
WHAT'S ON AUTUMN 2023



PROTEUS CREATION SPACE

Your local arts centre in Basingstoke

Theatre & Performance | Classes & Workshops | Café | Gallery
Family Events | Venue Hire | Youth & Adult Theatre Groups

WELCOME

Here we are again, creeping towards the last few months of 2023, the turn of the season having seemed to approach quickly this year as we've spent most of the Summer huddled under brollies. But the approach of Autumn is to be welcomed as (not only are all our events based indoors), some might say we have saved the best 'til last! We have performances to make you laugh, cry and to chill you to the bone, things to enjoy with the kids, and plenty to spark debate and get you thinking.

If you have never visited us before, our regular opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30-5.30, and we have a gorgeous onsite café to relax in with a cup of delicious Moon Roast Coffee and a treat from The Street Bakeshop (Open 9.30am-1pm). We also have a varied programme of performances, family events, cabaret nights, adult and youth theatre groups and regular creative classes spanning watercolour painting to Tai Chi, so read on to find out what is happening here on your doorstep.

We hope to see you soon!

The Proteus Team x

VISITING US

The Creation Space is a dynamic, creative hub in the heart of Basingstoke, based on the corner of Southern Road and Council Road opposite the Bounty Inn and next to Fairfields Primary. We have limited free onsite parking for visitors and a new parking system which requires all visitors to log in with their registration number when they enter the building. We are committed to making your visit as welcoming as possible, so please make us aware of any special requirements you have. The Creation Space is accessible to wheelchair users and all facilities are based on the ground floor. Disabled toilets and baby changing facilities available. Assistance dogs welcome.

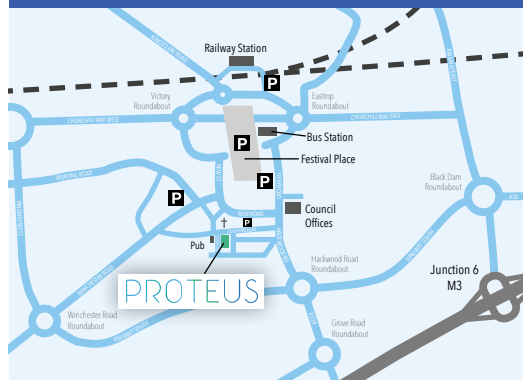


FIND US

Proteus Creation Space, Council Road, Basingstoke
RG21 3DH

Open Monday – Thursday 9.30am - 5.30pm.

For events, please refer to individual event timing.



Open for artisan coffee and cakes
Monday – Thursday 9.30am - 1pm
(and for all events taking place
unless otherwise stated)

**"UNBEARABLY TRUTHFUL,
PAINFULLY FUNNY AND
EXQUISITELY BEAUTIFUL"**

- Audience member

Lucy Mellors presents

IT IS I, SEAGULL

Thursday 21st September | Bar opens at 7pm, show starts at 7:30pm

Tickets: £10/£8 Concession

What would you sacrifice in pursuit of a dream? Or just a job...It is I, Seagull is a hilarious exploration of self-esteem, joy, failure, opera and space travel.

Comedy writer and opera singer Lucy Mellors has had enough.

Enough of grovelling to all-powerful male directors.

Enough of being judged for eating a biscuit.

Enough of singing by the bras at the back of Marks and Spencer. Enough of sacrificing her mental health in pursuit of a dream.

Intertwining Lucy's experiences as an award-winning opera singer with the stories of Valentina Tereshkova (the first woman in space) and Valentina Ponomaryova (almost the first woman in space), It is I, Seagull is a hilarious exploration of self-esteem, joy, failure, opera and space travel.

Fusing opera and comedy, Lucy exposes current and historical everyday sexism to ask what it takes to achieve something extraordinary, and is it worth it?

Age suitability: 16+, strong language, themes of mental health





The Late Night Assembly presents

THE LATE NIGHT ASSEMBLY CABARET:

Friday 8th September 2023

Friday 23rd February 2024

Bar opens at 7pm, fun begins at 8pm

£18.50

The Late Night Assembly, Basingstoke's best cabaret and burlesque night returns hand in hand with your fabulous host Miss Becky Boobala. Once again, your inimitable mistress will present an incredible ensemble of eye-boggling, risqué and downright hilarious acts. Be blown away by performances from musicians, burlesque artists, circus and variety performers.

