





Friday 4 July 2025

Welcome from our Artist Development Producer

This is the beginning of SEASONS, the first of four opportunities a year to catch work in progress and early stage works by some of the best Midlands artists. SEASONS is about celebrating, year-round, the talent and voices within the Midlands and giving you, the audience, the opportunity to feed into the creative process and see works grow over time.

If this is the first time you've come to our Neville Studio, welcome. We programme work here year-round. We also produce a Christmas show for 3-8 year olds and their families, directed by a Midlands director – this year it's The Little Mermaid.

The rest of the year we programme visiting work against three strands – family work, work of national significance and Midlands artists' work. So, SEASONS is not your only chance to support local. Do check out the upcoming programme for other exciting shows.

But for now, we're here, with SUMMER; we've got a double bill of work-in-progress, and an Edinburgh preview. It's a special privilege to be the first audience to experience a show...and yes, they might be rough around the edges. What fun! It's important, now more than ever, to give artists space to take risks, to try things out, to get things wrong sometimes – and for us, as audiences, to see that's ok, that it's part of the process of making the work – just as much as it's part of life. Massive thanks to you for taking the risk with us.

Cont.

SUMMER has been programmed through our Amplify Ideas Submissions, and by a panel of volunteers from across our Participation programme and Amplify network. We aimed to balance a good night out for the audience with providing an opportunity at the right time for the artist and their work. We hope you'll enjoy this evening, which happens to be 3 pieces of female-led work.

Thank you to the programming panel volunteers – Wendy Barnes, Hugh Dichmont, Minder Athwal, Rehannah Mian, Hannah Oseman, Caitlin Plummer, Talie Smith, Sharon Sorrentino, Ione Vaughan and Kate Walker – many of whom are also artists making their own work in the region.

Big thanks to the artists: Sugar Theatre, Smashed Avocado Productions and Boondog Theatre for making work, taking risks and being brave about sharing their work in its infancy; and to our BSL interpreters for supporting access to new work for deaf audiences.

And finally thanks also to the Fenton Arts Trust and the Noel Coward Foundation, who have supported SEASONS financially in its first year.

Sadly I'm unable to attend, for health reasons (I'm fine...a badly timed but needed surgery). Props to Daniel McVey and our brilliant in house team for helping to make it all happen. A request, if I may? At this stage in development feedback is crucial – it helps shape the work, it builds confidence, it's useful for making a case for funding, and supporting evaluation processes. Please do take five minutes, if you can spare it to jot down your responses, reactions, thoughts. I hope you have a really good night.

See you soon,
Beccy D'Souza (Artist Development Producer)



Multi-buy Offer

Experience all of Amplify Seasons with our great Multi-buy Offer.

Join us for both the FRENEMIES
Double Bill and Lovett for only £20
(£18 for Amplify Members).



FRENEMIES

A Work-In-Progress Double Bill

Start Time
7pm
Running Time
65 minutes
BSL Interpreted
by Kathryn
Pearson



BSL FLYER

Spare Goose by Danica Corns



The development of Spare Goose is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

TriggersPossible mild sexual references.

When Isabelle unexpectedly barges into Kate's toilet cubicle and refuses to leave, Kate wants answers. Answers Isabelle isn't ready to give. But with a final bridal fitting to get to, Kate must step into her best friend's shoes to get her to open up before she misses the appointment and disappoints her perfectionist mother.

As secrets are revealed and lies are uncovered, there's an air that things are not the same. People change. People grow. People move on. And so do friendships. Don't they?

Director: Alexandra Whiteley

Writer: Danica Corns

Producer: Bethany Cooper

Kate: Lydia Larson

Isabel: Maya Thompson



About Danica Corns

Danica Corns is a writer, performer and theatre maker who has been making work for almost 10 years.

Her work to date has been rooted in female-led stories and using humour to delve into difficult and sticky subjects. Spare Goose is her debut play as a writer.

The first draft of Spare Goose was written as part of the Nottingham Playhouse writers' group last year. Danica has continued to develop the script since then and is now working on the third draft of the play.

SEASONS will be the first time this part of the script has been performed to an audience and is a crucial step in shaping its development. This performance is about discovery – it will give Danica and the Spare Goose team a chance to see and feel how an audience responds to the play in real time, revealing insights about how pacing, emotional impact, rhythm and tone could be refined.



F*ck You, Claire by Sugar Theatre



Triggers

Deals with topics such as depression, anxiety and OCD



"EVERYONE has their shit. We are all just silly little human beings doing our best one day at a time".

Penelope is 24 years old. She spends most of her life in her tiny bedroom and fears pretty much everything. As existential anxieties begin to mount, functioning as an adult human being starts to seem impossible – particularly with the introduction of her unwanted, fiendish new roommate: Claire.

Climb aboard this rollercoaster of mid-twenties confusion - confronting inner demons and irrational hat fixations along the way.

About Sugar Theatre

Sugar Theatre was founded in 2019 when founders (Rosie and Jack) graduated from their drama degree.

Their aim is to always work from the heart, creating performance inspired by their own stories. Their process is very experimental and very messy: they laugh, they cry, they play, they dance, they throw everything they've got at the wall and see what sticks. They want their audiences to feel a sense of them in the rehearsal room (their ultimate happy place) when they share their work. It's aaaall about the process!

Their debut show 'Scruffy' toured the UK in 2023, stopping off at Camden & Brighton Fringe along the way. After putting things on pause for a little while, Sugar is back in action with fresh new writing, ready to play with new audiences and continue their journey.

@sugartheatreco





Lovett by Boondog Theatre

"When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The young, newly-widowed Mrs Lovett needs to find a way to survive. Using the skills she learned from her whaler father, Eleanor "recalibrates".

Set before she meets Sweeney Todd, we discover what leads her to turn his victims into pies. **Start Time** 8.30pm

Running Time 55 mins

Triggers

Unpleasant themes. Discussion of animal death. Brief mention of suicide and parental loss. References to violence and abuse.

BSL interpreted by Rebekah Cupit.





About BoonDog Theatre

A collaborative theatre company, creating exciting new stories for the stage.

Creative Director Lucy Roslyn and Productions Director Jamie Firth started BoonDog Theatre in 2012 to create new writing for the theatre. They wanted to tell stories that start conversations that last long beyond the audience leaving the theatre.

2025 will mark their 10th original production under the BoonDog brand. Their work covers many subjects, but they try to focus on social issues, backed by immaculately researched detail. Their work is covertly political: their commentary on modern society hidden in the (perhaps somewhat more comfortable) fictional past.

boondogtheatre.com@boondogtheatre



Deaf Artists Meetup

Co-hosted with In Good Company

Come, gather, chat, learn about Amplify, Nottingham Playhouse's artist development programme and meet other artists from the region.

The event will consist of:

- An introduction to Amplify
- Information on Artist
 Development opportunities across the region
- Q&A about artist development
- Networking time to talk to other artists

Start Time 5.15pm

Running Time 75 mins

BSL interpreted by Rebekah Cupit and Stacey Green.





Become an Amplify Member

We know that the Midlands – both East and West, is full of talented theatre-makers and we want Nottingham Playhouse to be a hub for artists.

Whether you're fresh out of education, early in your career, or someone who has been making professional work for several years, we want to be there for you. We are committed to developing a network where ideas can be shared, challenged and grown.

Become an Amplify Member for free and get access to opportunities including:

- Quarterly AMPLIFY: SEASONS events
- Scratch nights
- Networking events
- Masterclasses
- Co-working opportunities
- One to one mentoring & guidance sessions
- Access to our Amplify Forum

