adam Penford**

29 May – 20 June, Festival Theatre

Press night: Friday 5 June

Ian McEwan's *Atonement*, adapted for the stage by **Christopher Hampton**, runs at Chichester Festival Theatre from 29 May – 20 June (press night: 5 June), directed by **Adam Penford**.

On an English country estate during the blazing summer of 1935, 13 year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a passionate scene between her elder sister Cecilia and the son of their housekeeper, Robbie. In a disastrous desire for drama but only a dim understanding of its impact, Briony makes an accusation which will fatally alter Cecilia and Robbie's lives and many others too – for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone.

Stretching from the 1930s through the Second World War to the present day, **Ian McEwan's** dazzling masterpiece was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and voted by Time Magazine and the Guardian as one of the 100 greatest novels of the past century.

This world premiere stage adaptation is by **Christopher Hampton**, whose many plays and adaptations also include *The Philanthropist* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, which won the Olivier and Evening Standard Awards for Best Play and is shortly to be revived at the National Theatre.

Adam Penford, Artistic Director of Nottingham Playhouse where his recent work includes James Graham's award-winning *Punch*, also in the West End and on Broadway, makes a welcome return to Chichester following his 2023 production of *The Sound of Music*.

The designer will be **Anthony Ward**; composer & sound designer, **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite**; movement and intimacy director, **Ben Wright**; and casting director, **Helena Palmer CDG**.

World Premiere

Geraldine James in

45 YEARS

From the film by **Andrew Haigh**

Adapted for the stage by **Hannah Patterson**

Directed by **Prasanna Puwanarajah**

12 June – 11 July, Minerva Theatre

Press night: Thursday 18 June

45 Years, from the film by **Andrew Haigh**, adapted for the stage by **Hannah Patterson**, runs at Chichester's Minerva Theatre from 12 June – 11 July, with a press night on 18 June. **Geraldine James** makes her Chichester debut, directed by **Prasanna Puwanarajah**.

Buried for decades, the body of a young woman is found in the melting ice. A thousand miles and 45 years away... a crack forms in the crystal of a marriage.

It's the week leading up to Kate and Geoff's wedding anniversary and preparations for the party are in full swing. As they choose the music for their first dance, a letter from Switzerland quietly shatters their world.

Is the past another country? Or are the secrets in the attic of our memory destined to return?

Adapted from **Andrew Haigh's** critically acclaimed 2015 film, *45 Years* is an achingly tense, intimate and moving dance to the music of time.

Hannah Patterson's plays include *Eden* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Playing With Grown Ups* (Theatre503), nominated for an OffWestEnd Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, which transferred to 59E59 in New York.

Geraldine James comes to Chichester for the first time in her distinguished career to play Kate. Her innumerable TV credits include *Back to Life, Silo, This Town, Dope Girls* and *The Jewel in the Crown*; recent stage roles include *Creditors* (Orange Tree) and *As You Like It* (RSC).

Director **Prasanna Puwanarajah** makes his CFT debut; his recent work includes *Twelfth Night* at the RSC, for which he won the 2025 UK Theatre Award for Best Director.

The production will be designed by **James Cotterill**, with lighting design by **Guy Hoare**; the casting director is **Matilda James CDG**.

Lerner & Loewe's

MY FAIR LADY

Book and Lyrics by **Alan Jay Lerner**

Music by **Frederick Loewe**

Adapted from **George Bernard Shaw's** play and **Gabriel Pascal's** motion picture *Pygmalion*

Original production directed and staged by **Moss Hart**

Directed by **Rachel Kavanaugh**

6 July – 5 September, Festival Theatre

Press night: Wednesday 15 July

A brand-new production of **Lerner & Loewe's** glorious, evergreen musical *My Fair Lady* – which has never before been produced at Chichester – will be directed by **Rachel Kavanaugh** and run from 6 July – 5 September, with a press night on 15 July.

With an overflowing bouquet of ravishing songs including *The Rain in Spain, I Could Have Danced All Night, With a Little Bit of Luck* and *Wouldn't It Be Lovely*, sparkling dialogue, brilliant lyrics, witty story and gorgeous costumes, this 20th century masterpiece has been described as the perfect musical.

