

event listings

Theatre

The Way Of The Cross. Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, NW3. The Hampstead Players present Henri Ghéon's play. Free entry. Running time is about an hour. 7.30pm on Thursday, April 10 and Friday, April 11 and 2.30pm on Saturday, April 12.

The Poetry Joe Show. Jacksons Lane, 269A Archway Road, Highgate, N6. Performer, writer and poet, who stars in CBeebie's *Rhyme Rocket*, presents his pop-up world of fabulous foods, beastly bugs and peculiar pets. For ages three to nine. £8.95. Noon & 3pm. Sunday, April 13.

Family Circles. Highgate United Reformed Church, South Grove, N6. A Theatre in the Square production. Hilarious and relevant early Alan Ayckbourn play. Tickets £10 (concs £9 & early bird reductions) available at www.theatreinthesquare.org. Enquiries only on 07522 791618. 8pm. Until Saturday, April 12.

Murderer. Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. Norman Bartholomew is a painter obsessed with famous murders from the past. Taking great pleasure in recreating their crimes, he hopes to perform a perfect murder of his own. By Anthony Shaffer, the author of *Sleuth* and *The Wicker Man*. Until April 20.

Exhibitions

Roman Halter: Life and Art Through Stained Glass. Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, 108a Boundary Road, St John's Wood, NW8. Memorial exhibition and first retrospective of works by architect, painter, designer and stained glass innovator. Friday, April 11 – June 8.

Golnar Malek: Potent? Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. Interpreting and questioning the body as a metaphor for evolution and expression. Works by a Cambridge-based artist who found career change inspirations during a stay in Hampstead a decade ago. Until Sunday, April 13. Also at Burgh House: **A Week Of Wildlife Art.** The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation event brings together the creative arts to help save endangered species. www.davidshpherd.org. Wednesday, April 16 – Sunday, April 27.

Moira Davey. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, off Finchley Road, NW3. Canadian artist works across photography, film and writing to create intimate visual essays on time and matter in the everyday and focuses on her filtered relationship to literature. Free. Friday, April 11 – June 29. Also at Camden Arts Centre: **Phillip Lai.** London-based artist responds to the space of Gallery 3 with a new sculptural work. Exploring themes of occupancy, itinerancy, estrangement and otherness. Friday, April 11 – June 15.

In The Making. Craft Central, 33-35 St John's Square, EC1. Selling exhibition of handmade jewellery, using different techniques and diverse materials. Monday to Saturday 10am-7pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Until Sunday, April 13.

John Rosser, Emma Moir and Emma Cousin. Highgate Gallery, Highgate Literary

Razzle-dazzle treatment leaves smile on your face



■ Rufus Hound stars in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

Picture: Johan Persson

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS Savoy Theatre

★★★★☆

Yet another classic film-turned-musical hits the West End, but unlike recent turkey *Fatal Attraction*, this story of connen peddling tall tales to heiresses in a fantasy French Riviera is ripe for the razzle-dazzle jazz-hands treatment.

Nor is its derivativeness problematic in a production that celebrates and winks at tradition, borrowing liberally from *The Producers'* zany screwball and *Guys and Dolls'* charming moral relativism, vaudevillian slapstick, Noël Coward-esque acerbic one-liners, Cole Porter and the French chanson, and lavish MGM setpieces.

Director/choreographer Jerry Mitchell juggles sublimely silly throwback and slick postmodern

pastiche: the fourth wall is broken in between soft-shoe shuffles, and if French maids wiggle, and bellhops flea hop, they do so ironically.

Consummate entertainer Robert Lindsay is perfectly suited to this balancing act, committed to every aspect of his swindling lothario: debonair, Rat Pack suavely, exaggerated alter egos, and brief moment of weary introspection. Both crooning and dancing are understated, but effortless.

Hysterical

Partner-in-crime Rufus Hound embraces the rumpled oafishness of the American upstart, and while his clowning outweighs his singing, he produces some real treats, including a hysterical series of escalating reaction shots, brash hymn to consumerism and spoof ballad. Crucially, his warm comic chemistry

with Lindsay gets us through the loopy narrative twists.

