



Durham
University

Student Performing Arts

October - December 2024

What's On

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Durham University Student Performing Arts' What's On guide.

The wider student experience here at Durham University is incredibly important to us, and for thousands of students, music and theatre is a passion we strive to stimulate and strengthen.

Student Performing Arts is open to all – some groups are formed within the Durham Colleges and some from across the University. Almost all of the performances in this Guide are student-led, and are not part of a degree programme. They are created for fun, for the joy of creating art together.

If you like what you see, why not sign up to our mailing list? More details can be found at the end of this Guide.

I look forward to seeing you all at this term's performances!

Nicola Candlish

Nicola Candlish
Senior Manager of Student Performing Arts



Isabelle Askew and George Cass, Durham University Choral Society and Durham University Orchestral Society in *Fairytales* by Durham University Performing Arts 2024



What we've been up to...

Anything Goes by Durham University Light Opera Group 2024

It's been a busy six months since the release of our last termly What's On guide, with a summer term packed full of concerts, tours and festivals.

The end of Epiphany term 2024 saw the 49th annual [Durham Drama Festival](#), organised by Durham Student Theatre. Of these six productions, four have transferred on tour to Edinburgh and beyond this summer, and two competed at the National Student Drama Festival, with student director Emily Browning winning the Buzz Goodbody Award Director Award for her outstanding potential.

In music, Northern Lights A Cappella defended their national championship at the ICCAA tournament, and represented the United Kingdom at the world championships for A Cappella, where alto Lucie Fletcher won the Outstanding Soloist award for her performance of 'Euphoria'.

In June, [Durham University Orchestral Society](#) Symphony Orchestra and Durham University Choral Society performed *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* to a sold-out Durham Cathedral, earning a ten-minute standing ovation. The orchestra of around 80 of the University's best musicians and a choir of 100 student voices joined forces with four international soloists, including Durham-born operatic bass Graeme Danby, and renowned emerging Mexican tenor Leonardo Sanchez.

Our other orchestral groups also performed across the city's major venues, including the [Palatinate Orchestra's](#) performance of Muggorsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and the Orchestral Society's rendition of *Beethoven's Fifth Symphony* at the Town Hall.

June also saw a packed Term for theatre, with fifteen shows opening over three weeks, including several sell-out musicals: *Legally Blonde* and *Shrek the Musical* were two firm favourites.

Many of our groups also enjoyed a thriving touring summer season. Castle Theatre Company headed on a month-long tour of their production of *As You Like It*, spending a month on the road around the south of England. Six of our groups also performed at the Durham Fringe Festival, in which our very own Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre acted as the flagship venue. This year, ten of our groups also visited the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where both [The Durham Revue](#) and [Footnotes A Cappella](#) received Derek Awards for outstanding performances in their fields.

After a busy summer, we look forward to a packed October to December period, full of all diverse and engaging performances.

