

**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

## Outdoor Theatre at The Bishop's Palace June – August 2021

The Bishop's Palace in Wells has announced its summer outdoor theatre season for 2021, and it's bigger than ever before.

With six different productions, covering everything from children's theatre to authentic Shakespeare, there's sure to be something to suit everyone.

The productions are held on the stunning South Lawn of the Palace Gardens, in the shadow of the romantic ruins of the Great Hall, and each evening makes for a truly memorable night out.

Productions this year are:

*Robin O' The Greenwood – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.*

Was Robin Hood a real person? Is it true he stole from the rich to give to the poor, or was that a thin excuse for relieving travellers of their purses?

Storyteller Beth Webb and folk singer Neil Eaton will delight you with an evening of traditional tales, songs, and a little bit of history. In the magnificent setting of the Bishop's Palace, you'll be transported back to the early 1200s – to the day when an unwed great granddaughter of the King of the Scots gave birth to a baby boy, and she called him Robin. Age recommendation: 11+

*The Great Gatsby – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm*

Join Heartbreak Productions and the Nick Carraway quartet for an evening of jazz, prohibition style. Nick is not only the band leader but a top-notch storyteller, and when he's in the mood, he can take you back to the summer of 1922 when he lived next door to none other than the infamous Jay Gatsby.

So get your glad rags on, work up your best Charleston, and get your cocktail glass at the ready! Served up with a twist of iconic Heartbreak style, this outdoor adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is the perfect way to mark 100 years since prohibition. Age recommendation 9+

*Mr Stink – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm*

See the colourful characters from the celebrated novel by David Walliams come to life in Heartbreak Productions' adaptation of *Mr. Stink* for the open air.

An outdoor show packed with fun, humour and a heart-warming message, this brand new

adaptation of Mr Stink with some audience participation is suitable for the whole family to enjoy together. Age recommendation: Suitable for all ages

*Macbeth – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 6pm*

The Lord Chamberlain's Men, the UK's premier all male theatre company invite you to join them this summer for the breathless and brilliant tragedy, *Macbeth*.

*“By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.”*

Emerging victorious and decorated in war Macbeth receives a thrilling pronouncement from three weird sisters who prophesy he will one day be King of Scotland. Overcome by ambition and driven on by his powerful wife, Macbeth murders the king and sets in motion a terrible sequence of events from which there is no turning back. Age recommendation: 9+

*The Wind in the Willows – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm*

The unforgettable characters from Kenneth Grahame's classic tale spring to life in this adaptation, in true Pantaloons style! This riotous comedy follows Mole, Rat, Badger, and the impulsive Mr. Toad, whose insatiable need for speed lands him in serious trouble. With his beloved home under threat from the notorious Wiley Weasel and his gang of sinister Wild Wooders, Toad must attempt a daring escape leading to a series of misadventures and a heroic battle to recapture Toad Hall. Full of humour, wit, singing and dancing and heartwarming lessons of friendship, this show is the perfect fit for family audiences everywhere. Age recommendation: Suitable for all ages.

*Murder on the Improvised Express – 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm*

Mesdames and Messieurs, may I take your tickets please?

This Summer, let comedy improvisation company, Pinch Punch, welcome you aboard their exciting new show, Murder on The Improvised Express. There will be outrageous accents, there will be larger-than-life characters, there will be thrills, spills and good old-fashioned kills. If you're a fan of murder mysteries and want the chance to be in charge of the action, then this is the show for you. Will you crack the case and beat the detective? Come and find out. Age recommendation: 14+

All shows can be booked on The Bishop's Palace website ([www.bishopspalace.org.uk](http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk)) and theatre-goers should bring a picnic blanket or low-backed seating. The performances will go ahead whatever the weather, so do dress accordingly for the Great British Summer!

ENDS

---

## **ABOUT THE BISHOP'S PALACE**

The Bishop's Palace is the 800-year-old home of the Bishops of Bath & Wells. The medieval palace is also home to the wells and ancient springs that give the City of Wells its name, the world famous mute swans that ring a bell alongside the Gatehouse when they want their food, and 14 acres of stunning gardens. Within the gardens are an Arboretum, formal planted gardens, the ruined and romantic Great Hall, waterfalls and well pools, a Community Garden and the new Garden of Reflection.

The Palace buildings open to the public include a medieval undercroft, a striking Long Gallery, hung with portraits of former bishops, exhibition space and the beautiful medieval Chapel.

There is a modern, family and dog friendly café, serving produce from the gardens, drinks, cakes and light meals and a gift shop. The site is accessible for wheelchair users, with new, even pathways in the gardens and a lift in the Palace building.

The Bishop's Palace is managed by The Palace Trust, registered charity number 1160830.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Location:**

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens  
Wells  
Somerset  
BA5 2PD

T: 01749 988111

E: [info@bishoppalace.org.uk](mailto:info@bishoppalace.org.uk)

W: [www.bishoppalace.org.uk](http://www.bishoppalace.org.uk)

### **OPENING TIMES**

Summer (31 March – 26 Oct): 10am - 5pm

Winter (27 Oct – 30 March): 10am – 4pm

Last admission is 30 minutes before closing.

The Bishop's Palace is closed over Christmas every year.

- All activities and events are included in the price of admission unless stated otherwise and children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Guided Tours Daily (not currently available until further notice)

## **ADMISSION CHARGES**

Admission tickets give access to the medieval Palace, Undercroft, ruined Great Hall, 14 acres of gardens, the Bishop's Chapel and events (unless specifically ticketed).

<b>Who</b>	<b>Gift Aid*</b>
Adult Annual Return Ticket	£15.00
Children (Under 5 years)	FREE
Children (5-18 years) Annual Return Ticket	£7.50
Essential helpers assisting disabled visitors	FREE
Group Admission	Prebooked
Child Group Admission	Prebooked

## **HOW TO FIND US**

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens is situated in the heart of Wells, Somerset and can be easily reached from Bath – 21 miles / Bristol - 21 miles / Glastonbury - 8 miles.

**Bus:** 29, 126, 161/162, 173, 375, 376, 377 all stop or pass through Wells. Alight at Wells Market Place.

**Bike:** The Bishop's Palace is situated on Sustrans cycle route 3. Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) for further information and maps. Cycle racks available over the drawbridge and in Market Place.

**Train:** The nearest railway stations are Castle Cary (9 miles from Wells) and also Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa (both 21 miles), where you will find bus links to Wells.

**Coach:** Follow signs to coach dropping off point, continue down one way system to bus station coach park.

**Car:** The main routes to Wells are the A371 and the A39. The Bishop's Palace is a short walk from all central car parks, use Whiting Way car park (long stay) which is located just off the A39 or Market Place (short stay, 1 hour maximum) is just outside the palace Not available Wednesday or Saturday (market days).

**Map:** [http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk/location\\_map.php](http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk/location_map.php)