

event listings

Theatre

Kate Shortt's Comedy Cello. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, N6. Musician, singer and comedienne transforms her cello into all sorts of animals and characters. Funny songs to join in with. For ages two to eight. 10am & 11.30am. Saturday, June 28.

The Last Of The Hausmans. Teatro Technis, 26 Crowndale Road, Mornington Crescent, NW1. Stephen Beresford's play, set in a crumbling 1930s Art Deco house, examines the fate of the revolutionary generation. Feisty high society dropout Judy Hausman is joined by her wayward offspring, her sharp-eyed granddaughter, the local doctor and a troubled teenage neighbour. Over a few sweltering months, they alternately cling to and flee a chaotic world. Matinée at 3pm on July 5. Tuesday, July 1 – Saturday, July 5

Shot At Dawn. Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. A new and original British musical explores one of the First World War's most controversial aspects – the execution of soldiers for cowardice. It tells the powerful story of soldier Harry Briggs, wrongfully executed for cowardice, and his sister's struggle to clear his name and obtain a posthumous pardon. 7.30pm. Tuesday, July 1 – Thursday, July 3.

Wonderland. Hampstead Theatre, Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage, NW3. In 1980s Midlands, two young lads are about to learn what it is to be a miner. Meanwhile, in London, a conflicted Tory MP, a brash American CEO and a maverick are the face of a radical Conservative government. As the two sides clash, the miners fight for their livelihoods and families, and the government for its vision of a free Britain. Until Saturday, July 26.

The Blonde Bombshells of 1943. Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. Betty's female swing band urgently needs recruits after losing girls to the amorous attentions of nylon-toting GIs. Featuring songs from Glenn Miller, Fats Waller and The Andrews Sisters. Until Sunday, June 29.

Superhero Snail Boy. Jacksons Lane, 269a Archway Road, Highgate, N6. Even the smallest of superheroes can grow to be bigger than their fears. For ages nine-plus. £8.95. Fri 7pm, Sat and Sun noon & 3pm. July 25-27.

Exhibitions

Shelagh Wakely – A View From A Window. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, off Finchley Road, NW3. Print, video, unfired ceramics, delicate drawings in pencil and wire and an intricate floor installation. Plus other artists with whom Wakely shared creative concerns. Sunday, July 13 – September 28. Also at Camden Arts Centre: **Moyra Davey.** Intimate visual essays on time and matter in the everyday. Free. Until Sunday, June 29.

Jesse Wine – Ceramics. Work stemming from a fascination with objects and materials. Until July 31.

Simplifying The Figurative – Portraits by Esbe. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, N6. Includes familiar faces. Until Sunday, July 6. Also at Lauderdale House: **Icons – Noreen Denzil.** Pastels capture the characteristics and personality which symbolise the icon. Until Sunday, July 6. **The Prodigious Mark: Now the Hungry Lion Roars and Other Stories.** A celebration of life lived in the spirit of joyously muddling through. Until Sunday, July 6.

Rembrandt Etchings. Sylvester Fine Art, 64 Belsize Lane, NW3. The etchings were printed from the original copper plates. Wednesday to Saturday, 11am-6pm, Sunday, noon-5pm.

Max Weber: An American Cubist in Paris and New York 1905-1915. Ben Uri Gallery & Museum, 108a Boundary Road, off Abbey Road, St John's Wood, NW8. The first major UK museum show of Weber's work and the first to examine his career and influence within a European context.



■ Darrell D'Silva as impresario Solomon Mikhoels, second from left, with cast members Picture: Simon Annand

Theatre company defends culture in dark times

MAKING STALIN LAUGH JW3

★★★★☆

Reviewers like to believe we have power of influence, but those in Stalinist Russia had power of life and death: a bad write-up spelled doom for the subject. Yet their opinions could not contradict those of the 'great leader' and he had a worrying tendency to change his mind.

David Schneider's riveting new play tells the tale of the Moscow State Yiddish Theatre, which, while battling for survival during the horrifying arbitrariness of Stalin's purges, actually thrived creatively. It was lauded around the world, with Shostakovich calling Solomon Mikhoels' 'Lear the best he'd ever seen.'

But with that high profile and

lavish state support comes enormous risk, backstage squabbles competing with an ever-present threat of annihilation.

Keeping it at bay is Darrell D'Silva's dynamic impresario Mikhoels, a raging mass of contradictions: philanderer and fatherly leader; visionary and petty egotist; at once cruel, charismatic, domineering and courageous.

