HOW TO FIND US

We’re on Fairbottom Street, off Yorkshire Street in Oldham Town Centre. OL1 3SW

HOW TO BOOK

0161 624 2829
coliseum.org.uk

No booking fees. Please note telephone lines close at 7pm on performance days.

BARS

Our Stalls and Circle bars open one hour before and are open after every performance.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Chris Lawson,
Associate Director,
Oldham Coliseum Theatre

OLDHAM COLISEUM THEATRE STUDIO

The First Break Festival returns Wednesday 11 – Saturday 14 May with an eclectic mix of new work from a wide range of artists and companies from the North West. Join us for new writing, rehearsed readings, touring shows and devised work designed to challenge and explore the world around us. The First Break Festival kicks off a whole host of exciting work in our Studio that we’re looking forward to unleashing. Get a festival pass for £24, see everything and save £6.

In Spring / Summer, we’re welcoming five trainees from the Regional Theatre Young Directors’ Scheme, supporting emerging and early career directors into the industry. They’ll be here at the Coliseum getting to know the life of a working theatre by shadowing our departments, supporting the development of our Studio programme, working on rehearsed readings and being part of a lively theatrical community here and in Greater Manchester.

There are also new regular events at the Coliseum for fans of new writing, developed with our friends at Oldham Library: Scripts every other Wednesdays, starting on 18 May for five sessions, is a play reading group looking at potential scripts for our Studio and Main House. Scribbles will run every other Wednesday, starting on 25 May for five sessions, led by playwright Cathy Crabb, is for writers of all levels, including absolute beginners. See page 14 for more details.

Keep up to date with us via Facebook and Twitter where we’ll be sharing our latest news, opportunities and what’s happening in our Studio.

Tram – catch the Metrolink into Oldham Town Centre – Oldham Mumps and Oldham Central stops are just minutes from the theatre. www.metrolink.co.uk

Bus – 10 minute walk down Yorkshire Street from Oldham Bus Station and a five minute walk up Yorkshire Street from Oldham Mumps Interchange.

Plan your journey with www.tfgm.com

Car – Sat Nav: OL1 3EX for our nearest car park on Bradshaw Street. From 6pm, it’s just £1.50 to park. Free all day Saturday and Sunday. www.oldham.gov.uk for car parks.
**FIRST BREAK**

**WEDNESDAY 11 - SATURDAY 14 MAY**

Showcasing the best in new writing and emerging talent.

Festival pass ticket £24 (make a £6 saving!)

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**THE STARS ARE MADE OF CONCRETE**

Written by Michelle Ashton

Adam’s never had a job. At the age of 24, he’s seen as lazy and useless by everyone around him. But when his mum, Bev, is made redundant after over a decade of working in the NHS, the tables are turned. Nominated for Best Drama and Best New Writing at the Greater Manchester Fringe Festival, *The Stars are Made of Concrete* shows the people behind the statistics and how they try to carry on with grace, humour… and ladyboys.

7.30PM WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

Tickets £6

Directed by Colin Connor

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**WHAT’S NEXT? – PANEL DISCUSSION**

7PM THURSDAY 12 MAY

Tickets £3

Hosted by Chris Lawson, Oldham Coliseum Theatre’s Associate Director, a panel discussion on the new writing scene, the opportunities and what’s next. Featuring Cathy Crabb, co-writer (with Lindsay Williams) of the Coliseum’s production of *Dreamers*; Julie Hesmondhalgh, actor and co-founder of Take Back; Hannah Ellis, Freelance producer - Manchester ADP, JB Shorts; and Adam Quayle, Artistic Director of Box of Tricks and member of Direct North.

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**TUESDAYS AT TESCO’S**

8.30PM THURSDAY 12 MAY

Tickets £6

Written by Emmanuel Darley

Translated by Matthew Hurt and Sarah Vermande

Pauline used to be Paul and as far as her father is concerned she still is. She visits him every Tuesday to help out with his shopping, come hell or high water, flouting the barbed comments, the battles and the stares. Sometimes comic and sometimes tragic, *Tuesdays At Tesco’s* explores perceptions of identity and acceptance.