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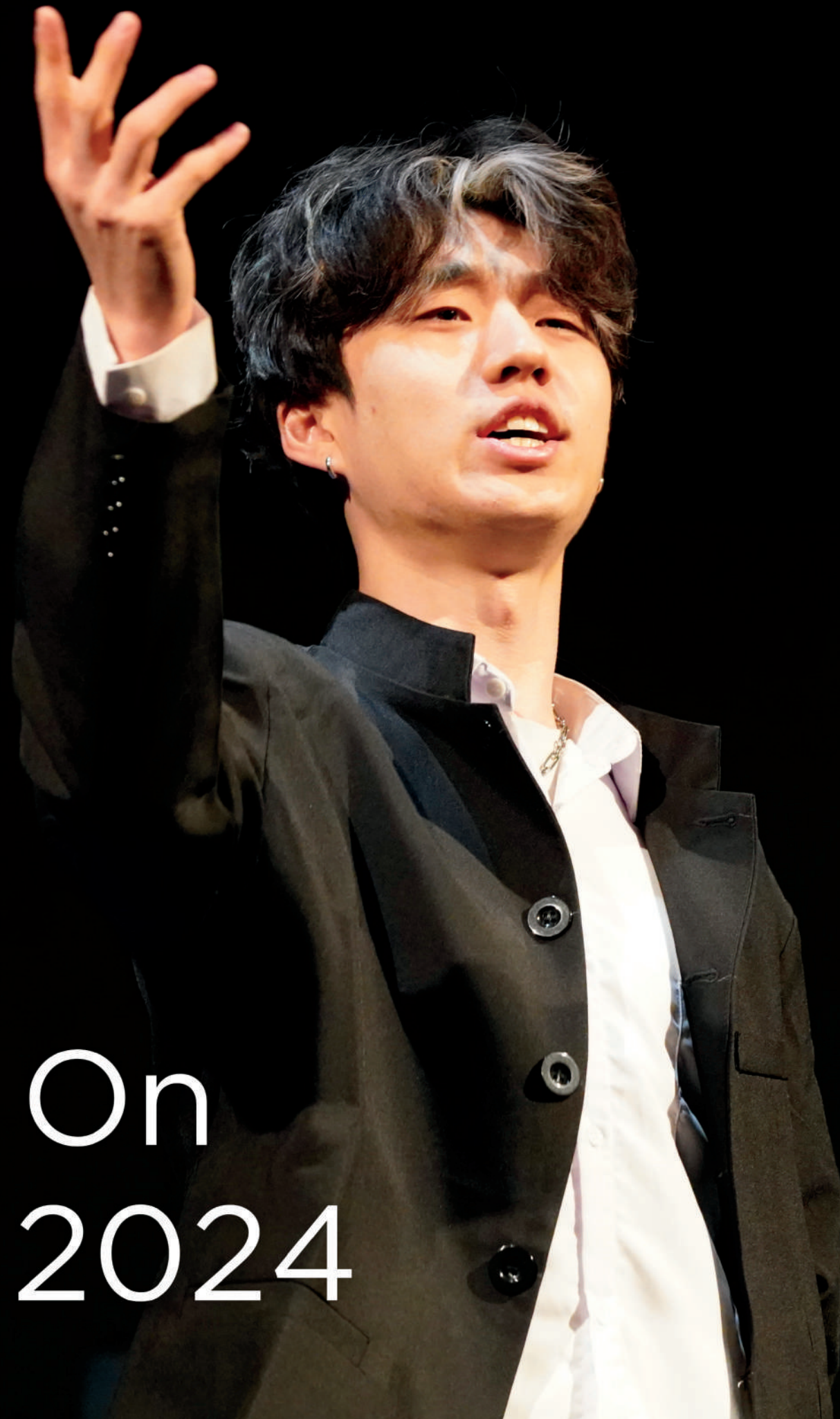
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What's On Winter 2024

Mr Donkey by Yoghurt Theatre Company 2024



Comedy



12 October, 7.30pm

Mid-Laugh Crisis

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

The Durham Revue are turning 50 - cue the mid-laugh crisis!

The group that brought you Liz Kingsman, Ed Gamble, Stevie Martin, Nish Kumar, Ambika Mod and many more are back with a new troupe and 100% new material. Join the award-winning Durham Revue, for an hour of hilarious, cutting-edge sketches. Come along and make selling their soul to sketch comedy worthwhile!

Comedy



14 October, 7.30pm

Return of the Mic

The Holy GrAle, 57 Crossgate

The Stand Society return to The Holy GrAle for their first show of the 2024/5 season, with a jam-packed programme of student comedians.

With both established circuit favourites and brand new debuts, this open-mic collaboration with Durham People of Colour Association marks the Stand's long-awaited return to the comedy scene.

Drama



16 - 19 October, 7.30pm

Othello

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

Award-winning Elysium Theatre Company returns to the Assembly Rooms with new production of Shakespeare's immortal tragedy of love.

Othello is newly married to the young and beautiful Desdemona. Their love seems indestructible. But as the fate of Europe hangs in the balance, Othello's malevolent officer, Iago, has other plans, sowing seeds of jealousy in his tortured mind.

Jazz & Contemporary



18 October, 8pm

High Standards

Divinity House, Palace Green

Step into a night of smooth rhythms and timeless melodies as Durham University Jazz Society presents *High Standards*.

