

*Stoke-on-Trent Repertory
Theatre*

Rep At

20



Rep at 20

Diary 2017-18

2017

12th December **Matt & Nat**

20th December **Talon Best of Eagles**

2018

12th January **Gordon Hendricks Stripped Back II**

18th February **Gyles Brandreth Looking For Happiness**

21st February **The Lionel Richie Songbook**

6th April **Talon Acoustic Show**

7th April **Clare Teal**

Music Mania Tickets:

01782 206000

3-6 Piccadilly Arcade

Hanley

Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 1DL

Open Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:30

Tickets also available online at:

www.musicmaniauk.com

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Leek Road

Stoke-on-Trent

ST4 2TR

01782 209897

**STOKE-ON-TRENT-FOR
CITY-OF-CULTURE-2021**

Welcome to the Repertory Theatre's 20th Anniversary Celebrations!

The new Stoke Repertory Theatre building on Leek Road opened its doors on 7th November 1997 and the past twenty years have literally flown by!

It has been a wonderful success story and the theatre, which is now acknowledged as one of the finest Reps in the country, has become the 'go-to' venue for music societies, dance schools and drama groups throughout North Staffordshire.

The backstage and technical equipment is second to none for actors, artists and musicians, and the visitor experience for audiences, both in the foyer and auditorium, is first class.

All of this success has been achieved by the hard work and dedication of Rep members, past and present, who have given their time totally voluntarily and I would like to thank them all, particularly my fellow Directors, as without their magnificent support this success story could not be written!

Continuing this success and maintaining our high standards are very important to us, which is why we have decided that, after twenty years of very active service, the time has come to replace the auditorium seating. This will be an expensive project, so the directors are launching an appeal to raise £50,000 to make this happen. Details of the fundraising campaign can be found at the back of the brochure, so if you are able, please support this initiative by either sponsoring a seat or making a donation.

To celebrate our birthday seven special events have been programmed: opening on Tuesday 12th December with a tribute to the music of Matt Monroe and Nat King Cole, and culminating with the finale on Saturday 7th April when the BBC Radio 2 vocalist and presenter Clare Teal dazzles with an evening of jazz and big band classics. As you will read, there is entertainment that will appeal to all tastes.

Please come and join us to celebrate our 20th Birthday year at the Rep and enjoy these special shows and concerts.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Mike Lloyd
Chairman, Stoke Repertory Theatre Ltd.





Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory
THEATRE
Leek Road • Stoke-on-Trent

Celebrating 20 years of
Stoke-on-Trent Repertory
Theatre on Leek Road

Tuesday 12th December 2017 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

THE SONGS OF THE GREAT NAT KING COLE AND MATT MONRO

“An unforgettable evening” *Encore Magazine*

“His voice is a dream” *Radio 2's
Desmond
Carrington*

MATT & NAT
MONRO ‘KING’ COLE



**JEFF
HOOPER**

International Cabaret
and Big Band Vocalist

**CHRIS
DEAN**

Leader of the fabulous
Syd Lawrence Orchestra

RELIVE THE MAGIC

Join us for a wonderful evening celebrating the lives and music of Matt Monro and
Nat 'King' Cole, two of the world's most adored entertainers.

Bringing the music of these much loved mega-stars to life are two great British singers:

Chris Dean of Syd Lawrence Orchestra fame, and singing star Jeff Hooper.

**PORTRAIT OF MY LOVE • LET THERE BE LOVE • BORN FREE
WHEN I FALL IN LOVE • FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
UNFORGETTABLE • SOFTLY • ROUTE 66 AND MANY MANY MORE**

Tickets: £20

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)

Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**

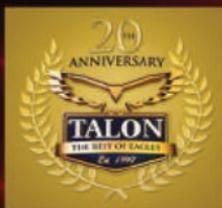
Online: www.musicmaniauk.com

www.ticketsource.co.uk



Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory
THEATRE
Leek Road • Stoke-on-Trent

Celebrating 20 years of
Stoke-on-Trent Repertory
Theatre on Leek Road



Wednesday 20th December 2017
7.30pm

TALON BEST OF EAGLES



Tickets: £23

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)

Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com
www.ticketsource.co.uk



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STRIPPED BACK II
GORDON HENDRICKS

THIS IS A SPECIAL EVENING WHEN YOU WILL SEE AND HEAR
GORDON AS NEVER BEFORE.