“...deserves a wider viewing...”  
MANCHESTER CONFIDENTIAL
The Coliseum encouraged writers to script an original short play based on a story or experience that someone has shared with them - a friend, a relative, a colleague, or someone from their local community. What does Oldham, Greater Manchester and the North West mean to them? How did they arrive here? How have they seen it change and how do they imagine its future? The winning scripts presented in a rehearsed reading are:

PASSING THROUGH
by Alexandra Taylor

Inspired by real life events and featuring original poetry, we meet Rachel as she clears out a home that is full of memories, but how willing is she to remember?

PEGGY VERSUS THE BIG AI
by David Howard

Peggy takes us through her fascinating life, well, what she can remember anyway. But she is not afraid of the Big AI, no matter how big he is. Because Peggy lived through the War.

THE RESIDENTS
by Maureen Sheerin

The Residents gives voice to a real local residents association, volunteering and working in the North West. Not everyone can escape to the country so what is the solution for harmony within our communities?

GOING TO MARKET
by Claire Elshaw

Cassie sets up her gourmet pie stand at the local farmer’s market, but when her Grandfather Bill comes along; will he be a help or hindrance as generations collide in the Digital Age

STAY WITH US AFTER SIGNIFICANT OTHER FOR THE CLOSING PARTY
Saturday 14 May approx. 9pm – midnight

Closing party – join us for a glass of something, join the conversation and get the party started...bar open 'til late.

Pensive Federation presents

THOUGHT PLANE THEATRE PRESENTS
PREFER NOT TO SAY
8.30PM FRIDAY 13 MAY

“…reinvigorating the fringe circuit with plenty of new ideas”
HACKNEY HIVE

Tickets £6
Sarah to life on stage, but the ticked boxes and brief personal statements don’t match who Sarah is finding herself to be at the moment…

“A delight to take part in”
CITYBEAT

Together we explore the extent that personality and identity is a collective experience.

Critics’ Pick of the Fringe at the USA’s Cincinnati Fringe Festival 2015.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER
4PM AND 7.30PM SATURDAY 14 MAY

“...really clever…”
HACKNEY HIVE

Tickets £6
with a theme around the “significant other”.

The significant other: a gender blind term for a person’s partner in an intimate relationship without disclosing or presuming anything about marital or relationship status or sexual orientation.

10 x 10 minute plays, 10 writers, 10 directors, 10 actors – all made in 10 days

Join us for Significant Other as 10 writers create their 10 minute masterpiece, joined by 10 directors and 10 actors – all in 10 days. 10 original works have been created
Dreamshed Theatre presents

**SHALALALALEE**

Written By Bill Cronshaw

It's the late 1960s and life for young Mancunians generally and City fans in particular, is good.

Janice and Tony, with the world at their feet, prepare for exciting times.

Using archive media material and a backdrop of classic sixties' hits to capture the spirit of the time, *Shalalalalee* tells a tale of football club fanaticism, young love, heady dreams and thwarted ambition. The play contains strong language and scenes of a sexual nature.

**Ages 16+**

7.30PM FRIDAY 17 – SATURDAY 18 JUNE

Tickets £6

Gerundagula Productions present

**MEET THE REAL MAGGIE THATCHER**

8PM THURSDAY 30 JUNE

Tickets £7

Meet the Real Maggie Thatcher is an engaging and sometimes gritty insight into one of the most notorious political leaders of our era. The performance contains no strong language... only the truth.

One of the final dates for a production nominated for Best Play in the National Studio Theatre Awards 2014.

“We had witnessed something quite special...”

BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

“Impressive and engaging...”

MANCHESTER THEATRE AWARDS

Talking Stock Productions present

**THE LAST MEMORY**

7.30PM FRIDAY 1 JULY

Tickets £6

“How can I go to heaven if I don’t know who I am?” says Ernest to his daughter Lynne when he’s diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

But he also has a plan: to leave a vital imprint of who he is. Lynne is to be the keeper of his memory, the guardian of their past. Join them on their journey; share their hopes, fears, joys, strength and tears - and arrive with them as they seize the last memory and a carpe diem hope. This powerful one-act play was inspired by a real-life situation, with genuine stories and experiences.

Winner of Best New Writing, Greater Manchester Fringe 2015
Locked up. Shipped around. Sold for sex. In the black of night, “Tanja” fled to safety on the shores of England. Another asylum seeker now held at Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre; Britain’s best kept secret. Refuge lies just beyond the barbed wire fence, but at what cost? With immigration issues reaching fever pitch, this is the story of one woman’s bravery in the midst of prejudice and abuse.

This is what she would have said, if only we’d let her...

