

# The Sherriff Talks

Jan-July 2024

A season of Talks on theatre, film, music and literature.

**Venue: Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Manor Road, Walton on Thames**

**11:30am. Cost: £3**

30 January – **Lights, Camera, Ho! Ho! Ho! A Surprising Celebration of Christmas Movies.**

**(Postponed from December 2023)**

**February – June**

## **Through The Stage Doors: Raising the Curtain on London's Famous Theatres**

27 February – **The Little Theatre in the Hay: The Theatre Royal, Haymarket**

The story of the small theatre that opened on a rough London lane rife with villains, pickpockets and crooks, and grew to rival the other great Theatre Royal and where, while 'Waiting for Godot', Patrick Stewart forgot his lines due to a ghostly apparition.

26 March – **The Home of Variety: The London Palladium**

The Palladium is one of the most famous theatres in the World, with a stage as comfortable with the antics of pantomime as it is with Hollywood legends. And where, following a performance by four young men from Liverpool in 1963, one national paper coined a very familiar term to describe the increasingly hysterical interest in the band.

23 April – **A Theatre Peculiar and Almost Awful: The Old Vic**

Opened in 1818, The Old Vic would eventually become home to Laurence Olivier's National Theatre where it remained until it moved to its new home on The South Bank. But for over 200 years some of the greatest and in some cases, most controversial actors, have trodden the boards of what was known as 'Queen Victoria's Own Theayter'.

21 May – **A Realised Dream: The Royal National Theatre**

Described as having 'that inevitable and finished look that great work does' *and* 'a clever way of building a nuclear power station in the middle of London without anyone objecting', The Royal National Theatre has never shied away from controversy both on and off stage and was also home to the greatest revival of the greatest musical ever written.

11 June – **Mr Garrick's Fireside: A Personal History of The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane**

The first National Theatre, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane has provided entertainment for every monarch since the Charles II. This talk takes a personal journey through the history of one of the most famous theatres in the world with tales of being the body double for the man who wrote 'My Fair Lady' and almost being shot by the Queen Mother's security detail...all because of Ken Dodd.