

Arts Centre Washington: October- December 2023 Listings

Theatre

Beyond Caring

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 19th October, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 / £8 (conc) / £6 (students) Suitable for ages 12+

Running time 1 hour 10 mins

Beyond Caring is a powerful new play that takes a frank, humorous and heartbreaking look at life in Cedar Park Care Home. A place where the corridors roar with laughter and ache with sadness and where outrageous antics mingle with tough conversations. This play uncovers the reality of caring for others, ourselves and getting older.

Website: [Beyond Caring - Sunderland Culture](#)

Steel Magnolias

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 October, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 / £8 (Conc) Suitable for ages 11+

Running time approx. 2hrs 15mins + interval

Fatfield Musical Stage Society perform "The funniest play to ever make you cry".

Steel Magnolias is a warm and wistful comedy. Join impulsive Shelby, her mother M'Lynn, beauty parlour owner Truvy, and others as they experience life's ups and downs.

Robert Harling's Steel Magnolias is a profoundly affecting true story that highlights the strength and importance of friendship, humour, and love in midst some of life's biggest adversities.

Website: [Steel Magnolias - Sunderland Culture](#)

Family Theatre

I Spy With My Little Eye – The Party!

Arts Centre Washington

Saturday 28th October, 2pm and 4.30pm/ Tickets £7 / £25 (family, admits 4) Suitable for ages 2-102!

Molly and Bingo the puppy are having a birthday party and you're invited!

There'll be a terrific treasure hunt, your favourite sing-along songs, and fantastic games, including Molly's favourite, I Spy With My Little Eye!

Come join The People's Theatre Company for a magical day of fun and laughter.

After the show there's a surprise and photo opportunity so bring along cameras.

Website: [I Spy With My Little Eye - The Party! - Sunderland Culture](#)

Mischief & Mystery in Moominvalley

Arts Centre Washington

Saturday 11th November, 11am and 2pm

Tickets £7 / £25 family, admits 4. Suitable for age 4-7

Open a book and discover a world where anything is possible. Be sure to pack your imagination for an unforgettable journey to Moominvalley where everyone is welcome, nature thrives and adventures are plentiful. Magical puppetry, an ingenious pop-up book set, original music, interactive play in a unique participatory story-telling experience. Expect snow, surprises and plenty of Moomin mischief.

[Mischief & Mystery in Moominvalley - Sunderland Culture](#)

The Gingerbread Witch

Arts Centre Washington

Thurs 23 November, 10:30am and 1:30pm

Tickets £7 / £25 family, admits 4. Suitable for age 5+

In the mystical Scottish village of Oban, young twins Anders and Aurora discover an enchanted object that thrusts them into an extraordinary adventure. Can they solve the riddle of the missing children and defy the odds with the strength of their unbreakable bond?

Join them on a captivating journey of courage, magic and mystery found in this heart-warming tale.

[The Gingerbread Witch - Sunderland Culture](#)

Penguin

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 30th November, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 / £8 (conc) / £6 (students) Suitable for ages 14+

Be Proud.

Be Who You Are.

Be More Penguin.

Curious Monkey presents Hamzeh's extraordinary story, full of humour and beauty, inviting you to tour his village in Syria, Za'atari camp in Jordan, Gateshead and inside his mind: a place full of music, dancing, fantasies and marbles.

[Penguin - Sunderland Culture](#)

A Town Called Christmas

Arts Centre Washington

5th – 10th December 2023/ Tuesday 5th December 1.30pm/ Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7

December 10.30am and 1.30pm/ Friday 8th December 6pm/ Saturday 9th and Sunday 10 December

2pm and 4pm/ Tickets £10 / £37 family, admits 4. Suitable for aged 3+

Far away, beyond the snow, and nestled in a perfect nook you'll find a town called Christmas with gingerbread houses glow and laughter hangs like baubles in the air! The happiest place on Earth. Or at least it used to be...

Buckle in for a rollercoaster of magic, music, and mayhem as our hero crash-lands in a crumbling town Can they save the day?

[A Town Called Christmas - Sunderland Culture](#)

Music

Friday Folk Gathering

Arts Centre Washington

First Friday on the month, 6 October, 1 – 4pm. Free, voluntary contribution to the Arts Centre welcome.

Folk music lovers are invited join us and contribute their talent to an afternoon of good quality folk music, both songs and tunes.

The project is being hosted by Ken Tonge and Bill Elliott, well known figures on the North East Folk scene.

Website: [Friday Folk Friday Folk Gathering - Sunderland Culture](#)

Friday Folk Gathering

Arts Centre Washington

First Friday on the month, 3 November, 1 – 4pm

Free, voluntary contribution to the Arts Centre welcome.

Folk music lovers are invited join us and contribute their talent to an afternoon of good quality folk music, both songs and tunes.

