

Arts & Entertainment

■ A May Festival Exhibition
Collection of Scottish paintings and drawings including work by Elizabeth Blackadder.
Blythwood Gallery, Washington Street (041-204 2779) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, to May 26, free. [WA]
■ Stanley Spencer
Canvassing the Cyclops: focus on eight large canvases and 30 drawings produced between 1940-6 during Spencer's commission at Litlogov Shipyard.
Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery (041-357 3929) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Thu until 9pm, Sun 11am-6pm, to Aug 7, free. [WA]
■ Volumes: Susan Gamble and Michael Worton
Art and science fuse together in a show of photographic installations about books.
Colins Gallery, University of Strathclyde (041-552 4400 ext 4145) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 12noon-4pm, to May 29, free.
INVERNESS
■ Altar ego: Self Portraits
Peter Howson, John Byrne, Helen Flockhart and Adrian Wiszniewski are just some of the artists on display in this remarkable exhibition.
Culcullen Library, Kappoch Road (0463-792531) Mon & Wed 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-8pm, Tue & Fri 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, to May 9, free. [WA]
■ My Best Friend
Life-size papier-mache sculptures by wit and self-taught local artist Philip Cox.
Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd (0463-237114) Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, to May 21, free. [WA]
■ Nathalie Du Pasquier
Ex-member of the Memphis design group presents oils, showing her rich sense of colour, and awareness of composition.
Eden Court Theatre, Bishop's Road (0463-221718/cx:234274) Mon-Sat 10.15am-10.15pm, to May 24, free. [WA]
JARRROW
■ Lead and Follow
Powerful collection of artists including Basil Beattie, Anthony Caro and Boyle Family.
Bede Gallery, Springwell Road (061-469 1807) Tue-Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sun 2pm, 4.30pm, to May 5, free. [WA]
HIRKCALDRE
■ Three Artists and Travel
Paintings, prints and photographs by artists who have lived in Turkey and Morocco.
Hirkcaldre Museum and Art Gallery, Station Road (0552-260733) Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, to June 5, free. [WA]
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
■ People, Places & the Photographers Eye
Joint collaboration between Tyne and Wear Museum and the LaSalle Outreach Project.
Newcastle Discovery, Blandford Sq (091-232 6789) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, to May 23, free.
PERTH
■ Drawing From Experience
Over 40 drawings and many sketches from one of the most popular Scottish colourists.
Ferguson Gallery, Marshall St (0738-441944) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, to Sep 13, free.
■ Margaret Morris
Focus on the relationship between dancer Margaret Morris and J.D. Ferguson.
Ferguson Gallery, Marshall St (0738-441944) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, to May 21, free.
STIRLING
■ Alan Davie: The Quest for the Miraculous
Past and recent work by one of Scotland's leading artists.
Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road (0766-471917) Tue-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, to May 29, free.
SUNDERLAND
■ Exploitation Earth
Exhibition exposing how our natural resources are being destroyed and mismanaged.
Sunderland Art Gallery, Borough Road (091-514 1235) Tue-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, to May 8, free. [WA]
KIDS
ASSEMBLE
■ Family Fun Day
Laser-shooting and a mobile assault.
Westrum Park (0224-276276) May 1, 2pm-5pm, free.
COYBRIIDGE
■ Spring Fling
Fun for kids, situated in an industrial museum.
Summerlee Heritage Trust (0236-431261) Apr 30-May 2, 10am-5pm, free. [WA]
CULTRA
■ The Irish Railway Exhibition
Relics from the great age of steam.
Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, near Holywood (0232-429428) Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.30am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, £2.60, child £1.30, family £7, concs available.
DARLINGTON
■ The Down Going of Orpheus Hawkins
Improvisation for seven to 11 year-olds.
Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace (0325-83271) Apr 30, 7pm, £3.
DUNGLANNON
■ Vintage Vehicle Rally
Wonderful bangers and steamers and bone shakers to admire.
The Argory, Dornycrow Road, 4 miles from Moy (08667-84753) Apr 30, 2pm-6pm, £2, children £1, groups £1.50.
IDEGLEY
■ Storytime
Fun for under 5s.
Edgely Library, Edgely Road (061-480431) Mon 2.15pm-2.45pm, Fri 10.15am-10.45am, free.
LIVINGSTON
■ Farm Crafts Weekend
Victorian farming and dairy techniques.
Almond Valley Heritage Centre, (0506-414957) Apr 30-May 1, 10am-5pm, £1.50 (children 75p). [WA]
■ CASTLE UPON TYNE
■ Children's Gallery Opening
Permanent display designed for children.
Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place (091-232 7734) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, free. [WA]
STRANGLFORD
■ Craft Fair
Dressing up in the Victorian pastimes centre.
Castle Ward, (0395-881204) May 1, 2pm-6pm, free plus admission to the castle; £3.50 per car.
WALLSEND
■ Parent and Toddler Group
A workshop for parents and children.
The Buddie, Station Road (091-262 4276) Wed 10am-12noon, £1.
■ North Tyneside Youth Drama Group
A workshop for eight to 10 year olds.
The Buddie, Station Road (091-262 4276) Mon 6pm-8pm, 50p.
CROSS COUNTRY
THEATRE
KENDAL
■ Maniotes
Volcano use their gritty brand of physical theatre to turn the Communist manifesto into a fast-moving piece of political theatre.
Brewary Arts Centre, Highgate (0539-725133) May 1, 2.30pm, £5, concs £5. [WA]
■ Maud
Mickie's Vilana perform their surreal but affectionate parody of Spanish machismo.
Brewary Arts Centre, Highgate (0539-725133) May 1, 7.30pm, £5.50, concs £5.50. [WA]
■ The Quest For Don Quixote
Kitchen utensils are drawn into a magical blend of shadows, puppetry and improvised clowning and physical theatre in an energetic retelling of the classic tale.
Brewary Arts Centre, Highgate (0539-725133) May 1, 9pm, £5.50, concs £4.50. [WA]
LIVERPOOL
■ Angela With Split Voices
Point Felice Theatre Company present four short plays by new playwrights.
Unity Theatre, Hope Place (051-709 4988) May 5-7, 8pm, £5.50, concs £3.50. [WA]
■ Her Benny
Return of Anne Dillton's popular musical.
Liverpool Empire, Line Street (051-709 1555) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Apr 30, May 4 & 7, 2pm, to May 7, £5-£12.50.
■ Klub Anima
The Kosh perform Ewan MacLachlan's tough but funny modern musical myth with a combination of acrobatics and dance.
Evrynian Theatre, Hope St (051-709 4776) Apr 30, 8pm, £5-£9, concs available. [WA]
■ Men
Kevin MacGinchev's adventurous musical comedy ditches the chorus girls for a ward and wonderful assemblage of men.
Unity Theatre, Hope Place (051-709 4988) Apr 30, 8pm, £5.50, concs £3.50. [WA]
■ The Miracle Worker
Jenny Seagrove stars as the heroic teacher who battles to help an uncontrollable deaf, dumb and blind child communicate.
Liverpool Playhouse, Williamson Square (051-709 6353/cx 707 0059) Apr 30, 4pm & 8pm, £5-£14, concs available. [WA]
■ Two Can Play
Trevor Rhone's mastery Jamaican love story reverses the traditional format tracing not a new love but a relationship heading for disaster against a backdrop of '70s political strife.
Evrynian Theatre, Hope Street (051-709 4776) May 1, 8pm, £7, concs £5. [WA]
MANCHESTER
■ The Challenge
Montreal's Dynamo Theatre apply their gymnastic performance skills and charged musical scoring.
Donohouse Theatre, Oxford Road (061-242 2555) May 4 & 5, 7.30pm, £5.50, concs £3.50. [WA]
■ Copacabana
Gary Wilmot, the star of Barry Manilow's first musical, is unlikely to inspire the romantic throwing of the man himself but romantic lyrics and smooth melodies are promised for the fan faithful.
Palace Theatre, Oxford St (061-236 9922) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, to May 14, £9-£21.50, concs available. [WA]
■ In Your Face
Gay Sweatshop return with their anarchic brand of ' queer kitsch' and another unflinchingly honest production.
The Green Room, Whitworth Street West (061-236 1677) May 6 & 7, 7.30pm, £5, concs £4. [WA]
■ Last In Forever
Neil Simons's warmly sentimental comedy about two young brothers left with their cantankerous Grandma.
Liquor Theatre, Central Library, St Peter's Square (061-226 7110) Mon-Thu 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mat May 7, 3pm, to May 14, £4.50-£10, concs available. [WA]
■ The Phantom Of The Opera
Andrew Lloyd Webber's lavish Gothic musical, directed by Harold Prince.
Opera House, Quay Street (061-236 9922/cx 831 7733) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm (booking until Oct 29), £6-£27.50, concs available. [WA]
■ Feet Petite - The Jackie Wilson Story
Black music journalist Julia Davis directs her musical homage to the life of the influential black '60s singer set against the background of the Civil Rights movement.
No Centre, Crickchester Road (061-227 9254) May 4 & 5, 7.30pm, May 6 & 7, 8pm, £8, concs £6.
