

—
**WHERE
CULTURE
LIVES**
—

**SO
YO**
LEEDS



SOYO
CORRESPONDENT
AUTUMN | 2017

SOYO

WELCOME TO SOYO: AN EXCITING NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT PROVIDES A HOME AND HEART FOR LEEDS' CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL SCENE.



SOYO will be one of the very best places to live, work and love life in Leeds. It's not just another neighbourhood, it's a fusion of creative minds, luxury living, modern dining and unrivalled public space.

There's something big happening right on your doorstep. For the first time ever, the neighbours that surround the old Quarry Hill site - sometimes known as the 'cultural quarter' - are joining forces to establish one of the very best places to live, work, enjoy and be entertained in Leeds.

All this is happening alongside Caddick Development's plans to build new spaces - from luxury modern living to new bars and restaurants, as well as some of the biggest public green spaces inside the city centre. With the first new development, Moda Living, starting on site in spring 2018.

For those who live and breathe creativity, SOYO Leeds will capture the very essence of what it is to be part of our unique and cultural city.

"Inclusivity and connectivity are at the heart of what we do, this is a real focus for SOYO, especially since there's such a demand for green space in the city centre. This series of linked multi-use public areas will be the backdrop for a constant stream of activity."

Sarah Friskney
Senior Development Surveyor, Caddick Developments





SO

“Leeds is one of the most forward thinking, culturally enriched cities in the UK, but there’s still work to be done. The vision is for SOYO to be the heart of creative activity in the city, and we’re working with the best possible partners to ensure this happens.”

Myles Hartley
Managing Director, Caddick Developments

SOYO is much more than the sum of its parts. The neighbourhood has its roots set deep into Leeds’ cultural veins and has long been established as the home for the region’s diverse entertainment scene. SOYO will merge with this existing cultural hub and amplify its status within the city.

The aesthetic is inspired by the world’s most desirable city living locations, where everybody is accepted, and laid-back attitudes are encouraged - a place where tech savvy entrepreneurs rub elbows with well-read bohemian creatives.



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Want to be included in
our next newspaper?
To contribute contact Lydia -
Lydia.Eustace@caddickgroup.co.uk
-



YOU

¡VIVA LA REVOLUCION!

MODA LIVING FOR THE FUTURE



YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED, BUT THE UK IS UNDERGOING A RENTAL REVOLUTION. UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY, THOUSANDS OF NEW HOMES DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR RENT ARE BEING BUILT, AND MODA IS LEADING THE WAY.

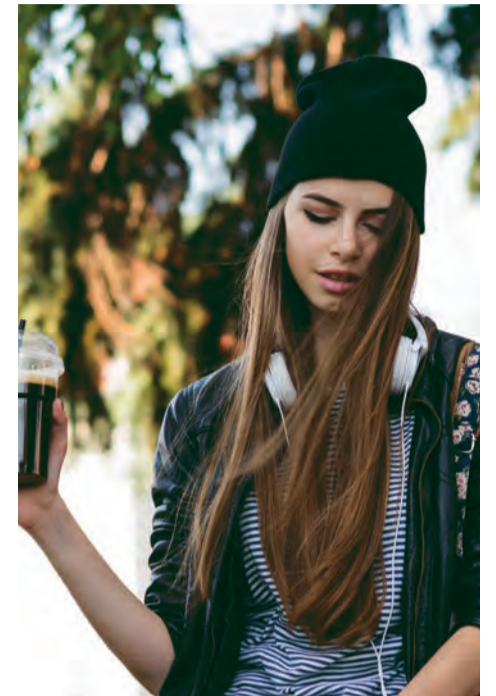
Inspired by what's available in North America and the rest of the world, Moda is on a mission to create a completely new way to live, focused around the wants and needs of renters today. With eight developments already in the pipeline, totalling over 6,000 apartments, Moda is fast becoming the UK's premier rental brand.

The first project breaking ground on Caddick's five acre development, currently the Quarry Hill car park, will be Moda Living. Once finished it will offer 515 rental pads right in the heart of Leeds. And like all other Moda developments, this site will boast a range of on-site shared spaces to rival anywhere you've ever lived before.

Freelancers and creatives will be able to set up shop in the co-working areas, while the more leisurely can enjoy time in one of the residents' lounges, roof terraces, or a quick workout in the fitness suite. For animal-lovers, there'll even be a pet cafe.

Moda makes every effort to ensure that you don't have to make any at all. Concierges will take care of your online shopping, while dedicated maintenance and cleaning teams see to the rest. Even for the most organised among us, life can get pretty uncontrollable. But Moda insists you take back control, from the ease of your phone with the MyModa App. Forgot to turn your lights off? Need to pop the heating on? You can manage it all at the tap of a button.

"Moda SOYO will boast a range of on-site shared spaces to rival anywhere you've ever lived before."



