



Caroline Harker

Cast announced for biting satire

PREVIEW

Hangbagged, Salisbury Playhouse

CASTING has been announced for a new production of much-loved satirical comedy set to take centre stage at Salisbury Playhouse.

Moira Buffini's biting satire Hangbagged, a co-production between Wiltshire Creative, Oldham Coliseum Theatre and York Theatre Royal opens early next month. The play imagines what might have

happened at The Queen's weekly meetings with Margaret Thatcher while the latter was prime minister.

Entertainingly told and packed with satirical humour, the two women collide as they share their opposing views of Britain's role in the world.

Susan Penhaligon will take on the role of The Queen and Sarah Crowden plays Margaret Thatcher, while their younger counterparts will be played by Caroline Harker and Eve Matheson, respectively.

The cast is completed by Jahvel Hall and Andy Secombe who

between them play a range of familiar characters including Ronald and Nancy Reagan, Gerry Adams, Arthur Scargill and the Duke of Edinburgh

The main cast will be supported by Geoffrey Howe, Denis Thatcher and others, Hangbagged is funny, sharp and mischievous.

Tickets are now on sale for Hangbagged which opens from April 4 and runs to April 20.

Tickets can be booked by calling ticket sales on 01722 320333 or by going to wiltshirecreative.co.uk where there is also more information.



THEATRE DATES

1 MARCH: Russell and Algar, at The Arena, The Lights, Andover, at 8pm.

1 MARCH: Jackie Oates, at The Forge, Basingstoke, at 8.15pm.

2 MARCH: Dirty DC, at The Arena, The Lights, Andover, at 8pm.

UP to 2 MARCH: Out of Joint presents Rita, Sue and Bob Too, by Andrea Dunbar, at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, at 7.30pm. Matinée on Saturday at 2.30pm.

UP to 9 MARCH: Agatha Christie's The Mirror Crack'd, at the Salisbury Playhouse, at 7.30pm. Matinéés on Thursday and Saturdays at 2.15pm.

UP to 30 MARCH: Macbeth, at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury, at 7.30pm. Matinéés on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm. The 14 March 7.30pm performance had sold out.

5 — 7 MARCH: Theatre Royal Wakefield presents Bouncers by John Godber, at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, at 7.30pm. Matinee on Wednesday at 2.30pm.

6 MARCH: Steve Steinman's Vampires Rock, featuring Sam Bailey, at The Anvil, Basingstoke, at 7.45pm.

7 MARCH: Leo Houlding — The Spectre Exhibition, at The Lights, Andover, at 7.30pm.

7 MARCH: Steve Harley Acoustic Trio, at The Haymarket, Basingstoke, at 7.30pm.

7 MARCH: Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, with Alexander Gavrylyuk on piano and Ion Marin conducting, at The Anvil, Basingstoke, at 7.45pm.

8 MARCH: Richard Digance — The Platinum Tour, at The Lights, Andover, at 7.45pm.

8 MARCH: Brit Floyd — Another Brick in the Wall 2019, at The Anvil, Basingstoke, at 8pm.

8 and 9 MARCH: Apollo Theatre Company presents Hancock's Half Hour, at The Haymarket, Basingstoke, at 7.30pm. Matinee on Saturday at 2pm.

10 MARCH: Get on the Floor! — with AJ Pritchard, at The Anvil, Basingstoke, at 7pm.

12 MARCH: That'll Be The Day, at The Anvil, Basingstoke, at 7.30pm.

Straightforward comedian to mark two decades on circuit

PREVIEW

Reginald D Hunter, Facing the Beast, The Lights, Andover

KNOWN for his straightforward view on life, Reginald D Hunter will bring his new tour to The Lights.

Hunter is out on a 40 date tour of the UK and Ireland with his highly anticipated and fresh show Facing the Beast.

A multi-award winning performer, the tour celebrates his 20th anniversary as a comedian living and performing in the UK.

Hunter's searingly honest material has garnered him a popular fan base that spans the generations.

His comedy covers global politics, sex, relationships and the many cultural differences on both sides of the Atlantic.

His appearances on television have included Have I Got News For You, 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown and the hugely popular BBC2 series Reginald D Hunter's Songs Of The South and its equally successful follow up

Reginald D Hunter's Songs Of The Border, both of which documented the growth of American popular song.

Born in Albany, Georgia, as the youngest of nine, Hunter relocated to the UK in his 20s as a theatre student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and became a comedian after performing his first comedy set as a dare, for which he received £100.

