

NEW SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT – SPRING 2026

Omnibus Theatre is delighted to announce their new programme for Spring 2026.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- The return of **Engine Room: Next Page**. A new cohort of writers will join us to present brand new pieces of work for the first time. 2 – 11 JAN
- **Chronic Insanity** return to us with a brand-new show from Doug Deans, **Mother.Dad** 13 – 31 JAN
- Filmmaker and artist **Lisa Gornick** returns to us for a week-long residency bringing us five shows, both new and old, all exploring identity, relationships, queerness and figuring out our place in the world. 11 – 14 MAR
- Our monthly recurring shows return, plus we've got a brand new one for fans of improv!

Tickets for the new season are on sale now

www.theatreworkout.com/theatre-tickets | 020 8144 2290

Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common Northside, SW4 0QW

Commenting on the new season, our Artistic Director **Marie McCarthy** said:

*"We're delighted to be kicking off 2026 with the return of **Engine Room: Next Page**, a series of rehearsed readings where writers can risk, experiment, discover and inform their next draft.*

*Following this, we welcome back **Chronic Insanity** who return to us with **Doug Deans'** new show **Mother.Dad**. Doug is currently under commission with the Almeida and we're delighted to welcome him back to with his latest play exploring parenthood.*

*We continue our commitment to host international work with new writing from **Gaia House Productions** featuring South Korean stories, and **FREYA PRODUCTION & QUOKKA FILMS** who bring us a hauntingly beautiful new experimental musical theatre piece, **The Sound of Absence**; Russian director Ivanka Polchenko brought us **Vanya is Alive** in Spring 2025 as part of our International Season.*

*Audiences can also look forward to a week of cross-art form experimental work from renowned artist and filmmaker **Lisa Gornick** with a collection of work fusing performance, live drawing and cinema.*

*And of course we have our regular monthly shows, **So This Is What Happened**, **Fridaze** and **Lost the Plot**, plus a brand-new show from **The Pretend Company** – a diverse mix of comedy, music, storytelling and improv. As always, our regular Sunday jazz musicians provide the soundtrack for Spring in our café/bar.*

We can't wait to see you in 2026 to celebrate this rich mix of work; thank you as always for your support."

LISTINGS INFORMATION**ENGINE ROOM: NEXT PAGE****PRESENTED BY OMNIBUS THEATRE, 2 – 11 JAN**

Engine Room: Next Page is a season of rehearsed readings, staged for a public audience, allowing writers to share their work and receive crucial feedback to help the development of their work.

The full line-up is announced at the end of November.

MOTHER.DAD

**PRESENTED BY CHRONIC INSANITY, 13 – 31 JAN, 7:30PM (TUES – SAT) 4PM (SUN) / £22
STANDARD / £20 CONCESSION / £12 PREVIEWS**

2 people.
A Mum to someone.
A Dad to someone else.
Both new to it.
Both learning as they go.
He's loving it.
She's...managing.
2 stories.
Hers, 17 years.
His, 1 afternoon.
Just keep going.
Tell yourself you're doing the best you can. That's all they need.
Right?

A woman stands in a pub doorway, checking ID's, waiting for a call from her daughter. A man sits at the kitchen table with his children, waiting for his wife to come home. Their lives couldn't be more different. But if they could see each other, what would they make of it?

Multi-award-winning theatre company Chronic Insanity, the team behind the critically acclaimed fringe hit 24, 23, 22, return to Omnibus Theatre in January 2026 with a potent and provocative new play. Written by Doug Deans and directed by Kathleen O'Dougherty, Mother.Dad is a raw, dramatic, and sometimes humorous look at love, parenthood, class, and the sheer madness of raising a family in the 21st century.

THE SOUND OF ABSENCE

**PRESENTED BY FREYA PRODUCTION & QUOKKA FILMS, 24 – 28 FEB, 7:30PM (TUES – SAT),
2:30PM (SAT) / £222 STANDARD / £20 CONCESSION / £12 PREVIEW**

When Lenore's father passes away, she is overcome with memories and rage forcing her to confront her identity and belonging. In order to rebuild herself, Lenore embarks on a solitary journey through time accompanied by poetry and a mysterious doppelganger-pianist.

A hauntingly beautiful new experimental musical theatre piece, The Sound of Absence explores the intricate bond between father and daughter — and the unspoken reasons behind the choices our parents make.

Blending live piano, spoken word, and movement, this immersive performance transforms the stage into a landscape of sound and emotion. Music and narrative become inseparable: a single story told through two voices — one spoken, one played.

Minimalist yet emotionally charged production invites the audience into a deeply personal space where love, loss, and reconciliation unfold in real time.

THE COMFORT WOMAN

PRESENTED BY GAIA HOUSE PRODUCTIONS, 1 – 7 MAR, 7:30PM / £18 STANDARD / £18 CONCESSION

In South Korea, young Minja lives a sheltered life in her remote village, unaware of the ongoing war. But her innocence is shattered when she is deceived and kidnapped by the Japanese Army during World War II, forced into unimaginable servitude. The Comfort Woman tells Minja's story, depicting the harrowing events inflicted upon her, and her fierce will to survive.

