



**BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

# Supporter Spotlight

Welcome to your round-up of **membership benefits, offers, event dates** and **fundraising news** to accompany our new season brochure.

It's the start of the festive season - BRB's *The Nutcracker*, star-studded pantomime *Peter Pan*, the staging of our first ever in-house musical, *The Jingleclaw* - and the end of another busy year. A huge thank you for your fantastic support; we can't wait to welcome you back to the theatre very soon!



Judith, Rachel, Ben, Anouk and Emma  
Fundraising and Development Team

## Calendar of Events

2024

**TUE 3 DEC** Relaxed Performance at Birmingham Royal Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

**TUE 3 DEC - TUE 10 DEC** Our Big Give Christmas Challenge!

**WED 18 DEC** Relaxed Performance at *The Jingleclaw*

2025

**WED 29 JAN** Relaxed Performance Reception *Peter Pan*

**SAT 1 & SUN 2 FEB** Chinese New Year Celebrations, family-friendly free outdoor festival

**THU 6 FEB** Fundraising Gala Night at Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* - book your places NOW!

**TUE 25 FEB** Relaxed Performance at Birmingham Royal Ballet's *Cinderella*

**WED 19 MAR** Supporter Afternoon Tea at *Calamity Jane*

**THU 22 MAY** Relaxed Performance at *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

## In the Spotlight Stunning success for young Curtain Raiser dancers!

Our first Curtain Raiser collaboration with Birmingham Royal Ballet saw a young company of 17 talented local dancers aged 16-22 create and perform an original piece supported by choreographers Siobhan Hayes and BRB Artist Tori Forsyth-Hecken.

Taking to the stage before BRB's new production, *Luna*, inspired by Louise Palfreyman's book, *Once Upon a Time in Birmingham - Women Who Dared to Dream*, the Curtain Raiser dancers received loud applause and cheering



"Thank you for an amazing experience!! I have had the best time working on the Curtain Raiser and would absolutely recommend it to aspiring performers. I felt my confidence grow massively with contact work and lifts. I felt so relaxed on the day and would love to be part of more projects. Being part of this has really opened my eyes in wanting to bring dance back into my life after graduating uni. Thank you so much again!"

**Nadine, Luna Curtain Raiser participant**

Picture above, *Luna* Curtain Raiser rehearsal  
Photography by Simon Hadley



## Spread your wings! Fundraising Gala at Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake, Thu 6 Feb

Join us for a sparkling Gala Evening at Matthew Bourne's audacious, rule breaking masterpiece and help us raise funds for our young dance talent development programme. Treat yourself to a fabulous evening with family or friends or make it an extra special Christmas gift. Places start from £195pp to include a premium ticket, drinks reception, 3-course dinner, and exclusive post-show party.

**Premium bookers upgrade, £290pp** - join a table hosted by our executive team and receive a signed programme in recognition of your enhanced donation - thank you!

**BOOK NOW** with Anouk on 0121 689 3068 or [fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com](mailto:fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com)

Will Bozier 'The Swan' and  
Dominic North 'The Prince' -  
Photography by Johan Persson

# Supporter Success

Together look at what we can achieve...



## Raising Access Awareness

It was fantastic to welcome Patrons, donors, funders, schools, community partners and Access & Inclusion Advocates as part of an exciting day of events at the Relaxed Performance of **Disney's Aladdin**.

At a supporter reception, Access & Inclusion Advocates Charlie and Rose (pictured above) shared their experiences of everyday life challenges in contrast to the welcome they feel on their Hippodrome visits.

Theatre Trustee and Access Champion, Vidar Hjordeng told guests about our ambition to "become the most accessible venue of its size in the UK, with a greater number of performances meeting the needs of different audiences."

After the Relaxed Performance over 40 people attended our first Access Social Drop In session - what a way to launch our newest accessible initiative!

## Our Festivals: fabulous, fun and free for everyone!

Birmingham Weekender 2024 welcomed thousands of visitors to the heart of the city. Featuring a celebration of magical art forms - dance, circus, musical theatre, visual arts, poetry, sensory and immersive experiences, music and storytelling - Weekender has something to suit everyone's tastes.

Filling the city's streets and squares with colourful performances from regional, UK and international artists, our free festival brought smiles to everyone's faces. Our fantastic Access team was on hand at 3 Access Hubs helping to provide additional support for Access Users during their festival visit.

Among the specialist resources available were BSL Interpreters, Access packs, sensory walking routes and of course, our brilliant Access team and trained volunteers.



Young access user tests audio description equipment

## The Big Give is back Help us unlock Access for All

We're teaming up with the Big Give again this Christmas to raise funds for our Access for All ambitions.

With an ambitious target of £45,000 we need **YOUR HELP** to make an impact for the region's most vulnerable audiences.

As part of our deep commitment to **Hippodrome Unlocked - Access for All**, we want to provide more Accessible and Relaxed Performances and enhance Access Hubs, hosted experiences and bespoke accessible resources at our free outdoor arts Festivals. Funds raised will also help to deepen our partnerships with local Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools and the launch of an exciting, new SEN Youth Theatre.

Remember your donation **DOUBLES IN VALUE** during the week-long campaign, Tue 3 - Tue 10 Dec.

## Vital Volunteering Patrons are getting involved and YOU can too!

A huge thank you to the Volunteers who helped create such success for our audiences at the Relaxed Performance of **Disney's Aladdin**. We love hearing how much joy it brings to play your part and give back to the community through volunteering.

One of our fabulous Patron Volunteers, Maureen told us... "The Relaxed Performance volunteering day was an amazing experience... especially seeing the joy on the young children's faces as they enjoyed themselves. It was truly rewarding!"

Want to get involved? Get in touch with us on **0121 689 3068** or [fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com](mailto:fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com)



Our Volunteers for Disney's Aladdin Relaxed Performance with their signature sparkly hats!



## Have you heard? *The Jingleclaw* is coming to town...

We're so excited that our first full production from our New Musical Theatre department, **The Jingleclaw**, a festive family show created as an introduction to musical theatre for 3-7 year-olds arrives just in time for a perfect Christmas or New Year treat.

"My First Musical" is a programme of work from the in-house team designed for young audiences to experience the 'magical goosebumps moments' that theatre brings.

Have you booked yet?!

## Make the most of your Membership

We extend the warmest Hippodrome welcome to our newest patrons **Philip & Keira Shorey, Sandra Brown & Carol McKinley, Kathy & Ed Catchpole, Tim & June Watts**.

We are delighted that you have chosen to support the theatre as Patrons at such an exciting time! Don't forget as a Patron to show your membership card to enjoy a 20% discount during your visit on Front of House food & drink purchases.

For details about Patron ticket offers and other membership benefits click on [birminghamhippodrome.com/patronshome](http://birminghamhippodrome.com/patronshome)

To find out more about our fundraising activities, become a member or to book for an event, please get in touch with the team on **0121 689 3068** or email [fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com](mailto:fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com)

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Registered Charity Number 510842



Photography by Simon Hadley