Katherine Kingsley is accomplished but somewhat generic as the credulous mark, while Lizzy Connolly's storming Oklahoma! parody stops the show. Classy Samantha Bond is elegant in her Fred n Ginger romance with John Marquez's droll Frenchman (comedy accents abound), and their morning-after dirty talk is a highlight.

David Yazbek's amiable score meanders, but both his witty lyrics and Jeffrey Lane's jam-packed book have bite – at least when clearly enunciated.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels has no urgent message or profound characterisation, but I defy you to leave the theatre without a grin plastered across your face.

Until November 29.

Marianka Swain

and Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, N6. Magical, curious and moody aspects of landscapes, objects and people through the tradition of figurative painting. Free. Until Thursday, April 17.

The Swannery. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, N6. Large, colourful and imaginative acrylic paintings by local dentist/artist Kate Temple inspired by the Mute swans of Abbotsbury Swannery. Until Sunday, April 27. Also at Lauderdale House: **Observations.** Frank Loman's work ranges from imaginary coastlines, flowers and trees to abstract movements of colour. Details at www.lomanarts.com. Until

Sunday, April 27.

Jesse Wine – Ceramics. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, off Finchley Road, NW3. Work stemming from a fascination with objects and materials. Until July 31.

Keats' Letters, Keats' Life. Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead, NW3. The poet's original letters reveal a turbulent year of change for the young writer. Until April 27.

Talks, Music, Films & Walks

Talk: Pianist and conductor Stephen Kovacevich. Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. A rare interview conducted by broadcaster Piers Plowright. Kovacevich is especially renowned for his Beethoven and Schubert performances and is a great supporter of cultural life in Hampstead. Part of the *Lifelines* series of talks. In aid of Burgh House. £12 (FoBH £10). 7.30pm. Thursday, April 10.

Poet John Hegley and Friends. Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead, NW3. Poetry, comedy and Morris dancing with former poet in residence John Hegley. £10. Booking essential. 7pm-8.30pm. Thursday, April 10.

Talk: The intelligence of birds. Marylebone Birdwatching Society, Methodist Hall, Agincourt/Lisburne Road, NW3. With researcher Gabrielle Davidson. 020 8883 9301, birdsmbs@yahoo.com. £4 (members £2). 7.15pm. Friday, April 11.

Concert: Hampstead Chamber Choir. St Saviour's Church, Eton Road, NW3.

Programme includes Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir* and Cristobal De Morales' *Mass in Ut Re Mi Fa Sol*. La by. Booking at www.hampsteadchamberchoir.org or on the door. 7.30pm. Saturday, April 12.

Hampstead Horticultural Society's Spring Show. All Saints Church Hall, Church Walk, Childs Hill, NW2. Flowers, plants, photography and cookery, including classes for children. Illustrated talk at 3.30pm by David Bevan on creating a butterfly garden. Competition open to non-members, exhibits to be entered from 10.30am. Details from the show secretary on 020 7625 9726. Tea and homemade cakes, plants for sale. Admission is 50p. 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Saturday, April 12.

Concert: Melodies for You. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, N6. Highly talented mother and daughter Diana, on piano, and Alisa Franklin, on cello, playing in aid of the Westminster Society for People with Learning Disabilities. Programme includes works by Bruch, Popper, Dvorak and Bloch. www.wspld.org.uk. £25, including afternoon tea. 3pm. Sunday, April 13.

Walking Book Club on Hampstead Heath. Meet at Daunt Books Hampstead, 51 South End Road, NW3, at 11.30am. Discussion of Carlo Levi's poignant memoir *Christ Stopped at Eboli*. Children, friends and dogs are all welcome. Sunday, April 13.

Writing Workshop. Keats House, Keats

Grove, Hampstead, NW3. New season of Keats-themed writing workshops led by poet in residence Jo Shapcott. Using the house and gardens as inspiration. £20 (concs £15). Booking essential. 1.30pm-4.30pm. Sunday, April 13.

Reading: Race Relations. Pentameters Theatre, 28 Heath Street, Hampstead, NW3. 2.30pm. Sunday, April 13.

Concert: Bach's St John Passion. Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, NW11. UK-Japan Choir and the Free Church Singers, orchestra and soloists. Conductor Jonathan Gregory. Free – donations. Details on 020 3441 5164. 6.30pm. Sunday, April 13.

