

event listings



Lucy Roslyn and John Last in *Chicken Shop* at the Park Theatre

Picture: Kim Hardy

Horror of prostitution lurking close to home

CHICKEN SHOP
Park Theatre
★★★★☆

In 2009, Anna Jordan read an article about a raid on a secret brothel located over her local chicken shop in Hounslow. The dawning realisation of horror close to home forms the spine of her provocative 2011 piece, debuting at Park Theatre.

Through smart lighting cues and sliding transitions, Jemma Gross's staging links the two worlds: the domestic realm of mop-haired 16-year-old Hendrix (Jesse Rutherford), grappling with school bullies and parental drama, and the stifling prison of forced prostitute Luminita (Lucy Roslyn). Desperate to prove his manhood, Hendrix pays poignantly awkward Luminita for 'the girlfriend experience', but his coming of age takes

a traumatic course when he comprehends the extent of her suffering.

The hero rushing to the aid of the hooker with a heart of gold is a perilously clichéd set-up, but perceptive writing and understated performances ground the action in the disturbingly familiar.

Jordan focuses on minutiae, with great support from Florence Hazard's design, offering revolting rather than romanticised squalor. When Hendrix opens the window – forbidden by Luminita's odious pimp (John Last) – joy, release, grief and yearning cross Roslyn's face in a heartstopping moment.

Conversely, the overlong home scenes stall. Hendrix's forthright, cause-loving mother (Angela Bull) and her sexpot lover (Millie Reeves) remain

types, the latter grating until she lets her mask slip to reveal venom beneath. Stronger are the issues touched upon, including the increased sexualisation of our culture and challenges a lesbian mother faces in raising a son.

Rutherford, excellent throughout, captures the frustrated inexperience of someone on the cusp of adulthood, though both his total naiveté and lack of contemporary tropes like social media date the play. Still, Jordan adeptly contrasts the difficulties of someone with boundless choices and those of one whose world has shrunk to mere survival. We know that difference intellectually, but seeing it first-hand in searing drama is a powerful experience.

Until September 28.

Marianka Swain

Weekly Clubs and Classes

Fortune Green Choir. Emmanuel Church, Lyncroft Gardens, West Hampstead, NW6. Everything from pop to opera. No auditions – all welcome. Weekly autumn session starts Tuesday, September 16. 7pm-8.30pm. Details at www.sing-for-fun-in-fortune-green.webeden.co.uk.

Monthly Relaxation Sessions. World Peace Garden Camden, next to Hampstead Overground Station. Contact Michelle on 07973 518599. Details at www.less-stress-more-zest.co.uk. 11am-noon. Sunday, September 14.

Hampstead Photographic Society. The Crypt, St John's Church, Church Row, Hampstead, NW3. This week: competition – open prints. With Barbara Lyddiatt. 8pm. Tuesdays.

Life Drawing Classes. Ben Uri Gallery, 108a Boundary Road, off Abbey Road, St John's Wood, NW8. 6.30pm-9pm. September 16 and 30. To book, call Laura Jones on 020 7604 3991. Each session costs £15 plus free entry to current exhibition.

Energy Healing – Highgate Healing Centre. Highgate United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate, N6. £5 donation. Details on 07597

199299. 6pm-8pm. Tuesdays.

Abbey Community Centre. 222c Belsize Road, NW6. 07447 932564. **Over-50 Men's IT.** Computer and internet basics. Free. No booking required. 11.30am-1.30pm. Wednesdays. **Coffee morning.** 10.30am-noon. Fridays. **Bingo.** 20p a game. 2pm-3pm. Tuesdays.

Holly Lodge Community Centre. 30 Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, N6. 020 8342 9524. **Hatha yoga class:** 2pm-3pm. Thursdays. **Tai Chi class:** 8pm-9pm. Thursdays. **Women's Institute.** 7.30pm-9.30pm. Every third Wednesday of the month.

Belsize Wood and Adelaide Local Nature Reserve Green Gym. At Adelaide on the last Sunday of the month, all other Sundays at Belsize Wood. Free. For ages 14 and above. Details on 07769 642395 (weekdays). 11am-2pm. Sundays.

Fleet Music Group. Swiss Cottage Community Centre, Winchester Road, NW3. Mainly classical music. Contact 020 7722 0059. 3pm-5pm. Fridays.

Weekly Clubs at Burgh House. New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. **Bridge:** 1.30pm. Wednesdays. **Scrabble:** 2pm. Thursdays. **Singing Sessions:** 12.15pm-1.15pm. Fridays.

Raised Voices Political Choir. Doreen Bazell Community Centre, Chenies Place, Somers Town, NW1. 7.30pm-9.30pm. Thursdays.

Hampstead Music Club. Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, or Christian Community, 34 Glenilla Road, Belsize Park. Contact anna.slavin@orange.net. Tuesday evenings.

Over-60s Keep Fit Class. Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place, NW1. 020 7586 8327. 3pm-4pm. Free. Tuesdays.

Birdwatching Walks on Hampstead Heath. Marylebone Birdwatching Society. Meet at Parliament Hill staff yard, NW5. Contact 020 7267 8434. Free. 10am. Tuesdays.

Laughter yoga. Parliament Hill Fields bandstand, Hampstead Heath, NW5. 020 7609 6145. Donation to charity. 11am-noon. Sundays.

Life Drawing Class. Hampstead Community Centre, High Street, NW3. Details on 020 7794 8313. £9 per session. 7pm-9.15pm. Wednesdays.

To get your event or class featured on the Ham&High's event listings pages, email events@hamhigh.co.uk

What's On

Odeon Camden Town
Film times for Friday 12th to Thursday 18th Sept inclusive
Opening times: Fri 13:45, Sat-Sun 11:30, Mon - Thu 13:45

A Most Wanted Man (15)
W/CHAIR 2h02m
Fri-Thu 15:00 17:45 20:30

Before I go to Sleep (15)
AUDIO DESC 1h32m
Fri 15:15 20:45
Sat 12:00 15:15 20:45
Sun 12:00/ht 15:15 20:45
Mon-Tue 15:15/ht 20:45
Wed-Thu 15:15 20:45

Guardians of the Galaxy (12A)
AUDIO DESC 2h26m
Fri-Thu 18:00

Guardians of the Galaxy (12A)
3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2h26m
Sat-Sun 12:20

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h42m
Sat-Sun 12:10

Lucy (15)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h29m
Fri-Thu 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15

Pride (15)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2h00m
Fri 14:45 17:30 20:15
Sat-Sun 12:00 14:45 17:30 20:15
Mon-Thu 14:45 17:30 20:15

Sex Tape (18)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h34m
Fri-Mon 18:45
Wed-Thu 18:45

NT Live: A Streetcar Named Desire (Young Vic) (PG)
W/CHAIR 3h23m
Tue 19:00

The Boxtrolls (PG)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h37m
Fri 16:30
Sat-Sun 11:50 14:15
Mon-Thu 16:30

The Boxtrolls (PG)
3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h37m
Fri 14:15
Sat-Sun 14:15 16:30
Mon-Thu 14:15

The Guest (15)
W/CHAIR 1h40m
Fri-Mon 21:00
Wed-Thu 21:00

For details and bookings visit www.odeon.co.uk or call 0871 2244007

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