Celebrate the start of the academic year with live performances of iconic jazz standards, delivered with style and passion from our experienced performers. Whether you're an enthusiast or just looking for a memorable evening, this is one event you won't want to miss!

Drama



30 - 31 October, 6.30pm

Jekyll & Hyde

Dowrick Suite, Trevelyan College

Join us in the midnight streets of Victorian London, where Dr Lanyon and company have become suspicious of their respected friend Dr Jekyll, who seemingly disappears on nights where violent assaults and terror occur.

Filled with supernatural horror and terrifying fascination, this play delves deep into the world of Robert Louis Stevenson's grandiose novel, and explores the grief and privilege that lurks within it.

Comedy



27 October, 7.30pm

Dweebs Comedy

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

Durham's most chaotic comedy night, hosted by resident dweebs Ben Lycett & Jack Simmonds, comes to AR for one night only!

With a line-up featuring a major TV headliner, BBC New Comedy Award winner Frankie Monroe, plus a whole host of local and student acts, this is not to be missed!

'Silly, satirical, and full of unpredictability' - The Northern Echo

7-9 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM | SIR THOMAS ALLEN ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Drama

Treasure Island

It's a dark and stormy night. Jim, the inn-keeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in - and her dangerous voyage begins.

Durham Student Theatre presents its annual Freshers' Play, this year taking on Robert Louis Stevenson's iconic *Treasure Island* adapted by Bryony Lavery.

A tale of murder and mutiny, bounty and buccaneers, Lavery's adaptation is an oftentimes comedic retelling of a pirate classic. Jim finds herself in a dangerous yet exciting world she is not used to. Through periods of rebellion, violence and her complex and manipulative relationship with Long John Silver, Jim learns how to grow up and make her own way in a new environment. This production will have every audience member riled up and ready to seek their own adventure.



Bethan Avery in *The Rivals* by Durham University Classical Theatre 2023

Classical Music



6 November DU Concert Band

Elvet Methodist Church

Winners of a Platinum Award at the National Concert Band Festival 2024, Durham University Concert band welcome you to their first concert of the year.

Featuring popular film scores as well as classic wind band pieces, Durham University Concert Band promise an evening of toe-tapping fun in the welcoming Elvet Methodist Church.

Drama



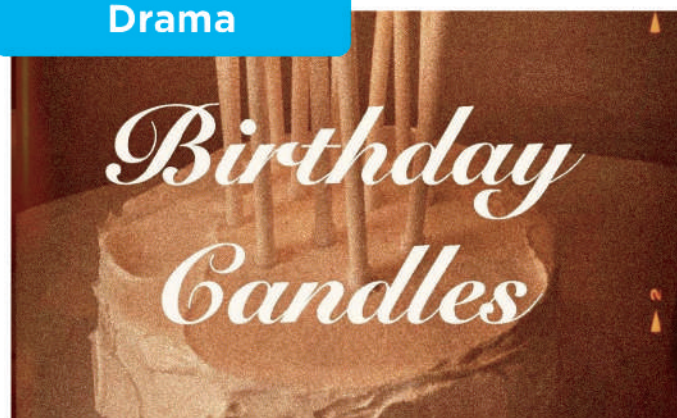
10 - 12 November, 7.30pm Little Women

Mount Oswald Hub

A stage adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, *The Snow-Globe's Little Women* will make you feel warm and fuzzy this winter!

This adaptation is true to the beloved novel, following the four March sisters' journey through adolescence. The show will tug on your heartstrings, with themes of family and growing up.

Drama



14 - 16 November, 7.30pm Birthday Candles

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

Ernestine Ashworth turns 17, then 18, then 41, 70, and 101. Across five generations, countless dreams, and a single cake baked over a century, she reflects on her place in the universe. Following Ernestine from her rebellious teenage years, when she vows to surprise the universe, to old age, where she reflects on a life marked by both joy and loss, the play navigates love, heartbreak, and the inevitable chaos of life.

Musical Theatre



10 November, 7.30pm The Freshers' Showcase

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

For one night only, Tone Deaf Theatre Company presents their annual Freshers' Showcase!

