



THE SHAKESPEARE NORTH
PLAYHOUSE

MERRY CHRISTMAS



DEAR FRIEND

We hope that you are well.

We are thrilled to let you know that construction of The Shakespeare North Playhouse has continued to progress well this year and in summer 2022 the much-anticipated venue will open its doors. The opening of the flagship theatre in Prescot is a major highlight of Knowsley's celebrations during its year as Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture.

Those living locally will have seen that the huge red crane has gone, and the building is now an established sight on our skyline. The building is watertight, glazing is almost complete, outside the performance garden is taking shape and internal decoration is well underway. Heritage timber specialists, McCurdy & Co., returned in November to complete the oak frame of the main auditorium.



Photo credit:
Steve Samosa
Photography

You can also see how the inside of the Playhouse will look with this exciting [virtual reality tour](#).



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Playhouse welcomes its first Chief Executive

We are delighted to announce that, in September, Melanie Lewis started with us as the first permanent Chief Executive. She has since been joined by team members Evonne Bixter (Head of Engagement), Kerry Bibby (Director of Finance), Siobhan Noble (Project Producer), and David Woodward (Head of Technical and Facilities).

Upon joining us, Melanie said:

“ I am extremely excited to be taking up this new role and feel really privileged to have the opportunity to be involved with such a ground-breaking project at a crucial time.

“Throughout my career I have been fortunate to work in iconic venues and on a wide array of projects and initiatives. Without doubt my passion lies with shaping and enriching the whole visitor experience – something I am keen to prioritise at The Playhouse.

I cannot wait to welcome our first visitors to the Playhouse in 2022 and continue to lead the team to deliver exciting theatre, comedy, special events, and learning programmes in the years to come

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JOBS AT THE SHAKESPEARE NORTH PLAYHOUSE

Recruitment will continue in the run up to opening and beyond, as we look to build the team to manage The Playhouse. All roles available will be advertised on our [website](#) and LinkedIn.

OPENING PROGRAMME AND NEW BRAND

2022 will be the year that sees The Shakespeare North Playhouse open to the public. Alongside high-profile Shakespearean drama, The Playhouse will provide something for the whole community to enjoy with a wide-ranging programme of performances and cultural activity that will appeal to a broad range of audiences. There will be lots of opportunities to explore the building and celebrate the opening of the theatre, including some fantastic performances. We can't wait to announce the opening programme next year.

Also next year we will be able to share our 'new look' brand and style which will all be in place well in time for opening.



UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY CURATORS

Over the past year, The Shakespeare North Playhouse Community Curators have continued their exciting work to research Prescott's heritage and to engage with visitors and future theatregoers. The team have developed their research into a huge timeline and pop-up exhibition to highlight Prescott's links to the history of theatre and Shakespeare himself. The Curators have also created bespoke beermats with fun facts for pubs and eateries in the town. This gained a lot of support from local businesses and led to two of the group's Town Criers, Mariangela and Diane, to be interviewed live on BBC Radio Lancashire about the project!

Building on their success, the Community Curators have been awarded National Lottery Heritage Funding to create a trail of artworks and experiences to share Prescott's unique heritage. The local community will be invited to take part in the creation of some of the artworks which, once complete, will be spread throughout The Shakespeare North Playhouse building for everyone to enjoy.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

A massive thank you to those who have supported us with a financial donation towards the construction of The Playhouse. We do still need to raise essential funding and we welcome your ongoing support and invite the support of new donors. By helping with a one off or a regular donation, you will play a crucial part in creating a facility that offers hope, joy and access for all. If you feel able to support this amazing project and join us on the journey to the first performance in 2022, you can do so using the [donate](#) button on our website.

CAN YOU HELP MAKE OUR YEAR?

To deliver Knowsley's amazing Borough of Culture programme, including the much-anticipated opening of The Shakespeare North Playhouse, we need an army of volunteers.

- Are you interested in the arts, music, the environment, sport, people, and places?
- Do you enjoy social events – being part of something?
Sharing an experience?
- Do you have skills you would like to share?

We are looking for a team of EVENT MAKERS; volunteers who will have a front seat to all the amazing things happening across Knowsley in 2022. No previous knowledge or experience is required, just enthusiasm and an interest in the culture and heritage of Knowsley!

Visit www.cultureknowsley.co.uk/volunteer/ for more information.

