

# hightide

NOVEMBER 2008

SCARBOROUGH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE



## Behind the lines: designer Richard Seymour



An accidental death –  
and a revival

Secret of the sassy quip

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



[www.hightidemagazine.com](http://www.hightidemagazine.com)

## A fresh new take on old things is promised this month.

Richard Seymour has made a life's work from taking everyday objects and reinventing them. Style and substance are the order of the day.

Which is something you might say of Dario Fo. Northern Broadsides have taken his brilliant 28 year-old farce and reinvented it for the present. It's a timely revival for this theatrical gem.

And then there's the irrepressible Jo Caulfield. Her reputation on the comedy circuit can only grow as she takes the largely male outlook of standup and gives it a good shaking.

## NOVEMBER 2008

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## Rolling logos

Two horses splitting a pair of jeans, a crocodile made of rope and a naked pair sitting back to back. This part of the Keith Farquar exhibition might feel like 'guess the logo', but it's also an astute reversal of the commercial world's exploitation of art. If Citroen can use Picasso, then artists should mess around with Levi's and Lacoste.

The backdrop to these cardboard cut-outs is a series of panels made of dark blue denim splashed with bleach; reminiscent of the night sky. It's good to see the gallery space being re-formed for each exhibition, and the final piece (stripes, tiger) is a delight.

**Keith Farquar, In Domestos Chaos**  
Crescent Artspace Tues to Sat 11 am to 5 pm  
Runs to 13 December



## Jazz hoot starts early

Scarborough Jazz reaches a milestone next year with the club's 25th anniversary. And in keeping with their fine track record of good time music, they are starting the celebrations early.

First up is a 'jazz night out' in the form of a trip to the club's counterpart in Wakefield. The trip, on Friday 28 November, is to hear the Clark Tracy New Sextet featuring award-winning Kit Downes on piano. Fans will remember him from Empirical, which has visited our area a couple of times recently.

Organisers Mike and Marian Gordon say they already have enough people signed up for one minibus and are thinking of running a second one. Costs are very approximate but look like being £8-10 for the bus, and reduced ticket price of £10/12. Other delights include Theakstons on tap, and a good home made pie supper available at £4.50.

The expedition will leave Scarborough at 6ish and back by 12.30pm. Let Mike and Marian know at [gordon@mikejazz.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:gordon@mikejazz.freereserve.co.uk) if you want to go.

## Bands line up

Ambitious musicians are shaping up for a contest to find some potential stars of a new Scarborough arts festival.

More than a dozen acts from Yorkshire have been chosen for The Battle of the Sands, a spectacular musical event to be held on 30 November at the Spa Ocean Room in Scarborough.

The Battle of the Sands will be judged by the Coastival panel, made up of people from the local music scene. And two winners from the 'battle' will be chosen to play alongside the main headline acts at February's Coastival 2009 event.

Coastival will be a three-day celebration of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, spoken word and comedy.

# The secret of the sassy quip

Top comedian Jo Caulfield heads for a special gig in Scarborough this month



**A**lcohol seems to play a significant part in Jo Caulfield's biog. Her comedy career started when she entered an open mic competition at the Comedy Café in a state of inebriation and won; and she swears she has no memory of being in the

ill-fated soap *Family Affairs* due to being drunk.

Now that she's an established presence on TV, radio and the club circuit no doubt all that is behind her – or maybe not.

Jo's smartest move was buying

a mic and amp and setting up her own comedy club – with herself as compere. As the great Jon Reed from our own Other Side Comedy Club would doubtless tell us, compering teaches how to play an audience without the terrifying prospect of a full routine.

That Jo Caulfield is known as one of the smartest wits in the business is down to countless nights of dealing with hecklers – good and bad.

The other strength that lies beneath is writing. Jo was a writer for five series of the So Graham Norton show (for many, the last time GN was funny), and has written for a string of performers from Joan Rivers to Ruby Wax and even the awesome duo Ant and Dec.

Now that TV and radio have discovered real comedy, Jo is in serious demand. She told *High Tide*: 'Because of TV and radio projects I'm not doing a tour.' Instead she's 'doing gigs that I like around the country' including Scarborough, where she has fond memories of 'the thing that goes up the cliff' and fish and chips.

She's a busy woman, catch her live while you still can.

**Jo Caulfield**  
**Monday 3 November**

**Other Side Comedy Club,**  
**Blue Lounge 7:30pm**

**Book tickets by email:**  
**[othersidecomedy@hotmail.com](mailto:othersidecomedy@hotmail.com)**

# Behind the lines

**Richard Seymour has brought elegance and fund to the design of everyday objects from kettles to motorbikes. Roger Osborne previews his latest visit**



Everyone loves good design, but only some people seem to be able to produce really striking design. Is it a cultural thing? Go to Scandinavia and everything from table mats to blocks of flats has an elegant simplicity that seems to just happen naturally. The British are a bit more mixed up. We like minimalist elegance but we're keen on a bit of riotous kitsch too.