Cockney Eliza Doolittle scrapes a living selling flowers on the streets of London. Her dream of being a lady in a florist's shop is out of reach unless she can speak 'proper English'. So when she encounters Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, she seizes the chance to transform her life.

Higgins blithely takes on a bet to turn the woman he dismisses as a "squashed cabbage leaf" into a high society paragon. But his impulsive wager becomes a journey of discovery for both him and Eliza.

Based on **George Bernard Shaw's** 1913 play *Pygmalion*, Lerner & Loewe's multi award-winning musical broke Broadway records when it opened in 1956 and was later adapted into the 1964 Oscar-winning film.

Director **Rachel Kavanaugh**'s previous Chichester productions include *The Music Man*, *Shadowlands* (now in the West End) and *Half a Sixpence*. The set and costumes will be designed by **Peter McKintosh** (*Top Hat*, *South Pacific*, *Shadowlands*), with choreography by **Stephen Mear** (*Gypsy*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Kiss Me Kate*).

The musical supervisor will be **Stephen Ridley**, musical director **Cat Beveridge**, lighting designer **Howard Harrison**, sound designer **Ian Dickinson**, and casting director **Stuart Burt CDG**.

There will be a Dementia Friendly performance on 29 July and a Relaxed Performance on 1 September. A Summer Gala on 28 August will support our fundraising campaign for the next generation of theatre-makers.

World Premiere

ATLANTIS

By **Emily White**

Directed by **Guy Jones**

A co-production with **Theatr Clwyd**

18 July – 15 August, Minerva Theatre

Press night: Wednesday 22 July

Emily White's new play *Atlantis* runs at Chichester's Minerva Theatre from 18 July – 15 August, with a press night on 22 July, directed by **Guy Jones** in a co-production with **Theatr Clwyd** (where it runs from 6 June – 4 July, with a press night on 10 June).

In a small coastal village in Wales, Bryn and Gwen learn they will be forced to abandon their cherished home in the face of rising seawater. Their crisis rekindles Gwen's crusading spirit, cradled at the Greenham Common protests in the 1980s – a commitment inherited by her granddaughter Rhiannon. But as the years pass, their passionate activism threatens to divide mother from daughter, sister from brother, husband from wife.

Emily White's lyrical, deeply touching and thought-provoking play, winner of the George Devine Award, follows four generations as they discover the cost of saving their home – and the planet.

Director **Guy Jones** (*Blackout Songs* Hampstead, *O, Island!* RSC) makes his Chichester debut.

The designer is **Frankie Bradshaw**, lighting designer **Joshua Pharo**, composer & sound designer **Holly Khan**, movement director **Jess Williams**, casting director **Sophie Parrott CDG**, with children's casting by **Keston and Keston**.

World Premiere

Priyanga Burford in

a small and quiet light

By **Stephanie Street**

Co-directed by **Diyan Zora** and **Elin Schofield**

A co-production with **Orange Tree Theatre**

21 August – 12 September, Minerva Theatre

Press night: Thursday 27 August

A new play by **Stephanie Street**, *a small and quiet light*, has its premiere at Chichester's Minerva Theatre from 21 August – 12 September, co-directed by **Diyan Zora** and **Elin Schofield**, with a press night on 27 August. The cast is led by **Priyanga Burford**. A co-

production with **Orange Tree Theatre** in Richmond, it will run there from 21 September – 24 October.

October 1943. In a small office on the Avenue Foch in Paris, a Gestapo interrogator is questioning a young woman who has been known by many different names: Babuli, Jeanne-Marie, Nora, Madeleine.

As one of the secret agents of Britain's Special Operations Executive – and the first female radio operator to be sent undercover into France – she has evaded capture far longer than most. But now she has been betrayed.

As she faces the fate she has dreaded so long, memories crowd in – a beloved father, a thwarted lover, a gruelling journey to war, and an endless longing for her childhood piano. What has led her here?

a small and quiet light is based on the life of Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan (1914-1944), an extraordinarily courageous woman who paid the ultimate price for her heroic fight against fascism.

Stephanie Street's plays include *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Sisters*; as an actor, her Chichester credits include *Our Generation* and *Quiz*.

Priyanga Burford (*The Vortex* CFT, *The Seagull* Barbican, *An Enemy of the People* West End – Olivier nomination, *Steeltown Murders*) plays Noor.