Friday 12th January 2018

Following the successful launch in January 2017 of Gordon's "Stripped Back" album and concert we are pleased to announce a second date.

On this evening you will see Gordon as himself continuing to fulfil his life long ambition to present his favourite songs in very simple acoustic arrangements that you will have never seen or heard before. To produce a CD and performance of this nature leaves the vocalist totally exposed and can only be performed by an artiste with exceptional talent – Gordon is World Class and has a brilliant vocal ability that has allowed him to perform a truly wonderful concert.

Tickets: £24

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)

Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com



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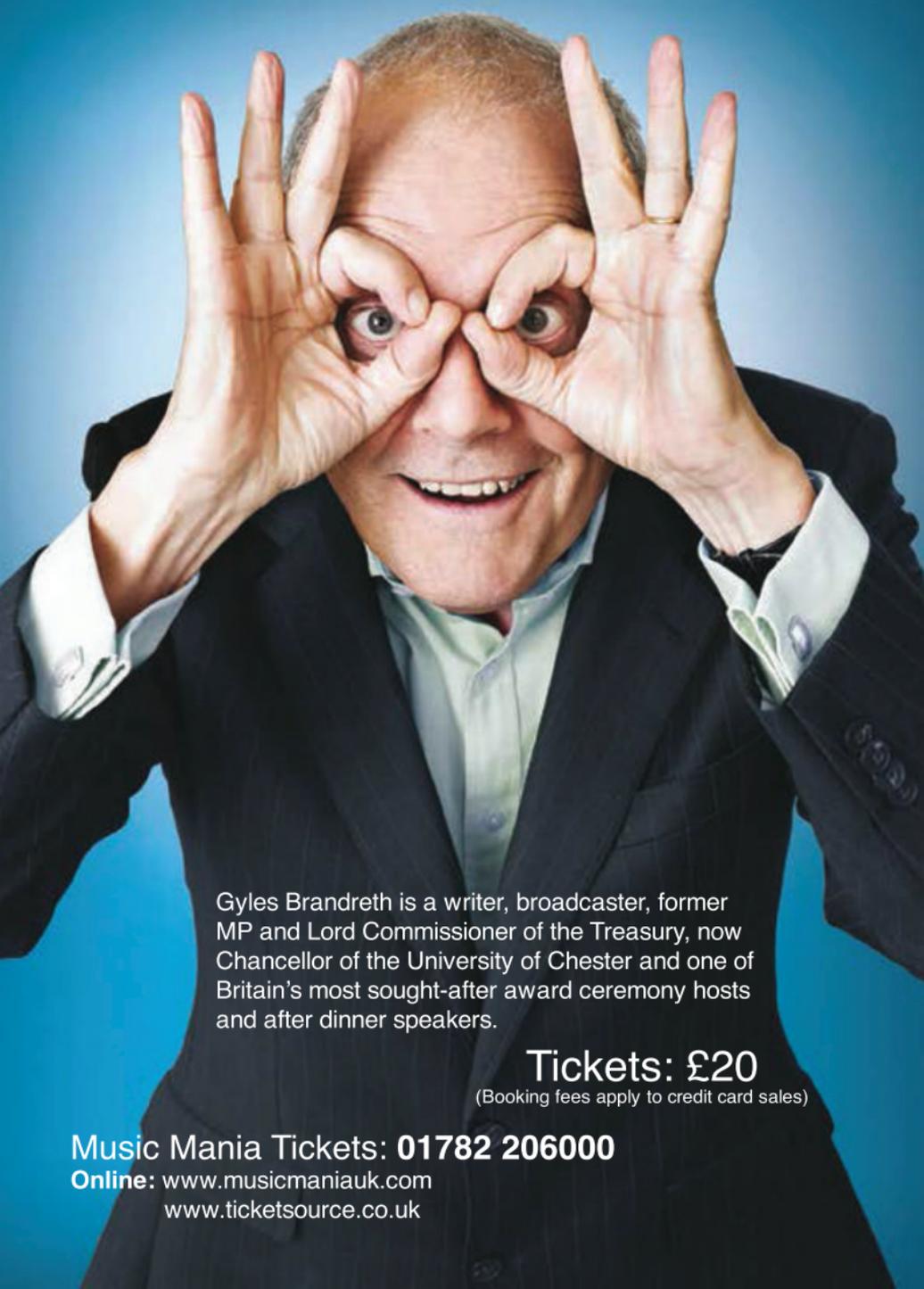
Celebrating 20 years of
Stoke-on-Trent Repertory
Theatre on Leek Road

Sunday 18th February 2018 3pm

MATINEE PERFORMANCE

Gyles Brandreth

Looking For Happiness



Gyles Brandreth is a writer, broadcaster, former MP and Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, now Chancellor of the University of Chester and one of Britain's most sought-after award ceremony hosts and after dinner speakers.

