

# PRESS RELEASE

## WILTON'S MUSIC HALL



4 JUNE 2015

- WILTON'S MUSIC HALL ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL ARTISTIC SEASON FOR THE NEWLY RESTORED BUILDING
- THE AUTUMN SEASON WILL OPEN WITH AN ADAPTATION OF *THE STING* WHICH WILL RUN FROM 9 SEPTEMBER TO 17 OCTOBER
- WILTON'S WILL PRESENT THEIR FIRST TRADITIONAL PANTO *DICK WHITTINGTON* IN DECEMBER 2015 AND MARK BRUCE COMPANY WILL RETURN TO WILTON'S TO PRESENT *THE ODYSSEY* IN FEBRUARY 2016
- FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF BUILDING WORKS, ALL REMAINING SPACES WILL FULLY REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN SEPTEMBER 2015

Wilton's Music Hall will fully reopen to the public after four years of building works from September 2015 after completing its much needed and vital Capital Project to secure the unique building. As part of the Capital Project, Wilton's has opened up 40% of the building which was not previously accessible. When all rooms are re-opened, Wilton's will present their inaugural artistic season and will feature a range of theatre, dance, opera as well as family events.

Frances Mayhew, Artistic Director of Wilton's Music Hall said: "Now that we need no longer fear for the very fabric of our building, we can finally turn our attention to presenting a long term artistic programme that befits Wilton's future. Our aim is to be a Music Hall for today's audience. We will be showcasing diversity in art form from theatre to dance to opera to classical music to puppetry to family shows with more popular performances sitting alongside more experimental works nurturing artists at the start of their careers. We want to bring artists and audiences from diverse disciplines and cultures together under this unique, creative and passionate roof, to produce a much fuller and richer programme across a more diverse range of disciplines. Now that Wilton's is finally saved these ambitions for this tremendous and historic building can become a reality."

### Autumn Season

*The Sting* will open the season for the newly restored Wilton's Music Hall and will run from 9 September to 17 October 2015. Based on the 1973 caper film of the same name, in which two outraged, small-time con men set out to outwit a powerful mob leader and, to the accompaniment of Scott Joplin's ragtime, the Big Con unfolds. *The Sting* will transport Wilton's back to the 1930s depression era and the audience will have the chance to explore the newly repaired building.

Over the weekend of 24 and 25 October, Wilton's will present *The Magic of the Music Hall Family Weekender*, a free weekend for people of all ages to come and learn about the history of music hall and the heritage of Wilton's. The John Wilton Room, formerly

known as The Library, will be officially reopened over the Family Weekender and will function as a dedicated history and heritage room from then on.

Following this, Box Tale Soup's  *Casting The Runes*  will play over half-term from 27 to 31 October. An adaption of M.R. James' classic thriller this hour-long production will feature just two performers, one hand-made puppet and a haunting soundtrack of original music. In addition to  *Casting The Runes* , there will be family activities running during the day in all Wilton's rooms.

The opera of the season will be  *l'Ospedale*  which will run from 10 to 21 November. Directed by James Hurley, Conducted by James Halliday and Designed by Rachel Szmukler, this exciting new operatic discovery will be the first fully staged production by Solomon's Knot baroque collective. Based on the work of seventeenth-century poet Antonio Abati, and set to music to an unknown composer,  *l'Ospedale*  is a satire on patients, doctors and medical practices.

Wilton's will present its long-awaited and first-ever panto this winter with  *Dick Whittington*  directed by Debbie Filtcroft and written by and starring Roy Hudd. Running from 1 to 31 December, Roy Hudd's rip-roaring script will combine London and international travel themes that chime with Wilton's own heritage.

2016 will see the return of  *Wilton's Strike! Dance Festival*  from 8 to 14 February which showcases new and emerging dance artists. Presenting a selection of original concepts, the applications for participants will open in August 2015. The award-winning Mark Bruce Company will return to Wilton's in February 2016 and following their success with  *Dracula*  with a retelling of Homer's epic poem  *The Odyssey* . This is an extraordinary new dance theatre production in which beauty, humanity, contemporary horror and fantasy splinter from ancient myth.

### Capital Project

The Capital Project to repair Wilton's started in 2011 (Phase 1) with the repair of the main auditorium space. Wilton's is now approaching the end of the final phase (Phase 2) of works. Currently repaired and open to the public are: the main auditorium, new Aldgate and Allhallows Learning and Participation Studio, prop making workshop, The Champagne Charlie Room, The Study, The John Wilton Room (currently a temporary bar) and staff offices. By September 2015, repair work will also have finished on four accessible dressing rooms, a kitchen with pizza making facilities, lift and disabled access to all floors, The Mahogany Bar, store rooms and cellars. As a result of this, when the building is fully reopened in September 2015 Wilton's will have many new spaces which will help the Music Hall realise its potential as a creative, hub, community resource and landmark heritage site.