Hilarity, peculiarity, dancing, singing, fabulous costumes, toasting and general extravagance are the order of the day.

The Late Night Assembly is held in our unique intimate venue where the connection between performers and the audience is really special. A thoroughly joyful and inclusive evening, we of course encourage you to come dressed for the occasion or however you feel comfortable.

Keep an eye on our social media channels as the acts performing on the night are revealed.

Strictly over 18's only.

The Late Night Assembly presents

MUSICAL BINGO

Friday 20th October | Bar opens at

7pm, fun begins at 8pm | £9

Join us for a fun-filled evening of MUSICAL BINGO, full of sing-along-favourites, games, and prizes to be won!

Musical bingo is a fun twist on the traditional bingo night, where the numbers are replaced by music; when you hear a song play that is on your bingo card, you can mark it off with a colourful pen (or 'dabber') and you are a step closer to a 'Full House'.

Expect to hear lots of your favourite pop songs through the decades right up to today; singing and dancing along is actively encouraged!!



HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN MORNING

Thursday 26th October | From 10am
Child: £6, Adult £0

Join the Proteus team for our annual fun-filled Halloween themed morning of craft and activities to keep the young ones amused this half term.

From 'horrible headbands' to spooky handmade decorations, we'll have crafts galore for you all to enjoy. We strongly encourage dressing up ready for a Halloween catwalk competition for the best dressed with silly spooky prizes to be won.

This is a stay and play, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Age Suitability: 4-11 years.



Treadboard present

GIGGLE! WIGGLE! PLOP!

Thursday 26th October | From 2pm
Child: £10, Adult: £8

GIGGLE! WIGGLE! PLOP! is an original family show incorporating music, stories poems and plenty of audience participation.

Join Teddy, Immy and their grown-ups as they go on an adventure up Upper Hill, discover the bonkers world of Sally Alan Pixie Biscuit, figure out what the strange noise in the attic is and meet Bob the bumblebee with his bucket full of 'B's'. Come and join the fun!

SPECIAL OFFER – Join us for a morning craft and afternoon show on Thursday 26th October and enjoy a full day of fun, creativity and theatre and get £4 discount when you book child's combo ticket.

Family Fun Day + Giggle Wiggle Plop Combo (Child): £12 +Booking

Family Fun Day + Giggle Wiggle Plop Combo (Adult): £8 +Booking

Family fun day runs 10am - 1pm, with Giggle! Wiggle! Plop! Beginning 2pm which leaves an hour for lunch where you are welcome to stay in the café, bring a picnic to eat on site or pop in town for lunch.

Pedlars & Petticoats presents

TALES OF VICTORIAN GOTHIC

Friday 27th October | Bar opens at 7pm,
show starts at 7:30pm

Tickets: £10 / £8 concession

Pedlars & Petticoats present Tales of Victorian Gothic – an evening of gothic tales from the nineteenth century for Halloween.

Jane and Terri of Pedlars & Petticoats return to the Creation Space with a further selection of stories to freeze the blood in time for the dark nights of Autumn and Winter. The fog and gaslights of the nineteenth century brought with them a swell of interest in spiritualism and a delight in the ghost story. Creating and devising Gothic tales provided a way for many female writers in Victorian and Edwardian times to escape personal and professional restrictions. For many of them, the distant, disconnected ghostly figure represented their own lives and experience.

So, join Jane and Terri again and be immersed in the atmosphere as they recreate an evening of gothic thrills and chills with fresh stories to tell.

Just don't look too closely into the shadows as you leave the theatre....

Age Suitability: 12+

Running time: Approximately 70 minutes

**“LOVELY
ATMOSPHERIC
PERFORMANCE. I
REALLY ENJOYED IT”**

- Audience member, Victorian Ghost Stories 2022

Worklight Theatre Presents

FANBOY

Saturday 28th October | Bar opens at 7pm, show starts at 7:30pm**Tickets: £10 / £8 Concession**

Fanboy is an award-winning, must-see show by Joe Sellman-Leava and directed by Yaz Al-Shaater; a love-hate letter to pop culture and nostalgia.