Thanks to an innovative partnership with Uber - the first of its kind in the UK - Moda residents will also be able to grab a ride through the MyModa app that links directly to Uber and offers Uber credits to anyone who doesn't take a parking space, helping save money and the planet. So, while city leaders are scratching their heads trying to figure out how to reduce city centre emissions, Moda will be car-free and care free.

Moda's development in SOYO will be Leeds' biggest city centre housing project in over a decade, and raise the bar for service and quality in the rental market. A mix of studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments will be home to the city's growing army of professionals, as well as a new public square for all of Leeds to enjoy.

¡Viva la revolucion!

MODA'S FIRST SITE TO BE COMPLETED WILL BE MANCHESTER'S ANGEL GARDENS, WITH PHASE ONE DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 2019. MODA SOYO IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 2021.

MODALIVING.CO.UK



WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE.

A GUIDE TO
UP AND COMING
SHOWS THIS
AUTUMN/WINTER:
THE HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT'S ON?

"Barber Shop Chronicles July 2017
A West Yorkshire Playhouse,
National Theatre and Fuel co-production
Photo Marc Brenner"



THE TIN DRUM

Quarry Theatre | 17th to 28th
October 2017

On Oskar's third birthday, he rails against the adult world and decides to remain a child forever. Armed with a heart full of rage, a singing voice that shatters glass, and a seemingly indestructible tin drum, Oskar sets about to reveal the world for what it truly is. However, the world has other plans for this hero... The tide is turning, people are taking sides, and the shadow of the Black Witch draws ever closer. Hailed as one of the greatest novels ever written, Günter Grass' surreal post-war masterpiece has never been more prescient.

Kneehigh will retell this extraordinary story of love, war and fizz powder as startling musical satire: part Baroque opera, part psychedelic white-out, part epic poem. A burlesque, a blitzkrieg, a tidal wave about to break. From the team that brought you the internationally acclaimed *Dead Dog in a Suitcase* (and other love songs), *The Tin Drum* is a folktale for troubled times: one political, profane and profound.

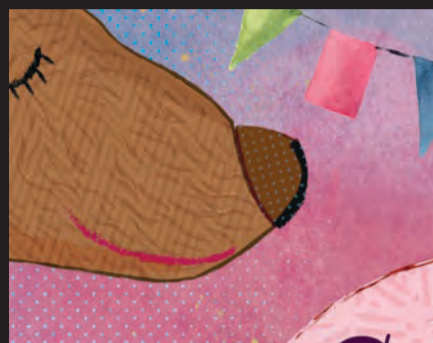


(THE FALL OF) THE MASTER BUILDER

Courtyard Theatre | 30th September
to 21st October 2017

Halvard Solness has arrived at the pinnacle of his career. He has just been awarded the prestigious Master Builder award, his beautiful wife still loves him, his beautiful secretary still flirts with him and Prince Charles is coming to open his new building tomorrow. Then a knock at the door propels Solness' past into everyone's future. The only way is down.

(the fall of) *The Master Builder* is a reimagining of Henrik Ibsen's classic drama for 2017. Playhouse's Artistic Director James Brining (*The Crucible*, *Into the Woods*, *West Yorkshire Playhouse*) directs Associate Artist Reece Dinsdale in the title role. Written by Zinnie Harris, this timely world premiere tells of a once great man whose past transgressions and abuse of power threaten to catch up with him.



CRUMBLE'S SEARCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Courtyard Theatre | 25th November
to 30th December 2017

When winter comes it's time for Crumble to hibernate. At least that's what Crumble's always been told. Until one year awaking early, the temptation to go and see what's out there... is too much to resist. And so, leaving the family burrow behind, Crumble begins the adventure of a lifetime.

Will there be a way home before the great freeze? Or will Crumble have to stay with new found friends? And why has no one ever said anything about snow?

From the writer of *The Night Before Christmas*, this magical story of secret burrows and blustering blizzards, is perfect for 2-6 year olds, and their grown-ups. Created and Directed by Robert Alan Evans.



THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE

Quarry Theatre | 29th November
2017 to 21st January 2018

Wave goodbye to wartime Britain and say hello to a talking faun, an unforgettable lion and the coldest, cruellest wicked white witch... Join Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter for the most mystical of adventures to Narnia - a faraway land where it's always winter, but never Christmas.

Transforming the Quarry into a theatre in the round for the first time, with design by the award-winning Rae Smith, this enchanting story based on C.S. Lewis's unforgettable book tells of four war time evacuees who discover an icy kingdom through a magical wardrobe. *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* is produced in association with Elliott & Harper Productions and Catherine Schreiber, this spellbinding new production is directed by Olivier award nominee Sally Cookson.

WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE

FOR FULL SHOW LISTINGS,
PLEASE VISIT WYP.ORG.UK

TWO MOUTHS

ARE BETTER THAN ONE



WE CAUGHT UP WITH BBC RADIO LEEDS' VERY OWN FUNNY MEN LARRY BUDD AND PAUL DUNPHY TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MICS ARE SWITCHED OFF...

SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED TOGETHER?

P: We started officially working together in 2010 but we knew each other before that.

L: We did a Podcast. Paul was doing sales and I was doing news, we met and started to do podcasts about films.

P: I really wanted to be on air and I thought the best way to do that would be to be in the office and just do any job. We moved in the summer of 2012 to the BBC and we've been here ever since. They sort of just gave us this show and told us to make it good. Now it's completely our bag.

WHAT WAS THE SHOW LIKE WHEN YOU STARTED?

L: We've changed it considerably. When we took over, it was a 'Music and Memories' show - as in 'what do you remember when you hear this song by Cliff Richard?' or 'tell us something that happened in 1963'. The guy on before us was a really lovely bloke called Steve White - he's a huge fan of us, we hear.

P: We kind of said this is what we wanted to do and we gradually changed it to push boundaries a little more.

L: We try to subvert the genre - we are trying to turn what BBC local radio does on its head but that only works because BBC local radio does what it does. If everybody did what we did, it wouldn't be funny.

P: And we're hilarious.

...SO I'VE HEARD, DON'T YOU GUYS WORK ON A COMEDY SHOW TOGETHER?

P: It's called the Not So Late Show - we do it once a month at the Wardrobe - usually on the last Tuesday of every month. Basically it's Leeds' finest alternative comedy chat show... but of course it's also Leeds' only alternative comedy chat show. It's just an excuse for us to come up with some really silly characters. The show is by two guys, called Ross Brierley and Josh Sadler, comedy heroes and we play characters in their show.

L: I've played Freddie Mercury a few times. We've invented a couple of pro-Trump Deep South American folk singers called Johnson and Barraclough. We've played Daft Punk together, all sorts!

WHAT DO YOU GUYS DO SEPARATELY?

P: I'm an actor and a funk and soul DJ. I always thought that radio was a good way of getting into acting but the truth is that they complement one another. I've been in a few dramas, one called The Syndicate which was filmed around Leeds. I've also worked on a couple of adverts - the Ant and Dec one for Suzuki was probably the biggest, and a lot of fun.

L: I mainly produce news stories for BBC Radio Leeds. The best thing about the rest of my job is being trained on loads of stuff I get to use to do really silly things for Larry and Paul - the prime of that being the stupid videos we post on our Facebook channel. That's pretty fun.

WHAT SORT OF PREP GOES INTO THE SATURDAY SHOW?

L: There's a lot of arranging to do for our guests. A lot of writing, a lot of audio editing, a lot of blood most weekends.

P: We do the West Yorkshire Theme Song Ding Dong where I have to go into a studio and multi-track our voices, so it's quite a big production job. There's a lot more prep than people think but that's kind of what we like about it, it's surprising to listeners and we want people to think we're winging it.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT QUARRY HILL?

L: This area was called the cultural quarter before it was actually the cultural quarter! Now it's much more cultural and things seem to be not only in position, but thriving as well.

P: And expanding in some cases. The LCoM venue is expanding onto the top of the BBC building. I always thought their new library might become a bar, because it would make a cracking place for a drink

L: There are more restaurants around here, which appear to be sticking around too. Kendells have always been great but now there's Estabulo and Ipsum. The area could do with a couple more bars and a few cafes to turn it into a destination. Punters like choice and need reasons to stay.

Catch the Larry and Paul show every Saturday between 12pm and 2pm on BBC Radio Leeds, or see the boys after hours at the Not So Late Show, next on at The Wardrobe on the last Tuesday of the month.



THE GALLERY AT 164 WAS BORN WITH A VISION TO SHOWCASE AN ECLECTIC MIX OF STYLES AND MEDIA FROM BOTH ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING TALENTS. THEIR LATEST EXHIBITION IS NO EXCEPTION.

POM TO THE PEOPLE



POM TO THE PEOPLE

**THE MASTERMIND TEAM
HAVE PARTNERED WITH
STITCH-UP, WHO WILL BE
DELIVERING A SERIES OF
UNIQUE POM POM MAKING
WORKSHOPS ALONGSIDE AN
INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION.**

If you don't know about Stitch-Up, it's a creative social enterprise, dedicated to teaching the basics of knitting and yarn crafts, and the benefits of using them in a modern world.

Stitch-Up's goal is simple; to deliver fun, informal, modern and well designed yarn craft workshops for people of all ages including knitting, crochet, pom poms, weaving and sewing - with the purpose of engaging people and promoting the benefits including improved well being and learning valuable life skills.