The Comfort Woman is a powerful and heart-wrenching portrayal of one woman's resilience in the face of unimaginable suffering, shedding light on a dark chapter of history that demands remembrance and recognition.

A tribute to the countless women who endured similar fates during one of history's darkest periods and a testament to the resilient human spirit.

THE MIGHTY GODDESS – STORIES, SPELLS, SONGS

PRESENTED BY SALLY POMME CLAYTON, 8 MAR, 7:30PM / £22 STANDARD / £20 CONCESSION

Celebrate International Women's Day with 'The Mighty Goddess'. Bewitching storyteller Sally Pomme Clayton evokes sly, subversive, spectacular goddesses from across the globe.

She entwines myth with memory, comedy with ceremony, spells with song. This hilarious, mysterious and powerful stories are X-rated and for adults only! Meet: Vesta, fiery virgin; Cybele, mother goddess who fathered a child; Ishtar, Goddess of Love and War who journeys to the Land of the Dead to bring her lover back. Follow the goddess from creator to crone, from lust to destruction. Enter the pine forest, be renewed and everyone gets a message from the goddess's oracle to take home!

The stories are drawn from Pomme's latest book 'The Mighty Goddess – World Myths' (The History Press 2023). The book combines myth with art, 52 goddess myths are illustrated with fabulous papercuts by artist Sophie Herxheimer. The book is coming out in paperback in Spring 2026 and this performance celebrates the new edition!

THE COLLECTIVE LIVE DRAWING SHOWS OF LISA GORNICK

PRESENTED BY LISA GORNICK, 11 – 14 MAR, 7:45PM (WEDS – SAT) 2:30PM (SAT) / £18 STANDARD / £16 CONCESSION

Lisa Gornick returns to Omnibus Theatre with 5 unique live drawing shows. From original new works to classics reimagined; blending theatre, live drawing and cinema this week-long residency from returning artist Lisa Gornick explores identity, relationships, queerness, and figuring out our place in the world.

Head to the website for the full line-up

SLIPPERY

PRESENTED BY SALT LICK PRODUCTIONS, 17 MAR – 11 APR, 7:30PM (TUES – SAT), 2:30PM (SAT), 4:30PM (SUN) / £22 STANDARD / £20 CONCESSION / £12 PREVIEW

"Gave it to me when he died. Thought it was a bit odd. 'F**k flowers. Have an espresso machine"

2AM. A London flat. Jude and Kyle return from A&E. One has slipped, but they're both falling. A decade after their messy breakup, old wounds reopen as their tender reunion unravels into something more dangerous.

Winner of Soho Theatre's Tony Craze Award, Slippery is a hilarious and heartfelt new play about ghosts, sex, and spaghetti from 'rising-star playwright' (Time Out) Louis Emmitt-Stern (I F**ked You in My Spaceship, Soho Theatre), directed by Off-West End Award winner Matthew Iliffe (Bacon, FOAM).

PRETEND NIGHT

PRESENTED BY THE PRETEND COMPANY, 16 JAN | 20 FEB | 20 MAR, 8PM / £12

Beautiful | Hilarious | Spontaneous

Each month The Pretend Company bring together three of the funniest, most theatrical improvised shows in the UK for a night of unscripted theatre.

With no scripts, and no pre-planning, the actors will create scenes and shows based on what you – the audience – want to see!

The Pretend Company are a London-based theatre company specialising in unscripted and improvised work.

Their team of international improvisers have wowed audiences all over the world, starred in Olivier Award winning shows, and are committed to bringing the best of the world's improv to London stages.

Omnibus Theatre is a multi-award-winning independent theatre in Clapham, South London. Finalist in the Fringe Theatre of the Year 2020 and 2023 The Stage Awards, Off-West End Award winner 2018 and 2020, and recipient of the Peter Brook/Royal Court Theatre Support Award in 2016. The heart of the organisation's ambitious programme lies in classics re-imagined, modern revivals and new writing.

Omnibus Theatre also provides a platform for LGBTQ+ work and aims to give voice to the underrepresented and challenge perceptions. Since opening in 2013 notable in-house productions include Woyzeck (2013), Macbeth (2014), Colour (2015), Mule (2016), Spring Offensive (2017), Zeraffa Giraffa (2017), Queens of Sheba (2019), The Little Prince (2019), RICE! (2021), The Human Connection (2021), The Girl Who Was Very Good At Lying (2021), FIJI (2022), SAD (2022) and DRUM (2022), COMPOSITOR E (2023), ICE AT THE END OF THE WORLD (2024)

Omnibus Theatre is led by Artistic Director Marie McCarthy and Executive Director Bridget Kalloushi. Patrons include His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT GCVO, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Lord Michael Cashman, Paulette Randall MBE and Rikki Beadle- Blair MBE.

@OmnibusTheatre

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