



Crazy trip: The cast of *Going Dutch* at *Upstairs at the Gatehouse*

Take a ferry ride from Highgate

Garden Suburb Theatre's next show will be the hilarious *Going Dutch* by John Godber, running from Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 February at Upstairs At The Gatehouse in Highgate Village.

Join Mark and Sally on 'The Pride Of Hull' as they embark on a celebratory reunion with their old friend Gill. Mark, nursing a lingering flame for Gill, discovers that she has arrived with her new boyfriend, Karl, who knows a lot more about Amsterdam's murkier side. They navigate the absurdities of a mid-life crisis with side-splitting humour and heartwarming moments.

Award-winning director Dave Barron isn't phased by the challenge of taking an audience from a North Sea ferry to the red light district, saying: "We've assembled a cast of

actors who are captivating, funny, inventive and above all creative. We're letting the collective creative process in rehearsal dictate our direction for the play, and it's working out beautifully. It is a cracking play, and this is a cracking production!"

Tickets priced £13/£15 are available from the theatre and www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com. Anyone in groups of 10+ can contact boxoffice@gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk for group discounts. More details can be found at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk

Poetry publication's 10th edition

By Daphne Chamberlain

Dennis Evans is known to many East Finchley residents as a poet and a teacher of poetry. In the last few months, he has been celebrating two events: the 10th issue of *N2 Poetry* magazine and the display of two of his poems at the Royal Society of Arts.

Dennis is a Fellow of the RSA and has worked with them on several projects designed to make poetry accessible to everyone. This included mentoring two London communities to help create the Children's March for the Notting Hill Carnival. His work has been published in the UK and abroad, and translated into Urdu, Portuguese, Swedish, Romanian and Russian, and used in Talking Books for the Blind.

As for *N2 Poetry*, Dennis founded this annual publication, and is on the editorial



Poet and publisher: Dennis Evans

board. He said: "There was such a good feeling at this launch. I'm so pleased that we've got

to issue 10."

Not all the contributors come from N2, but many of the regulars attend Dennis's workshops, where his talent as a teacher and creative helper really comes into play. To order copies or to send a maximum of four poems for consideration for the next edition, email n2poetry@outlook.com.

If you are unable to use email, send your work, typed on white A4 paper, to Shereen Abdullah, Managing Editor, *N2 Poetry*, 3 Leslie Road, N2 8BN, with a covering letter and an SAE.

From Cherry Tree to Glastonbury

Back last June, local artist and producer JP Rose and his band The Garden wowed the crowd at East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

The event proved a great warm-up for the world-famous Glastonbury Festival a week later where JP performed three sets, playing bass guitar with artist EVA, who he produces.

With a nomination for Music Producer of the Year at the upcoming State of R&B Awards on Sunday 21 January, the Baronsmere Road resident is still riding high.

"East Finchley is where I work as well as live," said JP. "I've built my own recording studio at home, and many talented musicians have recorded here with me."

"Cherry Tree Wood and several local streets feature in many of my music videos. Check out *Control* and *Driving* on YouTube and see if you can identify some local spots."

JP studied for his A-Levels at Fortismere, before com-



Up and coming: Musician JP Rose

pleting a degree in music production. Whilst producing, performing, and DJ'ing are his main activities, he also works part-time at Unitas Youth Zone in Barnet, mentoring youth in

music production and DJ'ing. You can catch JP at his headlining show on Thursday 18 January at Colours Hoxton. Follow him on all social medias via [@jproseup](https://twitter.com/jproseup)

REVIEW: VENUS AND ADONIS

By Jessica Holt

Shakespeare's first publication, a narrative poem telling the story of Venus the goddess of love and her attempts to seduce the reluctant Adonis, was performed by The Constellation Players at the Babel Art House in Stoke Newington.



Passion project: Mary Jensik, centre, on stage in *Venus and Adonis*

East Finchley resident Mary Jensik, whose love affair with this work began at the Edinburgh Festival with a one-woman production, has now directed herself as Venus alongside Ronan Price playing the narrator and Tim Dennett playing Adonis.

This reconstruction works really well as the text delivered by one person can be challeng-

ing for any audience. Mary's production offers a narrator who adds pace, humour and tragedy at appropriate moments.

Adonis, who would beat even George Clooney as the most handsome man in the world, is portrayed as a self-centred youth whose only interest is in hunting and who is totally bewildered by the advances of

the goddess of love.

Mary playing Venus is a delight to watch, her physicality is beautiful. Her facial expressions convey desire, rejection and sadness with great skill. There are some engaging movement sequences, in particular the hunting scene when all three actors use their bodies to portray the animal being hunted.

There are some interesting design ideas, for example the actors play with balloons at the beginning and later the balloons are popped violently to create a sense of foreboding.

The final sequence is a great contrast to the beginning, as the burial scene shows Adonis and the narrator putting flowers into containers all over the stage, creating a powerful and sombre ending.

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