They also strive to work in true partnership with other local social enterprises, businesses, schools, charities and organisations and have so far built up a wide range of partners, which they feel is important to create real and sustainable impact.

Having built up a reputable following and place in the creative market in Leeds they are ready to use what they have learned to keep improving their services; moving into the next phase of development to create lasting social change and boost income to be reinvested in local communities.

The gallery's new 'happiness project' will bring people together to have fun and spread positive messages through making, sharing and turning waste into wonderful things.

All the yarn used will be either factory waste, donated or recycled, so it's responsible too.

As well as pom pom making, they'll also be opening up discussions about what makes you happy and collecting your favourite positive words and phrases, with the favourites being turned into giant Pom Pom masterpieces, displayed in the space for all to see.

The exhibition will be open to everyone. If you can't make it down or attend a session you can send in your words and poms!

The
GALLERY
at One Six Four

Pom to the People will
be running at The Gallery at 164
between Sunday 1st and
Tuesday 31st October.



HUMANS OF SOYO

One anonymous photographer's social documentary of the people of Leeds; inspired by Humans of New York.
@humansofleeds



"I tried other modes of transport like bicycles but they can be bulky and not always easy to take on public transport, so I bought this."



"I started ballet when I was seven, but by the age of fifteen you need to decide if you want to keep going and focus, or not. It had to be a fast decision, there were so many people who will take the opportunity before you. But if you get the opportunity, and everything works out then it's a great feeling - I'm really loving it at the moment!"



"I'm a trustee at the Citizens Advice Bureau delivering help and support to the cities most vulnerable people. I'm a member of the co-operative party, I volunteer for a disability sports & leisure charity, and I work for the NHS transforming the delivery of healthcare. I'm a political operator striving to make things better."



"I always wanted to work in fashion, so I decided on fashion design at art college. I've had a great career in it, and now I'm enjoying my retirement with my partner - still interested in fashion, still finding fashionable bargains everywhere."



"I started writing as a hobby and soon after I joined Leeds Young Authors. I wrote to get closer to myself and who I was, and who I wanted to be. I won the Channel 4 Playwrights Scheme and became writer-in-residence at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in 2014. It was a sign of how far I'd come; how hard I'd worked, personally and professionally."



"I love his spirit. Some would say stubbornness, but that's the terrible twos I guess!"



"The uncertainty, not knowing what you're working on daily can be worrying. I have to tell myself, 'You've done this for 23 years, get a grip. You've never failed before so why are you going to fail today.'"



KEEPING UP WITH THE KENDELLS

AN INTERVIEW WITH SHARON AND STEVE KENDELL, FOUNDERS OF KENDELLS BISTRO.

KENDELLS BISTRO HAS PROUDLY SAT ON ST PETER'S SQUARE FOR THE BEST PART OF TEN YEARS. THEIR SURROUNDINGS MAY HAVE CHANGED, BUT THE ETHOS OF THE PLACE, SET OUT BY POWER COUPLE SHARON AND STEVE KENDELL REMAINS THE SAME - TO PROVIDE REALLY GOOD, YET UNPRETENTIOUS, FRENCH DINING FOR EVERY GUEST.

“ We both have a passion for all things french ”



Sharon and Steve have spent most of their 24 years together travelling around the lush regions of France. “We both have a passion for all things French,” says Steve, the restaurant’s Head Chef, “Especially the food! One of our favourite places is Lyon because you can always get really good Michelin star food but from a place that’s completely unpretentious. Dijon is great too, because there’s such an eclectic mix, with it being so close to Switzerland there’s a real crossover. The food in Provence is incredible too, and completely different to some of the other places. I guess that’s one of the reasons we love France so much. Each place you go to, the food differs so much depending on the climate, weather and soil, so you’ll always get something local.”

“I actually trained at the Box Tree during the 70s. I worked for two guys called Colin Reed and Malcolm Long and the chef Michael Lawson, who at the time had a basic English menu which was transformed into the modern French cuisine that it became famous for. In 1977 he got two Michelin stars and the place really took off, I remember they used to have people like Shirley Basset and Margaret Thatcher there. It was quite something.”

Not only did Steve have some of the best training he could get in Yorkshire he’s worked internationally too. “I did a brief stint in Paris, which was interesting. The Parisians aren’t that well known for being friendly, and they really didn’t like me! But I learned a lot. I worked at a place called Les Deux Magots just off the Boulevard Saint-Germain, it’s got a big literary past, people like Picasso and Hemingway used to hang out there. Nowadays it’s become such a famous place to eat, it’s actually pretty much a tourist destination.”

“I loved working in France so much. Sometimes I’d head out there on holiday for a few weeks but get chatting to the chef and end up working for the whole time, often to the dislike of the people I was with!”