An eight-year-long tradition promising a night filled with incredible musical theatre talent from Durham University's Freshers! From *Wicked* to *Oklahoma* and *Hadestown* to *Les Miserables*- the range of styles on display guarantees a fantastic night brimming with nostalgia for everyone.

Musical Theatre



20-23 November, 7.30pm (2.30pm)

9 to 5: The Musical

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre

'Pour yourself a cup of ambition' and book your tickets, as DULOG meets Dolly Parton in this hilarious and heart-warming tale of friendship, female empowerment and fighting for what's right!

Based on the classic comedy film from 1980, *9 to 5: The Musical* follows a trio of hard-working women and firm friends who, fed up with slaving away for their sexist, self-absorbed boss, plan to put him through a little office payback... With its cast of witty and wise-cracking characters, spunkily subversive message of standing up against The Man, and a pitch-perfect country-pop score by the iconic Dolly Parton, DULOG kickstarts its 75th anniversary year in style with this fun and feisty musical - 'enough to drive you crazy if you let it!'

30 NOVEMBER | 7.30M | ELVET METHODIST CHURCH

Classical Music

Durham University Orchestral Society

Voices of Nations

Folklore, freedom and fanaticism in Europe

The concert will take you on a tour celebrating European national identity.

Durham University Orchestral Society's Michaelmas concert explores contrasting themes of freedom and imperialism in their exploration of European nationalism. Sibelius' *Finlandia* and Smetana's *Vltava* are tone poems which evoke vast and majestic landscapes as symbols of national pride. We will also play Holmes' *Irlande*, another symphonic poem which calls for political freedom.

Our concert will conclude with *Borodin's Second Symphony*, generally regarded as his best work and a foundation stone of the Russian symphonic sound as it weaves elements of Russian folklore with Western Romanticism.

Durham University Orchestral Society Mahler's First Symphony 2024

Classical Music



15 November, 7.30pm
DU Brass Band

St Oswald's Church

Join Durham University Brass Band for an evening of brass band favourites in the intimate and atmospheric St Oswald's Church. Fresh from competition season, the 2024/5 band look forward to bringing you a packed concert featuring a wide range of repertoire and talented soloists. They will also be joined by their small band who will perform a selection of pieces for you all to enjoy.

Classical Music



16 November, 7.30pm
From Sea to Sky
Elvet Methodist Church

Described by The Guardian as possessing a choral sound that is 'gloriously warm and finely balanced', Durham University Choral Society and conductor John Forsyth MBE present a sublime programme of music exploring the undulating nature of the sea and the ever-changing palette of the sky, with music including Donald Fraser's choral arrangement of Elgar's popular *Sea Pictures*.

Drama



29 - 30 November, 7.30pm
(2.30pm)

**A Christmas Carol:
The Immersive Experience**

Dunelm House, New Elvet

Walkabout returns with an innovative, thrilling, immersive take on the beloved Dickens classic, beating their record for the UK's largest work of immersive student theatre.

On a chilly winter's day, you come to an auction of historical artefacts, including an original copy of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This is no ordinary book; it is filled with imagination, memories and a rather spritely spirit. Suddenly you're sucked into the carol, and witness the hauntings and festivities, shocks and merriment, singing and dancing, tears and laughter, people and ghosts that make this tale one of the greatest ever told. Like Scrooge, you must decide how this tale will impact your decisions about the past, present and future.

Showcase



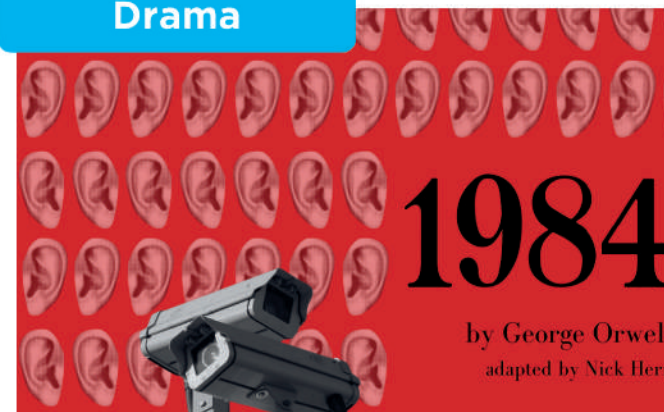
24 November, 7.30pm
Myths & Legends

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

The intercollegiate showcase is back for its second year, raising money for Children of the North East.