Diyan Zora, who previously directed *Mom*, *How Did You Meet The Beatles?* at CFT and, more recently, *Roots* (Almeida) and *English* (RSC, Olivier Award nomination) co-directs with **Elin Schofield**, whose work includes *Scissors* at Sheffield Theatre for which she won the UK Theatre Award for Best Director.

The designer is **Anna Yates**, sound designer **Tingying Dong**, and casting director **Jacob Sparrow CDG**; **Priyanga Burford** (Dawn Chorus Films) is consultant producer.

Munya Chawawa and **Jemima Rooper** in

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By **William Shakespeare**

Co-directed by **Justin Audibert** and **Hannah Joss**

18 September – 17 October, Festival Theatre

Press night: Friday 25 September

The exuberant, enchanted world of Shakespeare's magical comedy ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** heralds the final Festival Theatre production of the season, running from 18 September – 17 October with a press night on 25 September.

Artistic Director **Justin Audibert** follows 2025's *Hamlet* and his 2024 Festival Theatre production of *Redlands*, turning from the rock 'n' roll of the 1960s to the Sussex raves of the 1990s for this riotously entertaining new production, co-directed with CFT's Associate Director **Hannah Joss** (*Choir*).

Kicking back against the rules imposed by their stuffy elders, four spirited young lovers take off to a forest thronged with mischievous creatures who march to a different beat.

But the king and queen of the fairies are at loggerheads, and psychedelic potions create startling transformations. For a bunch of budding actors, staging a play proves more of a headache than they bargained for. As traditional values go head to head with hedonism and freedom, amidst a whirl of conflicting desires, how will this madcap night of revels end?

Comedian and satirist **Munya Chawawa** makes his theatrical debut as Bottom. **Jemima Rooper** (*The Norman Conquests* CFT, *One Man Two Guvvors*, *Geek Girl*) plays Titania.

The set designer will be **Joanna Scotcher**, costume designer **Ryan Dawson Laight**, composer & sound designer **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite**, and casting director **Matilda James CDG**.

World Premiere

ANTIGONE EXITS

By **Nina Segal**

Directed by **Jeff James**

26 September – 17 October, Minerva Theatre

Press night: Thursday 1 October

Antigone Exits by **Nina Segal** has its premiere at Chichester's Minerva Theatre, directed by **Jeff James**, running from 26 September – 17 October, with a press night on 1 October.

Antigone's brother has died in a bloody civil war. The king – her uncle – has forbidden anyone to bury the body. Antigone is going to bury the body anyway.

Twenty-five centuries after *Antigone*, seven performers gather to re-tell the tale of what is buried and what comes of it. Ancient Greece crashes into the contemporary, as Sophocles' classic tragedy shines a scorching light onto our current world.

Nina Segal's modern adaptation brings *Antigone* blazing into the present day. Her previous work includes *Cow | Deer* (Royal Court), *We Are The Lucky Ones* (Dutch National Opera) and *Shooting Hedda Gabler* (Rose Theatre).

Jeff James directs; his recent directing work includes *Shooting Hedda Gabler* at the Rose Theatre and his own adaptations of *Persuasion* at the Manchester Royal Exchange and *Winter's Tale* at the Dailes Theatre, Latvia.

The production will be designed by **Alex Lowde**.

Opening Festival 2026, as previously announced

World Premiere

Roald Dahl's

THE BFG

Adapted by **Tom Wells**

With additional material by **Jenny Worton**

Directed by **Daniel Evans**

A Chichester Festival Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Singapore Repertory Theatre and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and Roald Dahl Story Company production

Monday 9 March – Saturday 11 April, Festival Theatre

Press night: Thursday 12 March, 7pm

For ages 8+

Roald Dahl's beloved story ***The BFG*** comes to life on a truly giant scale at Chichester Festival Theatre this spring, running from 9 March – 11 April with a press night on 12 March. Directed by RSC Co-Artistic Director (and former CFT Artistic Director) **Daniel Evans**, the cast is led by **John Leader** as the BFG.

The opening production of the 2026 Festival season will deliver a theatrical feast of jaw-dropping giants, oversized snozzcumbers, iridescent dream jars and frobscottle fit for the Queen of Enger-land herself.