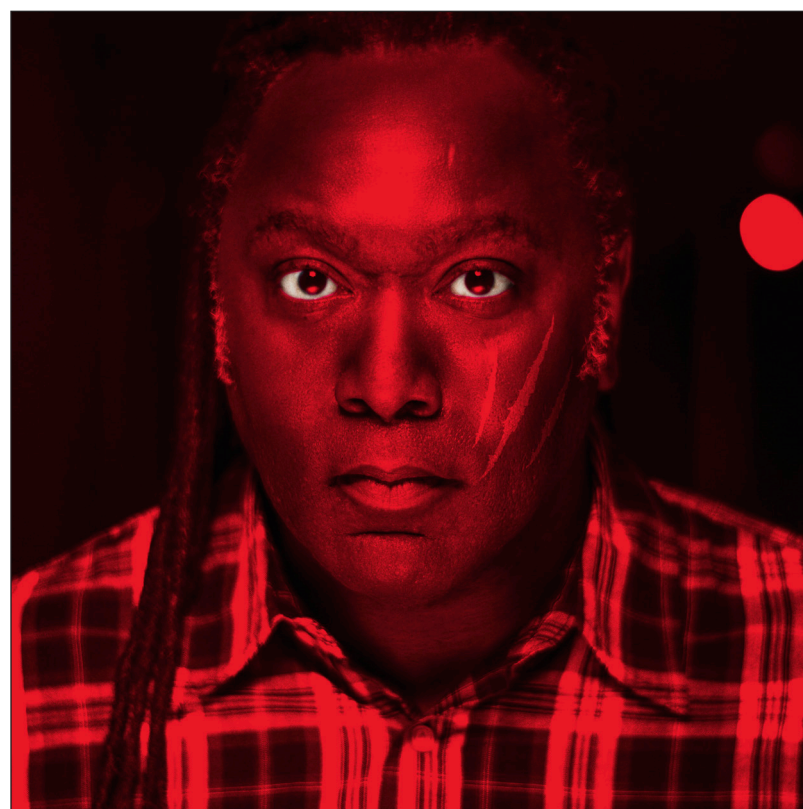
From the new tour audiences are told to expect more of his sharp talking, which he has been well known for over the past 20 years.

At times he has been deemed as controversial with his distinctive approach to subjects such as race and sex, but the comedian has never been afraid to face challenging issues head on even when the focus is on his own principles or beliefs.

Hunter will come to The Lights on April 24, with the show starting at 8pm

Tickets are £15 or Pullman tickets are £16.

To book tickets, call the box office on 01264 368368 or go online to the lights.org.uk.



Reginald D Hunter will bring his tour to The Lights in April

The magic of the Little Kingdom captures little ones' attentions

REVIEW

Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, The Anvil, Basingstoke

IT IS the magic that is most mesmerising in Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom at The Anvil, Basingstoke — one of 42 theatres that this production visits during its UK and Ireland Tour 2019.

Fairy princess Holly vanishes into thin air while playing hide and seek with Ben Elf and then a little child shrinks...

We learn that Nanny Plum moonlights as a tooth fairy who wakes Lucy when she

goes to exchange her tooth for a coin. Heidi, aged 6, has just had her first tooth out so she can really relate to this part of the story.

Nanny Plum then shrinks Lucy whisking her away to the Little Kingdom for more fun and games. "Acorn small, oak tree tall..." Nanny Plum chants as she starts her potion to cure King Thistle's cold that turns out to be a remedy for baldness as his hair sprouts all over the place.

Poor old King Thistle doesn't want to celebrate his birthday due to old age; I have a little chuckle to myself, sympathising in

many ways. And we have little Gaston the ladybird squirting water tears all over the front row of the audience when he's unhappy at his smelly home being tidied up.

My wife and I enjoy watching our children: Harriett, aged eight, Heidi, aged six, and Henry, aged three, all engrossed with the performance and all the tunes they recognise. While they are fans of the television series seeing it live in front of them on the stage really captures their imaginations. The performance is about an hour long with an interval in the middle, so just the right

length for little ones.

We wonder how the characters with their puppet heads can see where they are going. I reckon they look through their large mouth holes but Caroline disagrees. At any rate it must be a hot business to be on stage in these costumes.

At the end Harriett wants it to continue and on their return home the children all drift off to sleep dreaming of fairies.

The tour continues and Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom will be at the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton, from July 12 to 14.

Tim Saunders



IF YOU celebrate your birthday in the coming week 'Happy Birthday to You' from the Andover Advertiser.

Friday: Korben Wells, aged three, of Hepworth Close, Artists Way, Andover.

Wednesday: Albie Jones, aged eight, of Berehill Crescent, Andover.

Thursday: Carlin Jones, aged 10, of Berehill Crescent, Andover.

If you would like the Andover Advertiser to wish your child (aged 12 or under on their next birthday) a Happy Birthday every year, please apply for a registration form by e-mail to: derek.kane@andoveradvertiser.co.uk or write to Derek Kane, Editorial Assistant, Andover Advertiser, 2b, Union Street,