Tickets: £20

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)

Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com
www.ticketsource.co.uk



Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory
THEATRE
Leek Road • Stoke-on-Trent

Celebrating 20 years of
Stoke-on-Trent Repertory
Theatre on Leek Road

Wednesday 21st February 2018 7.30pm

From the creators of 'Talon-The Best of Eagles' and 'And Finally...Phil Collins'.



in association with



present

lionelrichiesongbook.com

THE LIONEL RICHIE SONGBOOK

PERFORMED BY
MALCOLM PITT
AND HIS BAND

★★★★★

"Brother Malcolm,
keep it up"
- **LIONEL RICHIE**



Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com

www.ticketsource.co.uk

Tickets: **£20**

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)



Stoke-on-Trent
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Celebrating 20 years of
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Friday 6th April 2018
7.30pm

TALON ACOUSTIC SHOW



Four members of the world's greatest Eagles tribute band are back with a brand new show and their most extensive acoustic tour ever. Throughout 2018 Talon will be performing not only contemporary songs from their critically acclaimed studio and 'LIVE' acoustic albums, but this year, for the first time, 'Talon – The Acoustic Collection' will include their very own arrangements of many Eagles classics.

Music Mania Tickets: **01782 206000**
Online: www.musicmaniauk.com
www.ticketsource.co.uk

Tickets: £19.80
(Including booking fee)



Stoke-on-Trent
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Celebrating 20 years of
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Theatre on Leek Road

Saturday 7th April 2018 7.30pm



CLARE TEAL

AND HER TRIO

Award winning jazz singer and Radio 2 presenter Clare Teal and her trio present an evening of unforgettable musical favourites.

Ranging from classics of The Great American and British Songbooks, to the music of her heroes, Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day and Peggy Lee, along with contemporary covers and original material, this is an evening of beautiful melodies and fabulous arrangements, all interspersed with Clare's warm and witty story telling.

A dazzling evening of entertainment.

Tickets: £23

(Booking fees apply to credit card sales)

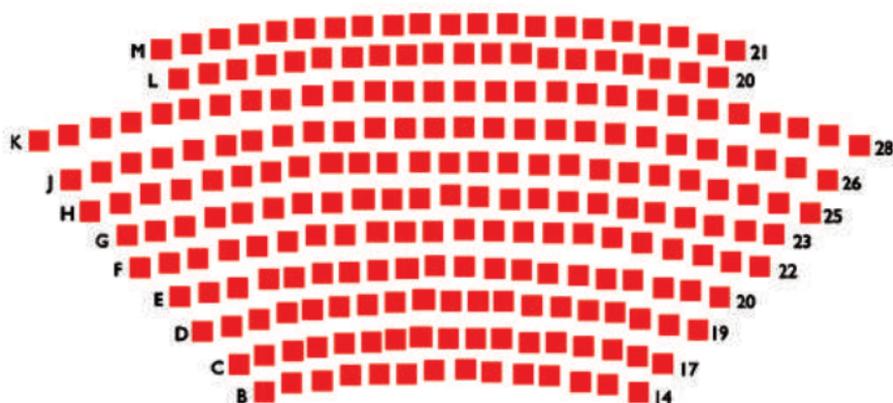
Music Mania Tickets: 01782 206000

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com

Online: www.ticketsource.co.uk

Ticket Booking Information

SEATING PLAN



STAGE

Music Mania Tickets:

01782 206000

Online: www.musicmaniauk.com

3-6 Piccadilly Arcade

Hanley

Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 1DL

Open Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:30

Rep Theatre

01782 209897

Online: www.ticketsource.co.uk

Parking

Free car parking is available at the theatre after 6pm weekdays and 12:30pm on Saturdays. Overspill parking is available in the Staffordshire University car park on the left-hand side of the University drive after 6pm weekdays and 12:30pm Saturdays.

