

hightide

MAY 2009

SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

THE QUIET MAN Grayson Perry

South Street's
small wonder

LA confidential:
Hollywood drama

AND: music arts theatre comedy
film exhibitions poetry food & drink

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Grayson Perry could hardly have made a greater impact when he won the Turner Prize, collecting the gong dressed in a frock. His choice as curator of a new show visiting Scarborough demonstrates he is anything but the artist celebrity though, and the collection offers a thoughtful perspective on some slightly neglected British art.

The Stephen Joseph Theatre is also staging a revival, this time of Ron Hutchinson's Hollywood tale Moonlight and Magnolias. This first outing for new artistic director Chris Monks promises to be a hit.

Not every good thing is a blockbuster, as South Street Gallery proves this month. Its new show features dozens of artists, each producing a postcard-sized original. It's the perfect way to let everyone own a slice of imagination.

Cover pic: Tony Bartholomew

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NEWS

Fusion style for new cookery school

Top Scarborough restaurateur Giorgio Alessio has teamed up with another leading chef to offer a new cookery school that marries the best of Italian and Yorkshire food.

The White Truffle, Yorkshire Pudding cookery school, launching on 1 June, will be based at Giorgio's famous Lanterna restaurant. The school is jointly run with chef and writer Gerard Baker.

Gerard is perhaps best known for his regular visits to the Antarctic where every winter he cooks on scientific and adventure bases.

The school will teach in the



restaurant's own kitchens and dining room, promising students that they will experience 'the full heat and velocity of the restaurant'. The school hopes eventually to offer teaching along the whole

Yorkshire coast – on and off shore.

Giorgio says: 'Scarborough, its sea and countryside have been my inspiration in my restaurant and cookery school.'

Putting your back into veg growing

Castle Community Partnership is launching a 'grow your own' project to link up those with gardens and those who like digging.

The idea is to spread the word on growing fresh fruit and vegetables, while helping out people who can no longer manage their garden.

Volunteers would be put in touch via a website.

Film fest gives Whitby a re-vamp

Whitby will boast not one but two new film festivals this year. Hard on the heels of Whitby in Shorts, the international short films event in September, comes the Bram Stoker International Film Festival.

This four-day extravaganza from 16 to 20 October is for anyone who likes horror, science fiction and suspense. There will be showings of at least 30 features in competition.

The festival's president is none other than Dacre Stoker, the great-grand-nephew of Dracula author Bram Stoker. Dacre promises a special treat at the festival with his tale Dracula: The Un-Dead, based on characters from the original.

Tickets for the festival are on sale from £18 to £88 via the website at www.bramstokerfilmfestival.com



Angela Chalmers previews an eclectic new show at her South Street Gallery

Small wonder

The Mini Art Show is a special event at The South Street Gallery that consists of two large walls of unframed original art works. We invited artists from across the Yorkshire region to submit work no larger than a 6 x 4 inch postcard. We received nearly four hundred submissions by over fifty artists providing an exciting and challenging task to display them all.

Original art by local professional artists, such as Andrew Cheetham, Len Hodgson, Janine Baldwin, David Chalmers, Steve Whitehead, Kane Cunningham, Bren Head and Sarahphotogirl geometrically adorn the walls in a mass of a colour.

The idea has been taken from London's Royal College of Art annual Secret Postcard Show. However, one slight difference is that the RCA present all the

artworks anonymously and often includes many famous artists. We have named everyone's work to help support the promotion of individual artists. The exhibition has also offered the opportunity for emerging artists to display their work in a commercial space.

Art works range from painting, drawing and printmaking to photography, collage and textiles. All the pieces are available to own at a very modest price of twenty pounds, and in addition the South Street Gallery is donating £1.00 for every postcard sold to Saint Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough.

During an exceptionally busy opening night the artworks were literally pulled off the walls by people eager not to miss this prime opportunity to own an original artwork by some of the areas most reputable professional artists.

For an artist with such a high personal profile, the focus of this exhibition might seem a little strange.

