

Theatre

Swan along to this!

BALLET

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Iconic classical ballet Swan Lake will glide onto the stage at Milton Keynes Theatre next week when Northern Ballet returns to the venue.

Adored by audiences for over a hundred years, there is in fact no definitive version of this dramatic ballet and choreographers the world over have put their own spin on the tale – some initially ruffling a few feathers in the process. Northern Ballet’s classy interpretation is described as a modern take on the treasured favourite. Sure to plunge theatregoers into the darkest depths of drama, the production is lovingly devised to stay true to the spirit of the story and, despite

narrative changes, retains the essential elements that audiences expect. So, Tchaikovsky’s haunting score is played live by Northern Ballet Sinfonia, the famous dance of the four cygnets is a lakeside highlight and the strikingly powerful themes of romance and obsession endure. Artistic director David Nixon has reimaged the world’s favourite ballet as a tragic coming-of-age tale set in New England at the beginning of the twentieth century. A wealthy young man named Anthony is haunted by a childhood tragedy which resulted in his beloved brother drowning. As an adult, Anthony wrestles with romantic confusion and remains filled with agony and guilt over his sibling’s death. Determined to face the fear and attraction of the lake, Anthony looks to the water for answers.

When Odette, an ethereal swan-like creature, surfaces he experiences a rush of joy, freedom and comfort. Soon immersed in a love triangle with his two best friends, yet still bewitched by the memory of the mystical Odette, Anthony must face up to the turmoil and surrender himself to love. But who will he choose? Northern Ballet’s dancers blend classical ballet technique with contemporary flair and dramatic presence to bring well-loved stories from classical ballet, opera, literature and popular culture to life. Whether you are a bona fide balletomane or a relative newcomer to dance, Northern Ballet’s expressive Swan Lake promises to enthrall and entertain. Dive into Northern Ballet’s Swan Lake at from Tuesday until Saturday April 30. To book call 0844 871 7652.



‘Perfectly posed’: Romance and obsession in Swan Lake

Get the streamers out - Tread the Boards are celebrating!

TREAD THE BOARDS

How best to celebrate a milestone than to go back to where it all started? That was the thought-process of the good folks responsible for Tread the Boards theatre group, which will mark its 30th birthday by staging a revival of their first ever show, Bedroom Farce. The beginnings of TTB can be traced back to Newport Pagnell in 1986 – the same year Spitting Image and Wham! were chart toppers in the singles chart!

Today, the group meets every Monday evening at Wavendon Gate Pavilion and is always open to new members, so don’t be shy, do give them a try. First things first, though, and we suggest a trip to see Bedroom Farce, which goes live at The Chrysalis Theatre tonight and again tomorrow.



A couple whose marriage is on the rocks inflict their mis-

eries on three couples whose own relationships could be considered tenuous at best! Taking place in three bedrooms over the course of one particularly traumatic Saturday night, beds and tempers are ruffled in riotous fashion! Tickets are on sale at £10 (concessions £8) and you get them by tapping to www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards TTB have given MK three decades of entertainment. It’s only right and proper that you pull up a pew and help them celebrate their big 3-0 in style.



Musical Plath commemoration

THE STABLES

Three of the original Rubettes line-up – including Alan Williams – are back on the road and pull up at The Stables this evening. Go glam with ‘em and they’ll take you back to the success of Sugar Baby Love, a worldwide chart-topper that allowed the band to move forward and rack up a further 15 hits. Meantime, Stage 2 welcomes Irish singer-songwriter James McGrath, a chap who has been likened to some serious aces in the musical pack; Shane McGowan, Neil Young, Nizlopi and Ed Sheeran. That’s pretty tasty, so far as comparisons go, wouldn’t you say? Expect a charismatic attention-holder with humour, passion and sincerity in plentiful supply. Dance Away Friday night with

Roxy Magic, and on Saturday night The Bon Jovi Experience will be there for you as the venue welcomes in two nights of tributes. Making their debut on Stage 2 on Saturday night will be Casa Margarita, putting thrilling Spanish music at the fore. It is “...a riveting fusion of stories, song, solo and ensemble pieces that sparkle like gems amidst an extraordinary percussive soundscape,” they promise. Expect their take on music by Rodrigo, de Falla, Albeniz, Torriba and much more. There is still some Bridget Christie availability on Tuesday night. She’ll find the funny with her new show which will provide the answers to questions like “Why has Bridget been sending her stained underpants to George Osborne at HM Treas-

ury every month? And ‘What’s the difference between Eddie Izzard and Caitlyn Jenner?’ When she is done with making your face hurt in that humorous way of hers, Bridget will be present with pen in hand for a book signing. Last up this week is Wednesday’s show in the company of Kathryn Williams. She is visiting these parts as part of a UK stint in support of her Hypoxia album project. Kathryn was asked if she would accept an open commission to write material inspired by Sylvia Plath’s The Bell Jar. It was to commemorate the half century anniversary since the publication, and the author’s untimely death – a month after the book’s UK release and Plath was dead. She had taken her own life at just 30 years old. “What I wasn’t prepared for was the muscular writing,” said Kathryn, who hadn’t read the book since her teens. “The shocking brutal honesty. The modernness. Thinking about a woman writing like this 50 years ago was astounding.” When she had re-read the book, she was unable to let it go, so alluring did the characters prove to be, and so this album came to fruition, aided by Ed Harcourt who both produced, and co-wrote a track on the release. Call up 01908 280800 or visit www.stables.org



Kathryn Williams: Plath tribute