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Leek Road - Stoke-on-Trent - ST4 2TR

The Repertory Players 1920-2017

In late 1920 a group of 'ladies and gentlemen associated with amateur operatic and dramatic societies' (Evening Sentinel) came together to stage the popular play, 'Caste'. A matinee performance took place on 17 February 1921 at The Empire Theatre, Longton. After moderate success at the box office and a welcome donation to the North Staffs Cripples' Aid Society, the group decided to continue. By 1923 they had become The Repertory Players.

The Players led a nomadic existence for most of the 1920s before they established 'The Studio', a private theatre club, on the top floor of Webberleys Bookshop in Hanley. They remained there from 1929 to 1932. In 1933 they leased and converted a former mission church on the corner of Beresford Street, Shelton into what The Manchester Guardian described as 'a delightful, bijou theatre'. The theatre opened on 27 March 1933 with a production of 'Lean Harvest' by Ronald Jeans. The Players had a home of their own at last.

'The Rep' quickly established an enviable reputation locally, offering a varied season of plays each year, with an emphasis upon high production values, in a warm and welcoming setting which was much appreciated by loyal groups of patrons. The early years at The Rep set the tone for the next 64 years.

The fabric of the building at Beresford Street was deteriorating rapidly and the finance was not readily available to cover the cost of reconstruction and future maintenance. So the Repertory Players then developed a new vision - a purpose built theatre of their own!

Fund- raising begun by Rep members in 1991 continued apace. Arts Council support was sought and won. The project received a substantial grant from the National Lottery Fund, a generous loan from the City Council and donations from local companies and businesses. Plans for the theatre drawn up by Hulme Upright and Partners in October 1993 were approved; the first sod was cut at a ceremony at the Leek Road site attended by Sir Richard Bailey and those Rep members who had helped to steer and coordinate the project. The vision slowly but surely became reality.

The Rep closed its Beresford Street theatre in May 1997 with a production of 'Journey' End'. The play's title itself acquired a symbolic significance; after 64 years it was certainly the end of an amazing journey.



On 7 November 1997, a Gala Evening was held to celebrate the opening of the new theatre; the Right. Hon. Mark Fisher MP, Minister for the Arts, was guest of honour. The first production at the new venue, 'Noises Off', opened later that month. The demands of their new situation were greater than the Players had ever faced before but, as so often in the past, the members rose to the occasion. A new system of governance through a properly constituted 'company' was created; a range of committees and sub-committees began to handle all aspects of management and artistic policy; and The Rep acquired a new focus as a community theatre.

Twenty years on we can look back with astonishment. How did the Repertory Players manage to raise a marvellous new theatre on a piece of derelict land in Leek Road? I think the answer lies in part in the more distant past with our earliest members who, driven by a love of amateur drama, showed courage, determination and amazing resilience through thick and thin and the momentum has hardly ever been threatened and certainly not lost. Congratulations to The Rep and a very Happy Birthday!

Peter Croft



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Players Season 2017-2018

2017

Ladies' Day by Amanda Whittington
October 10th to 14th, matinee Sat 14th

Breezeblock Park by Willy Russell
December 5th to 9th, matinee Sat 9th

2018

Lend Me a Tenor by Ken Ludwig
February 6th to 10th, matinee Sat 10th

Mrs Warren's Profession
by George Bernard Shaw
April 17th to 21st, matinee Sat 21st

Nell Gwynn by Jennifer Swale
June 12th to 16th, matinee Sat 16th

Tickets:

£11.00 - Tuesday - Saturday evenings

£9.00 - Saturday matinee

£7.00 - Students/school children all performances

Rep Players Box Office:

01782 209784

www.ticketsource.co.uk

Music Mania Tickets:

