

Theatre Thrills for Today and Tomorrow



Your TVG Theatrical Newshound hopes members are all well and looking forward to the end of the winter months. Those brave snowdrops and crocuses are now blooming. In no time the daffodils and bluebells will arrive to herald the spring months.

The TVG committee members met in February and the 2025 programme for May to September has now been discussed ready for action.

Our own committee webmaster, Rodney Towers, will soon be updating the TVG webpage, on the Ripon and District u3a website.

But for now the below will give you information on the dates/venues for your diary, also included are advanced information of the **alternative options**.

Alternative options

These are the plays discussed at the meeting but not chosen for the group event. They have been provided for information, so members can ponder and if inspired, make their own arrangements.

No booking forms are yet available for the trips. Booking forms/flyers will be sent out for each event in the normal way, via emailing. At this stage please do not panic that booking is required!

May 2025

“Boys From The Blackstuff”

Leeds Grand Theatre Thursday 15th May 2025 2.30 pm

Alan Bleasdale’s BAFTA award-winning TV series has been adapted by James Graham. It comes to Leeds direct from the National Theatre and West End. Stall seats have been reserved for Thursday’s matinee 15th May at 2.30 pm. Members can relive the drama forty years after the ground breaking TV series. Flyer attached.

Alternative Options

“Spitfire Girls” at Darlington Hippodrome Tuesday 27th May to Saturday 31st May 2025. Based on true stories of the women who dared to fly during World War 2 and the incredible bond that tied them together.

The play features two women who met by chance in 1959 and talked about their experience and memories.



“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at York Grand Opera House Tuesday 6th May to Sunday 11th May 2025. York Stage and the Grand Opera House York collaboration presenting a new fresh interpretation of Shakespeare’s play with live music. It is not based in Athens but in Athens Court on a Northern Council estate.



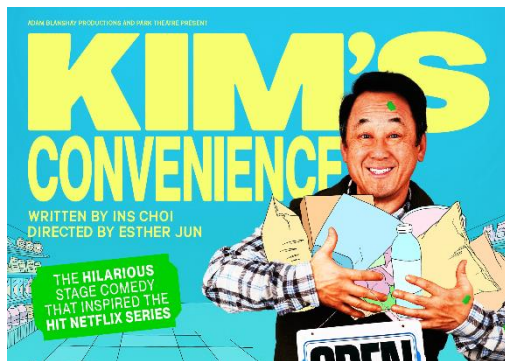
June 2025

Little Women

Leeds Grand Theatre Wednesday 11th June 2025 2.30 pm

Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women” has been adapted by Anne-Marie Casey to create an inspired window into timeless womanhood. Presented by Faraway production Limited and on tour from March to June 2025. Stall seats have been reserved for the matinee 2.30 pm performance on Wednesday 11th June 2025. Members can look forward to a stylish, humorous and compassionate adaptation which bottles the story’s magic. Flyer attached.

Alternative options

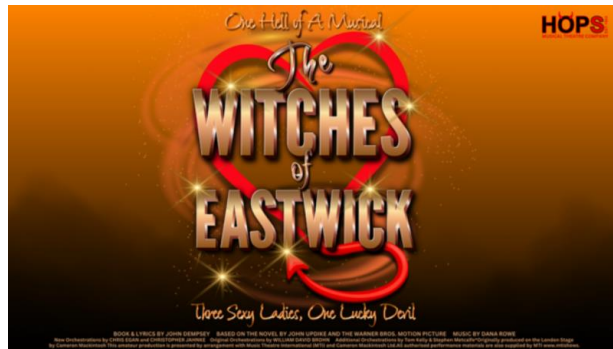


“Kim’s Convenience” at York Theatre Royal. Monday 16th June 2025 to Saturday 21st June 2025. Written by Ins Choi, this hilarious and heart-warming drama is about a family-run Korean store that inspired the Netflix phenomenon. Following a successful run in London and internationally, the play is now heading out on a UK tour.

“A Thousand Splendid Suns” at Leeds Playhouse. Wednesday 28th May 2025 to Tuesday 3rd June 2025. New production as a spiritual sequel to “The Kite Runner”. An unflinching, life affirming drama, in which love grows and sustains human spirit even during the hardest of times.



“The Last Laugh” at York Grand Opera House. Tuesday 10th June 2025 to Saturday 14th June 2025. Direct from a sell-out at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this play is a brand new laugh a minute which reimagines the lives of three of Britain’s all-time greatest comedy heroes-Tommy Cooper, Eric Morecambe and Bob Monkhouse.



“The Witches of Eastwick” at Harrogate Theatre. Tuesday 10th June 2025 to Saturday 14th June 2025. A musical comedy performed by Harrogate Operatic Performing Society (HOPS). Based on the iconic film following the lives of the townsfolk from “Eastwick”, New England USA. The devil enters the lives of three ladies who are all trying to find themselves.

“By Royal Appointment” at Leeds Grand Theatre. Tuesday 24th June 2025 to Saturday 28th June 2025. The play is funny, poignant and celebratory about the kind of power that only a Queen can wield. It focuses on the relationship between Queen Elizabeth 11 (Anne Reid) and her Dresser (Carolyn Quentin), a working class girl who goes from advising the Queen on the colour of her lipsticks to the real power behind the throne



July 2025

The Girl On The Train

Leeds Grand Theatre Wednesday 2nd July 2025 2.30 pm

Adapted from Paula Hawkins’ novel, this mystery drama stars Laura Whitmore in a brand new production following the play’s first sell out UK tour. Rachel Watson’s daily train journey allows her to escape her normal life by watching from the train window. Then she becomes aware that a lady she has been watching, has vanished. Has she witnessed a crime? Stall seats have been reserved for the matinee performance on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 2.30 pm. Members can pitch their wits to solve the mystery. Flyer attached.

Alternative options

“His Last Report” at York Theatre Royal. Tuesday 22nd July 2025 to Sunday 3rd August 2025. A York Theatre Royal community production with a large scale cast and live choirs. Based on the life and legacy of Seebohm Rowntree, who battled to provide fair wages, health and education support for the poor in York.



August 2025

**The Railway Children
Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**

Thursday 7th August 2025 1 pm performance

Last year TVG members were asked if they were interested in the going to see “The Railway Children” at Keithley and Worth Valley Railway Station. The performance is part of the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.

The response was positive and 16 members now have reserved seats for the trip. Hence, at present all seats are taken. Members who have the reserved seats will be sent their booking forms and flyers, later in the year. If any of the member can no longer attend the event, their seat will be offered to the general TVG.



September 2025

Inspector Morse: House of Ghosts

York Grand Opera House Wednesday 24th September 2025 2.30 pm

The first stage adaptation of the Inspector Morse ITV series based on characters by Colin Dexter. Written by Alama Cullen and Directed by Anthony Banks this touring mystery drama stars Tom Chambers as Morse. Stall seats have been reserved for Wednesday’s matinee performance 24th September at 2.30 pm. A crime drama set to thrill members. Flyer attached.

Alternative options



“To Kill a Mocking Bird” at Leeds Playhouse. Monday 8th September 2025 to Saturday 13th September 2025. Award winning stage adaptation of the novel, set in 1934 Alabama, about racial injustice and childhood innocence. This thrilling courtroom drama opens at Leeds Playhouse ahead of a national tour.

Paw Note from the Theatrical Newshound

It is hoped that this newssheet will give TVG members the information they need to make dates in their diaries. Also to give helpful notes on the plays chosen for the group and in addition the alternative options that the TVG committee discussed.

The next TVG committee meeting is in July 2025.