This year with the enchanting theme of myths and legends, each college theatre company displays its niche while celebrating a shared love of theatre. From Camelot to *Hadestown*, this showcase has it all, perfect for everyone.

Drama



28 - 30 November, 7.30pm
1984

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms

A reimagining of the classic tale, examining connection, sex, and romance through a dystopian lens.

Heavily utilising Orwell's iconic dialogue, this new adaptation of *1984* places Winston and Julia at the centre of the narrative, as Winston is forced to re-enact key moments of his life and his 'thoughtcrimes' with the help of others convicted.



Durham University Gospel Choir in *Hope and Glory* 2024

Tone Deaf Theatre Company

Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical

Romance, crime, and an
incredible soundtrack

**The musical about the most infamous bank robbing and
murdering duo in American history.**

Featuring one of the most infamous romances in American history, *Bonnie & Clyde* tells a story of passion and ambition driving a couple to crime and their untimely end. The musical takes on a cyclical structure, opening with Bonnie and Clyde's deaths, before flashing back to their lives up until that point. As the story unfolds, audiences follow their misguided ambitions. Bonnie's desire for stardom mixes dangerously with Clyde's desire for infamy, becoming a destructive journey that affects both the couple and those around them. With a score that blends rockabilly, blues, and gospel, the musical captures their story eloquently, depicting the corruption of the American Dream.

Musical Theatre



28-30 November, 7.30pm

Merrily, We Roll Along

Mark Hillery Arts Centre,
Collingwood College

Merrily We Roll Along begins in 1976 and moves backwards, tracing the rise to stardom of successful yet cynical composer Franklin Shepard, alongside his two estranged friends. The musical follows each milestone of their personal and professional lives - in reverse!

A revered musical classic by the legendary Sondheim, this production is not to be missed.

Classical Music



6 December, 7.30pm

Palatinate Symphony Orchestra

Elvet Methodist Church

In a dramatic programme of music from the late 19th century, Durham University Palatinate Orchestra perform Finnish composer Sibelius's First Symphony alongside Wagner's rousing overture to *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*.

Jazz & Contemporary



8 December, 7.30pm

Jazzy Christmas

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre

Jazzy Christmas is the Durham University Jazz Ensembles' yearly charity Christmas gig, and one of the most popular in the calendar. Join DUJO and DUBB at the Assembly Rooms Theatre for a night of Christmas classics, with a set from each band. The proceedings for the evening will be donated to our charity partner for the year.

Classical Music



4 December, 7.30pm

Palatinate Ensemble

St Oswald's Church

Durham University's newest music group, the Palatinate Ensemble makes their concert debut with a programme centering on Shostakovich's affecting Chamber Symphony, a deeply emotional work dedicated 'to the victims of fascism and the war'.

Classical Music



7 December, 7.30pm

Theatre Without Words

St Oswald's Church

Join Durham University Orchestral Society's chamber orchestra for an evening of theatrical classics.

This concert highlights music that normally accompany a stage performance, including the tragic love story of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, and Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*.

Classical Music



13 December

Christmas Concert

Elvet Methodist Church

Join Durham University's Concert and Brass bands for their annual Christmas concert, filled with toe-tapping classics by these stalwart favourites of the Durham music scene.



Alexia Dunley in
Durham University Orchestral Society 2024

12-14 DECEMBER | 7.30PM | SIR THOMAS ALLEN ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE

Drama

Durham University Classical Theatre

Doctor Faustus

Fate, controversy and tragedy in this modernised classic

Christopher Marlowe's seminal *Doctor Faustus* sees ambition meet the supernatural in a gripping tale of power, temptation, and tragedy.