Joe has always been a nerd.

In his teens, he hid it. In his twenties, he owned it. Now in his thirties, Joe is still obsessed with Star Wars, Nintendo, and The Muppet Christmas Carol. But he's started to sense something: a great disturbance in the fandom... Alone, sorting through his old things, Joe finds an old video tape, in an old VCR, long forgotten. He presses play – and something amazing starts to happen...

Fanboy is a love-hate letter to pop culture and nostalgia. Award-winning writer-performer Joe Sellman-Leava (*Fringe First, Labels*) explores our relationship to our past and future selves and asks why his generation is so obsessed with its childhood.


Age Suitability: Suitable for ages 12+

Trigger/ content warning: Some strong language; brief mention of suicide ideation

Running time: Approximately 70 minutes

**“COMPLEX AND VERY
MOVING ★★★★★”**

- The Scotsman



“THE PROTEANS
CLEVERLY GAVE THE
PLAY A MODERN TWIST...
THE WHOLE CAST REALLY
BROUGHT US IN TO JOIN
THE LAUGHTER, HOPE,
PAIN, AND LOVE THAT
ULTIMATELY TRIUMPHS
AT THE END”

- The Basingstoke Gazette review
of The Tempest 2023

The Proteans present

Terry Pratchett's

Mort

Thursday 2nd November – Saturday 4th November | Bar opens at 7pm,
show starts at 7:30pm | Tickets: £10 /£8 Concession

A satirical comedy adapted by Stephen Briggs about an awkward, well-intentioned, and inquiring young farm boy becomes Death's apprentice.

A theatrical retelling of the Terry Pratchett fantasy novel Mort. Death takes young Mort from the comfort of his family fields where he works the land (albeit not very well but works nonetheless) and teaches him to collect souls. Death leads the young lad to his home in another dimension and his apprenticeship begins. As Mort finds himself in this new realm with his new boss, he struggles to grasp the complete functionality of the job and soon finds himself needing to repair a disturbed rift in history...

Age Suitability: 8+ contains some mild language

Becky Boobala presents:

THE BABY QUESTION :

70s THEMED MUSICAL BINGO AND FILM SCREENING

Thursday 9th November

Bar opens at 7pm, show starts at 7:30pm

Tickets: £10 /£8 Concession

Join cabaret host Becky Boobala for a fun and feisty evening of film, feminism and 70s themed musical bingo to boot!

This is a 2-part evening: First Becky will introduce a screening of the short, theatrical film *TheBabyQuestion* by experimental performance and video artist Paula Varjack, followed by a 70s themed post-show cabaret-style party with games, discussions and provocations based on the themes explored in the film.

In 1974, the contraceptive pill was made available to single women on the NHS for the first time. What has changed since then and what if child-free/childless women were at the centre of that narrative?

The Baby Question is a theatrical film exploring the narratives of women who are child-free by choice or circumstance, set in the world of a seventies Top of the Pops style chart tv show.

Age suitability: 13+ contains sensitive themes around fertility

Running time: 45min screening + 45min post-show party

“SUCH AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT WHICH IS NOT TALKED ABOUT ENOUGH. BEAUTIFULLY DONE, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED”

- Audience member



Piece of Work

by James Rowland

“A MASTER
STORYTELLER”

- What's on stage



The Times



The Sunday Times

Thursday 16th November | Bar opens at 7pm, show starts at 7:30pm

Tickets: £10/ £8 Concession

Following his critically acclaimed show *Learning to Fly*, James Rowland is back with another **PIECE OF WORK** using his captivating mix of storytelling, music, and comedy.

James has been touring his storytelling theatre shows for half his adult life. This year was different. Returning home after his first stint away he received a letter that exploded his life, and the tour became a search: for the person who sent it, for a sense of home, and to maybe save a life. This remarkable road trip follows James' sell-out shows *Learning to Fly* and *The Songs of Friendship Trilogy*, and features his captivating mix of story, comedy, and music.