Having been around for the past ten years, Sharon and Steve have gotten to know the neighbourhood pretty well. “It’s like a community,” says Steve, “And we all help each other out. For instance, a lot of our guests are people who are enjoying a play at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, or maybe heading to a gig at The Wardrobe. We all make sure one another are aware of what’s going on and work together to help each other out. Because it’s a creative area, we’re all on the same page and very interested in what’s happening.”

“It’s actually really interesting what everyone else brings to the area. I remember once Northern Ballet did a production of Dracula and the restaurant was full of goths who had come down from Whitby for the show!”

“That’s sort of the beauty of Kendells - like the restaurants in Lyon we love so much, it’s completely unpretentious. You can find anyone here, and we’ve served everyone from young babies, right the way through to the odd centenarian here and there. Families are welcome, old people, young people, nobody is left out. We’re quite unique like that and don’t really have a demographic or a target market.”

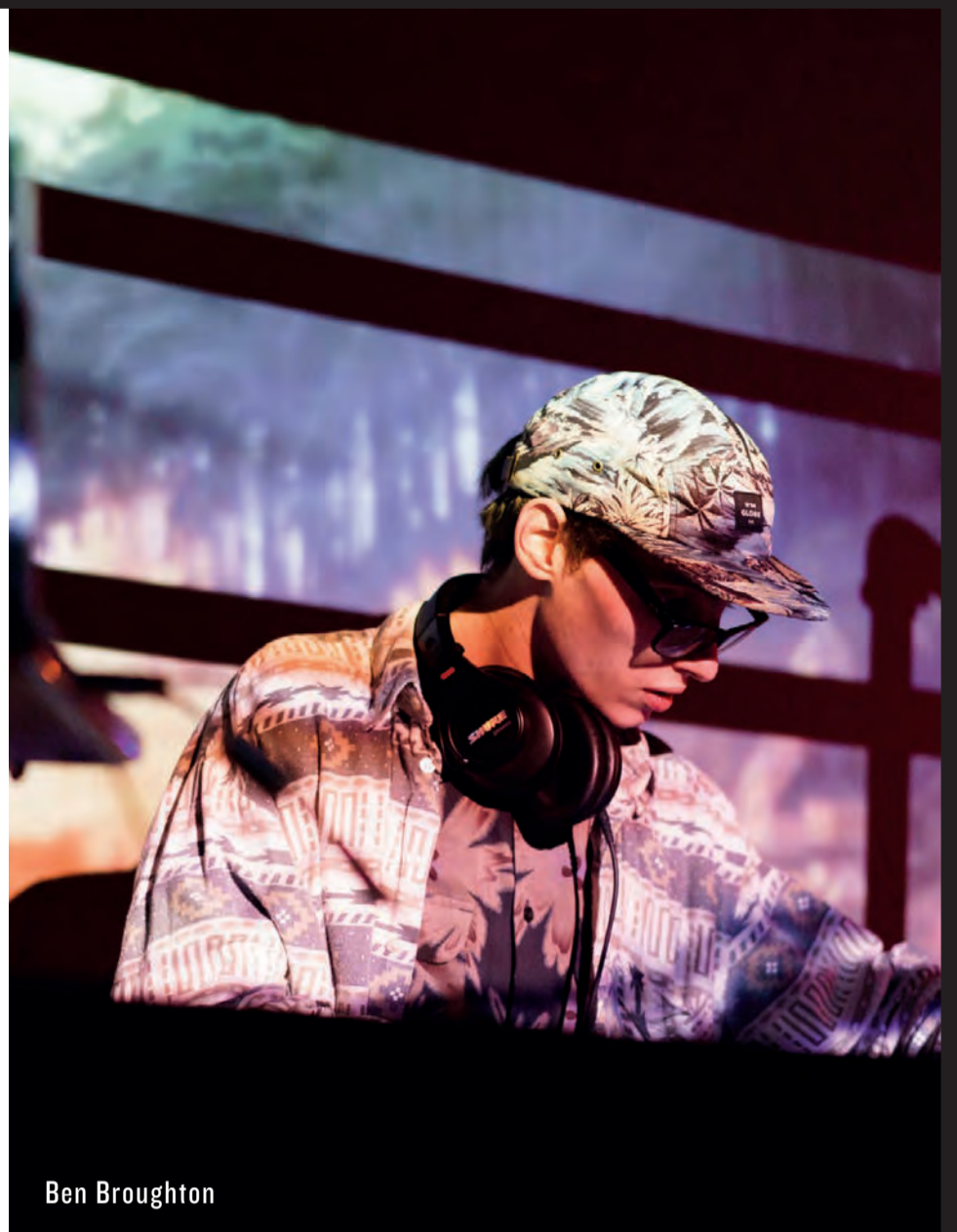
While Steve has his roots set firmly in a successful hospitality background, Sharon, the brains and the charm behind the front-of-house operations, comes from a life of theatre. Aside from acting jobs, Sharon was trained in the art of theatrical costume, which is probably why the waiting staff are so sharply dressed!