Grayson Perry hit the public eye in 2003 when he accepted the award of the Turner Prize, dressed as his female alter-ego Claire. He seemed the epitome of artist as celebrity. But this personal selection from the Arts Council collection features British artists in reflective and restrained mood.

The contrast will not be a surprise to anyone who has heard Perry talking about his work and about art. Unpopular Culture started as a blank canvas. The Arts Council asked Grayson Perry to make a personal selection from the 8,500 works in its collection. These are works by British artists, mainly from 1945 to the present, with a few from earlier decades.

I asked Perry how he went about making a choice from such a vast number. 'The theme of the exhibition came about organically. From the start I found I was drawn to three categories – sculpture, photography and figurative painting – and from these I then tried to make a structure.'

The content of the pieces reflected his personal attraction to certain kinds of work, and a dislike of others. 'The selection was a reaction against what I don't like about modern art.'

You can figure out what this means from the exhibition itself, and from its title. The works are mainly drawn from the forties and fifties, the period before British art became fashionable. Perry avoids Pop Art, believing it reinforces the false cliché of

COVER STORY: GRAYSON PERRY

The quiet man of art



Pic: Tony Bartholomew

Artist Grayson Perry has a flamboyant image. But his selection of British work for a show visiting Scarborough Art Gallery shows a reflective side, finds Roger Osborne

Britain in the swinging sixties.

There is no space here either for the Britart that emerged in the late 1980s. Perry is clearly put off by the 'art as statement' and 'artist as celebrity' route that has characterised recent decades.

Instead he is drawn to the more delicate, lyrical and reflective qualities shown by British artists in the decades after 1945. 'It was a different world,'

says Perry. 'More bohemian, somehow outside the mainstream.'

The exhibition contains works by such luminaries as Paul Nash, L.S. Lowry, Henry Moore, Elisabeth Frink, Frank Auerbach and Barbara Hepworth alongside less known artists.

There are two works by Grayson Perry himself: Queen's Bitter, a recreation of

a 1950s beer bottle complete with a pearly queen, and Head Of A Fallen Giant, a bronze skull embedded with images of what Perry calls Tourist Britain.

Unpopular Culture has been touring Britain since last year; don't miss its visit to Scarborough Art Gallery.

Unpopular Culture runs from 16 May to 5 July

May events

Lots to get out and about for this month. First up: a whole bunch of art shows including South Street Gallery's postcard-sized one - and Grayson Perry's Arts Council selection - see our features.

Ryedale Live visits Terrington for its acoustic evening of six performers.

The symphony orchestra returns to the Spa, while Whitby in Shorts continues its monthly run of short films.

There's two chances to see bike racing at Oliver's Mount - if you've never seen the thrills of this sport, get along for something really different.

To 10 May
East Coasting: Edward Bawden & Eric Ravilious
Scarborough Art Gallery

To 15 May
Rachel Welford: New Works in Architectural Glass
Electric Angel Gallery

To 31 May
East Meets West: 10 Artists from the Dale
Blandscliff Gallery

To 06 Jun
The Mini Art Show
South Street Gallery

16 May to 5 Jul
Unpopular Culture
Scarborough Art Gallery

16 May to 28 Jun
John Creighton: Recent paintings
Crescent Artspace, Woodend

To 06 May
Wolverine
Futurist Theatre

To 30 May
Moonlight and Magnolias

Stephen Joseph Theatre

1 May
Film Society: Moliere
Scarborough Library

1 to 7 May
The Wrestler
Stephen Joseph Theatre

1 May
Ryedale Live
Terrington Village Hall

1 to 7 May
I Love You Man
Hollywood Plaza

2 May to 4 May
Festival Of Speed
Oliver's Mount

3 May
Rise and Shine
Woodend Creative Workspace

4 May
Art Gallery Guided Tours
Scarborough Art Gallery

6 May
Scarborough Jazz: Julia Wray Quartet
Sigma at The Cask

7 May
Rachel Harrington
Stephen Joseph Theatre

7 May
Rotunda Geology Group: Plate Tectonics & the UK
University Campus

7 May
Star Trek
Futurist Theatre

7 May
Blues Club
Sigma at The Cask

8 to 14 May
Doubt
Stephen Joseph Theatre

11 May
Comedy Club: Pappy's Fun Club
Blue Lounge

11 to 16 May
Lucky Sods
Stephen Joseph Theatre

REVIEW: EAST COASTING



John Godber's tale of a pair of lottery winners explores the comic and poignant effects of finding yourself £2 million to the good overnight

