

Of Selkies and Fishermen

Oddfellows Hall, Sheringham, October 24/30, 7.30pm, £5 (£3.50 cons)

Having worked as a storyteller on sea stories and their communities connected with Kings Lynn, Cromer, Sheringham and Great Yarmouth, artist Paul Jackson accompanies his exhibition (which runs until Oct 31) with dramatic performances portraying the relationship between fishermen and the sea. Echoing the beliefs and the folklore that surround coastal communities, its amusing and thought provoking and spans three interconnected stories.



& Leaves and Talk to the Hand, as well as a highly versatile writer, including newspaper columnist, radio dramatist, TV critic, comic novelist, broadcaster and even sports writer, brings her endearing comic voice with quite important things to say about the collapse of literacy, the breakdown of social cohesion, the beauty of the semicolon (when correctly used).

Circus Bizerkus

Cromer Community Hall, October 29, 4.15pm, £5, £16 family

The circus is in town! Well Cosmo the ringmaster and Bert his trusty ring hand. The rest of the troupe is on the tour bus somewhere on the B9127 heading for Arbroath. A rip-roaring feast of laughter and jollity featuring East Anglia's favourite Foolhardy clowns in their newest show. Before the show (2.30pm) there is a circus workshop.

#NNGT Grand Final

Pavilion Theatre, Cromer Pier, October 29, 7.30pm, £10, 01263 512495, www.cromer-pier.com

The waiting is over for all those who have entered the North

Songs of Sea and Shore

Lighthouse Community Church, Sheringham, October 28, 7.30pm, £6 on door

Concert culmination of a local singing project, themed around 'Sea and Shore' in celebration of our Britain's glorious coast and rich sea-faring heritage. Part-performance, part-singalong (if you wish), it promises to be fun, warm and informative.

Lynn Truss

Pavilion Theatre, Cromer Pier, October 28, 7.30pm, £15 (£12 cons), 01263 512495, www.cromer-pier.com

Bestselling author of Eats, Shoots



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Norfolk's Got Talent competition that has run over the summer and autumn. The Grand Final is where the 12 best acts from the six auditions, and two semi-finals will have their final chance to convince the judges.

No/Where Cabaret - Carry On Howling

The Atrium, North Walsham, October 30, 7pm, £10, 01692 218060

Following on from its sell-out shows, Norfolk-based cabaret experts Headless Entertainment bring a 1920-30s cabaret lounge bar on Hallows Eve. The Victorian Conjuror will have amazing magic and unusual



Batch Gueye Band

Cliftonville Hotel, Cromer, October 30, 8pm, £10

Batch Gueye started out performing as a dancer in live shows and videos for the likes of Youssou N'Dour, Baaba Maal and Cheikh Lo. But he always harboured aspirations to be a singer. Here the honey-voiced singer leads brings his exquisite six-piece band, bringing traditional music and dance from Senegal.

phenomena including the mystical spirit cabinet; there is bitter songstress Ivanna Moré, while host Herr Hans Hoffer to tie everything together. Over 18s only.

Treasures to unearth from two arts festivals

Concerts, theatre, circus and cabaret – the Hostry Festival in Norwich and Coast Festival in Cromer and Sheringham offer a diverse mix of talents. **SIMON PARKIN** picks events not to miss at both.

Lady Macbeth

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral, October 24, 6.30pm, £12 (£10 cons)

One of William Shakespeare's most complex and vividly painted female creations, Lady Macbeth finds herself in limbo, torturously re-living the events that lead to her



ruination and death in this new opera which receives its premiere here. Composer Kenneth Ian Hÿtch wrote the dramatic piece for Lisa Cassidy (left). With the other players stripped away, we follow the solitary Lady Macbeth as she suffers the reminiscence of her inevitable undoing. Pianist William Fergusson and violinist Elizabeth Marjoram provide the sound that accompanies Lady Macbeth's cruel demise.