Talking about the neighbourhood and the exciting times to come, Steve said, “We’re hoping for more independents. Leeds has always had a focus on indie businesses, but we’re starting to get suffocated by big chain brands, and that’s not what we’re about. The development of the neighbourhood will revive the more vibrant atmosphere we used to have, and inject some life back into the place. When we moved in it was a bit of a hidden gem, but we’ve watched the area thrive since then and are very excited for the next chapter.”

Find Kendells Bistro
on St Peter’s Square.
Open between Tuesday and
Saturday from 5:30pm.
0113 243 6553.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

AND ALL THAT...



Ben Broughton



Ellie Griffiths

**ONE OF ONLY NINE MUSIC
CONSERVATOIRES IN THE UK,
LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC
IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S
MOST RENOWNED HOMES OF
MUSIC EDUCATION.**

EACH YEAR THEY TAKE OVER 1900 MUSICIANS THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES, FROM DEGREE, FURTHER ED, NUMEROUS SHORT COURSES AND EVEN JUNIOR LCOM AND SATURDAY MORNING SCHOOL FOR UNDER-18S.



Ofuré Fait

WITH A NEW TERM STARTING, WE SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON TEN OF THE CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATES WHO WE THINK ARE DEFINITE ONES TO WATCH...

OFURÉ FAIT

Graduating in BA (Hons) Music (Popular) Ofuré Faith's soulful voice, relatable lyrics, combined with her R&B, Gospel and Soul influencers mean the London-born singer-songwriter has created an intoxicating and transfixing sound for any listener.

AKIN AMUSAN

With a smooth voice and refreshing sound, this cross-genre artist, is becoming a recognised and admired name in the UK music industry. Akin recently shone as a member of the Leeds Contemporary Singers who were crowned champions of BBCI's popular Pitch Battle.

SEAN GLEESON

Sean leaves behind a legacy of impressive performances as principal trumpet for a variety of LCoM's respected ensembles, including a Valentine's Day performance with pop legend Marc Almond. He is currently principle trumpet for the Leeds Youth Opera and Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra plus performs with the White Rose Orchestra and Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra. On graduation, he accepted a place in the Leeds Symphony Orchestra and has just started as the Leeds Youth Opera conducting intern - phew

DANIEL CHANT-BURGESS

Gradating in BA (Hons) Music (Production), Daniel has already built up an impressive portfolio of compositions for film, trailers and visual media, building on his long held ambition towards writing cinematic music. He is currently scoring a number of films, and an animated short he scored recently toured a number of prestigious film festivals.

ELLIE GRIFFITHS

Under the stage name LAMIA, Ellie has evolved from an amateur bedroom artist to one of Leeds' emerging vocalists and producers, recently signing to Dance to the Radio music label. She has had her music broadcast on Huw Stephen's Radio 1 show, BBC Introducing and Amazing Radio, and she appeared at this year's Live at Leeds festival.



Sean Gleeson

SKWID INK

After meeting at LCoM, Skwid Ink, comprising of George MacDonald, Will Lakin, George Hall and Fergus Quill, all gradating from BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) have signed to indie label, Tight Lines. Run by band member Will Lakin, Tight Lines represent a number of Leeds-based artists, plus put on events and published a culture zine, Tight Zines.

BEN BROUGHTON

With a burgeoning reputation and several credits as producer and DJ Phrixus, Ben compliments organic textures and instrumentation with hard-hitting dancefloor moving patterns. He has been a central figure in 8MANA, a collective of producers, DJs and performers who cover a wide range of different style from hip hop, future soul and post dubstep to grime, footwork and UK Bass. Ben spent the summer gigging around Europe, having played in the US the previous year, and has had his tracks played on NTS, Radio 1, IExtra and RinseFM.

LUCY WHITTAKER

The punchy electro-pop and energetic stage presence of Lucy Whittaker has seen her be selected for the exclusive LCoM touring programme, performing at a range of gigs and festivals, including Eurosonic Netherlands' 2017. Her track I'm Not Ever Coming Back Again was a hit, receiving airplay on Greg James, Scott Mills and Clare Amfo after it was named BBC Introducing's Track of the Week.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF TV

Art-rock quintet The Golden Age of TV have been going from strength to strength in 2017, with growing interest from tastemakers such as BBC Introducing. They have played major festivals this year including Live at Leeds, Sound City in Liverpool and Reading and Leeds Festivals. The recent LCoM Pop Graduates are singer Bianca Fletcher, guitarist Ryan Bird, bassist Andrew Edwards, synths / guitarist Sam Carty and drummer Josh Ketch. The fivesome's dream-pop sound is tipped for big things from here on in – so watch this space!

