

event listings

Theatre

The Wodehouse Principle. Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, N6. A new dark comedy, a psychosexual thriller. A young writer has picked up a lost mobile phone on a night out and a tale unfolds where reality and fiction blur, all inside his small apartment. 9.15pm on Thursday, August 14 & 7.30pm on Friday, August 15. Also at Upstairs at the Gatehouse: **Dead Ends.** A new dark comedy farce set in a dingy, failing hairdressing salon, presented by the DeadPan Theatre Company. With a serial killer on the loose, hair isn't the only thing that's getting chopped off. How will the town's people react when confronted with this 'Hair-rific' nightmare? 7.30pm on Thursday, August 14 & 9.15pm on Friday, August 15. **Confessions Of A Rabbi's Daughter.** Rachel Wiseman has always dreamed of becoming a Rabbi's wife. On the brink of making her dreams come true, her friendship with Sarah blossoms into love. Now will she choose her heart or her dreams? A critically-acclaimed new musical comedy by British writer Emily Rose. 8pm on Sunday, August 17. **Dying City.** In this play by Christopher Shinn, a young therapist, whose husband was killed while on military duty in Iraq, is confronted a year later by his identical twin, who suspects that Craig's death was not accidental. Explores how contemporary politics and recent history have transformed the lives of these three characters. 7.30pm on Saturday, August 16, 4pm on Sunday, August 17, 7.30pm on Monday, August 18 and 7.30pm on Tuesday, August 19. **The Strange Case Of Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde.** Compelling new one-man show based on Stevenson's classic tale about the inexorable conflict between good and evil. Powerful narrative and fascinating array of characters brought vividly to life by West End performer Mark Waghorn. Gabriel Utterson is Jekyll's lawyer and trusted friend. Concerned by a strange clause in Jekyll's will, Utterson feels compelled to investigate the sinister Edward Hyde – Jekyll's unlikely protégé. 7.30pm on Wednesday, August 20, 9.15pm on Thursday, August 21 and Friday, August 22.

Foreseen. The Hen & Chickens Theatre, 109 St Paul's Road, N1. Part of the Camden Fringe. It's the end of the world as we know it! Dark, comic and thought-provoking new short plays, imagining possible post-apocalyptic futures, based on our current world. Four writers create original and topical short plays, portrayed by three actors, staged by two directors, for one hell of a show. 6pm. Friday, August 22 – Sunday, August 24.

Transmission – StumbleDance Circus. Jacksons Lane, 269a Archway Road, Highgate, N6. Annual residency programme for new circus returns for the second year. Transmission offers circus artists and companies the unique opportunity to experiment and collaborate with other artists and art forms. Companies have the freedom to explore new ideas which may develop into productions in the future. Details at jacksonslane.org.uk.



■ Geoffrey Streatfeild, Jonathan Broadbent and Julian Ovenden in *My Night With Reg*

Picture: Johan Persson

The messiness and painfulness of love examined

MY NIGHT WITH REG
Donmar Warehouse
★★★★☆

‘What’s a night between friends?’ That’s the question posed by this incisive study of desire and deception when it transpires the eponymous Reg – personifying Dionysian chaos and carnal abandon – has captured any number of hearts and loins.

Reg stalks the play hand in hand with Aids, lending urgency to Kevin Elyot’s Chekhovian theme of time devouring unspoken yearning – ‘What might have been’ fades into ‘What can never be’. Tragically, Elyot himself passed away in June, narrowly missing this outstanding revival of his 1994 work.

In three elegantly constructed

acts, taking place over four years during the 80s, a group of friends convene in fastidious singleton Guy’s modish flat (impeccable Peter McKintosh set). *My Night With Reg* begins as social satire and, via multiple well-paced revelations, develops into a piece of exquisite profundity. Misplaced ardour in the tangled web of relationships is mined for both wry humour and pathos: love is messy, glorious, painful and inexorable.

Burdened

Jonathan Broadbent’s considerate Guy, who exhibits Alan Bennett-esque vexation as he becomes burdened with confessions, takes pride in his safe celibacy, yet longs to escape it. He’s the warm centre of a play that sharply depicts callousness, and his unrequited

feelings for indelicately handsome, self-absorbed John (Julian Ovenden) are subtly affecting.

John, too, is felled by love, vulnerability piercing his studied languor, while Geoffrey Streatfeild is dynamic as theatrically camp Daniel and heart-wrenching when assaulted by the body blow of grief. Richard Cant and Matt Bardock are effective as pernickety Bernie and gruff Benny respectively, and Lewis Reeves’ Eric is disarming in his youthful candour.

Robert Hastie, making an assured Donmar directorial debut, nicely balances Elyot’s fizzing wit and melancholic understatement, but overdramatises the cliffhangers – unnecessary in this deeply felt rumination on the agony and ecstasy of human connection.

Until September 27.

Marianka Swain

Friday, August 22.

As You Like It. The Bowling Green, Priory Park, N8. Performed by the Crouch End Players. A summer evening of laughter, love and light refreshments in an open-air theatre on the old bowling green. Shakespeare’s fabulous romantic comedy has it all: dukes and shepherds, fools and goats, musicians and Morris dancing as (almost) everyone falls in love in the magical Forest of Arden. Tickets available

from Of Special Interest in Park Road, N8, or at wegotickets.com/crouchendplayers. Adults £12, children £6 (recommended for ages eight-plus). Bar available. 7.30pm. Until Saturday, August 16.