One extraordinary night, a young orphan named Sophie is snatched by a giant and taken far away to Giant Country. There she learns that human-eating giants are guzzling ‘norphans’ the world over. But she soon discovers that her new friend, the BFG, is different – he’s a dream-catching, snozzcumber-munching gentle soul who refuses to eat humans.

While other giants wreak havoc on the world, the BFG ignites Sophie’s imagination, and they devise a daring plan to save children everywhere. In the end, the smallest human bean and the gentlest giant prove that a dream can change the world.

This darkly comic and mischievous new stage adaptation will transfer to Singapore following its Chichester run.

The Puppetry Designer and Director is **Toby Olié**; Set Designer, **Vicki Mortimer**; Costume Designer, **Kinnetia Isidore**; Lighting Designer, **Zoe Spurr**; Video Designer, **Akhila Krishnan**; Illusions, **Chris Fisher**; Composer, **Oleta Haffner**; Sound Designer, **Carolyn Downing**; Choreographer & Movement Director, **Ira Mandela Siobhan**; Puppetry Co-Designers, **Daisy Beattie & Seb Mayer**; Casting Director, **Christopher Worrall CDG**; Children’s Casting Director, **Verity Naughton CDG**; Musical Supervisor, Additional Orchestrations and Arrangements, **Theo Jamieson**; Music Director, **Màth Roberts**; Associate Director, **Louise Shephard**; Senior Associate Set Designer, **Matt Hellyer**.

Christmas 2026

HEY! CHRISTMAS TREE

Written by **Vicki Berwick**

From a poem by **Michael Morpurgo**

Music and Lyrics by **Eamonn O’Dwyer**

5 – 27 December, Minerva Theatre

For ages 3 – 7

Enchanting, funny and heart-warming, this festive story about the importance of finding friendship and somewhere to call home, created especially for Chichester Festival Theatre by **Michael Morpurgo** and written by **Vicki Berwick**, returns to the Minerva Theatre following its hugely popular 2024 premiere.

Tree is rescued from the forest on Christmas Eve by Mavis, the motorbiking park ranger, who lives with her cheeky cat Winston and 9-year-old Yulia, who doesn’t want to talk and is a long way from home.

Tree has never had Christmas before and isn’t sure about all the decorations he has to wear. But he meets Father Christmas and the Snow Woman, and with Yulia to care for him, he starts to dance. The seasons come and go, Tree grows taller, and soon Christmas comes around once again. And alongside the gifts in their stockings is the best present of all.

Inspired by Michael Morpurgo’s book of poems *My Heart Was a Tree*, it’s a perfect first festive theatre trip for 3 to 7 year olds.

Dale Rooks, whose Chichester productions include *The Butterfly Lion*, *Running Wild* and *A Boy Called Christmas*, directs. The designer is **Lily Arnold**, lighting designer **James Whiteside**, sound designer **Andy Graham**, video designer **Dan Hill**, movement director **Georgina Lamb**, and casting director **Annelie Powell CDG**.

There will be a Relaxed Performance on 9 December at 10.30am.

Chichester Festival Youth Theatre present

Stiles and Drewe's

PETER PAN - A musical adventure

Music by **George Stiles**

Lyrics by **Anthony Drewe**

In a new version by **Anthony Drewe**

Based on the book by **Willis Hall**

Adapted from **J.M. Barrie's** original play with permission from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

14 – 30 December, Festival Theatre

Press night: Thursday 17 December

For ages 7+

One of the most beloved stories of all time, in a wonderful version with songs by **Stiles & Drewe** (*Honk!*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Half a Sixpence*), ***Peter Pan – a musical adventure*** is the perfect Christmas show for all the family.

Join **Chichester Festival Youth Theatre** in this magical and exciting tale about the three Darling children – Wendy, John and Michael – whose world changes when a boy who doesn't want to grow up flies into their London bedroom, and teaches them how to take wing themselves.

And so begins an awfully big adventure more deliciously dangerous and thrilling than they could ever have imagined.

Reaching the island of Never Land, they meet the cheeky fairy Tinker Bell, quarrelsome Lost Boys, mysterious mermaids, rascalion pirates and, of course, the elegant and menacing Captain Hook...!