Talk: Jane Austen – Life, Letters and Early Works. Belsize Community Library, Antrim Road, NW3. With Karin Fernald. £3, including light refreshments. 7.30pm. Wednesday, April 16.

Talk: MP Alan Johnson. Daunt Books, 83 Marylebone High Street, W1. The Labour politician chats about his memoir, *This Boy*, detailing his troubled childhood. Tickets £8, including glass of wine, available from the shop, on 020 7224 2295 or at www.dauntbooks.co.uk. 7pm. Wednesday, April 16.

Comedy

Monkey Business. The Oxford, 256 Kentish Town Road, NW5. Featuring Trine Mon, Sean Nolan, Robbie Omrod, Katie Reddin Clancy, Andy Fields, Wayne Lawrence, Glynn Jones, Bruno Myska, Peder, Gia Pamier, Janet Bettsworth, Emily Snee, Omar Hamdi and MC Martin Besserman. £10 (concs quote *Ham&High* £5). 07932 338203, www.monkeybusinesscomedyclub.co.uk. 8pm. Thursday, April 10.

Fosters Comedy Live. Highlight, 11 East Yard, Chalk Farm Road, NW1. Friday, April 11: Jeremy O'Donnell, Stuart Mitchell, Barry Dodds and Philberto. Saturday, April 12: Barry Dodds, Ola, Stuart Mitchell and Philberto. 8pm.

Hampstead Comedy Club. The Camden Head, 100 Camden High Street, Camden Town, NW1. Featuring James Sherwood, Otiz Cannelloni, Lenny Sherman, Ben Adams, compere Ivor Dembera and the Orchestra of Andy Zapp. £10 (concs £8.50). 8.30pm. Saturday, April 12.

Monkey Business. The Sir Richard Steele pub, 97 Haverstock Hill, NW3. Featuring Scott Capurro, Spencer Brown, Carly Smallman, Joshua Ross and MC Martin Besserman. £12.50 (concs £10). www.monkeybusinesscomedyclub.co.uk. 8.45pm. Saturday, April 12.

Weekly Clubs and Classes

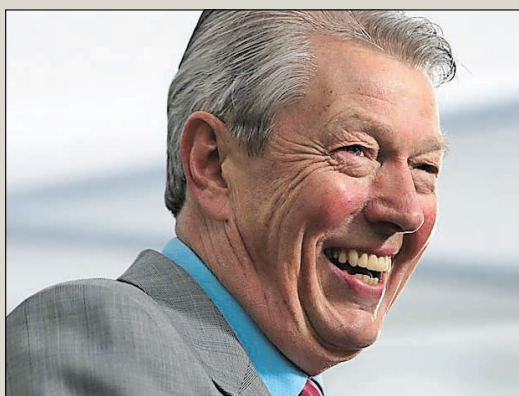
Camden Chamber Choir. Looking for experienced singers to join the choir, particularly sopranos and tenors. If you are interested, come along to the open rehearsal session from 10am to 1pm at AHA London Centre, 6 Great James Street, WC1, on Saturday, April 12. The choir is starting to rehearse a programme of English music through the ages, from medieval to the early 20th century for a concert at St Mary-the-Virgin, Primrose Hill, on June 7. For further information, email Lynn, the membership secretary, at info@camdenchamberchoir.org.uk.

Energy Healing – Highgate Healing Centre. Highgate United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate, N6. £5 donation. Details on 07597 199299. 6pm-8pm. Tuesdays.

Fitness Class For Seniors. Claremont Centre, 24 White Lion Street, N1. Hips, knees, backs and balance: a new kind of fitness class for the over-55s. Contact Jane Taylor on 020 7241 3192. 2.30pm-3.30pm. Mondays.

Drama Club with MetaPlay for nine to 14-year-olds. Nailour Community Centre, Blundell Street, N7. Call Debra on 07986 857356. Free. 5.15pm-7.15pm. Thursdays.

Over-50s Drama Group. Drovers Centre, New North Road, N7. Contact Debra on 07986 857356. 10.30am-12.30pm. Fridays.



■ MP Alan Johnson will be talking about his memoir, *This Boy*, which details his troubled childhood, at Daunt Books in Marylebone on April 16

Picture: PA