Durham University Classical Theatre presents a fresh and innovative take on the classic story of a brilliant scholar who, in his thirst for limitless power and knowledge, strikes a deal with the devil, selling his soul for 24 years of magical prowess. However, as Faustus indulges in his newfound abilities, he spirals deeper into despair, ultimately facing the dire consequences of his choice...



Oggy Grieves in *Feet of Clay* by Ooook! Productions 2024



Durham University Orchestral Society in Durham Cathedral, June 2023

How to book

Scan here to book your tickets



durhamstudenttheatre.org/whats-on/
durhamstudentmusic.org/whats-on/

Box Office

The Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre is open to all from 9 AM - 5 PM during University Term time, as well as 30 minutes before performances.

*Booking fees apply

Open to all

At Durham University Student Performing Arts, we are proud to be open to all audience members from the wider community around the City and beyond.

Tickets for everyone

Where we are able to offer concessions at performances, this applies to children under 18, those over 65, full-time students, those with a registered disability and those who are unemployed. Where family tickets are available, these constitute 1 adult and 3 children, or 2 adults and 2 children.

Group Discounts

If you are looking to book as a group, school or community organisation, please contact our team at theatre.manager@durham.ac.uk. We will do our best to accommodate groups of any size.

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre

The Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre is the home of Durham University Student Performing Arts, as well as being the 160-seat proscenium arch auditorium of many of our theatre productions. You can find us at 40 North Bailey in Durham City.

There are two wheelchair spaces available with free carer seats bookable online or in person for all performances available. The bar is also wheelchair-accessible.

The nearest public parking is at the Prince Bishops Place Car Park, situated at High Street, Durham DH1 3UJ. This car park is a short walk (5 to 10 mins) from the theatre. There is also on-street parking in various locations around the town centre.

Using our spaces

If you are a local community group, school or touring production, looking to utilise the Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre outside of University term-time, please get in touch by emailing theatre.manager@durham.ac.uk. There are sliding scales on offer to meet the needs of your organisation.

Membership

If you are a Durham University student looking to get involved with the making of the incredible range of student productions, please visit the organisations' websites for more information:

durhamstudentmusic.org/join
durhamstudenttheatre.org

What's On Calendar

Durham Revue: Mid-Laugh Crisis 12 October	7.30pm	Myths and Legends: The Intercollegiate Showcase 24 November	7.30pm
The Stand Society: Return of the Mic 14 October	7.30pm	1984 28-30 November	7.30pm
Othello 16-19 October	7.30pm	Merrily We Roll Along 28-30 November	7.30pm
17 October	2.30pm	30 November	2.30pm
High Standards 18 October	8pm	A Christmas Carol: The Immersive Experience 29-30 November	7.30pm
Dweebs Comedy 27 October	7.30pm	30 November	2.30pm
Jekyll & Hyde 30-31 October	6.30pm	The Voices of Nations 30 November	7.30pm
Treasure Island 7-9 November	7.30pm	Bonne & Clyde 4-7 December	7.30pm
The Freshers' Showcase 10 November	7.30pm	7 December	2.30pm
Little Women 10-12 November	7.30pm	Durham University Palatinate Ensemble 4 December	7.30pm
Birthday Candles 14-16 November	7.30pm	Durham University Palatinate Symphony Orchestra 6 December	7.30pm
9 to 5: The Musical 20-23 November	7.30pm	Theatre Without Words 7 December	7.30pm
23 November	2.30pm	Jazzy Christmas 8 December	7.30pm
From Sea to Sky 16 November	7.30pm	Doctor Faustus 12-14 December	7.30pm
		Christmas Concert - DU Concert & Brass Band 13 December	7.30pm

Coming soon

DULOG: Crazy for You at Gala Durham

28 January - 2 February

Booking available soon at

<https://galadurham.co.uk/whats-on/>

Durham Drama Festival 2025

16-23 February

Booking available soon

Keep in touch

Sign up to our mailing list by scanning this QR code to keep in touch with all of the concerts, musicals and plays that are being presented around the City.



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DURHAM UNIVERSITY STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS

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Durham University Choral Society and the Royal Northern Sinfonia performing
Bruckner's Great Mass, March 2024