BYMT’S AUTUMN/SPRING SEASON 2020/21

- The very Best of British musical theatre
- Musical theatre adaptations of classic and contemporary literature including J.M. Barrie, Michael Morpurgo and Tony Macaulay
- Dance Connection – dance meets opera
- A musical celebrating the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2
- Two new devised productions

Our BYMT Summer season 2020 is moved to new dates in autumn 2020 and spring 2021 to take account of health restrictions caused by Covid-19. But still… NINE new musical theatre productions, taking place across the UK with 300 of the UK and Ireland’s most talented actors, singers, dancers and musicians aged 11-21.

Goblin Market
London Venue TBC | Easter 21

A chamber opera of high energy physical theatre and complex musical harmonies based on Christina Rossetti’s famous tale. With music by renowned composer Conor Mitchell, this enchanting production charts the story of two sisters who are ‘tempted’ by goblin merchant men. Unmissable, tempting, controversial, seductive… can you hear the Goblin call?

Opera, fairy-tale, music theatre combine in this spectacular production last seen at the Edinburgh Festival in 2005. The poem has been controversial since it was first written in 1862 but this production has been hailed by press and public alike as a huge success, setting new standards of excellence in youth theatre.

“A brilliant production…energetic, dynamic, exciting, superb… Conor Mitchell has excelled here with a demanding and ambitious score… phenomenal” Irish News

“Magical…Burlinson and Mitchell have created the ideal vehicle for such a versatile and talented company of performers” Belfast Telegraph

Adapted from the original book by Christina Rossetti | Music Conor Mitchell | Book Kath Burlinson | Director Gerard Jones | MD Adam Gerber | Designer Matt Carter

See the similar production Barrack Room Ballads 2018: YouTube Video
Breadboy
Lyric Theatre Belfast | Summer 21

What Paperboy Did Next? Following the smash-hit musical Paperboy, this new show will explore much-loved Irish writer, Tony Macaulay's, second memoir Breadboy.

It's Belfast, 1977. Elvis "The King" Presley is dead and a 14-year-old boy wearing Denim aftershave has just been appointed breadboy in the last Ormo Mini-Shop in the world, delivering bread to the residents of the Upper Shankill in Belfast on Saturday mornings. He's all grown up now, so he is, and nearly shaving. The Bee Gees fill the airwaves, everyone is in love with Princess Leia, and Breadboy's love of peace and pets is soon rivalled by his interest in parallel universes and punk...and girls, especially Judy Carlton who sits opposite him in chemistry.

"I can't wait to see and hear this mix of teenage kicks, tatey bread, music, love and war on the stage of the Lyric Theatre in Belfast. It's going to be class, so it is!" Tony Macaulay

Adapted from the memoir by Tony Macaulay | Book and lyrics Andrew Doyle | Composer Duke Special | Director Tania Azevedo | Choreography Julia Cave | Musical Director Matthew Reeve

See the production of Paperboy 2019 YouTube Video

Why the Whales Came
The House Plymouth | Easter 21

Michael Morpurgo is, of course, best known for Warhorse which has now played as a theatrical production to over 7 million people in 11 countries. Why the Whales Came was one of Morpurgo's first novels and is still one of his most popular.

Twenty-eight miles off the coast of Cornwall lies a very different way of life. A series of 145 islands make up the Isles of Scilly, where jagged rocks and harsh, choppy seas surround the people of the land. This brand-new musical, taking inspiration from Michael Morpurgo’s novel Why The Whales Came, places us right at the heart of an ocean-embracing community in 1914, who live cheek by jowl with ghostly tales from their past.

Adapted from the original book by Michael Morpurgo | Book and lyrics Nikki Racklin | Composer Bella Barlow | Director Simon Kane | Choreography Phyllida Crowley-Smith

See our last show for younger teenagers The Accidental Time Traveller 2019 YouTube Video
Peter Pan
Easter 21

Featuring a new cast of talented young performers, this terrifically modern musical adaptation of J.M.Barrie’s classic tale returns in 2020!

Embark on a journey to Neverland with the boy who never grew up, his trusty sidekick Tinkerbell, his unlikely partners Great White Panther, the Red Indians, and the cunning, cowardly Captain Hook with a motley crew of pirates.

