



**The Higgins
BEDFORD**

half-term FUN!

If you have children to entertain at half term, there are events at The Higgins and elsewhere in Bedford. You can explore The Higgins's new exhibition, 'Dreams and Nightmares' and enjoy creative activities including mask-making, Halloween clay modelling and potion mixing at 11.30am on 22nd to 25th October (book at The Higgins). Alternatively, consider a trip to the Place Theatre on Wednesday 23rd October for an evening of 'Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children' with award-winning musical comedian Jay Foreman. Jay's songs have been heard on BBC Radio 4, Radio 4 Extra, The One Show, London Live TV and Dave Gorman's UK/Ireland tour. Jay will provide a cheeky hour of songs, poems and comedy in this family-friendly show which regularly sells out at the Edinburgh Fringe. Visit www.theplacebedford.org.uk for more information



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

news lecture programme and visit your new website



The Friends' lecture season has started brilliantly with talks by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan on his experience of gardening on a grand scale at Hampton Court, and Dr David Boyd-Haycock's insights into the sometimes-tumultuous artistic and personal life of Augustus John. We're looking forward to hearing from Dr Anne Daye on Regency Dance next week, and have a host of other

wonderful speakers booked for the coming months. As well as your printed programme of Friends' lectures, you can find listings at our new website, www.friendsofthehiggins.org/events.

National Theatre Live at The Quarry Theatre

You can enjoy live recordings of some of the most brilliant recent London stage shows at the Quarry Theatre in the next few months.

Nicholas Hytner's much-lauded production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' ran earlier this summer at the Bridge Theatre, London. Hytner brought together a star-studded cast for his take on Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy, and critics loved his transformation of the theatre into a dreamy forest world of flying fairies, contagious fogs and moonlight revels in which the roving audience followed the action on foot.

*Thursday 17th October, 7pm,
visit www.quarrytheatre.org.uk
for more information.*



The Philharmonia 2019/2020 season



The Philharmonia starts its 25th season in Bedford this October. Since 1995, the orchestra's programme in the town has been at the heart of Bedford's cultural life, and the Philharmonia's education programme has reached over 6,000 children and members of the community and enabled them to engage with and participate in orchestral music. Last year's intergenerational music-making project Hear and Now, which brought together people living with dementia with young musicians, was particularly successful. And in its most ambitious audience development project ever, the Philharmonia presented The Virtual Orchestra last summer – this festival of digital installations, VR, workshops and fringe performances ran in Riverside Square for six weeks in July and August 2018, and was enjoyed by more than 15,000 visitors.

This season's programme starts with two outstanding concerts:

Thursday 31st October, 7.30pm, Bedford Corn Exchange

Finnish conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali turns to the quintessential ballet composer, Tchaikovsky. Conjuring up the grace of the swan-maidens, the terrifying power of the villain who has them under his spell, and the pathos of doomed love, this is music that lingers long in the memory. The programme will also include works by Rachmaninov and Sibelius.

Tuesday 12th November, 7.30pm, Bedford Corn Exchange

The programme celebrates the evocative power of music in a programme alive with Impressionist brush strokes and vivid memories. Pablo Heras-Casado conducts as the orchestra plays pieces by Ravel, Mendelssohn and two late works by Lili Boulanger. Tickets from the Corn Exchange or from the Philharmonia Box Office: 020 7921 3907

Gilbert Lloyd Lecture

'Paintings and the Bauhaus' by Gavin Plumley

Founded exactly a hundred years ago, the Bauhaus espoused a bold, interdisciplinary approach to artistic education. Over its 14-year existence, the Bauhaus faculty included Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe. In this lecture, cultural historian Gavin Plumley will look at the history and the legacy of the Bauhaus, which stretches far beyond 1933, the year the institution was closed down by the Nazis.

Thursday 21st November, 7.30pm, Erskine May Hall,
Bedford School Prep, admission free



Support the Red Cross Xmas Fair

The Red Cross will be holding its annual Christmas Fair in the Great Hall at Bedford School between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 23rd November. Drop in for more than 60 stalls selling a range of gifts, and enjoy carol singing, a visit from Father Christmas, a tombola and raffle, plus wonderful refreshments baked by the Red Cross ladies.

Zero-waste shopping in Bedford

New shop, 'The Store', which opened in St Cuthbert's Arcade in August, encourages you to bring containers from home to fill with its wide range of groceries and other goods. Ro Heasman, a young entrepreneur supported by the Prince's Trust, first came up with the idea when she spent a year living in the USA. She says, 'I saw people just putting everything in the same bin – rubbish, recycling, glass. And I'd never realised I cared so much about recycling until I couldn't do it!'

Dreams and Nightmares

The realm of dreams has always exerted a powerful attraction for artists wishing to explore the more shadowy side of the human psyche. Exhibitions at The Higgins and at Tate Britain focus on the visionary and spiritual art of the subconscious.

In 'Dreams and Nightmares', their third collaboration, Victoria Partridge of The Higgins Bedford, and Christiana Payne, Professor of History of Art at Oxford Brookes University, have selected works from the Cecil Higgins Collection which explore visionary themes. The collection is rich in such works and the two exhibition rooms are full of paintings and prints exploring the mysterious and opaque side of the human subconscious. Works have been chosen from the early romantic period onwards, and go up to the last century - the more modern works, by Pablo Picasso and Kathe Kollwitz for example, express not just the horror that can come from unbidden thoughts and dreams but, perhaps predictably, are also informed by the terror induced by war on a previously unimaginable scale.



Above, from the Higgins Exhibition:
William Blake (1757-1827), *The Good and Evil Angels Struggling for Possession of a Child*, c. 1793, © The Higgins Bedford



The exhibition at Tate Britain focuses exclusively on the work of William Blake in the largest show of his work for a generation. The Tate suggests that Blake's work has never been more relevant, and explores his personal struggles in a period of political terror and oppression, his technical innovation, his vision and political commitment. Radical and rebellious, Blake is still an inspiration to visual artists, musicians, poets and performers worldwide.

These two exhibitions provide fascinating insights into how artists of the last three hundred years, most of them working in an age before psychoanalysis, have responded to the unexpected and often troubling workings of the unconscious human mind.

Left, from the Tate Britain Exhibition:
William Blake 'Europe' Plate i: Frontispiece, 'The Ancient of Days' 1827 (?)
© The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

'Dreams and Nightmares' runs at The Higgins Bedford from 12th October 2019 until 22nd March 2020. Entry Free.
Visit www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk for more information

'William Blake' is at Tate Britain until 2nd February 2020. Tickets £18. Visit www.tate.org.uk for more information