

THE NEW VICTORY®
THEATER

A New 42nd Street project



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The New Victory Theater New York's Theater for Kids and Families Announces 2009-10 Season

Season Launches with Scottish Theater Festival

Followed by a Holiday Reunion for The Flaming Idiots, An Anglo-glam Opera, "Under The Radar" Theater, And Much, Much More!

September 18, 2009 – May 23, 2010

Fasten your kilts! The New Victory Theater opens 2009-10 with the **New Victory Scottish Festival from September 18 to November 1, 2009**, introducing New York audiences to Scotland's most evocative, engaging and imaginative theater for young people.

The New Victory Theater -- New York's first and only theater for kids and families -- scours the globe to find sophisticated, thought-provoking professional productions that not only entertain and challenge young people, but adults as well. Given this programming philosophy, the New Vic is the perfect venue for this seven-week Scottish celebration.

A Festival highlight is *Hansel and Gretel* by **Catherine Wheels Theatre Company**, which brought the award-winning productions *Martha* (1999) and *Lifeboat* (2007) to the New Victory. In *Hansel and Gretel* -- the first production of its kind at the New Victory -- audiences of 100 at a time take an eerie "promenade" through a New Vic that is transformed from basement to balcony into a haunted forest and other surprising destinations. Last year, *Hansel and Gretel* was featured as the holiday show at the Barbican in London. Described as "a world of dark absurdity that Tim Burton would be proud of" (Edinburghguide.com), *Hansel and Gretel* is based on an original work by **the National Theatre of Scotland (*Black Watch*)**.

Following the Scottish Festival is an eclectic season filled with award-winning and critically-acclaimed theater, puppetry, circus, opera, music and dance from around the world. Below are just a few highlights:

- For its highly anticipated holiday show, the New Vic welcomes back long-time favorites **The Flaming Idiots** in the aptly titled *Chestnuts Roasting on The Flaming Idiots*. This engagement represents a happy and long-awaited reunion for these madcap comedians.
- London's **The Opera Group, ROH2 at the Royal Opera House and the Young Vic** bring a co-production entitled *The Enchanted Pig*. An off-beat, funny and free-spirited opera with Anglo-glam edge, *The Enchanted Pig* toured the UK with enormous critical success in 2007 and represents the first co-production among these three esteemed British companies.
- The multi-award winning *Once and For All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up and Listen* by Belgium's **Ontroerend Goed and KOPERGIETERY** is an eye-opening look at adolescence from the teen perspective. *Once and For All...* will also be presented as part of the **2010 Under The Radar Festival**.
- Prokofiev's beloved masterpiece *Peter and the Wolf* takes a fresh turn in this new production (and U.S. premiere). Starring British film and stage actor **Brian Blessed**, it boasts a brand new prequel, which is followed by the original 1936 composition.
- *Elephant*, a poignant theatrical work and a visual feast of African song and exultant tribal dance, is a co-production between Dodgy Clutch of the UK and Johannesburg's **Market Theatre** of *Sarafina* fame. **The Market Theatre** presented *Sarafina* in 1987 before it went on to be nominated for a Tony® Award for Best Musical in 1988.

The nonprofit New Victory Theater is supported, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and from the New York city Department of Cultural Affairs. The New Vic Council, Friends of The New Victory and the theater's dedicated patrons, corporate and foundation donors also provide essential contributions, helping to make possible programming of the highest quality. The New Victory Scottish Festival is made possible through funding from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund and the Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival.

Ticket Information

Theater-goers who buy tickets for three or more New Vic shows qualify for free Membership benefits, including 30-percent savings with tickets as low as \$8.75. **Tickets for new Members are available online starting June 24, 2009, or by telephone starting August 3.** To purchase tickets online, visit NewVictory.org, and to purchase by phone, call 646-223-3010.

Full-price tickets for individual productions, as low as \$12.50 each, will also be available from August 12, 2009, either online or by phone. Beginning September 8, The New Victory Theater box office (209 West 42nd Street) will be open Sunday and Monday from 11am-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday from 12 noon-7pm.