13 May
Scarborough Jazz: Mick Donnelly
Sigma at The Cask

14 May
Blues Club
Sigma at The Cask

15 to 21 May
Milk
Stephen Joseph Theatre

16 May
Scarborough Symphony Orchestra: Symphonic Sunshine
The Spa

17 May
Farmers Market
Scarborough College

18 May
Museum Treasure Hunt
Whitby Museum

20 May
Scarborough Jazz: Steve Parry
Sigma at The Cask

21 May
Manu Delgado Handmade
Stephen Joseph Theatre

21 May
Blues Club
Sigma at The Cask

21 May
Maps and Museums, Lunchtime talk
Woodend Creative Workspace

21 to 23 May
Beverley & East Riding



Early Music Festival
Toll Gavel Methodist Church
Beverley

22 to 25 May
Ryedale Folk Weekend
Ryedale Fok Museum

22 to 27 May
Wild Craft and Creativity Camp
Malton

22 May
Whitby in Shorts
Whitby Coliseum

22 to 28 May
The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button
Stephen Joseph Theatre

23 & 24 May
International Classic Race Festival
Oliver's Mount

23 May
Scarborough Collections Show
Woodend Creative Workspace

24 May
Roman Around Scarborough
Woodend Creative Workspace

25 May
Geologist For A Day
Rotunda Geology Museum

25 May
A Stitch in Time
Woodend Creative Workspace

26 May
Blues Club: Johnny Whitehill and the Real Deal
Sigma at The Cask

27 May
Dinosaur Coast Launch
Woodend Creative Workspace

27 May
Scarborough Jazz: Jon Taylor
Sigma at The Cask

28 May
What A Picture
Woodend Creative Workspace

28 May
Print, Paint and Potter
Scarborough Art Gallery

28 May
Blues Club
Sigma at The Cask

29 May to 6 Jun



The Young Victoria
Stephen Joseph Theatre

29 May
What's In Store
Woodend Creative Workspace

See our website for full event details. Check timings with venues before setting out



LA confidential

Ron Hutchinson's take on the strains and stresses of Hollywood was so popular at the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn that they brought it back for a second run. It deserved a wider audience and now it gets another outing at the SJT, in Chris Monks' first production as artistic director.

The setting is crisis time at the biggest Hollywood movie of them all: *Gone with The Wind*. In the middle of shooting, producer David Selznick had sacked his director and dumped the screenplay, and is watching \$50,000 a day disappear from the studio budget.

With Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh twiddling their thumbs, Selznick calls in director Victor Fleming and screenwriter Ben

Moonlight and Magnolias is a surefire winner with its Hollywood tale of glamour, big bucks and crisis, finds Roger Osborne

Hecht; the three men have five days to save the movie.

The result is a dark farce with whip-sharp dialogue, a hilarious and exhausting look at the machinations that keep the Hollywood glamour factory on the road. We get to see scenes from *Gone With The Wind*, but not quite as expected – Hutchinson decides that Hecht has never read the book, which means that the other two have to act out scenes (including childbirth),

that he then has to write.

But the play also explores Hecht's discomfort at being a 'hack screenwriter' while, as a Jew in 1939, seeing humanity fall into a catastrophic abyss.

Chris Monks says: 'Everyone loves the movies. Everyone loves Hollywood gossip, but it's not a new addiction. Ron Hutchinson's screwball comedy will transport our audience back to the golden age of movie glamour: the stars, the costumes, the parties, the law-suits.'

Back on the original movie, Victor Fleming was so sure the movie was going to flop that he turned down a share of the profits. That certainly hasn't happened to Hutchinson's play – a choice selection by the new artistic director.