



■ The cast of King Lear in New York.

Art, experiences and honouring the Bard at the Hostry Festival

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From a show inspired by King Lear to a project celebrating trying something new later in life, there is lots to enjoy at this year's Hostry Festival.

The autumn arts extravaganza based at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry is now in full swing and runs until Sunday.

One of the key festival events is always the main house play and this year – to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death – the show has one of the Bard's most famous characters at its heart.

Called King Lear In New York, the show opened last night and there are performances tonight, tomorrow and Saturday.

Written by writer and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg and with actor Louis Hilyer playing the lead role, it tells the story of an actor who is offered the chance to play King Lear off Broadway and at the same time is trying to solve a big family crisis.

“King Lear in New York is a great piece of storytelling, offering real theatricality and reality”

Director Stash Kirkbride

Director Stash Kirkbride said: “King Lear In New York is a great piece of storytelling, offering real theatricality and reality... and I can safely say you will be moved to laughter and to tears perhaps, and above all else you will be entertained.”

Also this week at the festival, Total Ensemble Theatre Company is presenting a special performance, and the participants in the Hostry Festival/Mustard TV project Never Too Late – which aims to show how it is never too late to try something new – will be taking to the stage.

Another highlight to look forward to is Spread A Little Happiness, a tribute to British songwriter Vivian



■ Left, Paint Out Norwich 2016 Awards and private view at the Hostry, Norwich Cathedral. Below, Rehearsals for the 2016 Hostry Festival's production of King Lear in New York.

Pictures:
SIMON FINLAY
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MATT DARTFORD

Ellis, performed by singer Adrian Wright and pianist Annette Jude, followed by a launch of Mr Wright's new book, The Voice of Doom.

The Paint Out Norwich exhibition – a showcase of work created by artists who took part in the open air art competition in the city last week – is also continuing at the Hostry throughout the festival.

→ The Hostry Festival is in association with Norfolk Community Foundation. For more information



about dates and times of the festival's events and to book tickets, visit www.hostryfestival.org

Postal van journey raises cash for appeal

After an adventure which covered 1,855 miles and used 241 litres of fuel, a Wymondham couple have presented a charity with a cheque for more than £4,000.

Jim and Jennifer Cawte travelled from Wymondham to John O'Groats, down to Land's End and back to Wymondham in their 1983 Royal Mail postal van.

The couple chose to raise money for the East Anglia's Children's



■ Jim and Jennifer Cawte have raised £4,350 for EACH.

Hospices' (EACH) nook appeal – to build a new hospice near Norwich – and their 11-day adventure raised a total of £4,350.

Mrs Cawte, 68, said: “We are absolutely thrilled because we thought we were pushing it saying that our target was £2,000.

“I know it is only a small drop in the ocean because they're trying to raise £10 million, but hopefully it will help to inspire more people.”

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