About The New Victory Theater

The New Victory Theater, a project of The New 42nd Street and New York City's first and only full-time performing arts theater for kids and their families and classmates, presents a range of professional productions at affordable ticket prices (regular season prices range from \$12.50-\$35 and Member tickets are only \$8.75-\$24.50). In addition, it also offers daytime school performances (\$2 per student), family workshops and jobs to high school and college students. Interactive Lobby Activities, FYIs (performance-related exhibits) and Talk-backs with the artists are offered in conjunction with select performances throughout the season. The theater's website, NewVictory.org, provides video clips and more information about each production in the season, as well as show-related activities.

The New Victory Theater sparked the subsequent revitalization of 42nd Street when it opened its doors in December 1995.



Talk about your experience at the New Victory with other members of the New Vic community.

About The New 42nd Street

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent, nonprofit organization charged with long-term responsibility for seven historic theaters on 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues. In addition to running The New Victory, The New 42nd Street built and operates the New 42nd Street Studios -- a 10-story building of rehearsal studios, offices and a 199-seat theater named The Duke on 42nd Street -- for national and international performing arts companies. Since its opening on June 21, 2000, the New 42nd Street Studios have been fully occupied by both nonprofit and commercial theater, dance and opera companies. With these institutions and the other properties under its guardianship, The New 42nd Street plays a pivotal role in fostering the continued revival of this famous street at the Crossroads of the World.

The New Victory Theater

2009-2010 Season

The New Victory Scottish Festival *September 18 – November 1, 2009*

Cinderella

The Duke on 42nd Street
Shona Reppe Puppets
Fife, Scotland

September 18 – September 27
Theater

The world's most beloved fairytale comes to life like never before in the hands of multi-award winning (Total Theatre Award, 2002 Edinburgh Festival Fringe) and internationally renowned puppeteer, **Shona Reppe**. Dedicated to producing inventive and highly imaginative small scale visual theater for children and their families, Ms. Reppe is considered one of the artists primarily responsible for Scotland's notable emergence as a force in British puppetry. "Shona Reppe is the fairy godmother of puppet theatre." (*Edinburgh Evening News*)

My House – U.S. Premiere

Studio 3B at the New 42nd Street Studios
Andy Manley in association with Starcatchers
Edinburgh, Scotland

October 2 – October 18
Theater

The first of its kind in Scotland, **The Starcatchers Project** explores the development and creation of theater for babies and young children (0-3 years old), their families and caregivers. In *My House*, creator **Andy Manley**, along with designer Claire Halleran and composer Danny Krass, invite parents and little ones to gather round as a simple cardboard box unfolds into a haven of colors, textures, shapes, and sounds. Presented in a New 42nd Street studio for an audience of only 25 at a time, this gentle and intimate one-man show is the perfect first-time theatrical experience. "A charmingly simple and quirky piece. Deeply silly, yet enchantingly accessible to toddlers." (*The Sunday Herald*, UK)

The Man Who Planted Trees – U.S. Premiere

The Duke on 42nd Street
Puppet State Theatre Company
Edinburgh, Scotland

October 2 – October 11
Theater

"Laughs, heartbreak, war, regeneration, scented breezes, sparkling wit, and the best dog puppet ever" (*The Guardian*) sums up the **Puppet State Theatre Company's** theatrical adaptation of French novelist Jean Giono's environmental classic. Dog and his quick-witted chum Jean tell the tale of a thoughtful shepherd who plants a forest, acorn by acorn, transforming a barren wasteland. Winner of the Total Theatre Award

2008 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the 2007 Eco Trust's Eco Prize for Creativity, *The Man Who Planted Trees* is a unique blend of comedy, puppetry and storytelling with sensory effects.

Hansel and Gretel – U.S. Premiere

The New Victory Theater

**Catherine Wheels Theatre Company in association with Brunton Theatre
Musselburgh, Scotland**

**October 15 – November 1
Theater**

This unique production of The Brothers Grimm fairytale requires that the entire New Victory be transformed from basement to balcony to accommodate the complex and intricate needs of a “promenade” theater piece. Audiences follow the path of Hansel and Gretel as the pair journeys from their kitschy 1970s inspired home through a spooky forest and into the dangerous clutches of a bald-headed witch who is at once nasty, funny and completely off-her-rocker. *Hansel and Gretel* features live music, and for a little nostalgia and camp, some Bay City Rollers’ tunes in the soundtrack. Described as “a world of dark absurdity that Tim Burton would be proud of (Edinburghguide.com),” *Hansel and Gretel* is based on an original work by the **National Theatre of Scotland** (*Black Watch*).