MAX GALLEY

During his time at LCoM, Max, who graduates from BA (Hons) Music (Business), developed creative agency Dot-to-Dot that aims to bring together musicians and artists in Leeds. This was based on a realisation of the major industry demand for promotional material design work that caters for those with tight budgets and short timescales. Max has collaborated with many artists at Leeds College of Art, several of who he has since worked with and commissioned, driving the collaboration between musicians wishing to brand themselves and artists who want to build professional portfolio experience.



Lucy Whittaker



WITH JUST ONE MONTH TO GO UNTIL THE OCTOBER 27 DEADLINE FOR THE CITY TO MAKE ITS INITIAL SUBMISSION FOR EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, THE RACE IS ON FOR THE CITY TO PREPARE A SHOW STOPPING BID FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PRIZE, THAT WILL CELEBRATE CULTURES ACROSS THE WHOLE CITY.

LEEDS. UNITED



Our bid belongs to the people of Leeds, as being named European Capital of Culture in 2023 will benefit us all, and that is why the Leeds 2023 bid team is calling on the people of the city to support our European Capital of Culture bid by coming together and pledging their support.

The #MakeLeeds2023 campaign, which includes an exciting programme of events designed to generate further momentum, is asking residents, businesses and communities to make an online pledge to actively spread the word.

As we draw closer to the submission deadline it's worth remembering why Leeds is bidding to become European Capital of Culture for 2023. Our bid presents a huge opportunity for Leeds to highlight and shout about its diverse population and reposition Leeds' image in the UK and Europe. Put simply, our bid will benefit the whole city. Evidence shows that the competition can have a

transformational effect for the people of the host city, ranging from community cohesion to increased opportunities for employment and the regeneration of communities.

The bid provides an opportunity for Leeds to celebrate its relationship with Europe and our distinctive diversity. Our lives have been enriched by the thousands of Europeans who have made this city their home, bringing their cultural identity from food to music, dance, art and design here.

Finally, we cannot underestimate the legacy benefits that a successful bid would bring. Both Glasgow in 1990 and Liverpool in 2008 saw enormous economic and social boosts from their hosting of the title which still endure today. Indeed, Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture 2008 is estimated to have resulted in an economic impact of £750m and opinion surveys show an 85% increase in

satisfaction from the residents when asked if they like living in the city.

With Leeds' current population representing 140 ethnic groups and 170 languages, we firmly believe that a successful bid will create a lasting legacy, not only by implementing positive change by bringing these communities together and celebrating our diversity but also by attracting national and international funding and events to the city, providing a step change in tourism and a catalyst for growth and development.

In conclusion, in Leeds we believe in a future where our culture in all its forms is valued and experienced by the broadest set of people, and for it to be central to the city's identity and to its future; both economically and socially.

Sharon Watson
Independent Chair of European Capital of Culture
Leeds 2023 Independent Steering Group



People can pledge their support by visiting Leeds' bid website - www.leeds2023.co.uk/shout - and by using the hashtag #MakeLeeds2023 on social media.

SAVE THE DATE, LET'S CELEBRATE

When: Friday 27th October 12pm-8pm (Food & Drink extended to 10pm) Where: SOYO

On the 27th October, following almost four years of connecting, debating, and collaborating, Leeds will submit its bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023. We want to celebrate how far we've come and all the possibility that the bid could hold for our future.

In partnership with SOYO and Leeds Business Improvement District some of the city's biggest cultural venues will be throwing open their doors and offering space to other organisations and groups to share and celebrate our collective and varied cultures - from gala organising committees, parks, heritage and in bloom groups to independent,

DIY and experimental artists and producers, as we create the gala of all galas to mark this momentous day.

Organisations including West Yorkshire Playhouse, Yorkshire Dance, Leeds College of Music, Northern Ballet, Phoenix Dance, Munro House and many more will welcome people from across the region to join in the celebrations dancing, singing and performing. Food and drink will be provided by Leeds favourites North Brew Co in association with Leeds Indie Food in an open-air street food market and performances from artists, dancers and DJs will take place throughout the day.

So here's your invitation - whether you want to share your culture with a stall or performance at the event, you're looking for something to do with the kids on the last day of half term or you just want to be part of an historic moment for our city, everyone is welcome!

#MakeLeeds2023



BIG
MOUTH

INTERVIEW WITH LEEDS' MUSIC GURU COLIN OLIVER

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR LEEDS TO DEVELOP AND INVEST IN A CULTURAL AREA?

It is absolutely vital. Culture is key within the city as it drives development. It's also an anchor for the city's economy; culture drives tourism, and helps to raise the national and international profile of the city. Improving the cultural offer in the city also will be important in helping Leeds to attract and retain talent across all sectors, cultural activity in a city improves lifestyles.

HOW DOES MUNRO HOUSE SUPPORT LEEDS' CULTURAL SCENE?