01782 206000

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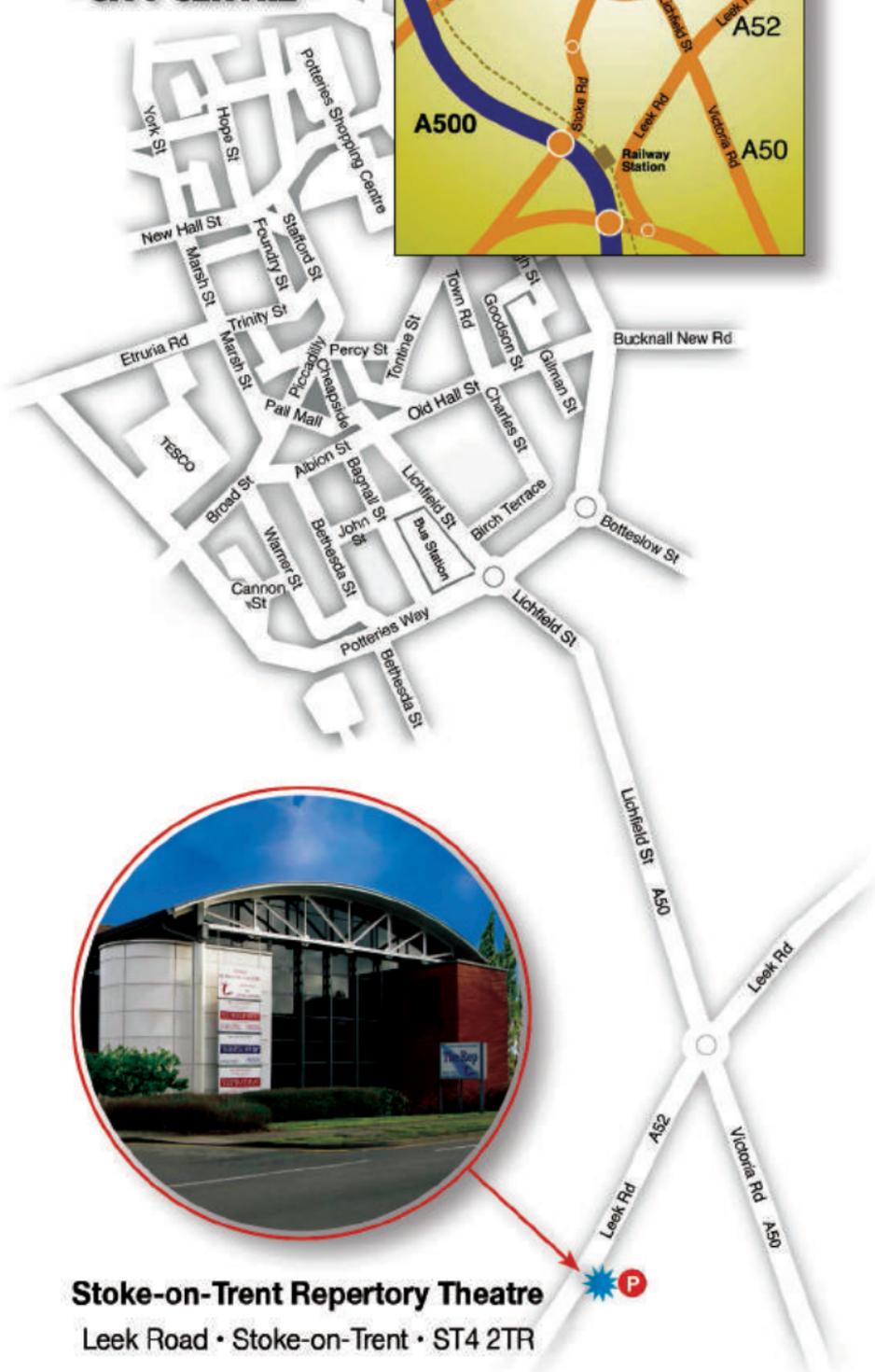
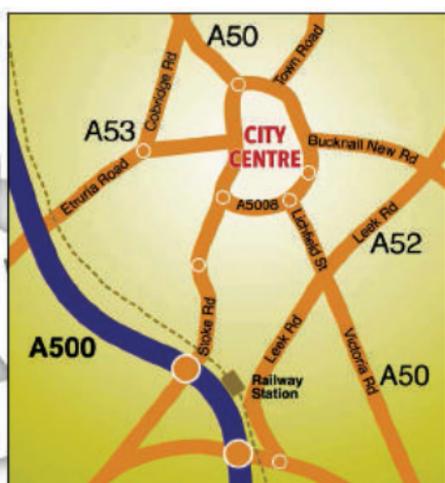
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Rep at 20



Where we are

HANLEY - CITY CENTRE -



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Leek Road • Stoke-on-Trent • ST4 2TR

Front cover illustration by Samuel Hickson
www.cargocollective.com/samuelhicksonillustration