James explores how the landscapes we exist in physically affect the way we think and feel. How searching for something is an end in itself, regardless of whether the search is successful. It's about our sense of home, and the hope that makes our lives livable.

Age suitability: 14+ Contains references to suicide and mental illness.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Thursday 30th November 7pm | Saturday 2nd December | Tickets £37.50 pp

Make your front door or table gorgeous this Christmas with a festive wreath! Come along to one of the Christmas Wreath workshops at Proteus and have a fun time creating your own masterpiece.



Experienced tutor Shelagh Thompson will guide you step by step through the art of creating the perfect Christmas Wreath over one and a half relaxing and creative hours. With lovely fresh foliage and a variety of seasonal decorations to choose from, each wreath will be colourful and individual.

You can create the most unique front door wreath on your street!

All materials including greenery, decorations and the all-important oasis ring are provided within the price of the workshop.

VENUE HIRE

The Creation Space is unique in its beautiful Victorian architecture, with stunning original features.

The building is also equipped with a café / bar which can be included in your hire. This venue is adaptable to your needs, be it a party a work event, exhibition, meeting, community event, or wedding!

We also have reliable and recommended suppliers for catering, sound and lighting, adult entertainment, and children's entertainment for parties.



To arrange a look around the venue and facilities please contact Matthew Dwyer at:
Email: matthew.dwyer@proteustheatre.com or call 01256 354541.

Scratch Built Productions Presents

HELP! THERES AN ELF IN MY HOUSE!

9th December – 24th December

Help! There's an Elf in My House is an interactive festive adventure for Christmas 2023, where our youngest audience members and their families are placed at the heart of the story.

Our yearly Christmas show, created in partnership with Scratch Built Productions, is a magical and immersive theatre experience. Audiences travel around the Creation Space arts centre as the story unfolds, each room transformed into an enchanting Christmassy scene, full of wonder and meeting friendly and funny personalities along the way.

A guaranteed memory-making theatre experience for the whole family.

It is Christmas Eve and not a creature is stirring, except for an elf....!

Wait, what?

An elf??

In our house?

This elf definitely does not stay on the shelf and is getting up to all sorts of mischief. Come along for a fun and festive adventure with one of Santa's little helpers and help make this the best Christmas ever!

Help! There's an Elf in My House is a gently interactive show and a perfect 'first theatre experience' where children are encouraged to explore, play, create and interact with the enchanting surroundings and colourful characters that they meet along the way.



“AMAZING EXPERIENCE TODAY FROM START TO FINISH. LOVE IT HERE!”

- Audience member, *The Christmas Switch*, 2022

“THE CREATION SPACE [...] WAS TRANSFORMED BEAUTIFULLY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND CHILDREN STARED IN AWE. THE PRODUCTION WAS ANOTHER JOY TO WATCH, AND CERTAINLY PUT US ALL IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.”

- Basingstoke Gazette, The Christmas Switch, 2022



For 10 successive years, Scratch Built Productions have created a brand new and unique in-house Christmas show with Proteus, bringing their trademark mix of interactive storytelling, exquisitely hand-crafted set design and beautiful puppetry, music and sensory elements, all with a generous dusting of Christmas magic. Help! There's an Elf in My House is the perfect festive treat for younger audiences and the young-at-heart!

Proteus Theatre Company present

INDESTRUCTIBLE

Preview performances at the
Creation Space ahead of a 3-week run
at Clapham Omnibus (14 Jan-3 Feb
2024)

Thursday 11th January, 7.30pm

Friday 12th January, 7.30pm

Catherine Shaw spent the 90s shocking the art world with her provocative performance art. She's always called herself a feminist, but looking back through the lens of #MeToo, she's questioning how much she enabled the culture she now sees being called out. An ambitious Curator approaches her to put together an exhibition of female Artists at a major new gallery; a scandal breaks and unwittingly caught in the centre, she begins to question everything.

When men behave in unacceptable ways, why do we always point to the women close to them and ask why they did nothing?

Can we, and should we, separate the art from the artist? How far do the ripples of consequence spread? And why is it always women who must hold the moral space?

Indestructible takes in uncompromising female Artists, from Lee Miller to the Guerrilla Girls via Sinead O'Connor and Taylor Swift, to ask: why is it still so difficult for female Artists to succeed? And why are women always the Muse, never the Artist?