Quietly tragic

He has a weakness for buxom ingénues, one of whom (Holly Augustine) is married to his best friend, sozzled luvvie Zuskin (James Holmes). Sparring partner Nina (strong Sandy McDade) tempers her own talent to avoid stealing his spotlight – an admission that carries quietly tragic weight.

Russell Bentley is excellent as a series of Kafkaesque bureaucrats,

conveying menace beneath their tiresome demands, while Party informer Isaac (compelling Jonah Russell) justifies his actions by arguing that the dissolution of national boundaries in a communist utopia means the end of anti-Semitic persecution.

Schneider's witty, incisive script throws up fascinating ideas, though some get short shrift in this epic sweep, not helped by Matthew Lloyd's plodding production, which reflects none of the Expressionist company's avant-garde approach.

Yet this is a rich story with surprising resonance: not just the inspiration of artists using restriction as a catalyst for innovation, but people holding onto their humanity and defending their culture in the darkest of times.

Until July 9.

Marianka Swain

Until October 5.

Here and Gone – Cynthia Cockburn. Cafe Bel, 1a Fortress Road, NW5. Dramatic black and white images of abandoned objects in the landscape. Weekdays 7am-7pm, weekends 9.30am-5pm. Until Sunday, June 29.

Yan Tan Tethera: The Connections Between Textile-making and Song. Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1. Along with David Littler's exhibition of his archival exploration of the subject, artists Freddie Robins, Shane Waltenner, Stewart Easton and the McGrath Makers' Group showcase new work. Free. Until Thursday, September 25.

Talks, Music, Walks & Fairs

Talk: What is Christian Science? Friends House, 173 Euston Road, NW1. With Lesley Gort. Free. 7pm. Thursday, June 26.

Concert: Songs Before The Storm. Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, NW3. English, German, French and Flemish vocal and instrumental music from 1900-1914. Katherine Nicholson, mezzo, Paul Robinson, tenor, Aidan Coburn, tenor, Martin Oxenham, bass, and James Sherlock, piano. Free – retiring collection for SSAFA, the armed forces charity. 7.30pm. Thursday, June 26.

African Drumming. London Jewish Cultural Centre, 94-96 North End Road, Golders Green, NW11. 020 8457 5000, ljcc.org.

uk. With Ailon Freedman. Participants will be given an African Djembe drum for the night and will play as an orchestra. No experience needed. £12 in advance, £15 on the door. Pre-booking advisable. 7.30pm. Thursday, June 26.

Talk: Exploring Baghdad. Daunt Books, 83 Marylebone High Street, W1. Justin Marozzi introduces his new book, *Baghdad*, which brings to life the city's history through 13 centuries of splendour and destruction. Tickets £8, from the shop, on 020 7224 2295 or dauntbooks.co.uk. 7pm. Thursday, June 26.

Talk: Harley Granville Barker, Lillah McCarthy and playwright George Bernard Shaw. The Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, WC1. With Frances Hughes. £4 on the door. 020 7435 6497. 7.30pm. Friday, June 27.

Wildlife Weekend: Meet the Moths. Meet at the Education Hut, Railway Fields nature reserve, 381 Green Lanes, N4. Hosted by Friends of Railway Fields. Help set the (non-harmful) moth trap at 7pm on Friday, June 27. Then return for a talk at 10.30am on Saturday, June 28 with expert Michael Hammerson when the moths will be identified.

Concert: Finchley Choral Society. St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3. Rheinberger's *Mass in E flat*, plus Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schubert. 7.45pm. Saturday, June 28.

Indoor Car Boot Sale. St George's Church

Hall, corner of Cranley Gardens, N10, and Park Road, N8. 10am-12.30pm. Saturday, June 28.

Summer Table Top Sale. Abide Church, 145 Park Road, next to leisure centre, N8. Refreshments available. 10.30am-1pm. Saturday, June 28.

Bible exhibition. Highgate Society Hall, 10A South Grove, Highgate, N6. Evidence of archaeology, prophecy, Israel and the Creation. 2pm-6pm. Saturday, June 28.

Concert: Hampstead Chamber Choir.

Roslyn Hill Chapel, NW3. Whitacre, Verdi, Durufle, Bernstein and Haydn. Plus optional wine tasting, hosted by Dominic Brennan. Details at hampsteadchamberchoir.org. Tickets on the door. 7.30pm. Saturday, June 28.

