

The List

What's on locally in June and July



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COMPILED BY CLEMMIE MILLBANK



BACK TO LIFE



Adelle Stripe tells us about her fascination with Andrea Dunbar ahead of a Bristol theatre production of her biographical novel, *Black Teeth and a Brilliant Smile*, about the playwright



I was a fan of Andrea Dunbar as a teenager and watched *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* in my early teens. I had a black-and-white TV in my room with a coat-hanger aerial, and when my parents went to bed, I would watch all sorts of inappropriate films on Channel 4. I loved Andrea's writing, and Shelagh Delaney's, so I wanted to be a playwright. Their writing spoke to me about my own life experiences; I felt a connection.

I was interested in writers such as Gordon Burn and David Peace. They were inspired by 20th-century American non-fiction novelists, but set their work in northern England. It's important to treat your

'characters' with respect. Richard Holmes describes the process of biographical writing as "making the dead walk again". If you exhume somebody, you have to tread carefully.

Andrea's story is not the historical truth – partly because nobody knows what the truth really was. So much of the factual material around her life was uncertain. She dramatised her own life for the stage. But just as she told her life story through drama, I thought it might be possible to tell it through fiction.

Freedom Studios approached me initially [about a stage adaptation]. I thought they would

do something interesting, as they were based in Bradford and wanted to cast the play locally. It toured around working men's clubs, pubs, community centres and theatres across Yorkshire in 2019. It really connected with people across the region; many had never set foot in a theatre before, but were delighted to see a play in their local drinking hole. I thought Andrea would have appreciated that. Lisa Holdsworth [who adapted *Black Teeth...* for the stage] made me look at the book in a new way. She took the dialogue and essence of the novel and restructured it. It invigorated my perception of the work.

The last time I was at the Royal Court, the audience was predominantly middle class, and probably a few tiers above on the social scale. So in that respect, not much has changed since Andrea's plays were first performed there. It's probably quite different UK-wide, although even with subsidies, it's still beyond the reach of many.

Rita, Sue and Bob Too is loved by audiences from all backgrounds, Andrea's humour cuts through boundaries. The play is distinctively northern, and I think there's an appetite for our particular bleak black wit. I'm pleased *Black Teeth...* will be performed in Bristol. There has been a lot of interest in the play since it was first performed, so I hope this is just the beginning.

Fran Lewis directs *Black Teeth and a Brilliant Smile* at Kelvin Players Theatre, Bristol, July 9-13. nfd.io/blkteeth



High Steaks Bristol Old Vic June 18-22

In which the performer, ELOINA, hangs beef steaks from her labia, butchers them and then sizzles them on a grill. A masterful combination of performance art, intimate conversation and classic clown comedy, this award-winning show about labia shaming arrives in Bristol after an acclaimed sold-out run in Edinburgh. nfd.io/highstks



Julian Marley & The Uprising Cheese & Grain, Frome June 24

Julian Marley returns to spread the message of love, unity and social consciousness with his universally cherished music. Touting songs from his Grammy-winning album *Colours of Royal*, this is a chance to witness one of the greats in an intimate setting. nfd.io/jmarley

Meridian Sundust Wake the Tiger, Bristol July 5

It's golden hour at Bristol's amazement park, where an all-female lineup of live musicians, DJs, and theatre and circus performers will be helping guests transcend to the OUTERverse. Sun worshippers should come dressed in their shimmering sundust best. Bring your biggest midsummer energy. nfd.io/meridsun

Ben de la Cour & Holyseus Fly Pound Arts, Corsham July 12

With his brooding 'Americanoir' and crooked ballads, Brooklyn-raised de la Cour is a rising star of the alt-folk scene and performs here in a double bill with Bristol's Holyseus Fly. Once of Ishmael Ensemble, Holly imbues her jazzy, minimal textures with an odd, beguiling theatricality. nfd.io/holyfly

Bristol Harbour Festival Bristol Harbourside July 19-21

A waterside freebie featuring musicians including Grove, She's Got Brass and Emily Magpie (plus emerging local talent), street food, spoken word, roving performers and – as is tradition – a cardboard boat race. The atmosphere is always buzzing at this weekend. nfd.io/harbfest

MR DOODLE! MUSEUM MAYHEM

3 May – 1 September

THE
HOLBURNE
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Supported by



SITE Festival
Various venues, Stroud
Until June 23

Featuring local artists and creators, this cross-town programme of exhibitions and specially commissioned projects includes everything from traditional print to knitted wearable art. Stop by SVA on their open studio weekends (June 8-9, 15-16) to see the artists at work.