An unmissable, classic musical adaptation presented by our multi-talented Youth Theatre, supported by a full professional creative team.

For ages 7+. There will be a Relaxed Performance on 30 December at 2pm.

THE NEST

Our new venue, launched in summer 2025, for emerging artists, local creatives, fresh ideas and bold performances, has a constantly updating schedule available online.

Forthcoming highlights include: *Schmedic*, a debut one-woman play by doctor turned National Theatre actress, **Dr Sara Otung** (19 – 21 February); award-winning mentalist and psychological magician **Edward Crawford** with *Mind Reader* (28 March); a one-off intimate show from musician **Will Rendle** from cult quintet *Will and the People* (11 April); **Katie Greenall's** quest through synchronised swimming, *Blubber* (18 April); and former Wimbledon line judge, comedian **Pauline Eyre** with *Anyone For Tennis* (15 May).

FESTIVAL 2026 EVENTS

A lively programme of events and activities will complement the shows on stage.

In *Walk of the Dandelion*, an 8 foot puppet promenades through the city centre to mark **Green Week** in association with Culture Spark. Enjoy live music from local talent at our free **Summer Sessions**. Celebrate **International Women's Day**, and discuss **The Climate Crisis**. Brave our **Murder Mystery – Death Rehearsal** and witness the debut performance of **InterGen Collective**, our new collaboration project across all ages.

Free **Directors** and **Post-Show Talks** with cast members are held for each production, while **Theatre Days**, **Backstage Tours** and **A Midsummer Night's Dream Experience Weekend** unveil backstage secrets.

Family Friendly activities range from **Roman Week crafts**, performances **Rabbit & Rey and the Lost Things** and **After Party** and comedy **Shelf – The Kids Show 2** and **Comedy Club 4 Kids** to the return of **Creation Station**, **The Brick People** and free **Storytime Saturdays**.

ENDS

Festival 2026 Show and Event Sponsors

Minerva Season Principal:
Charles Holloway OBE

Production Sponsors:

Magic is sponsored by Genesis Town Planning

My Fair Lady is sponsored by Bennett Griffin | Solicitors and Greenwood Wealth Solutions

Atlantis is sponsored by ITD Consultants

a small and quiet light is sponsored by Wiley

A Midsummer Night's Dream is sponsored by The Portsmouth Grammar School

Antigone Exits is sponsored by Bishops Printers

Peter Pan – a musical adventure is sponsored by Chichester College

Directors and Post-Show Talks are sponsored by Irwin Mitchell

BOOKING INFORMATION

Priority booking for Friends & Champions of Chichester Festival Theatre opens:

Saturday 21 February (online and booking forms only)

Tuesday 24 February (phone and in person)

Booking for Groups and Schools opens:

Thursday 26 February

General booking opens:

Saturday 28 February (online only)

Tuesday 3 March (phone and in person)

Tickets from £10

cft.org.uk Box Office **01243 781312**

Prologue: £5 tickets for 16 – 30s

10,000 £5 tickets are available for 16 to 30 year-olds across all Festival 2026 productions; sign up for free at **cft.org.uk/prologue**.

Festival 2026 press nights

<i>The BFG</i> , Festival Theatre	Thursday 12 March, 7.00pm
<i>Magic</i> , Festival Theatre	Tuesday 5 May, 7.00pm
<i>Eclipse</i> , Minerva Theatre	Thursday 14 May, 7.00pm
<i>Atonement</i> , Festival Theatre	Friday 5 June, 7.00pm
<i>45 Years</i> , Minerva Theatre	Thursday 18 June, 7.00pm
<i>My Fair Lady</i> , Festival Theatre	Wednesday 15 July, 7.00pm
<i>Atlantis</i> , Minerva Theatre	Wednesday 22 July, 7.00pm

<i>a small and quiet light</i> , Minerva Theatre	Thursday 27 August, 7.00pm
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Festival Theatre	Friday 25 September, 7.00pm
<i>Antigone Exits</i> , Minerva Theatre	Thursday 1 October, 7.00pm
<i>Peter Pan</i> , Festival Theatre	Thursday 17 December, 7.00pm

Images can be downloaded from cft.org.uk/pressimages, password: festivalpress

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