Guided Walk: Keats in Hampstead. Meet at Hampstead tube station. Follow the story of the poet's life, with readings from his work. £8 (concs £6). Booking essential. 11am-1.30pm. Saturday, June 28.

Recital: Pianist Aaron Monteverde. Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. Featuring Spanish and Latin American classical works (Rodrigo, Campuzano, Pérez Cardozo) plus original compositions. £15 (concs £12). Tickets on the door or at burghhouse.org.uk and wegottickets.com. 1pm. Sunday, June 29.

Poetry Writing Workshop: A Dream Deferred. Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead, NW3. With poets Stephanie Turner and Dean Atta. Come and explore

your daydreams, childhood dreams and hopes for the future. Free. Booking essential. 2pm-4pm. Sunday, June 29.

Concert: London Medical Orchestra.

Church of St Mary Brookfield, Dartmouth Park Hill, Tufnell Park, NW5. Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5*, Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bare Mountain*, Holst's *Japanese Suite* and Richard Smith's *Britten 100 – Perspectives*. In aid of the National Autistic Society. 6pm. Sunday, June 29.

Guided Walk: The Parkland Walk. Meet at Holmesdale Road entrance in Highgate. With botanist David Bevan. The walk's flora and fauna and how it has developed over the years. To reserve a place, email info@parkland-walk.org. Free – donations welcome. 2pm-4pm. Sunday, June 29.

Gig: Pianist Daniel Cainer. The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, NW8. Tickets £27-£15. 7.30pm. Sunday, June 29.

Talk: Novelist and travel writer Tim Parks. Daunt Books, 83 Marylebone High Street, W1. Talking about his new book *Italian Ways*. Tickets are £8, including glass of wine, available from the shop, on 020 7224 2295 or dauntbooks.co.uk. 7pm. Monday, June 30.

Lecture: English and Irish cut glass 1729-1850. Regent's Park Decorative and Fine Arts Society, St John's Wood church hall, St John's Wood roundabout, NW8. With Diana Lloyd. 8pm. Tuesday, July 1.

Concert: Pianist Louise Cournaire. Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, NW3. Free. 1pm. Wednesday, July 2.

Talk: Israel's Messiah – who is he and what is his role? Highgate Society Hall, 10A South Grove, Highgate, N6. Details on 0800 0923357. 8pm. Thursday, July 3.

Gig: Oscar, Kaisei and SideFields. The Good Ship, 289 Kilburn High Road, NW6. Indie rock and pop. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11pm, followed by free jukebox until 2am. Thursday, June 26. Also at The Good Ship: **The Spin, Dead At Eleven, No Room For Giants, Melic and Jim Jagger and Lindsey Jones.** Euphoric and power rock. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs until 4am. Friday, June 27. **The Sons, Emotional Rescue, Cataroo, Jazz De Soul and Emma Harrop.** Upbeat and soul rock. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs until 4am. Saturday, June 28. **The Drives, Darkbeat, My Cock Your Problem and The Well Rested.** Punky, grungey indie rock, post punk and psychedelic garage rock. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11pm, followed by free jukebox until 2am. Wednesday, July 2. **The Villainy, Bengal Lancers, Vector Vendetta, Adam Cleaver and Rea & Joe.** Anthemic intellectual indie. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs until 4am. Friday, July 4. **Penny For The Workhouse, HNTR and Christopher Barbican James.** Folk'n'roll, rock'n'roll, folk and upbeat americana. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs until 4am. Saturday, July 5.

Guided walk: Hampstead Heath. Meet at 2.30pm at entrance to the Old Kitchen Garden, east of Kenwood House. Led by the City of London Corporation's ecologists' team. £3 per head. Booking unnecessary. Enquiries on 07941 528034. Sunday, July 6.

Comedy

Trevor Lock Smells Funny. Aces and Eights, 156-158 Fortess Road, NW5. 07723 023432. £6. 7.30pm. Friday, June 27.

Hampstead Comedy Club. Camden Head, 100 Camden High Street, NW1. hampsteadcomedy.co.uk. Saturday, June 28: Daphna Baram – Israeli comedian on heart attacks, heartbreaks and anti-aging. Free. 6pm. Saturday, June 28: Eat a Queer Foetus 4 Jesus – Richard Coughlan. Covering politics, religion and racism. Free. 7.45pm. Saturday, June 28: Old Jewish Jokes with Ivor Dembina. Free. 9.15pm.