

event listings



Will Barton (Colin) and John Wark (Lance) in *Toast* at the Park Theatre *Picture: Ben Broomfield*

Dourly funny insight into grind of factory life

TOAST
Park Theatre
Finsbury Park
★★★★☆

This is the year of Richard Bean. *The One Man, Two Guvvorns* creator is undergoing a renaissance, with 2014 boasting *Pitcairn* at the Globe, the National's *Great Britain* and West End musical *Made in Dagenham*. *Toast*, transporting us to the start of Bean's prolific career, is based on his 1970s experience working at Hull's bread factory. Eleanor Rhode's strong revival captures the rhythms of his well-observed, dourly funny piece, in which plant workers escape to James Turner's authentically grime-caked canteen during an eventful night shift.

Political commentary is kept to

a minimum. We're told strike pay is late and bosses have enforced a harsher deal, but poignancy comes from witnessing that privation: rationed cigarettes, precious teabags stowed in Tupperware, five pence coins begged for a phone call home. Through patient build-up, each action becomes loaded with significance.

Offstage, the ancient oven clangs and heaves, a fiery industrial god demanding constant worship. If it cools, it might never heat up again, giving management the excuse to close down the factory and shift production to Bradford's modern facility. Bean doesn't sugar-coat this relentless grind, but he understands the alternative: it's not just a job to these men, it's a sense of identity.

Steve Nicolson impresses as

grizzled charge hand Blakey, an ex-con with a passion for Dylan, as does Simon Greenall's Kenneth Williams-esque Cecil; Will Barton's sly union rep; Matt Sutton's chippy Peter, seething over perceived injustice; Finlay Robertson's amiably dense former trawlerman; and John Wark's moon-faced student, effectively revealing hidden depths. But Matthew Kelly is the standout as watchful, monosyllabic veteran mixer Nellie, whose very flesh has taken on a doughy hue.

Both an intriguing twist and second-half crisis are resolved too easily, with Bean ultimately shying away from darker, meatier material. However, as a perceptive slice of life, *Toast* is thoroughly satiating.

Until September 21.
Marianka Swain

What's On

SELL
SAY
FIND
anything

Antique & Collectors Fair
Hampstead Community Centre NW3
Sunday 7th Sept / 10am to 5pm
Jewellery, China, Postcards Photos and
Paintings, Silver & Glass etc
0208 203 2211
Admission 30p Children free

Odeon Camden Town
Film times for Friday 5th to
Thursday 11th Sept inclusive
Opening times: Fri 14:00, Sat-Sun
11:45, Mon 13:45, Tue-Thu 14:00
Before I go to Sleep (15)
W/CHAIR 1h32m
Fri 14:15 16:30 18:45 21:00
Sat-Sun 12:00 14:15 16:30 18:45 21:00
Mon-Thu 14:15 16:30 18:45 21:00
Guardians of the Galaxy (12A)
AUDIO DESC 2h26m
Fri-Thu 17:45
Guardians of the Galaxy (12A)
3D W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 2h26m
Fri 15:00 20:15
Sat-Sun 12:20 15:00 20:15
Tue-Thu 15:00 20:15
How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h42m
Sat-Sun 12:30
Lucy (15)
W/CHAIR AUDIO DESC 1h29m
Contains strong bloody violence
Fri 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Sat 12:10 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Sun 12:10 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Mon 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Tue 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Wed-Thu 14:30 16:45 19:00 21:15
Pride (15) W/CHAIR 2h00m
Mon 14:00 19:30
Sex Tape (18)
W/CHAIR 1h34m
Fri-Thu 15:15 18:00 20:45
Sin City: A Dame to Kill For (18)
3D W/CHAIR 1h42m
Fri-Sun 17:30
Mon 17:00
Tue-Thu 17:30
The Boxtrolls (PG)
1h37m
Sat-Sun 12:40
The Boxtrolls (PG)
3D W/CHAIR 1h37m
Sat-Sun 15:00
The Guest (15)
1h40m
Fri-Thu 15:30 20:30
For details and bookings visit
www.odeon.co.uk or call 0811 2244007

Car hunting giving you the hump?

For a great choice of local cars visit
drive24.co.uk
Powered by **MOTORS**.co.uk

SAY anything WITH SMALL ADS

Weekly Clubs and Classes

Monthly Relaxation Sessions.

Camden World Peace Garden, 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: Creating pictures, start to finish, using Lightroom and Photoshop. With Neil Waterson, a London-based professional photographer and lecturer at City Lit. 8pm. Tuesdays.

Hampstead Heath Croquet Club.

Croquet lawns, near the tennis courts, Golders Hill Park. Details at hampsteadheathcroquetclub.org.uk.

Life Drawing Classes.

Ben Uri Gallery, 108a Boundary Road, off Abbey Road, St John's Wood, NW8. 6.30pm-9pm. September 9, 16 and 30. Spaces limited to eight participants per class. 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.

Earth, Twig and Fire. Highgate Society Hall, Pond Square, N6. For children aged six to nine years. Outdoor activities. Details on 07712 885974. 4.30pm-6pm. Wednesdays.

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.

Egyptian Belly Dance Class. The Recreation Club, Fleet Road, Hampstead, NW3. Call Hazel on 07930 969305. 7pm-8.30pm. Mondays.

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

NEED A LOCAL GARDENER?

Whatever you are looking for
localsearch24.co.uk will help you find it

localsearch24.co.uk your trusted local directory