Richard Seymour has been successfully surfing the British way with design for the last 30 or so years. Seymour Powell, the company he co-founded in 1984, has been at the forefront of product design. That doesn't just mean making things look nice, it means inventiveness in industrial manufacture. The cordless kettle, hydrogen powered motorbike, even sex toys for Durex get the Seymour treatment. The company's message is that design is about making things work better –

and be more fun, too.

But in the future, this may not be enough. Richard Seymour believes that 'The world of the 21st century is one where advertising stops working.' Why? Because the consumer has all the information – word of mouth and recommendation through the internet are starting to take over the role of advertising. 'This is a new planet that communicates in an entirely different way.' The challenge for companies and businesses is stark: 'Those

organisations and brands that don't grasp this new world order will diminish, those that do will succeed and prevail.' If you want to know how to grasp the future, then you could do worse than listen to Richard Seymour on his latest visit.

**Fri 7 Nov Scar library  
Time tbc (2;30 or 3)**

**Patrick Argent to reserve seat: 01723 501151  
patargent@yahoo.com**

# Listings

## HIGH FIVES

If theatre is your thing then the SJT and On The Edge are at full tilt this month. Book early for **Accidental Death at the SJT**, it's bound to sell out. We fancy the Pilots doing **Reckless Sleepers** too. In hard times, the weekly blues and jazz clubs are mostly free, and check out the **Battle of the Sands** – a day's worth of music for a fiver.

Art shows are listed first. Timings are as correct as we can make them, but check our website for updates or call the venue.

### To 16 Nov **The Naked and the Nude: Works from the Tate Collection**

mima (Middlesbrough Institute Of Modern Art)

### To 16 Nov **Forward Thinking: Eric Bainbridge**

mima (Middlesbrough Institute Of Modern Art)

### To 14 Dec **Scarborough Realists Now**

Scarborough Art Gallery

### To 5 Nov **Inspired By**

Moors National Park Centre

### To 25 Jan **Lisa Skelton Exhibition**

Scarborough Art Gallery

### 16 Oct to 8 Nov **Jack Lear**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

### 1 Nov **Soul Splash**

The Spa

### 1 Nov **Scarborough Symphony Orchestra: English Masters**

The Spa

### 2 Nov **Waterson, Carthy**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

### 3 Nov **On The Edge: Taking Liberties, No2ID**

University Campus

### 3 to 8 Nov **Brideshead Revisited**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

### 3 Nov **Comedy Club: Jo Caulfield**

Blue Lounge

### 4 Nov **Guy Tortora**

Sigma at The Cask

### 5 Nov **On The Edge: Gilles Gobell**

University Campus

### 5 Nov **Scarborough Jazz: Mick Donnelly**

Sigma at The Cask

### 6 Nov **Rotunda Geology Group: Plate Tectonics**

University Campus

### 6 to 8 Nov **Conversations With Trees by the Cresta Players**

Burniston Village Hall

### 6 Nov and every Thursday **Blues Club**

Sigma at the Cask

### 7 Nov **Ryedale Live**

Hutton le Hole Village Hall

### 7 Nov **Film Society: The Wedding**

Scarborough Library

### 11 & 12 Nov **The Brothers Size**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

### 11 Nov **Syke One Tour**

Vivaz

### 12 Nov **Scarborough Jazz: Mark Chandler**

Sigma at The Cask

### 14 & 15 Nov **Mother**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

### 14 Nov **Snake Davis**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

# Looking-glass world

When photography landed in the mid-nineteenth century it produced a crisis in painting, out of which came the extraordinary phenomenon that we know as modern art. Artists became liberated by their new task: to show us the world as they saw it, rather than trying to copy nature.

So what are we to think of a group of artists who call themselves realists? Are they a throwback to another age, or are they offering a new vision of the role of the artist?

Steve Whitehead's *View of Scarborough*, which greets you as you emerge on to the art gallery's top landing, is a dazzling foretaste of things to come. The strong light and bright colours give an unreality to an apparently real scene. Seeing such a strikingly 'real' image is strangely disorientating. When you get up close you see that the high lustre and exactness of the image is actually an illusion produced by distance. Close up the painting is textured and quite inexact – the opposite of reality.

Distance matters, and so does scale. In Clive Head's *Prague Early Morning* and Nathan Walsh's *Sicilian Avenue*, buildings loom above the viewer – is this a distortion or a novel view of the familiar? They bring to mind the early experiments with perspective of artists like Masaccio and Piero della Francesca. In all these paintings the exquisite technique gives the paintings a neatness that we're not used to seeing; the sun shines, even the litter looks clean, and the people are incidental.

David Finnigan's work is different. In *Evolution* the people are centre stage, the slabs of colour much broader, the emotional impact stronger – a different view of reality. By creating convincing illusion, this show begs new questions about what is real. Not to be missed.

