

Theatre fans re-routed to Carnegie Hall

THEATRE fans frustrated by the closure of the Lochgelly Centre for refurbishment will soon be smiling – plans are afoot to bus them to shows at the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline, for their theatre fix.

And they can step to it when two stars from *Strictly Come Dancing* visit the Carnegie Hall later this year.

Professional dancers Brian Fortuna and Kristina Rihanoff from the popular BBC show are just a couple of the big names to feature in the theatre's new Jan-May 2010 programme.

Renowned British singer Elkie Brooks, kooky comedienne Lucy Porter and top spirit medium Derek Acorah will also perform at the theatre.

Siberian siren Rihanoff made tabloid headlines after being photographed hand-in-hand with celebrity dancing partner Joe Calzaghe, the former undefeated world boxing champion. Fortuna meanwhile teamed up with Hollyoaks actress Ali Bastian to be crowned the *Strictly Come Dancing* Christmas Champion.

Verdi Clark, Lochgelly Centre's theatre manager who is currently based at Carnegie, told the *Times* the 13th May event will be the best way fans can learn from the best to improve their dance steps.

"There will be dancing, demonstrations and a question and answer session," she said.

"This is a real chance for people to learn from the professionals as there will be a chance for the audience to get involved."

Carnegie Hall continues its impressive folk programme featuring a series of one-off collaborations as part of the 'Tune Up' tour.

This includes Del Amitri's Justin Currie playing with a jazz 'big band' (13th March) while top Canadian act Le Vent du Nord, from Quebec, perform alongside Scottish quartet Breabach (2nd February).

Le Vent du Nord play traditional 'quebecois' music that saw their first and second albums crowned album of the year in both 2004 and 2005 at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Claire Watson, from the theatre, said, "It's a real feast for folk fans and we're bringing this music to a broader audience."

"A lot of 'Tune Up' is about bringing quite different artists together for a collaboration – for example, you wouldn't normally hear music from Quebec and Scotland on the same stage or Justin Currie playing with a big jazz band."

Other music highlights include an intimate set in the Tiffany Lounge from former Love and Money frontman James Grant (6th March) and smoky-voiced Salford songstress Elkie Brooks, of 'Pearl's A Singer' fame in her 50th anniversary tour (18th March).

Melodramatic spirit medium Derek Acorah will demonstrate his psychic abilities to West Fifers in what organisers say will be a "sell-out show" (16th April), while 32-year-old medium Nikki Mackay will also help members of the audience receive messages from the other side (4th February).

The Gilded Balloon Comedy Club returns to present a series of shows featuring the best of up-coming comic talent, while Mock the Week panellist Lucy Porter presents a solo show dedicated to gold, which will include live alchemy, Mr T gags and other observations on the yellow, shiny stuff (20th April).

For kids and adults, the Puppet Animation Festival (3-16th April) presents traditional entertainment for children of all ages via six performances.

The Lochgelly Centre will re-open in 2011 after "major upgrades". For more information on forthcoming events visit www.attfife.org.uk To book tickets call the box office on 01383 602302.

Best of Scottish music to be heard at the Brunton

Brunton Theatre's new season, which runs from January to March 2010, has a strong music programme celebrating the best of Scottish culture, and bringing together the cream of Scotland's musicians in new and exciting collaborations.

Folk fans can enjoy Scottish favourite Alastair McDonald who opens the music programme with Burns and Beyond at the Brunton (Monday 25 January): a special Burns night supper followed by a performance of stories and songs from Burns to Bothy Ballad, love song to music hall to mimicry. Inspiring, entertaining and enlightening.

Session A9, a band that was formed during a session on the famous A9 road, will bring together the cream of Scottish traditional musicians on Monday February 1. Regularly bumping into each other at various stops along the famous road to the Highlands, sessions began, albums were released and one of the most experienced and talented fiddle bands on the circuit began to appear live.

Session A9 are Charlie McKerron (Capercaillie), Adam Sutherland (Peatbog Fairies), Kevin Henderson (Fiddler's Bid), Gordon Gunn (a host of bands!), David 'Chimp' Robertson (Capercaillie), Marc Clement (Blazin' Fiddles) and Brian McAlpine (too many to mention!). Unbeatable boisterous jigs and reels, Balkan style dance tunes and strutting Strathspey's brimming with vivacity and flourish will make you feel part of the spirit of a Scottish session.

Battlefield Band make a welcome



BURNS NIGHT: Alastair McDonald — at the Brunton Theatre on Monday.

return to the Brunton Theatre on Monday March 1. Inspired by their rich heritage of Celtic music and fired by the strength and vibrancy of today's cultural music scene, Battlefield Band have led and been at the forefront of a great revival in Scottish music. Mixing the old songs with a new self-penned repertoire, all played on a mix of ancient and modern instruments, Battlefield Band have broken down barriers and pioneered new directions with others have followed.

Jazz lovers can see Rumba Caliente, one of the UK's leading salsa groups led by Salsa Celtica's Tobey Shippey and Lino Rocha. They bring their unique and original salsa-soul sound to Brunton Theatre in a special performance featuring guest trombonist Joe de Jesus from New York (Saturday January 30). Joe de Jesus, a trombonist and flautist who has been a member of the New York Latin scene's

most prestigious bands, has performed with Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Celia Cruz, David Byrne's Latin Band and many others.

Scottish virtuoso Brian Kellock, a master of almost every jazz piano style, who teamed up with saxophonist and composer Julian Arguelles to produce The Nine Mile Burns Sessions in 2008 to great critical acclaim, find the time at last to perform together (Thursday February 4). This collaboration provides both players ample scope for creative invention and interaction, and nowhere more so on a sparkling version of a Kellock classic, Lee Konitz's Thingin'.

Del Amitri singer-songwriter Justin Currie gets the blazing backing band of his dreams as he joins the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra's lead trumpeter Ryan Quigley and his exciting big band (Friday March 19). With a well-earned reputation for fiery musicianship, Quigley brings all the punch and dynamism of his acclaimed sextet to his orchestral arrangements and guarantees Currie a team of hot soloing talents, in a project that is supported by the National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council Tune Up Touring Music Programme.

The Tam White Jazz Band, one of Britain's finest blues singers, will perform the jazz and Dixieland favourites of his youth on Monday March 29 with a band of Scotland's finest jazzers to back him. Songs including "Who's Sorry Now" and "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone" will be given the Tam White magic

treatment, guaranteed to leave everyone's blues behind.

With funding from Scottish Arts Council, Brunton Theatre is continuing to build on its programme of classical music, which this season comes from The Primrose Piano Quartet and The Da Vinci Trio. The Primrose Piano Quartet (Friday January 29) will present a fascinating programme of classical favourites with an innovative twist including music by Brahms, Schumann (celebrating the bicentenary of his birth) and their latest Scottish commission of a set of Variations on a Burns Air. The Primrose Piano Quartet was formed in 2004 by pianist John Thwaites and includes Susanne Stanzeleit (violin), Robin Ireland (viola), and Andrew Fuller (cello).

John Thwaites returns with Tony Moffat (violin) and Robert Irvine (cello) to perform in The Da Vinci Trio (Friday February 26). As acclaimed for their performances of popular masterpieces as they are for expanding their repertoire through the commissioning of modern composers, The Da Vinci Trio will perform a selection of music from Beethoven, Brahms and Ravel.

Also performing this season is ex Love and Money frontman James Grant, widely regarded as one of the finest singer songwriters of his generation, who plays material from his critically acclaimed solo album and a selection of old favourites.

Tickets are on sale now from the Box Office on 0131 665 2240 or online at www.bruntontheatre.co.uk

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