

# GALA

## PRODUCTIONS



## ALADDIN

by Simon Stallworthy

Winter 2008

Gala's first in-house pantomime set a new box office record and offered the region's best value tickets. The cast, live band and GTSS Ensemble were universally acclaimed by the audience and critics alike.

*'The Gala Theatre's first in-house pantomime sets a benchmark for Geordie humour, visual fun, good-natured comedy and plenty of audience participation. Director Simon Stallworthy has tapped into regional talent to produce a show that has its own distinctive style while losing none of the traditional set pieces.'*

**The Stage**

*'Aladdin is a rip-roaring, hilarious production which had the audience captivated from the opening salvo... Aladdin is billed as the "panto filled with (north) eastern promise", and it certainly delivers its promise to entertain.'*

**The Journal**

## BETRAYAL

by Harold Pinter

Spring 2009

The first play in Gala's Modern Classics series, featuring the best popular plays by British writers, was this shattering story of love and deceit.

*'It's another quality in-house production from Gala'*

**The Journal**

*'A brave start to the classic series and a successful one. I look forward to the next.'*

**British Theatre Guide**

*'Stallworthy has created a highly watchable version with credit to Campbell's effective set and costume designs'*

**Northern Echo**

## GET OFF AT GATESHEAD

by Ian Skelton

Autumn 2008

A specially-commissioned piece of new writing for Gala Productions from the writer of *Beamish Boy*. A story of families, missed opportunities and regret which asked whether it really is ever too late to start again.

*'It's been a long time since I've been left speechless by a play. But last night, Ian Skelton's moving masterpiece about lost love, the inevitability of ageing parents and living in the past did just that.'*

**Sunderland Echo**

Gala's pantomime attracts over 23,000 children and adults to the Gala each Christmas



Get Off At Gateshead

## THE LIKELY LADS

by Dick Clement  
& Ian La Frenais

Summer 2008

The world premiere of the North-East's favourite TV comedy on stage for the first time.

*'There won't be a comedy this year with sharper lines'*  
**The Times**

*'What happened to them? They got even better...'*  
**The Northern Echo**

*'A highly entertaining, well-constructed and often bittersweet performance'*  
**Evening Chronicle**

Gala has staged six world premieres in just three years

## MAGGIE'S END

by Ed Waugh  
& Trevor Wood

Autumn 2007

A comic satire on the death of an icon. *Maggie's End* will open in London in April 2009.

*'Wonderful... as controversial as it is funny... go and see it'*  
**Daily Mirror**

*'A play which will resonate with many... some wonderful comic touches'*  
**Evening Chronicle**

*'A daring play... cannot fail to strike a chord with audiences'*  
**The Journal**

*'Hard-hitting, thought-provoking and sure to be a popular all over the country... top Marx'*  
**Northern Echo**



## BEAMISH BOY

by Ian Skelton

Spring 2007

If you live in the past... will it cost you the present? A modern drama of generational differences and the region's future.

*'A capacity audience was enthralled and theatre director Simon Stallworthy is to be congratulated on picking another winner for a venue growing in stature.'*

**Northern Echo**

*'I loved it... an excellent showcase of life in the North East and a true credit to the writer and director'*

**What's On North East**

## TAAKIN' HEEDS

by Arthur McKenzie

Summer 2006

A collection of three new short plays told by three colourfully canny characters.

*'Stallworthy has gathered a veritable North East dream team for this production and it has paid off handsomely'*

**British Theatre Guide**

*'The writing is sublime... the performance a joy to watch'*

**Sunderland Echo**

## THE FAR CORNER

by Harry Pearson

adapted by Simon

Stallworthy

Spring 2006

The passion, pitches and pies - a touching and very funny tale of one fan's journey around North-East football grounds.

*'There's only one actor on stage, and a small stretch of stand, but you can see, or sense it all - the bellowing goalies, the terrace comedians, the cliché sprouting experts. This production is a winner.'*

**Sunderland Echo**

Gala has commissioned new writing and revived modern classics



Gala

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Photography by Peter Skelton

Front cover photo of *Betrayal* by Chris Auld



*Beamish Boy*