■ The Threepenny Opera
Robert David MacDonald's witty translation of the Brecht and Kurt Weill's masterpiece of music theatre delivers a sharp contemporary edge spotlighted by director Anne Castellino.
Contact Theatre, Oxford Road (061-274 4400/cx 274 4747) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, to May 7, £5.50-£25.50, concs available. [WA]
■ What The Butler Saw
Joe Orton's saucy madcap comedy set in a psychiatric clinic and packed with surreal misunderstandings stars Trevor Baxter and David Horowitz.
Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square (061-833 9833) Mon-Thu 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, to May 7, £4.70-£16.50, concs available. [WA]
SCARBOROUGH
■ Communicating Doors
Alan Ayckbourn leaves the double-glazed patio doors behind in favour of a rather more sinister door connecting two hotel rooms in his 46th play about a woman fleeing for her life.
Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Valley Road (0723-370541/cx 378863) Apr 30, May 10-14, 7.30pm, mat Apr 30, 3pm, £7.50-£25.50, concs available. [WA]
■ Haunting Julia
Hot off Alan Ayckbourn's ever-humming typewriter is his second new play this year which follows a bereaved father's attempts to discover the truth behind his daughter's premature death 15 years ago.
Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Valley Road (0723-370541/cx 378863) May 3-7, 26-28, 30-June 1, 7.30pm, £5.50-£9.50, concs available. [WA]
YORK
■ Absurd Person Singular
Alan Ayckbourn brings his own brand of social embarrassment to three couples celebrating three successive Christmas Eves, with Francis Matthews and Georgina Hale.
Grand Opera House, Cumberland Street (0904-671618) Apr 30, 5pm & 8.30pm, £8-£12.50, concs available.
■ The Canterbury Tales
Michael Bogdanov has adapted Chaucer's classical romps into an evening of saucy merriment, with Brian Glover as the lecherous Miller.
Grand Opera House, Cumberland Street (0904-671618) May 3-6, 7.30pm, May 7, 5.30pm & 8.30pm, mat May 4, 2.30pm, £7-£12.50, concs available.
■ Low Fidelity
The shortcomings of liberal attitudes to sexual behaviour are ruthlessly exposed in Peta Lily's savage sex comedy about a marriage a foot of desire and jealousy.
York Arts Centre, Micklegate (0904-627129) May 3 & 4, 8pm, £5.50, concs £4.50. [WA]
ROCK/JAZZ
LIVERPOOL
■ Dream
Dance team responsible for the chart-topping Things Can Only Get Better.
Royal Court, Roe Street (051-709 4321) Apr 30, 7.30pm, £9.
■ XG-NH
Industrial rock outfit featuring ex-All About Eve guitarist Tim Richens.
The Lomax, Cumberland St (051-236 6458/cx 236 0329) May 6, 9pm, phone for prices.
MANCHESTER
■ Buzzsaw, These Animal Men
The original and best punk-pop band.
Manchester University, Oxford Road (061-275 2930) May 4, 7.30pm, £5.
■ Corner Crew
Bouncy pop band from Leeds' Manchester collective merge jazz, hip-hop and funk.
Band On The Wall, Swan Street (061-832 6625) May 5, 8.30pm, £3, concs £2.50.
■ Cui, My Life Story
Saxophonist Nat Birchall's Manchester collective merge jazz, hip-hop and funk.
Manchester Academy, Oxford Road (061-275 2930) Apr 30, 7.30pm, £7.50.
■ Hunters & Collectors, David
Australian rockers, with a cross between the rifts of INXS and the folkiness of Crowded House and a healthy dose of minimalist broodiness all their own.
Manchester University, Oxford Road (061-275 2930) May 3, 7.30pm, £5.
■ Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz
Lively North West trad septet.
Dodsbury Cricket Club, Wimslow Road, Dodsbury (051-461 5347) May 2, 8.30pm, free.
■ The Proclaimers
The Reid twins offer up another selection of feelgood songs.
Boardwalk, Little Peter Street (061-228 3555) May 1, 7pm, £7.50.
■ Eddi Reader
The ex-Fairground Attraction singer follows her folk instincts.
Band On The Wall, Swan Street (061-832 6625) May 4, 8.30pm, £5-£7.
■ Satad
Indie guitar band who describe their sound as somewhere between Pixies and Throwing Muses.
Boardwalk, Little Peter Street (061-228 3555) May 3, 8pm, £5.
YORK
■ Steve Howe
Solo, semi-unplugged show from the former Yes man.
York Arts Centre, Micklegate (0804-627129) May 1, 8pm, £5. [WA]
■ Townes Van Zandt
Revered Texan folk and country singer-songwriter.