**Scarborough Realists Now**  
**Work by Steve Whitehead, Clive Head, Nathan Walsh, David Finnigan**  
**4 Oct to 14 Dec Tues to Sun 10 to 5.**

**15 Nov**  
**Duncan Dares**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**15 Nov**  
**Plastic Ibiza Tour** Vivaz

**17 to 22**  
**RocknRolla**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**19 Nov**  
**On The Edge: The Pilots;**  
**Reckless Sleepers**

University Campus

**19 Nov**  
**Scarborough Jazz: Jim**  
**Corrie** Sigma at The Cask

**20 Nov**  
**Gusset**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**21 Nov**  
**Victor Spinetti**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**21 Nov**  
**Film Society:**  
**The Edge Of Heaven**

Scarborough Library

**22 Nov**  
**Bones Apart**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**24 to 29 Nov**  
**Accidental Death Of An**  
**Anarchist**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**25 Nov to 20 Dec**  
**Heidi**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**26 Nov**  
**Polyjesters – Tour of World**  
**Domination** Staintondale Village  
 Hall

**26 Nov**  
**On The Edge:**  
**Bobby Baker; How To Live**

University Campus

**26 Nov**  
**Scarborough Jazz:**  
**John Etheridge**

Sigma at The Cask

**28 Nov**  
**David Finnigan and**  
**Nathan Walsh**

Scarborough Art Gallery

**29 Nov**  
**Sessions with Filthy Rich**

Vivaz

**29 Nov to 4 Dec**  
**How To Lose Friends And**  
**Alienate People**

Stephen Joseph Theatre

**30 Nov**  
**Battle of the Sands**

The Spa

**See our website for full event details**

# An accidental death – and a revival

**Dario Fo's brilliant play, by turns farce and tragedy, returns to the stage this month. Roger Osborne reports**

**N**obel Prize winner Dario Fo's famous play took a while to make it into English, but when it did, it was a sensation.

The play was based on actual events in Italy in the late 1960s, in which a suspect was thrown, or fell, from the fourth floor window of a Milan police station. At the time Italy was in a state of political turmoil, with bombings being blamed on both right wing and left wing groups.

Accidental Death Of An Anarchist depicts a police inspector interrogating a suspect, who continually outsmarts him. This brief outline doesn't begin to describe the frenetic action of the play, which hovers between farce, tragedy and political theatre.

The play was first staged in Varese in 1970; its English language debut in London in 1980 (when Britain was going through its own political

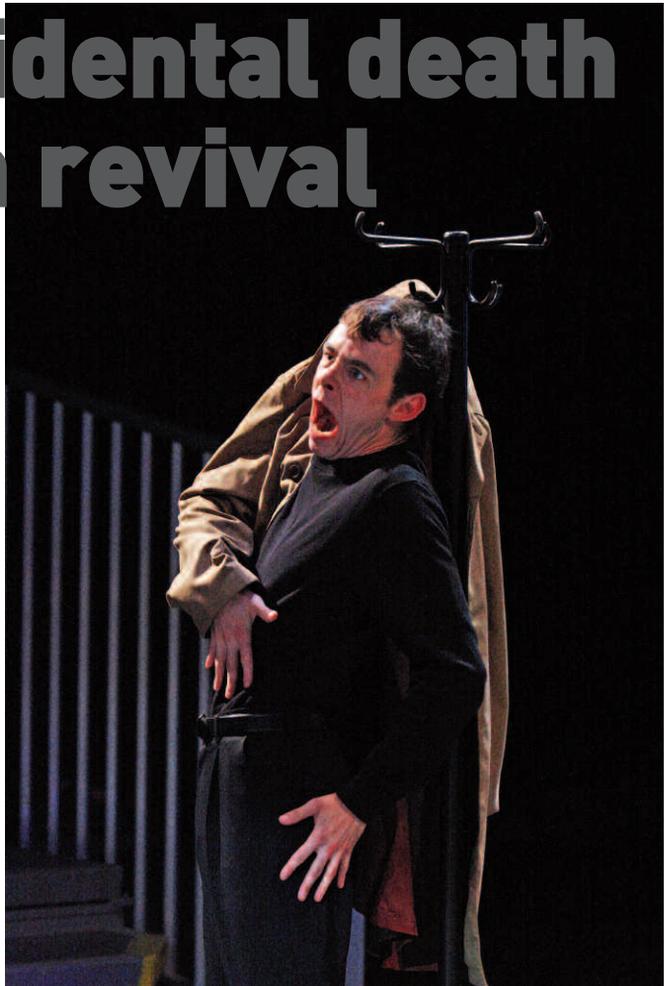
turmoil) ushered in a new kind of theatre and made Dario Fo world famous.

In the 1960s Joe Orton had grabbed sex-based farce by the throat and shaken the laughter out of it in a brutal, uncompromising way. In the 1970s Fo did the same for

political drama.

This month Northern Broadsides' adaptation of Accidental Death visits the SJT.

With the reputation of this play and this company, we should be in for an electrifying experience.



**Accidental Death Of An Anarchist  
by Dario Fo  
performed by Northern Broadsides**

**Stephen Joseph Theatre 24 to 29 November**

**Box office 01723 370541 [www.sjt.uk.com](http://www.sjt.uk.com)**