This truly memorable family show by Jimmy Jewell and Nick Stimson combines a fabulous pop-rock score, and features the stunning ensemble work for which BYMT has become renowned.

Adapted from the original book by J.M. Barrie | Book and lyrics Nick Stimson | Music Jimmy Jewell | Director Sarah Ingram

See the production of Peter Pan 2019 YouTube Video

Cabaret Macabre
London | February

Welcome to the darkest party in town, in which emcee and soldier Joan of Arc invites you all to kick up a storm on behalf of the most maligned and mistreated women of the last seven centuries.

On our international bill tonight, special guests include Empress Marie Antoinette, all the way from France, actress Marilyn Monroe and blues singer Gladys Bentley from the States, Mata Hari – Holland’s favourite spy, Weimar singing sensation Claire Waldoff, and our very own Queen, Anne Boleyn. Tonight, and together for the first time, these stars of nobility, stage, screen and subterfuge take back their stories in a night of powerful cabaret, exposing the truth behind the beheadings, drugging and persecution that led to their untimely deaths.

Bookwriter Jessica Walker | Composer & Musical Director Joseph Atkins | Choreographer Steve Harris

See our other show for older girls and young women WILD 2018: YouTube Video
Ministry of Truth
a Dance Connection project
Northern Ballet Theatre | February 21

BYMT’s boundary pushing Dance Connections series boldly combine complex vocal soundscapes and improvisation with daring contemporary movement. Featuring a genre-bending original new score and powerful movement by internationally renowned choreographer Jo Meredith.

Jo Meredith’s last work with us was the dance musical More in Common, reflecting on issues brought up by the death of MP Jo Cox.

Choreographer Jo Meredith | Rehearsal director Charlie Brittain

See the last Jo Meredith’s production More in Common: YouTube Video

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Our Girls, Our Game
Sunny Bank Mills Farsley West Yorkshire | February 21

Set in the north of England against the backdrop of The Great War, this powerful new musical will explore the triumphs, heartbreaks and sacrifices of the amazing women behind the Dick, Kerr Ladies Football Club. Drawing crowds of 60,000 people to their matches, this group of WWI munition workers were not only the leading lights of women’s English football but were also pioneers of social change during and after WWI. From an exceptional young company of emerging talent, comes an empowering new musical featuring an intrepid all-female cast.

Director and deviser Charlie Westenra

See our other show for older girls and young women Hot Wheels 2019: YouTube Video
The Dummy’s Guide
(working title)
Perth | Edinburgh | Easter 21

We will be working with a new cast of young people from Scotland to develop a part-devised, part-scripted show looking at young people’s responses to conformity, to a chloroform world well schooled and tamed from childhood on, where the radiators are permanently on mild, the windows always closed, the pavements tread past semi-detached houses, semi-the-same, semi-skimmed milk semi tasted and lukewarm. Golf courses…. Part Truman Show, part Vivarium, part Dead Poets Society, part Stepford Wives, revolution is in the air – and lots of great songs of course.

Director and Deviser Ellis Kerkhoven

See Ellis Kerkhoven’s previous show for BYMT in Scotland at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival: YouTube Video

The Night the War Ended
Margate Theatre Royal | Easter 21

London 8th May 1945 - the biggest party in history begins on a night that will be remembered forever: the night the war ended.

The city is buzzing with excitement as people hear the news. The streets fill up with people from all over the world singing and celebrating. Fascinated by the crowds, teenage Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret cannot bear to watch from afar. Disguised, they sneak out of the palace, blending in with the crowds and embark on an incredible journey filled with danger, decisions and new experiences on one glorious night that will change them forever.

Written by acclaimed writing team Stephanie Jayne Amies and Teddy Clements (Tomorrow, Maybe) and directed by international director Steven Dexter (Loserville, Paperboy and Closer To Heaven). With soaring harmonies, strong female roles this new musical marks the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. This original musical promises to sweep the audience along the streets of London and into the most magical night in London’s history.

Book Nicholas Scrivens | Music by Clements and Amies | Director Steven Dexter