Wining Post, Bishopsthorpe Road (0904-652228) May 3, 7.30pm, £5.
CABARET
KENDAL
■ A Sequin From The Ashes: Fascinating Aida
Sassy musical satirists led by Dillie Keane return with their melodies, sequins and parody.
Brewary Arts Centre, Highgate (0539-725133) Apr 30, 9.30pm, £5.50, concs £5.50. [WA]
MANCHESTER
■ Buzz Club
Wicked musings from smooth crooner Bob Van Krap, plus rowdy musical antics Paul B Edwards and regular contributor to the Manchester scene Mr Horvitz Presley.
The Buzz, The Southern, Nell Lane (061-449 7452) May 8, 8.15pm, £5.
DANCE
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
■ English National Ballet: Mixed Programme
Including X.N. Tricities by Mauro Bionzetti which features two 350kg water-filled lenses, plus Grand Pas from Paquita and Impromptu choreographed by Derek Deane and Dances From Napoli.
Forum 28, Duke Street (0229-820000) May 6 & 7, 7.30pm, £10, concs £8.
CLASSICAL
LANCASTER
■ Medici String Quartet and Friends
Mozart's Quintet with two violas, the Sextet from Strauss's Capriccio and Mendelssohn's youthful Octet.
University of Lancaster, Bailrigg (0524-65201) May 5, 7.30pm, £8 & £7, concs £5.
LIVERPOOL
■ Philharmonic/Pasek
Pasek's final concert as Music Director features Bayanowski's 1st Violin Concerto and Mahler's 1st Symphony (Titan).
Philharmonic Hall, Hope St (051-709 3789) Apr 30, 7.30pm, £7.75-£18.50, concs £5.80. [WA]
■ Royal Liverpool Philharmonic/Pasek
Ravel's 2nd Daphnis and Chloee Suite, Grieg's Piano Concerto and Strauss's Nietzsche-inspired Also Sprach Zarathustra.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (051-709 3789) May 5, 7pm, £7.75-£18.50, concs £5.80. [WA]
MANCHESTER
■ Cello Festival Final Concert
Works by Suk, Martinu, Janacek, Bartok and Lucifowski before 32 cellists combine in Villa Lobos's Bachianas Brasileras.
Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road (061-273 4504/6534) May 1, 4pm, £15, concs £8. [WA]
■ Cello Gala Concert
Eight international cellists play works for the instrument by composers from their own country, Steven Isserlis tackling Britten.
Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road (061-273 4504/6534) Apr 30, 7pm, £22, concs £12. [WA]
■ Halle/Hughes
Evelyn Glennie plays Milhaud's Concerto for Marimba, Vibraphone and Orchestra in a programme also including Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (061-834 1712) May 4, 5 & 6, 7.30pm, £3-£18.50.
EXHIBITIONS
LANCASTER
■ Terry Frost
Recent paintings and other works from the 1950s.
Peter Scott Gallery, University of Lancaster (0524-65201 ext 3182) Mon-Fri 12noon-5pm, to May 27, free.
LIVERPOOL
■ Moral Tales
Exploration of social issues.
Tate Gallery Liverpool (051-709 9223) Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, to Spring '95, free.
■ Venus Redefined
Great group show including Matisse's famous 'bathers' series, as well Rodin's Muse and work by Zadkine and Archipenko.
Tate Gallery Liverpool (051-709 9223) Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, to Spring '95, free.
MANCHESTER
■ Ideas and Attitudes: Catalan Conceptual Art
Survey of Catalan conceptual art.
Comerhouse, Oxford Street (061-228 2463) Tue-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 2pm-6pm, to June 6, free. [WA]
■ Catalonia Incognita
Contemporary painting from Girona.
Comerhouse, Oxford Street (061-228 2463) Tue-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 2pm-6pm, to June 6, free. [WA]
■ Richard Eulich
Retrospective of the landscape artist.
Manchester City Art Gallery, Mosley Street (051-236 5244) Mon-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun 2pm-5.45pm, to May 8, free.
■ Roger Hilton
Retrospective of popular but patchy artist.
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester (061-273 4865) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (Thu 10am-9pm), to June 11, free. [WA]
■ Henry Moore and the Sea
Sculpture and graphic work.
Scarborough Art Gallery, The Crescent (0723-374753) Tue-Sun 11am-4pm, to June 1, free.
YORK
■ Pedro Meyer
First show for Mexican photographer who utilises CD-Rom computer discs in his work.
Impressions Gallery of Photography, Castlegate (0904-654724) Open Apr 30, Tue-Sat 10.30am-5pm, to June 16, free.
EARL KLUGH