Altered Skin Presents

FATHERHOOD

7th March

Being a father is complicated, especially when you're the father of a son of mixed heritage. Three very different characters, each with their own stories of being and having a dad, explore the highs and lows of fatherhood across generations and across continents.

Featuring Altered Skin's unique blend of physical theatre and multilingual text, this original new work traces epic journeys and ponders domestic dilemmas with humour and sensitivity.

Altered Skin presents

Fatherhood

UK TOUR



"A great storyteller, a mercurial trickster with an exuberant love of life"

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

To book on to any class or workshop, please contact the individual tutor running the course.

More information can be found on our website at www.proteustheatre.com/classes-and-workshops

WATERCOLOUR FOR BEGINNERS AND IMPROVERS

Mondays 10am – 12 noon

The emphasis of this class is on exploring areas of personal interest and development and expressing an individual approach. Develop as a painter using sketching, colour mixing, shadows and tone, exploring landscapes and still life.

Contact: Lisa Rosenfeld | 07719 654439 | localartclasses@hotmail.com

PHOENIX MOVEMENT & DRAMA

Monday from 10:30am-12pm

Phoenix Group Monday Movement and Drama sessions for adults with learning disabilities. A sociable and relaxed group for individuals to enjoy and explore their interest in movement and drama in a fun and safe environment.

Contact: Helen Palmer | helen.palmer@proteustheatre.com

TAI CHI

Mondays 2pm – 3pm

An exercise you can do for your entire life; one that is fun and helps to keep you supple and strong. It's suitable for all levels of fitness and needs no equipment.

Contact: Tina Hobbs | 01189 80743 | thobbs@rocketmail.com

SING FOR FUN – COMMUNITY CHOIR

Mondays 7:30pm – 9:30pm

A relaxed and fun adult community choir who come together to sing rock, pop and musical theatre in harmony.

Accessible to everyone, regardless of experience.

Contact: www.singforfun.co.uk

DISCOVER THE ARTIST WITHIN YOU

Tuesday & Wednesdays 10am – 12noon

Using drawing, pastel painting, acrylic painting, and sometimes mixed media, we explore subjects including landscapes, still life, flowers, animals and street scenes in this fun and welcoming class suitable for all abilities.

Contact: Jessica Mann | 07887 127987 | jessicagunnmann@gmail.com

DRU YOGA

Thursdays 10.30am – 12noon

Dru Yoga is kind, gentle and suitable for all levels of ability. Come along and give yourself the opportunity to feel great.

Contact: Sue Martin | 01256 326056

SING STAR VOCAL COACHING

Thursdays 4.30pm – 5.15pm

Fun and exciting group classes for children aged 7-16 with a keen interest in pop music, singing and performing.

Using a variety of vocal techniques, warm up exercises, performance coaching, to build confidence and skill.

Contact: Jade Morgan | info@singstarvocalcoaching.com

CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP

Usually runs 1st Thursday in every month, but please check BDDF social media for exact dates and times.

Run by Basingstoke and District Disability Forum. Support and advice for anyone living with chronic pain. Join this welcoming group in our accessible town centre location (free onsite parking) for a chance to listen to guest speakers, socialise and enjoy activities, chats and refreshments.

Contact: Eileen | office@bddf.org.uk | 01256 423869 | <https://www.bddf.org.uk/>

PROTEUS YOUTH THEATRE



Have you ever thought about joining Proteus Youth Theatre?

We run inclusive and fun weekly sessions for young people aged 6-21 years to explore theatre and the arts with leadership from experienced theatre practitioners.

- no audition process
- ensemble-led
- specialist masterclasses in fields such as puppetry, devising and circus
- build confidence, social skills, teamwork & make new friends
- perform in different spaces from professional theatre to outdoor shows
- bursary places available

Free taster session, find out more today:
contact helen.palmer@proteustheatre.com | 01256 354 541

PROTEUS
www.proteustheatre.com

 proteuscreationspace  @proteustheatre  @proteustheatre

Proteus Creation Space
Council Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DH



supported by
Basingstoke
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Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**