

# PRESS RELEASE

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# REIMAGINE ROSEHILL

## VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



The Chairman Norman Clarkson and trustees of Rosehill Arts Trust are delighted to announce the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on Monday 10 April 2017 to preview the redeveloped Rosehill Theatre which is set to open to the public in May.

Building works started at Rosehill Theatre in October 2015 with Postlethwaite Construction as the main contractor and Johnston and Wright as architect. These works completed earlier this month and recommissioning has started throughout. The auditorium is being restored, returning it to its former glory and description as a *rose-red silk lined jewel box*.

The new theatre includes a 60 seat restaurant, for which plans are being made to open in May, overlooking the Solway Firth. Jon Fell<sup>1</sup> has been appointed as Head Chef and he is building his hospitality team including apprentices in association with the catering school at Lakes College.

Customer and backstage facilities have been increased and improved greatly with Access for All throughout. And all external and car parking areas have been landscaped and improved substantially.

Performances are being scheduled for later in the spring and into the summer.

The programme for this visit by His Royal Highness will include a short performance in the new Courtyard of a singing and dancing number from the musical *Clog Dance*<sup>2</sup> composed by locally based John Marcangelo<sup>2</sup> and performed by the locally based Marcangelo Music Players.

In the auditorium the soprano Natalia Tanasii accompanied by pianist Julia Cobby<sup>3</sup> will perform arias from *Carmen*, *La Bohème* and *Rusalka*. Natalia's appearance is by kind introduction of Glyndebourne Festival Opera<sup>3</sup>.

This visit to Rosehill Theatre by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales follows visits by H.R.H. The Princess Margaret in July 1962 and by H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother in October 1964.

The redevelopment of Rosehill Theatre would not have been possible without the generous financial support of many individuals and organisations, some large and some smaller but all essential. In combination they have made this great venture work. We are most grateful to them all including Britain's Energy Coast, Copeland Community Fund, Coastal Communities Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Linbury Trust, WREN, J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust, Savoy Educational Trust and National Grid.



This visit by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales has the support of Sellafield Limited for which we are most grateful.



## Notes

**1. Jon Fell** lives with his family in Egremont and was born and brought up in Leicestershire. He moved to West Cumbria in 2003 to be the Chef Manager at The Strands Hotel in Nether Wasdale. Following which he became Food and Hygiene Manager for Zest Restaurants before being appointed Head Chef and then Group Chef for Sella Park Country House Hotel and Muncaster Castle. Jon's most recent position was as Head Chef at The White Mare in Beckermest. He trained at Loughborough College.

He features regularly at food festivals both in Cumbria and nationwide including Taste Cumbria, The Home and Garden Show and CarFest for Children in Need.

Jon is committed to developing the skills of young people in catering and hospitality and mentored one of his junior chefs in the North West Young Chef of the Year Competition 2014 when the participant came second.

**2. Clog Dance** is a number in a musical of the same name composed by John Marcangelo. John was born in Whitehaven and spent his early years in New York. On returning to the UK he studied at Leeds College of Music.

In 1979 John's composition *Clog Dance* became an international hit for his band Violinski featuring ELO's Mick Kaminski, making the UK's top twenty. It has been recorded since by many of the major brass bands, featuring in the hit film *Brassed Off*. John who came home to Whitehaven developed this hit number into a full musical in 2007. A new production will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year and will run from 24-28 October at the Whitehaven Civic Hall.

**3. Natalia Tanasii** appears by kind introduction of Glyndebourne Festival Opera where Rosehill's founder, Sir Nicholas Sekers was a founding trustee. The opera house at Glyndebourne was Sir Nicholas' inspiration in creating Rosehill Theatre in the grounds of his home at Rosehill House. Natalia was a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne in 2016 performing the role of the Hen and covering the title role in their production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Born in Moldova, Natalia is the recipient of many prizes in national and international singing competitions. At the age of 21 she made her professional debut in the role of the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Moldovan National Theatre.

On graduating in 2014, she joined the young ensemble of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet where she performed the role of Micaëla in Calixto Bieito's production of *Carmen*. That same year she made her UK debut with a stunning performance of Britten's *War Requiem* at the Southbank Centre, London with Marin Alsop. This season she returned to Norwegian National Opera to guest as Fiordiligi in a new production of *Così fan tutte*, as soprano soloist in a staged production by Calixto Bieito of Britten's *War Requiem* and in reprising the role of Micaëla.

Natalia will join Zurich Opera in August 2017.

**Julia Cobby** is well known to Rosehill having performed with Nicky Spence (tenor) and Victoria Simmonds (mezzo-soprano) in previous years. Based in Cumbria Julia studied English Literature at Oxford while continuing her musical studies in London with Paul Hamburger and has worked exclusively with singers being in high demand as a vocal coach and répétiteur.

**4. Rosehill** is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.



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