Peter and the Wolf – U.S. Premiere

The New Victory Theater

In the Wings

London, England

**November 13 – November 29
Music/Dance/Theater**

Prokofiev’s beloved masterpiece takes a fresh turn in this new production live narration by British film and stage actor **Brian Blessed**. Featuring 10 dancers and an ensemble of eight musicians from the **Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra**, this exciting U.S. premiere boasts a **brand new** prequel with music by Philip Feeney followed by the original 1936 Prokofiev composition. Peter's timeless adventures with Bird, Duck and Cat are staged with "tremendous visual flair" (*The Herald*), seamlessly blending a whimsical score with dance and theater.

Chestnuts Roasting on The Flaming Idiots – World Premiere

The New Victory Theater

The Flaming Idiots

USA

**December 4 – January 3
Variety**

The internationally adored neo-vaudeville troupe **The Flaming Idiots** reunite to “reignite” the New Vic stage with their juggling, comedy and general buffoonery this yuletide season. In *Chestnuts Roasting on The Flaming Idiots*, Gyro, Pyro and Walter bring some of their signature acts, including bean-bag chair juggling, sword swallowing, and flaming torch juggling, along with some zany new antics. “Good natured, high spirited silly fun. What escapist entertainment is all about.” (*The New York Times*)

Once and For All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up and Listen

The Duke on 42nd Street

Ontroerend Goed, KOPERGIETERY and Richard Jordan Productions, Ltd.

Ghent, Belgium

January 8 – January 17

Theater

You can ask all sorts of things from me. You can tell me what to do and what not to do, at what time I have to be home – you can do all that -- I don't care. But I will be home late whatever hour you give me. I will pass that limit, and I will be pissed drunk, and I will not be ashamed of myself. I have no choice, you see? I have to go too far. The moment some of you are thinking, "Does she have to do what she's doing?" Yes, I do. Okay? Because I need to go further, a lot further, until I myself don't know what to do anymore. And it's not because you've been there and done that that I shouldn't go there and do that because everything has been done before. But not by me.

-- Excerpt from *Once And For All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up and Listen*

Winner of the Herald Angels, Total Theatre and Fringe First Awards at the 2008 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *Once and For All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up and Listen* is a mind-blowing and potent look at adolescence through the eyes of 13 astoundingly talented teenagers. In keeping with their collaborative approach, **Ontroerend Goed, KOPERGIETERY and Richard Jordan Productions** developed the play with creative input from the teen performers. "Not just an infectiously enjoyable show but one that affects our view of every teenager we meet from now on." (*Variety*)

Once and For All... will also be presented as part of the **2010 Under The Radar Festival**.

The Enchanted Pig – U.S. Premiere

The New Victory Theater

The Opera Group, ROH2 at the Royal Opera House, Young Vic

London, England

February 5 – February 21

Opera/Musical Theater

A co-production of **The Opera Group, ROH2 at the Royal Opera House** and **the Young Vic** (who last appeared at the New Vic with *Sleeping Beauty* in 2005), *The Enchanted Pig* is a unique production with feet firmly planted in the worlds of both opera and musical theater. With lyrics by Alasdair Middleton and a through-sung score by Jonathan Dove, *The Enchanted Pig* the hit of the Young Vic's 2006-07 season and has toured the UK since. "A lovely children's opera." (Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*)

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

The New Victory Theater

Reduced Shakespeare Company

Sonoma, California

March 5 – March 14

Theater

As one of London's longest running comedies, playing for 10 years at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly Circus, this irreverent romp through The Bard's canon has achieved international cult status. In *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, three actors take audiences through raucous, fast-paced parodies of Shakespeare's 37 plays, beginning with a send-up of *Romeo and Juliet*, followed by a *Titus Andronicus* cooking show, and along the way, presents *Othello* composed as rap. *The Complete Works...*

has become one of the world's most popular shows, playing in a variety of languages. "If you like Shakespeare, you'll love this show. If you hate Shakespeare, you'll love this show!" ("The Today Show")

