



Opening date for redeveloped Bristol Old Vic announced:

Welcome home!

New era begins – 8am, Monday 24 September

Save the Date!

On Monday 24 September at 8am, Bristol Old Vic will fling open its brand new doors, inviting the city to be part of a new era for the world-famous theatre. After a two-year, multi-million pound redevelopment project, the theatre has finally knocked down the walls that have separated it from the city for over 250 years, creating a welcoming, open and fully accessible space where everyone can feel at home. 2018 was heralded as a Year of Change and this autumn, not only does the programme reflect this theme, but the building itself is leading the way.

A theatre for everyone in Bristol

When the theatre was first built it was a space where people from every walk of life would congregate to be inspired and entertained. Over 250 years, as fashions changed and the theatre became increasingly hidden from the street, Bristol Old Vic has sometimes seemed only to belong to the privileged few.

With this refurbishment, the theatre is renewing its contract to welcome all Bristolians to its unique atmosphere and the company of extraordinary artists who make work here. The theatre is proud to be a place which stretches beyond its walls to engage with young people from every city postcode, but now this building and programme of work can also bring that promise to fruition, here in the heart of Bristol.

Two New Studio Theatres - presenting the theatre and the Artists of tomorrow

Today's announcement also includes the newly-built and newly-christened **Weston Studio** theatre, a magical, flexible space situated in the old barrel cellars beneath Coopers' Hall. The Weston Studio has been sponsored by the Garfield Weston Foundation and will open on 5 Oct with a programme that wriggles with invention. It sets out its stall as a home to innovation and the theatre-makers of tomorrow, and will also engage, educate and entertain children from every part of the city. To celebrate this new beginning, there will be an opening weekend festival (5–7 Oct) showcasing the developmental work of Bristol Ferment, Bristol Old Vic Young Company, the pioneering Bristol Old Vic Literary department, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School alongside inspirational work for the audiences and artists of the future – your children.

Directly above Coopers' Hall is the Coopers' Loft Studio at the very top of the building, which has been transformed into another fully-accessible, intimate and flexible space for both performance and events hire.

Full details of The Weston Studio's programme can be found in the new, SPECIAL EDITION brochure:

(<https://bristololdvic.org.uk/index.php/actions/supercoolTools/downloadFile?id=13077>)

1766 Bar & Kitchen

There will also be a fabulous food and drink offer daily from 8am–11pm from the newly-named **1766 Bar & Kitchen** which will fire up its coffee machine and begin trading at 8am on 24 Sep.

1766 Bar & Kitchen will be open all hours for breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks, in an atmosphere inspired by the theatre itself.

Another Accolade for Britain's foremost Theatre Architects

Since 2015, Bristol Old Vic has been working with the award-winning architects Haworth Tompkins to create a bright, welcoming and fully accessible foyer, showcasing the newly uncovered 252 year-old Theatre wall and complete with 'Juliet' balconies. Even before opening the front doors, their work here has already been awarded *BD's Public Building Architect of the Year 2018*.

We can also exclusively reveal some architectural gems awaiting visitors this autumn. The six shutters that will form the front design of the new building are created from weathered steel, inscribed with the words from two artists who performed on the stage at Bristol Old Vic exactly 250 years apart: the opening prologue spoken by David Garrick at the Theatre's opening night on 30 May 1766, and Bristol poet Miles Chambers' *Bristol! Bristol!* which he performed on stage on 30 May 2016, marking the Theatre's 250th birthday.

Latest images of the magnificent Coopers' Hall, now restored to its former glory were also revealed today – complete with oak floors, the famous Georgian windows newly refurbished, and the high ceilings freshly painted. This historic space is available to hire from 1 Oct and will be catered by Bristol Old Vic's event partners Fosters. There is no finer space in Bristol for a wedding, a spectacular celebration or a unique event for your business.

A brand new Heritage destination for Bristol's tourists and residents

In November, Bristol Old Vic's new year-round Heritage offer begins, opening up the theatre's unique history to the public for the very first time through exhibitions, workshops, interactive experiences and character-led tours. Generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, we shine a light on the amazing stories of a theatre that has been entertaining Bristol for over 250 years. The Heritage experience will be open to the public from **Friday 9 November**, kicking off with a weekend of taster sessions and events. More information will follow in the autumn when we will unveil the full range of new heritage activities to celebrate the oldest working theatre in the English speaking world.

-ends-

-date of issue 5 Jun 2018-

Schedule of Events/Press Nights:

Tue 12 Jun, 8pm	Three Sisters	Tobacco Factory Theatres PRESS NIGHT
Thu 28 Jun, 7pm	The Elephant Man	PRESS NIGHT
Tue 10 Jul, 7.30pm	Birdsong	PRESS NIGHT (local)
Thur 19 Jul, 7.30pm	Made In Bristol production	1532 Performing Arts Centre PRESS NIGHT
Tue 24 Jul, 4pm	Chocolate Cake	PRESS NIGHT (local)
Thur 2 Aug, 7.30pm	Make More Noise (Young Company)	PRESS NIGHT (local)
Sat 15 – Sun 16 Sep	Bristol Doors Open Weekend	Take a peek behind the curtains for an exclusive preview of the redevelopment work on a specially curated tour
Tue 18 Sep, 7pm	Touching the Void	PRESS NIGHT
Mon 24 Sep, 8am	Front Doors OPEN	Be the first through the doors for your morning coffee and take in the view!
Mon 1 Oct	Coopers' Hall opens for events	
Fri 5 – Sun 7 Oct	The Weston Studio launches	Stay tuned for news of our opening festival
Thu 11 Oct, 7.30pm	The Meaning of Zong	(Workshop performance)
Tue 16 Oct, 7pm	Hollering Woman Creek	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Tue 16 Oct, 9pm	A Little Death	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Thur 18 Oct, 7.30pm	Twelfth Night	PRESS NIGHT
Thur 25 Oct, 8pm	A Spark and a Beating Heart	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Tue 30 Oct, 4.30pm	Sleepyhead	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Wed 31 Oct, 8pm	Giants of Science	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Wed 31 Oct, from 8pm	The Spooky Ship	SS Great Britain (local)
Fri 9 – Sun 11 Nov	Heritage offer launches	Dive into the history of Bristol Old Vic
Wed 21 Nov, 8pm	The Mountaintop	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)
Wed 5 Dec, 4pm	Chloe and the Colour Catcher	WESTON PRESS NIGHT
Wed 5 Dec, 7pm	A Christmas Carol	PRESS NIGHT
Wed 12 Dec, 2.30pm	Igloo	COOPERS' LOFT STUDIO PRESS NIGHT
Fri 14 Dec, 8pm	Living Spit's Nativity	WESTON PRESS NIGHT (local)

To book press tickets, please contact press@bristololdvic.org.uk.

Images available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5hymtynueow2tgi/AABxjffTD19e1xpwoPh1xlETa?dl=0>

Listings information:

Bristol Old Vic

King Street, Bristol, BS1 4ED

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