nfd.io/sitefest

Forest of Imagination
The Holburne Gardens, Bath
June 27-30

Bath's magical annual pop-up exploring biodiversity through family-friendly artworks returns. Artist Matthew Leece collaborates with Kidical Mass, while *An-Ki* is an immersive theatrical experience made with The Egg and Catalonia's Ortiga Collective, and performed in a 'living venue'. All for free.

nfd.io/forimag

De Nadder Soundscape – A season of no things
Messums West, Tisbury
Until July 1

Step into the tithe barn and feel yourself surrounded by the De Nadder Soundscape, named after the nearby river. Created by Orlando Gough and Alastair Goolden, the soundscape allows your mind to flow freely. Book a special twilight experience.

nfd.io/denadd

Photo: *untitled: double act* (2010) © Phyllida Barlow Estate. Photo: Andy Keate / Serpentine Gallery; *Sky Burial* by Mat Collishaw

Windrush: Portraits of a Pioneering Generation
RWA, Bristol
Until August 11

This collection of 10 portraits of Caribbean-British individuals by leading artists, including Sonia Boyce MBE, honours the accomplishments and legacy of the Windrush generation. The exhibition includes a festival celebration on June 22 to commemorate Windrush Day.

nfd.io/windgen

Henry Moore in Miniature
The Holburne, Bath
Until September 8

In partnership with the Henry Moore Foundation, this exhibition includes over 60 works that are all tiny enough to fit in your hand. The maquettes on display are from every decade of his career, from his best-known sculptures to lesser-seen works, including the first appearance in an exhibition of an early lead cast of *Mother & Child*.

nfd.io/minihen



Phyllida Barlow: Unscripted
Hauser & Wirth, Bruton
Until January 5

Bringing together sculptures, installations, studio maquettes and drawings from her six-decade career, this exhibition explores the evolution of Barlow's expressive vocabulary. Taking inspiration from her surroundings, her installations can be both menacing and playful.

nfd.io/phyllb

thenearfield.com

BRLSI's BRILLIANT DISCOVERY WEEKEND

A FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT TO CELEBRATE
200 YEARS OF THE
BATH ROYAL LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

29 & 30 JUNE | SAT 10:00 - 20:00
SUN 11:00 - 16:00

- BRLSI & QUEEN SQUARE, BATH -

LIVE MUSIC - DROP IN WORKSHOPS - EXHIBITIONS

Live performance by Music Workshop

GIANT GAMES | CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF WONDERS | THE WORLD REVEALED EXHIBITION

Orchestra of Everything | BUNTING MAKING

ACADEMY OF IMAGINATION | FUN SCIENCE SHOWS | The BRLSI Big Build

BAR & FOOD | MAKERS MARKET | PARTNERED WITH FOREST OF IMAGINATION



Made possible with **Heritage Fund**
200 Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution 1824-2024
FIND OUT MORE AT BRLSI.ORG/WEEKEND



English Wine Week
The Stores, Frome
June 20
Indulge in an evening overflowing with good chat and top-class vinos, and learn a little about the ever-evolving range of delicious wines being produced across the British Isles while you quaff away. There will be plenty of bread and olives to soak up all that grape juice, so you can stay firmly focused on the glass in hand.
nfd.io/winewk

BBQ & Outdoor Eating
Vale House Kitchen, Timsbury
June 30
Say goodbye to burnt sausages and dried-up burgers. Learn how to tame your flames and create a mouth-watering summer banquet courtesy of this course led by pro chef, Kieran Lenihan. You'll get to grips with glazes, rubs and marinades, refine your sides, and take home a folder full of alfresco recipes.
nfd.io/bbqace



Flourish Food Festival
Glenavon Farm, Saltford
June 22-23
Prepare your appetite for two days of foodie fun at this tasty looking weekender. Promising a schedule packed full of live music, craft stalls, family-friendly activities and – of course – an endless supply of fresh, vibrant food, this freebie is one to mark in your calendar.
nfd.io/floufest



Wiper and True x Pasture: Summer Feast
Wiper and True Brewery & Taproom, Bristol
July 20
Welcome in the bounty of summer with a balmy afternoon filled with refreshing beer and lip-smacking barbecue food. At this one-off firepit collab, the Pasture team will be setting up a pop-up dining room and serving platters of succulent treats alongside pints of Wiper and True.
nfd.io/wipepast

Feast On
Clifton Downs, Bristol
July 26-28
Dive into the best of the Bristol food scene, and sample signature dishes and new concoctions from some of the city's most beloved chefs. You'll also have the chance to browse produce markets, watch cookery demos, sample world-class wines and generally gorge yourself silly on every type of cuisine you can imagine.
nfd.io/feaston

Summer Wild Foods & Practical Plants
Oldbury Court Estate, Bristol
July 27
Picture yourself rummaging around in woodlands and hedgerows, discovering which species of plants are edible and which are poisonous look-alikes. Led by horticulturalist Steve England, this informative course is a chance for you to finesse your survival skills and get back to nature.
nfd.io/wildfood



FUTURE SHOCK

Britain's most celebrated clairvoyant medium psychic, Clinton Baptiste, tries out his divining powers ahead of his appearance in Bath

How would you describe your new show, Roller Ghoster?