An impassioned call to arms, a play and a campaign. *Tanja* is a dramatic two-hander that blends drama, spoken word, physicality, puppetry, sign language and verbatim theatre.

A Palestinian actor learns that there’s more to English girls than pure sex appeal. A Pakistani-born terror suspect figures out what’s wrong with his first novel. A British youth suspects that all is not what it seems with his object of desire. A New Yorker asks his girlfriend for a sexual favour at the worst possible time.

From the award winning writer of *Baghdad Wedding* and *The Prophet* and performed by one man, this is an extremely funny and poignant exploration of four men from different parts of the globe, who all experience a moment of revelation.

*Ages 16+

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Written by Hassan Addulrazzak
Performed by Asif Khan

"...searingly satirical candour...a truly exceptional performance."

LONDON THEATRE

TANJA
Work In Progress

7.30PM SATURDAY 2 JULY
Tickets £3

LOVE, BOMBS AND APPLES

7.30PM MONDAY 11 - WEDNESDAY 13 JULY
Tickets £6

STUDIO
**TUESDAYS AT TESCO’S**

**7.30PM THURSDAY 28 – SATURDAY 30 JULY**

Tickets £6

Written by **Emmanuel Darley**

Translated by **Matthew Hurt** and **Sarah Vermande**

Pauline used to be Paul and as far as her father is concerned she still is. She visits him every Tuesday to help out with his shopping, come hell or high water, flouting the barbed comments, the battles and the stares. Sometimes comic and sometimes tragic, **Tuesdays At Tesco’s** explores perceptions of identity and acceptance.

“...deserves a wider viewing...”
MANCHESTER CONFIDENTIAL

**3 YEARS, 1 WEEK AND A LEMON DRIZZLE**

**7.30PM THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**

Tickets £6

Written By **Alex** and **Kate Donnachie**

An autobiographical play based on the strain the presence of mental illness in a family can have on the relationship of two very close sisters.

**GARDEN**

**7.30PM THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER**

Tickets £6

Written and performed by **Lucy Grace**

Monday to Friday Lucy catches the 8am train to London Bridge. 9am and her day begins at Insignia Asset Management. She’s in charge of the photocopier, printer, scanner, shredder and binder. She’s starting to wonder how she fits into The Grand Scheme of Things. One day, Lucy decides to rescue the abused office pot plant and her life alters. Inside her flat 24 floors up, she starts to plant, cultivate and nurture her own personal wilderness.

First premiered at 2015’s Edinburgh Fringe Festival, **Garden** was shortlisted for the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence.
DARE DEVIL RIDES TO JARAMA

A new play by Neil Gore

7.30PM, THURSDAY 13 – SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

Tickets £7

Clem ‘Dare Devil’ Beckett, the rugged Speedway star, and Christopher Caudwell, literary critic, poet and aeronautical expert, were unlikely friends, but a common cause brought them together.

Moved by most Spaniards’ determination to defend themselves against Franco’s rising Fascist army, they crossed the Pyrenees. Like so many other volunteers, they recognised that the defence of Spanish democracy against Fascism was their fight too. They died at their machine gun post covering their battalion’s retreat at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937.

Commissioned by The International Brigades Memorial Trust, Dare Devil to Jarama is a powerful play about the British and Irish volunteers involved at the beginning of the brutal Civil War in Spain that captures the raw passions and emotions of idealism and despair, hope and anger, determination and fear - through stirring songs, poetry and flamenco dance.

REGULAR EVENTS

Oldham Coliseum Theatre in association with Oldham Library

A series of regular events for people who want to take their interest in new writing a little further.

SCRIPTS

6PM – 7.30PM
WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

A play reading group over five sessions exploring a range of submitted texts - looking at potential work for our studio and main house. Find out more about the commissioning process in a theatre. Listen or be part of the reading.

Wednesdays: 18 May, 1 June, 15 June, 29 June, 13 July

£15 per term

SCRIBBLES

6PM – 7.30PM
WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

A writing group over five sessions for everyone, including absolute beginners, led by playwright Cathy Crabb. Tips, techniques and exercises to help you develop your ideas into a rehearsed reading.

Wednesdays: 25 May, 8 June, 22 June, 6 July, 20 July

£15 per term

Take part in both Scripts and Scribbles for £30 per term. Book on 0161 624 2829 / coliseum.org.uk