

Christmas Gift Idea : A night at the theatre



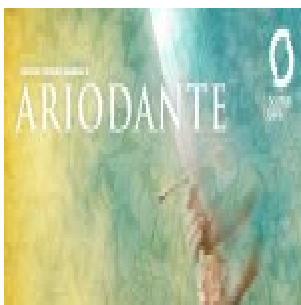
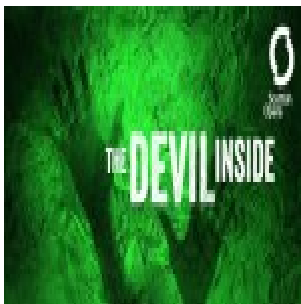
Are some people on your Christmas list proving a little tricky? Do they already have all the stuff they'll ever need – and nowhere left to put any more? Are they like the lady I overheard in a Morningside charity shop this week, who had to start decluttering 'or I think the house will actually fall down'?

If you've got someone like this to buy for, why not treat them to a night out – or even several nights out – instead? **The King's and Festival Theatres** have a great range of productions coming up, from this year's Christmas panto and ballet specials to murder mysteries, musicals, comedy nights, opera, film festivals and the **James Plays** – which sold out at the Edinburgh International Festival and the National Theatre.



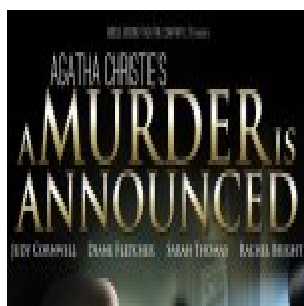


The King's Theatre always does a great pantomime, and this year it's Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Off To ***Snow White*** We Go, as **Allan Stewart, Andy Gray** and **Grant Stott** bring you the story of why you should never trust a red apple. Or maybe you should – a prince might come in handy to do the washing up. Meanwhile, over at the Festival Theatre, there's another story of a downtrodden maiden as **Scottish Ballet** performs the European premiere of **Christopher Hampson's *Cinderella***.

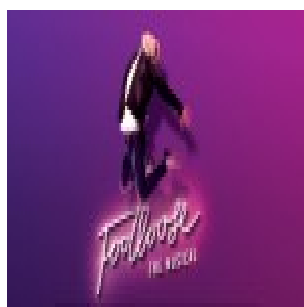


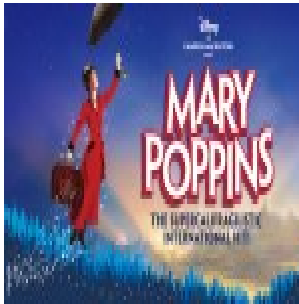
And if by January you've had enough fairy stories, King's can offer you **Scottish Opera's** new production of ***The Devil Inside*** (based on **Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Bottle Imp***, 'a tale of greed and compulsion', dramatised by Louise Welsh with music

by Stuart MacRae) while in February the company is at the Festival Theatre with **Harry Fehr** and **Yannis Thavoris's** production of **Handel's *Ariodante***.



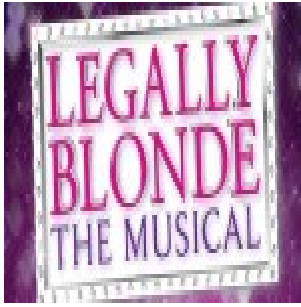
Earlier in February, King's turns to all things thrilling with productions of **Agatha Christie's *A Murder Is Announced*** and **Peter James's *The Perfect Murder***. And if musicals are as much your thing as they are mine, look no further than the Festival Theatre for ***Footloose***, ***Tom*** (Jones, that is – who else?), ***Thriller Live***, ***Mary Poppins*** and ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***.





Not to be outdone, the King's is staging ***Jackie, The Musical*** – for women of a certain age (ie me) this is surely a must-see; all those school lunch breaks poring over articles about grapefruit diets and David Cassidy's favourite yoghurt will come flooding back. (It was hazelnut, since you ask, I knew enough to make him happy...)

Both theatres have a strong tradition of hosting Edinburgh's excellent amateur dramatics and next spring is no exception, with **EDGAS** sailing along in ***The Gondoliers***, **The Bohemians** going ***Legally Blonde*** and **Southern Light Opera** taking us over that rainbow with Dorothy in ***The Wizard of Oz***.



Tickets for all of these shows are on sale now from the Box Offices at the **King's Theatre, 2 Leven Street** and the **Festival Theatre, 13/29 Nicolson Street** (or call 0131 529 6000 for either venue); you can also book online [here](#).

If you still can't decide what your challenging recipients would prefer, you can solve the problem by giving them **Festival & King's Theatre Gift Vouchers**, which are valid for 24 months and can be exchanged for tickets for any show at either venue (*except* Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe Festival events).

And if you know someone who's a 'frequent flyer', here's another idea – money may not be able to buy love, but theatrical friendship is more readily available – **Friends Memberships** start at just **£36 per year**, and entitle you to discounted (and sometimes free) tickets, 20% off in the theatre bars, discounts in certain local bars and cafes, and priority booking for most shows.



So if you don't want to be a party to *your* friend's house collapsing, get in touch with the **Festival and King's Theatres** now and get the gift that needs no wrapping paper – another bonus!