"I'm told by some of my connections beyond the celestial curtain that the spirit will be very, very strong, so I will be venturing into the audience to do readings on you all. I can promise a visit from my spirit guide Taruak, and you will hear stories of my life off-stage."

How is the tour going?

"Really well, thank you. My third eye is open and shut hundreds of times a week, so in between shows I rest it on a fictional cushion and wipe it with a metaphorical cleansing bath at the various Travelodges I find myself in. I have been coming out after the show to meet all my followers in order to 'enlighten' them... of their money, next to my merch stand."

When did you first become aware of your clairvoyant abilities?

"I was a boy. I encouraged my dad to put some money on the gee-gees, and they all came



in. Some would say that was potluck. In fact, my dad used similar words, interspersed with several F-bombs, shortly after he retook my advice and lost all his savings at Kempton in March 1983. Spirits don't always predict correctly. But I believed I was magic and changed my name from Keith to Clinton – named after my second favourite shop in Bury, Clintons Cards. My favourite was a certain takeaway outlet, but 'Chicken Cottage Baptiste' sounded a bit silly."

There are a lot of charlatans out there. How do you deal with them? And how can audiences be sure you're for real?

"I report them to the authorities in the afterlife as soon as I spy them. I don't have to try too hard to convince my audience of my skills nowadays, as I have been so accurate over the years.

In fact, I predict here and now there will be at least one Aries in the audience at each show in the southwest this tour."

Any spiritual messages you'd like to share?

"Only that the spirit world is generously giving you the once-in-a-lifetime chance to buy a ticket to see me. Don't thank me, thank the celestial realm. Oh and also, John McCririck has just appeared at my shoulder saying, 'Lucky Boy in the four o'clock at Haydock.* Get on it!'"

(*It's not me saying that, it's John McCririck, ex-tipster from Channel 4 Racing. Clinton Baptiste cannot be responsible for betting advice from beyond the grave, which is your look out, thank you very much.)

Witness Roller Ghoster live at Komedia, Bath, on June 20.

nfd.io/cbaptiste



Summer Solstice Wild Wanders
Secret location, Mendip District
June 21

Celebrate the summer solstice with a wander across the Mendips. Gather together with your fellow wild walkers, put away your phones, maps and compasses, and see where your feet take you when you're not distracted by reaching a set destination. The start location will be sent out a week before your adventure.

nfd.io/wwander

Less: Patrick Grant
St Swithin's Church, Bath
June 26

Did your granny ever tell you, "buy once, buy well"? Well, she'd love Patrick Grant, AKA him from *The Great British Sewing Bee*. The fashion designer and founder of Community Clothing is in town to discuss his book, *Less: Stop Buying So Much Rubbish*, and to encourage us all to rediscover the joy of living with fewer, better quality things.

nfd.io/lessthings



PROMOTED

BRLSI's Brilliant Discovery Weekend
BRLSI & Queen Square, Bath
June 29-30

Join the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) as they celebrate 200 years. They will take over Queen Square for a family-friendly weekend jam-packed with free science and crafting activities, exhibits, outdoor games, live music and performances, and much more.

nfd.io/discover



PROMOTED

The Surf Show
The Wave, Bristol
July 13-14

The Surf Show has something for everyone – not just dyed-in-the-wool surfers. Taking place at Easter Compton's wave park, this free, family-friendly event brings together surf brands and organisations for a full day of action and activities. (And maybe some freebies.)

nfd.io/surfsh

Merlin: Professor Ronald Hutton
Glastonbury Abbey
July 24

Want to know more about the world's most famous wizard? (No, not the bespectacled one.) Separate myth from fact with world-renowned Professor Ronald Hutton – a leading authority on ancient and medieval paganism – while sitting in an ancient structure known for its links to Arthurian legend. Magic!

nfd.io/profron

Cinema Rediscovered
Watershed, Bristol
July 24-28

Cinema Rediscovered is back for its eighth edition with a diverse programme featuring over 50 events, including a mix of screenings, talks, Q&As, workshops and the all-important quiz. Highlights include two UK premieres of 4K restorations of films by the Bristol-born, Oscar- and BAFTA-nominated director J Lee Thompson.

nfd.io/recinema