### Learning & Participation

From September 2015, Wilton's learning and participation programme will sit alongside artistic and heritage events. This programme will include a range of imaginative activities which will include bespoke workshops, participation projects for schools and community groups and free family activities. The previously reopened Aldgate and Allhallows Learning and Participation Studio which is a new space for community and artistic activities, will sit alongside The John Wilton Room, a free public space which will include archaeology exhibitions and access to the Wilton's archives. The full programme of learning and participation events will be announced in due course.

ENDS

For further information on Wilton's Music Hall please contact  
Hannah Clapham or Sara Sherwood at The Corner Shop PR:  
[hannahc@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:hannahc@thecornershoppr.com) / [sara@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:sara@thecornershoppr.com) / 0207 831 7657

Further information on Wilton's can be found here: [www.wiltons.org.uk](http://www.wiltons.org.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **CAPITAL PROJECT**

The total Capital Project cost for Phase 1 and 2 was just under £4 million and was made possible by significant support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, SITA Trust, Viridor Credits, The Loveday Charitable Trust, The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Garfield Weston Foundation, Aldgate and Allhallows, The City Bridge Trust, The Foyle Foundation and numerous other Trusts and Foundation and individuals to which Wilton's are hugely grateful.

The new artistic season has been made possible by Garfield Weston Foundation, John Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, CHK Charities, Trinity Buoy Wharf, Canary Wharf Group and other generous trusts and donors particularly through the first Gala Fundraising Dinner which raised £30,000 towards this new season.

### **LEARNING & PARTICIPATION**

The heritage programme is largely supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Backstage Trust and the arts programme has recently been supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber foundation who have given a grant of £15,000 every year for three years. This grant will be used to develop a youth theatre, special performances and workshops for schools and partnerships with other organisations.

## **LISTINGS**

### **THE STING**

**A full length play by David Rogers**

**Based upon the screenplay "The Sting" by David Ward**

Press Night: Monday 14th September at 7pm

Dates: 9th September - 17th October 2015

Times: 7:30pm Tuesdays to Saturdays (press night will be at 7pm on a Monday)

Prices: Previews (9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Sept): £32.50 for seats at tables, £25 standard seating, £20 restricted view.

Main Run: £35 for seats at tables, £27.50 standard seating, £22.50 restricted view

Ticket Info: Priority booking for Friends & Patrons opens on 1st June.

Public booking opens 8th June.

### **THE MAGIC OF MUSIC HALL FAMILY WEEKENDER**

Dates: 24th and 25th October 2015

Times: All Day (exact timings tbc)

Prices: Free

Ticket Info: All activities will be unticketed, drop in only

This event has been made possible by the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### **CASTING THE RUNES**

**Adapted from the novel by M.R James**

**Directed by Robert Soulsby-Smith**

**Created and performed by Box Tale Soup**

Press Night: Wednesday 28th October at 8pm

Dates: 27th October to 31st October (Half Term)

Times: 8pm - 9pm

Prices: £12.50 full price, £6 under 18s

Ticket Info: Age guidance 12+

Priority booking for Friends & Patrons opens on 1st June.  
Public booking opens 8th June.

### L'OSPEDALE

Text by Antonio Abati

Director: James Hurley

Conductor: James Halliday

Designer: Rachel Szmukler

Performed by Solomon's Knot baroque collective

Press night: Wednesday 11th November at 7pm or 9pm  
Dates: 10th - 21st November 2015  
Times: 7pm and 9pm on double bill evenings (75mins), Tuesday - Saturday  
Tuesday 10th November 7pm  
Wednesday 11th November 7pm and 9pm  
Thursday 12th November 7pm  
Friday 13th November 7pm and 9pm  
Saturday 14th November 7pm  
Tuesday 17th November 7pm and 9pm  
Wednesday 18th November 7pm  
Thursday 19th November 7pm and 9pm  
Friday 20th November 7pm  
Saturday 21st November 7pm and 9pm  
Prices: £15 - £25  
Ticket Info: Priority booking for Friends & Patrons opens on 1st June.  
Public booking opens 8th June.

The work has been supported by Wilton's Music Hall, Aldeburgh Music Open Space, Arts Council England, Trinity Buoy Wharf and others.

### DICK WHITTINGTON

Written by Roy Hudd

Directed by Debbie Flitcroft

Dates: 1st - 31st December 2015  
Press Night: Will be announced in due course  
Times: 7pm Tuesday - Saturday (excluding 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December) with 2pm matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays  
Prices: Previews: £25 for stalls, £20 for benches, £10 for all children under 16 and OAPs for matinee performances  
Main Run: £30 for stalls, £25 for benches, £15 for all children under 16 and OAPs for matinee performances  
Ticket Info: Priority booking for Friends & Patrons opens on 1st June.  
Public booking opens 8th June.

### WILTON'S STRIKE! DANCE FESTIVAL

Dates: 8th - 14th February 2016  
Times: Will be announced in due course  
Prices: Free

### THE ODYSSEY

A co-production with the Mark Bruce Company  
Producer Nick Sweeting

Date: 22nd Feb - 19th March 2016  
Times: Will be announced in due course  
Prices: Will be announced in due course