46 Circus Acts in 45 Minutes

The New Victory Theater

Circa

Queensland, Australia

March 19 – April 4

Circus

The name says it all. With their beeline approach to highflying fun, the cheeky Aussies of **Circa** push their own limits as they perform feats of acrobatic wonder at breakneck speed. The show features aerial antics, such as trapeze and straps, as well as tumbling, juggling, extreme unicycling, and many more traditional (and not so traditional) circus acts. The competitive spirit among these four highly pedigreed circus talents, along with a non-stop party music soundtrack, creates "a breathless barrage of circus pandemonium." (*City News*, Brisbane)

Time Step

The New Victory Theater

Parallel Exit

New York, New York

April 9 – April 18

Dance/Theater

Fusing the tap stylings of Astaire and Kelly with the classic comedy of Chaplin and Keaton, New York's own **Parallel Exit** creates a "rhythmic symphony of percussive sounds that proves riotously funny" (*Backstage*). Shuffling in time between past and present, the dancers and musicians tell the story of three high-stepping hoofers known back in the day as the Dapper Tap Trio. With jaunty piano and vaudevillian flair, **Time Step** evokes the bygone era of classic movie musicals.

Formed by artistic director Mark Lonergan in 1997, **Parallel Exit** has performed all over the world. The company received a 2008 Drama Desk nomination for Unique Theatrical Experience.

Elephant – U.S. Premiere

The New Victory Theater

Dodgy Clutch and Market Theatre

Newcastle upon Tyne, UK and Johannesburg, South Africa

April 23 – May 2

Theater

Elephant, both a poignant theatrical work and a visual feast of African song and exultant tribal dance, is a co-production between Dodgy Clutch of the UK and Johannesburg's **Market Theatre**, creators of the Broadway hit musical *Sarafina* (1988 Tony® Award nomination for Best Musical). Multi-talented performers from the UK and South Africa come together to present a powerful tale of family, redemption and 'Ubuntu' (humanity). Featuring enormous elephant puppets that are unbelievably lifelike and tender, **Elephant** is a "spectacular foray into cross-cultural story-telling, music-making and physical theatre...a vivid saga that is engagingly, movingly universal." (*The Herald*, UK)

PaGAGnini – U.S. Premiere

The New Victory Theater

Yllana

Madrid, Spain

May 7 – May 23

Music/Comedy

Mozart, Chopin, Pachelbel, and even U2 take on a new tenor when Armenian virtuoso **Ara Malikian** and a wacky trio of gifted artists make musical mockery in *PaGAGnini*. With twists on symphonic treasures and modern tunes, this wordless concert is a splendid marriage of music and comedy capable of entertaining even the most erudite spectators. “A hilarious piece of musical satire, providing a fresh take on a classical string quartet.” (*The Herald*, UK)

A prized violinist, **Ara Malikian** has performed in more than 40 countries in some of the world’s most prestigious concert halls, including Carnegie Hall (New York), Salle Playel (Paris), Musikverein (Vienna), Ford Center (Toronto), and Auditorio Nacional and Teatro Real (Madrid). Artists with whom Mr. Malikian has collaborated include the Lebanese singer Fairuz, flamenco dancers Joaquín Cortés and Belén Maya, the Ensemble Nuevo Tango and the jazz pianist Horacio Icasto.

Farfalle: The Butterfly Garden

Studio 3A/B at the New 42nd Street Studios

T.P.O. Company

Prato, Italy

May 14 – May 23

Theater

In *The Butterfly Garden*, Italian theater company **T.P.O.** experiments with computer graphics and digital technologies to create a thrilling new experience in participatory theater. With the children’s cheering carpet -- a ground-breaking device that uses touch sensors -- a stage is transformed into a magical landscape from which beautiful botanical images, rainforest sounds and brilliant prisms of color emerge in every direction in response in real-time response to dancers’ movements. Even bigger thrills come when young ones from the audience are invited to touch and explore the glowing interactive garden themselves. “Redefines the idea of interactive theatre.” (*Scoop Independent News*, New Zealand)

Since 2002, **T.P.O.** has participated in numerous international festivals in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Australia and is recognized in Europe as one of the most original and outstanding groups for children’s theater. The company was awarded the Ade Art Digital Era Prize in 2004 (Polverigi, Italy).