The project is being hosted by Ken Tonge and Bill Elliott, well known figures on the North East Folk scene.

[Friday Folk Friday Folk Gathering - Sunderland Culture](#)

Friday Folk Gathering

Arts Centre Washington

First Friday on the month, 1 December, 1 – 4pm/ Free

Folk music lovers are invited join us and contribute their talent to an afternoon of good quality folk music, both songs and tunes.

The project is being hosted by Ken Tonge and Bill Elliott, well known figures on the North East Folk scene.

[Friday Folk Friday Folk Gathering - Sunderland Culture](#)

Film

Book Club: The Next Chapter

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 18 October, 1.30pm

Tickets £4/ £3.50 Nifties member. Suitable for ages 12+

Follows the new journey of four best friends as they take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip they never had. This special screening is supported by the library service and information about how to join a local book club will be available.

Stars Diane Keaton + Jane Fonda

Website: [Book Club: The Next Chapter \(12a\) - Sunderland Culture](#)

What's Love Got to Do with It?

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 15 November, 1.30pm

Tickets £4 / £3.50 Nifties member. Suitable for ages 12+

In London, an award-winning film-maker documents her best friend's journey into an assisted marriage in line with his family's Pakistani heritage. In the process, she challenges her own attitude towards relationships.

Stars Lily James

[What's Love Got to Do with It? \(12\) - Sunderland Culture](#)

Sunderland Shorts Film Festival 2023

Arts Centre Washington

Monday 16th and Friday 20 October, screenings from 2pm onwards.

Tickets and further information from [Sunderland Shorts Film Festival 2023 - Sunderland Culture](#)

Sunderland Shorts has been dedicated to bringing the best short films to the North East since 2015, and this year is their biggest celebration of cinema yet! These screenings not only showcase the best new filmmakers from across the country and around the world, but the festival also proudly champions extraordinary local screen talent.

Website: [Sunderland Shorts Film Festival 2023 - Sunderland Culture](#)

Hollowed Ground

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 14 December, 7pm

Tickets £5. Suitable for all ages

Using newly filmed narratives from the people who still live in the pit towns and villages of 'old' County Durham, we tell the story, of what it really means to grow up in a community ruled by coal and of what happens to those communities when the digging stops.

This new documentary film commemorates 30 years since the last colliery closed.

[Hollowed Ground - Sunderland Culture](#)

Visual Arts

Gaslit

Arts Centre Washington

3 October – 11 November – Upstairs in The Granary

The Sunderland Indie present a thought-provoking new exhibition around the theme of gaslighting.

This compelling exhibition invites visitors to delve into this complex psychological phenomenon, shedding light on its insidious nature and the impact it has on individuals and society. It has been happening for years, it is subtle, control, power, and we now have a name for it.

Website: [Gaslit - Sunderland Culture](#)

Trout Memo

Arts Centre Washington

6 October – 4 November

The author Ian Fleming would often scribble his madcap ideas hidden between the leaves of a book on Fly Fishing, he called it his "Trout Memo."

Artist McDada (Peter McAdam) presents a multi-media exhibition consisting of extracts from dream journals, flash fiction, poetry, cartoons, small sculptures, photography and collage which explore inner and outer worlds using childhood memories, humour, bathos and digital mash-up software to create a wall-to-wall zine.

Website: [Trout Memo - Sunderland Culture](#)

Washington Open Exhibition 2023: Spotlight

Arts Centre Washington

17 November- 22 December 2023

Washington Open Exhibition shines a spotlight on the talented amateur and professional artists living and working in the region. An open call invited applicants to creatively respond to the theme of Roots /Renewal.

Last year we were blown away by the standard of submissions from more than 40 artists working in a range of mediums including painting textiles, digital art, photography and sculpture.

Special Events

Mining Songs with folk singer Bill Elliot

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 4 October 1:30pm

Tickets £4/ £3.50 Nifties member.

Bill Elliott is the Grandson of Jack Elliott and a member of the “Elliott’s of Birtley” well -known locally, nationally and internationally for performing Coal Mining songs. Five generations of his family worked at Harraton Colliery. The session will also include a short film of Bill’s Dad working underground in Harraton and images of Old Fatfield from Beamish Museum’s Photo Archive.

Website: [Nifties - Sunderland Culture](#)

Drink and Draw – Life Drawing Social

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 26th October 7pm Tickets £13

Take a drink, loosen up and grab your pad and pencil at this fun and inspiring sketching social! Our ever-popular monthly life drawing class with a variety of brilliant life models and sessions. Sketching poses range from between 3 – 30 minutes and helpful tuition is offered 1 to 1 as needed. This is a fast-paced, informal, fun session - open to beginners and experienced artists alike!