Munro House offers a creative hub for the city, where people can work and socialise. It's developed a great reputation for being a key place to meet and be based if you're in a local creative or cultural organisation. Munro House has also played a key part in supporting developing cultural organisations, being the original home to Duke Studios, and the home of start-ups like Ilikepress, Colours May Vary, Leeds Art Gallery/ Café 164 and Creative Arthur.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE PROPOSED PLANS FOR SOYO IMPROVING THIS AREA, AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE CITY AS A WHOLE?

It will increase the footfall, which obviously has great impact for any retail or food and drink outlets based in the area, it's exciting to see the city centre developing and spreading eastward. It will also help to shout about what is already in existence in the neighbourhood, and compliment the current businesses who are based here. The increasing size and development of the city centre in Leeds demonstrates how successful the city is, and also highlights that it is an exciting place for businesses to be based, whether it be large corporations like Sky, who have relocated their offices to the city, or for businesses at start up level.

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK THE NEW LEEDS CITY COLLEGE CAMPUS WILL HAVE ON THE CITY'S NEXT GENERATION?

It will have a huge impact, having a state of the art facility geared towards powerhouse skills of the future workforce can only be a positive thing. The city needs to invest in the next generation.

AS LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC EXPANDS HOW DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BENEFIT LEEDS' MUSIC SCENE AND THIS AREA IN PARTICULAR?

It can only improve the Leeds scene. Leeds College of Music already has an excellent retention rate of students in the city, and development of the College will only improve this.

As an integral figure in the Leeds' cultural scene who/what do you urge everyone to see – the next big thing.

There is some particularly exciting young talent coming through on the scene at the moment. Through our Artist Development arm of Dance to the Radio Records we're working with a couple of young bands from the region: Fling and GRDNS. They're both quite different artists but worth checking out, FLING are developing a bit of a reputation for a highly entertaining live show, they've got a great sense of self, and sense of humour, which comes across in everything they do.

LEEDS IS GOING THROUGH SOME SEISMIC CHANGES IN TERMS OF EXPANSION OF THE CITY CENTRE CURRENTLY – WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?

The potential to increase the number

of green spaces within the city centre, it's something that is currently lacking!

YOU HAVE A FULL PORTFOLIO OF CULTURE – FROM MUSIC TO FOOD/BARS - WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Staying ahead of the trends, the music and food scenes are extremely fast moving in the city, especially due to the number of creatives and independent businesses operating within the city, so it means we have to constantly evolve - which is definitely a good thing!

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Collaborating. Across the various companies I work with I have the opportunity to collaborate with so many different organisations and talented people.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT PLANS FOR MUNRO HOUSE?

To continue to be a leading centre in the city for creative and cultural business to be based and supported.



THE MUSIC AND FOOD SCENES ARE EXTREMELY FAST MOVING, ESPECIALLY DUE TO THE NUMBER OF CREATIVES AND INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY...



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For the past 40 years, Aagrah has been serving up some of the best, authentic Asian food around, and we can still always think of a good enough reason to go for a curry.

Mohammed Sabir opened his first restaurant in Shipley in 1977 with the aim of presenting authentic Kashmiri cuisine of the highest order to the people of Shipley and Bradford. Aagrah has since expanded and created a niche amongst those who appreciate really good food, served in opulent surroundings, and now operate eleven sites, including in Doncaster, Wakefield, Sheffield, and of course, Leeds' St Peter's Square.

One of the things Aagrah does best is stamp everything with a very credible seal of approval. Family members are at the head of each restaurant to ensure that everything is of the highest standard of service - this is anything from training of the staff, to the presentation of each impeccable dish.

Perhaps one of the reasons for Aagrah's success is its dedication to innovation, with new dishes being added to the menu constantly to keep regulars happy. They're that confident they know what they're doing, they'll even share with you the secrets of the Aagrah chefs in their own recipe books.

The menu is vast, but clever, meaning no two visits to Aagrah will end the same. You can expect the same start though - popadoms and spice trays arrive with your drinks, and then it's up to you to take it from there. Aagrah base their starters on the traditional concept of Indian street food - so get stuck in and have one of everything with one of their infamous platters. Think Seekh kebab, lamb chops, chicken tikka and fish masala. Fish or veggie options are available here too.

Aagrah's managers have also been trained as chefs themselves, in order to answer any question you could possibly have about each of the dishes. They also have a 'Promise of the Heart' - to use the freshest produce possible, sourced on a daily basis by only the best suppliers.

The real focus on the menu is authentic regional dishes - from Hyderabad to Kashmir - and traditional cooking styles. Dishes on the Aagrah Grill menu are grilled and then stir fried in a special tawa with a careful blend of spices and vegetables. The Hyderabad and Achar dishes are Award Winning specialities with the most distinctive flavours, and it's almost certain you won't find anything like them elsewhere.



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