

26 November 2020

A theatrical Advent Calendar from Oldham Coliseum

From Tuesday 1 – Thursday 24 December Oldham Coliseum Theatre will air a short play responding to a festive theme each day on its Social Media channels.

The **Advent Plays** are a little sprinkle of Christmas, lasting no longer than 2.5 minutes, perfect to watch whilst you eat the chocolate from your advent calendar at home. Filmed on stage at the Coliseum on a cosy living room set, with props and furniture you may have seen in previous Coliseum productions.

The 24 short **Advent Plays** have been written by 14 writers and feature 25 professional actors.

Writers include: Cathy Crabb (*Meat Pie Sausage Roll* and *Dreamers*); Chris Hoyle (*Tinned Up*); Nana-Kofi Kufuor (*My Voice Was Heard But It Was Ignored*); Rob Ward (*Gypsy Queen*) and Ian Townsend (*All The Bens*). Familiar faces to Coliseum audiences amongst the actors include: Karen Henthorn (*Tinned Up* and *Spring and Port Wine*), Jenny Platt (*Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Meat Pie Sausage Roll*), Joyce Branagh (*Boomtown Gals*), Mitesh Soni (*Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Cinderella*) and Will Travis (*The Kitchen Sink* and *Hard Times*).

The theatre's theatrical advent calendar is the perfect pick-me-up on those chilly December mornings. One short play will be released each morning on the Coliseum's Social Media channels.

Advent Plays is part of a package of digital festive offers from the Coliseum this Christmas. Further offers include: **Panto Digital Storytelling**, which gives audiences the opportunity to invite Cinderella or Dame Dotty Trott into their homes (virtually) for unique tellings of their famous tales from Saturday 12 December – Saturday 2 January, and **Messages from the Dame**, a celebration of the achievements of people in the local area with the Pantomime Dame (nominations close on Wednesday 2 December).

Following the Government announcement of the nationwide lockdown on 31 October, Oldham Coliseum Theatre announced on 4 November that the theatre's doors would remain closed to the public until early 2021, and that the Coliseum would continue its focus on digital, community and schools work.

- Ends -----

Notes to Editor:

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale via email at shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk (please note I am currently working from home)

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

The Coliseum is a cultural and educational charity that works with over 150,000 individuals per year.

The Coliseum has a rich history in Greater Manchester dating back to 1885. It provides a wide variety of distinctive theatre performances and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and beyond. It creates original productions each year which are presented at the Coliseum and on tour. Intrinsic to the town's on-going regeneration, the theatre works with its local communities and young people to develop creative programmes to facilitate learning, engagement and community cohesion.

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