The Duchess Of Malfi. New Diorama Theatre, 15-16 Triton Street, Regent’s Place, NW1. The palaces of Italy are choked with corruption in Webster’s vicious tragedy of madness, love and politics. As the widowed Duchess of Malfi searches for a new husband, her eye falls fatally on her servant Antonio. Determined to pursue her desires at any cost, she marries in secret believing that her fiercely proud family will, in time, understand. £12.50 (concs £10.50). Until Saturday, August 23.

Exhibitions

2014 Open Open. The Gallery, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, NW3. Drawings and paintings by Camden artists. Free. Mon-Thu 10am-8pm, Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. Until September 6.

Fellowship and Sacrifice – Hampstead and the First World War. Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. Marking the centenary of the conflict, this exhibition looks at the effects of the war on Hampstead and the Heath. It examines the work of official war artists from the area and soldiers from Hampstead who

fought at the Front and the important role played by local military hospitals and residents. Features two new acquisitions – the original copy of *Blast*, *War Number 1915* by Wyndham Lewis and an oil painting of Richard Carline by Nancy Carline. Until December 14.

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. Until October 5.

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 Waltener, Stewart Easton and the McGrath Makers’ Group showcase new work. Free. Until Thursday, September 25.

Talks, Workshops & Walks

Incredible Adaptations at the Zoo. Golders Hill Park, NW11. Learn about the amazing feats that animals across the world can accomplish through challenges and activities. Next to animal enclosures. Details on 020 7482 7073, cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath. Noon-4pm.

Thursday, August 14.

Fusion Children’s Workshops. London Jewish Cultural Centre, 94-96 North End Road, Golders Green, NW11. 020 8511 7901, www.ljcc.org.uk. Lego® Robotics – Be Inspired. LEGO® is always top of the tables for children’s favourite toys and this workshop takes it to a whole new level. Participants will learn how to build and programme a robot using specialist tools, developing their skills day by day. £135 for eight to 10-year-olds, £135 for 11 to 14-year-olds. 10am-3.30pm. Monday, August 18 – Friday, August 22.

Poetry: Keats is not on Facebook. Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead, NW3. What would Keats make of modern-day London or Rome? Helen Burke reads poems written for the Keats-Shelley House in Rome, where she is the judge for this year’s children’s poetry prize. Her poems are fun, accessible and poignant, and feature in her new collection *Here’s Looking at You, Kid*. Admission £5.50 (concs £3.50) – ticket lasts for one year. Drop in. 3pm-4pm. Saturday, August 16. Also at Keats House: **Family Day: The Sea.** An afternoon of journeys and adventure on the deep. Activities for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Drop in. 1pm-4pm. Sunday, August 17.

Guided walk: Keats in Hampstead. Meet at Hampstead tube station. Follow the story of the poet’s life with readings from some of his best-loved poems. Stroll through old Hampstead, visit the Vale of Health, dip into the Heath and finish at Keats House. £8 (concs £6). Booking essential at keatsevents.eventbrite.co.uk. 11am-1.30pm. Monday, August 25. **Keats House Poets Present – Travel Poetry with Laila Sumpton.** Starting with postcard poetry to explore how description can be used to transport readers to new destinations. Then looking deeper into the idea of travel – what people seek to find on holiday, what they hope to get away from and what they gain from new experiences. Free. Booking essential at keatsevents.eventbrite.co.uk. 2pm-4pm. Sunday, August 31.

Wonderful Wriggling Worms. Secret Garden, Parliament Hill, NW5. Look for worms and other minibeasts. For details, contact 020 7482 7073 or cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath. Noon-4pm. Tuesday, August 19.

Green Machines. Next to the playground, Golders Hill Park, NW11. Be creative using recycled materials. For details, contact 020 7482 7073 or cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath. Noon-4pm. Tuesday, August 19.

Rockie Rangers: Explore the Heath, learn about wildlife and play outdoors. Hampstead Heath Education Centre, NW5. For eight to 12-year-olds. Booking essential. For details and to book your place, contact 020 7482 7073 or cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath. 10am-4pm. Wednesday, August 20.

Predators at the Zoo. Next to animal enclosures, Golders Hill Park, NW11. Learn about what makes a good predator. For details, contact 020 7482 7073 or cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath. Noon-4pm. Thursday, August 21.

Gig: CircuitHouse, Swoons, Breaking The Code and e-Cog Zero. The Good Ship, 289 Kilburn High Road, NW6. Peace In The City presents a night of punky, hard-hitting indie and alt rock. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11pm, followed by free jukebox until 2am. Thursday, August 14. Also at The Good Ship: **Gig: Kinkajous, The Ruse and Storm Mollison.** Peace In The City presents a night of jazzed-up funk and latin. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs playing a mix of rock’n’roll and dance until 4am. Friday, August 15. **Gig: Sabre Tooth Monk, The Electrics and Megan Johns.** Peace In The City presents a night of alt rock and New York-style punk. Entry £5. Live music from 8pm to 11.30pm, followed by DJs playing a mix of rock’n’roll and dance



■ Youngsters are being invited to look for worms and other minibeasts at the Secret Garden at Parliament Hill from noon to 4pm on Tuesday

Picture: PA