Website: [Drink and Draw – Life Drawing Social - Sunderland Culture](#)

Figure Drawing for Beginners

Arts Centre Washington

Thursdays, 6.45 to 8.35pm starting on Thursday Sept 7th, 14th, 21st & Oct 5th, 12th, 19th £66 for 6-week course

Have you always wanted to be able to draw the human form but don’t know where to begin or want to improve your confidence? Then come along to our introductory course.

We will cover fundamental skills needed to produce quality life and figure drawing sketches. Friendly, experienced tutors will cover technical elements of composition, proportion, line, tone, form and structure, different media and you will draw from life at the end of each class.

[Figure Drawing for Beginners - Sunderland Culture](#)

Washington: Fact, Fiction and Folklore Writers’ showcase event

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 5th October

Calling all creative writers and history researchers Prizes available. **Deadline for submissions: 5pm 27th September 2023.**

We're looking for a new take on a well-known Washington story or something that sheds light on a lesser-told or hidden history. You will be invited to perform your work. This work will, in turn, be used as inspiration for artworks in The Sunderland Indie exhibition in 2024.

[Washington: Fact, Fiction and Folklore - Sunderland Culture](#)

Swing Band Dance Night with The Bright Street Band

Arts Centre Washington

21st October 2023 Doors 6:30 pm/ Tickets £12

Join us for an unforgettable Swing Band Dance Night, transporting you back to the golden era of jazz and swing! The evening kicks off with a short Swing Dance Taster workshop from Lindy Jazz. All welcome, whether you're a seasoned swing dancer or a beginner eager to learn a few moves for the night, or simply looking forward to enjoying the music from the fantastic Bright Street Big Band and Swing DJ Andy Lewis.

[Swing Band Dance Night with The Bright Street Band - Sunderland Culture](#)

Empowerment Through Art: Illuminating Truth

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 25 October, 10am – 12noon, Free limited availability Suitable for ages 11+

Participants will be able to create their own art using the Gaslit exhibition as inspiration. One of the artists will take you on a tour of the exhibition and you will use photographs or sketches create your own artwork in acrylic paint in reaction to the exhibition.

[Empowerment Through Art - Sunderland Culture](#)

Drink and Draw – Life Drawing Social

Arts Centre Washington

Thursday 9th November 7pm

Tickets £13

Take a drink, loosen up and grab your pad and pencil at this fun and inspiring sketching social! Our ever-popular monthly life drawing class with a variety of brilliant life models and sessions. Sketching poses range from between 3 – 30 minutes and helpful tuition is offered 1 to 1 as needed. This is a fast-paced, informal, fun session - open to beginners and experienced artists alike!

[Drink and Draw – Life Drawing Social - Sunderland Culture](#)

Christmas Craft & Makers Fair

Arts Centre Washington

Saturday 25 November 10am – 3pm. Free admission

A variety of stalls selling products created by local and regional artists and crafts people, including crafty workshops for all ages and pop-up performances and events by our creative community!

<https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/events/christmas-craft-and-makers-fair/>

Figure Drawing Techniques and Media – (Intermediate to competent level)

Arts Centre Washington

Thursdays, 6.30 to 8.30pm starting on 2nd November to 7th December.

£78 for 6-week course

Following on from our popular Beginners and Improvers Figure Drawing courses, this course is for those who wish to continue improving their skills and experimenting with different drawing techniques and media. Each week our experienced tutors will cover a new angle or technique from which to approach drawing the human form from professional life models.

[Figure Drawing Techniques and Media - Sunderland Culture](#)

Christmas Crafts

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 29th November

Tickets £4/ £3.50 Nifties member.

Join Rachel to get in the festive spirit and create a seasonal decoration for your home using natural materials.

[Nifties - Sunderland Culture](#)

Christmas Wreaths

Arts Centre Washington

Saturday 2 December, 10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm

Tickets £8 per person. Suitable for ages 6+

Nothing says Christmas quite like a homemade Christmas Wreath to put on your front door! Join us for our family workshop.

[Christmas Wreathes - Sunderland Culture](#)

Figure Drawing Techniques and Media – (Intermediate to competent level)

Arts Centre Washington

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£78 for 6-week course

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[Figure Drawing Techniques and Media - Sunderland Culture](#)

Christmas Party

Arts Centre Washington

Wednesday 13th December/ Tickets £4/ £3.50 Nifties member.



Join us for community performances and a Christmas dinner.
[Nifties - Sunderland Culture](#)

Cabaret Drink & Draw

Arts Centre Washington
Friday 15 December 7pm
Tickets £16

Grab your sketch pad and pencil for our special Drink and Draw Christmas Cabaret with the vivacious chanteuse Hildy Harland modelling and providing the entertainment for this festive evening of life drawing.

Come and help yourself to materials, grab a drink from the bar and relax into your space as Hildy moves through a variety of short and longer poses.

[Cabaret Drink & Draw - Sunderland Culture](#)