Youthful Genius: Mendelssohn, Mozart and Korngold

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral, October 24, 8pm, £15 (£12 cons)
Specially commissioned concert featuring prodigies who wrote works of the highest quality at a tender



age. Mendelssohn's Octet created a new chamber music genre. Korngold composed his Sextet at the age of 17 in 1914. His lyrical style came to dominate Hollywood

film scores. Mozart Quintet in B flat was the prodigy's first quintet for two violins, two violas and cello.

Mahler's Conversion

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral, October 27-31, 7.30pm, £15 (£12 cons)

Norfolk premiere of Ronald Harwood's play set in late-19th century Vienna where a new artistic movement, the Vienna Secession, is emerging. Gustav Klimt shocks the arts world, Freud's ideas take hold – and progressive composer



Gustav Mahler vies for the influential role of Director of the Court Opera. The fates of Mahler, his young wife, Alma Schindler – an intimate of Klimt – and their fellow artists play out in this passionate drama accompanied by Mahler's matchless music.

Spread A Little Happiness

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral, October 28-29, 1pm, £12 (£10 cons)

An inimitable performer of rarely heard British theatre songs, Adrian Wright (inset) celebrates the work of Vivian Ellis, one of the greatest British composers of light music and a host of theatrical delights. Exuding retro charm, this recital includes some of Ellis's most familiar numbers, not least the ever-endearing Spread a Little Happiness, This is My Lovely Day, and even a song for Lady Chatterley!

COMEDY PICKS

Nish Kumar

Norwich Arts Centre, October 22, 8pm, £10, 01603 660352, norwichartscentre.co.uk

Having appeared at Norwich's Laugh in the Park comedy festival, Nish Kumar returns with his first solo tour Long Word...Long Word...Blah Blah Blah...I'm So Clever. This is a stand-up comedy show for people who like stand-up comedy shows by a man that does stand-up comedy. Nish has also been on The Josh Widdicombe Show on XFM, BBC Radio 4 on The Now Show and more recently was the host of BBC Radio 4 Extra Newsjack. If you like your comedy to be intelligent, inventive, thought-provoking and delivered with a passion then this is ideal.



Laughing Hare

Carnegie Room, Cage Lane, Thetford, January 23, 8.30pm, £8, 01842 751975, www.ticketsource.co.uk

One of the best stand-ups on the London circuit and a former winner of the Time Out Comedy Award, Gordon Southern heads up the latest of this Thetford comedy night. Joining him are Andrew Watts, whose distinctive style stands out – a winning mixture of pomposity, insecurity and emotional incompetence. Also globe-trotting funnyman Nik Coppin with a warm, friendly style.



Red Card Comedy Club

Carrow Road, Norwich, October 29, 8.45pm, £12, 0844 8261902, www.redcardcomedyclub.com

Red Card comedy nights are notable for regularly breaking the straight stand-up format and that is the case again at this month's night. Self style "specialist purveyors of sandal based choreography solutions, The Raymond and Timpkins Revue is one of maddest, most fabulous comedy cabaret acts you are ever likely to come across. More straight forward is Ian Moore, a regular on BBC 5Live's Fighting Talk and BT Sport's popular The Football's On...Essex lad Ash Firth has enjoyed a rapid rise through the comedy ranks. MC is familiar face John Mann.



KL Comedy Club

King's Lynn Corn Exchange, October 29, 7.45pm, £9.50, 01553 764864, www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

Four more hilarious comedians come to this latest King's Lynn Corn Exchange's Comedy Club. MC is Karen Bayley, a semi-finalist in the BBC New Comedy Awards and winner of the 2001 Komedia New Act prize. Next to tickle your funny bone is Aussie boy Damian Clark, whose high-octane observational stand up reflects his infectious energy and childlike outlook. Tony Cowards is a rapid fire gag merchant with an arsenal full of one-liners, for laughs-per-minute he's a tough act to beat. Alistair Barrie is a core member of The Cutting Edge at London's Comedy Store.



BOOK NOW
Details at 01603 598676
hostryfestival.org