

# MUSIC

with Helen Clarke



Duffy  
*Stepping Stone*  
Single  
A&M  
September 1  
★★★★☆

ONE OF the best tracks from her massive album *Rockferry*, *Stepping Stone* offers a glimmer of what Duffy's always lacked – honesty.

Where Amy Winehouse has always sounded heartbroken, and Adele's vocal is pleading and tearful, Duffy's throaty, 60s sound has been devoid of emotion. Until now.

Her latest single sees the doe-eyed Welsh warbler adding a more human depth to a delicate, moody track.

It's a tear-jerker – she's standing her ground and refusing to be walked all over again.

Pulsating but sparse – like Dionne Warwick's *Walk On By* – it forces the listener to focus on her creeping vocal.



Friendly Fires  
*Friendly Fires*  
Album  
XL  
September 1  
★★★★☆

IT'S TAKEN more than two years for the electro trio's 37-minute debut to see the light of day. But despite having just two singles and a couple of EPs behind them, Friendly Fires' album sounds spookily familiar.

A lot has happened in the past few years, and a band who started off as one of the most exhilarating new bands on the live circuit have quickly aged.

Foals pipped them to the post, releasing the brilliant *Antidotes* back in March, and they could have just missed the boat, which is a shame because this is a great record.

With *Late of the Pier's* chaotic explosion of blips and bleeps, and a smattering of lo fi shoegaze guitar, it catapults the listener through a dance floor friendly dreamscape.

Single *Jump In The Pool* is brimming with energy and atmosphere. Singer Ed Macfarlane's vocals recall David Byrne – a slightly manic, distracted rant.

Overall it's a thoughtful, imaginative album which could prove to be one of the surprise hits of the year – surely there's room for one more indie/electro band...



Little Jackie  
*The Stoop*  
Album  
Parlophone  
September 1  
★★★★☆

THOSE who remember Imani Coppola's '97 hit *Legend of a Cowgirl* will be surprised to hear that the same woman is behind Little Jackie.

A hyperactive hybrid of sunshine pop, Motown rhythms and quirky hip hop, Coppola's new project sounds like Kelis covering Lily Allen.

Full of sassy, girl power lyrics, she takes no prisoners, laying into anyone who dares step in her path. An album highlight, *Black Barbie*, pokes fun at celebutantes like Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan, while 28 Butts is a tongue-in-cheek look at Bridget Jones-esque nights home alone.

The record's first single tells you all you need to know about Little Jackie. "Yessir-eee the whole world should revolve around me," she pouts. It's Disney pop with attitude. Silly... but damn addictive.

## THE GATE, NOTTING HILL

### WHAT?

*Hedda*, written by Henrik Ibsen and adapted by Lucy Kirkwood. Ibsen is one of the few playwrights that can comfortably sit in the same sentence as Shakespeare.

Forget the fjords and the smoked fish, check out Ibsen's intensity for a true slice of Norway's best.

### WHEN?

Until September 27. Mon-Sat, 7.30. Sat matinees, 3pm

### HOW MUCH?

£16/11. Tip: Monday nights pay-what-you-can tickets. First-come first-served, one per person. Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea locals 2x1 offer for all Saturday shows. Season pass (three shows for £30).

### WHERE?

Just around the corner from Notting Hill Gate tube, on the way to Portobello, a slick space above



● Cara Horgan and Tom Mison in Lucy Kirkwood's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda*

a pub. Arancina on 19 Westbourne Grove is also good for a quick bite nearby. Call 020 7229 0706. See [www.gatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.gatetheatre.co.uk)

## THE ORANGE TREE THEATRE, RICHMOND

### WHAT?

*Leaving*, by Vaclav Havel. From prison to president, Vaclav Havel has seen it all. Five years since stepping down as the president of the Czech Republic he's still writing new plays. *Leaving*, somewhat predictably, is about dispossession and the passage of power.

### WHEN?

September 19-25, but the Havel season continues until December 13. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Sat and Thurs matinees (vary) 3pm.

### HOW MUCH?

£10-£26. Tip: Cheapest on Monday evening, Saturday matinee, previews (first



● Headshot from when Havel was imprisoned

Wednesday and Thursday of the run.)

### WHERE?

A beautiful, wooden theatre close to Richmond train/tube station on the right. Call 020 8940 3633. See [www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk](http://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk)

## ROYAL COURT THEATRE, SLOANE SQUARE



### WHAT?

*Now or Later*, by Christopher Shinn. Election night in the US. Undesirable images of a president-to-be's son start circulating on the internet.

It's a battle against time and family ties with the scintillating Eddie Redmayne as the young man caught in the middle.

### WHEN?

September 3 to October 18. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat and Thurs matinees (vary) 3.30pm.

### HOW MUCH?

£10-25. Tip: Handful of standing spots per show for just 10p. Mondays £10 all seats.

### WHERE?

Opposite side of John Lewis on Sloane Square. Call 020 7565 5000. See [www.royalcourttheatre.com](http://www.royalcourttheatre.com).

● Film and theatre star Eddie Redmayne in *Now or Later*, by Christopher Shinn.

# WELCOME TO THEATRELAND

THE DAYS ARE GETTING SHORTER. SUMMER WILL SOON WAVE GOODBYE. BUT WITH AUTUMN COMES THE COMFORT OF VISITING OUR COUNTLESS THEATRES. WHETHER A TINY ROOM ABOVE A PUB, IN THE ROUND, OR IN A MIGHTY MANSION – HERE'S A PREVIEW OF WHAT WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO. BY CHRISTIAN MCLAUGHLIN

## LYRIC THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH



● Deanna Rodger and Tashan Cushnie spreading love before their show, *Honey Coated Dream* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

### WHAT?

*Honey Coated Dream*, by Deanna Rodger and Tashan Cushnie.

Two spoken-verse poets fuse their words and talk love.

Hard-hitting verbal punches from UK Slam Poetry Champion Deanna Rodger will make, break and orchestrate with the musicality of Tashan Cushnie.

Three nights only to catch this very special show.

### WHEN?

September 4 - 6. 8pm.

### HOW MUCH?

£3. Tip: No need!

### WHERE?

Over the road from Hammersmith tube in Lyric Square. The Dove pub on the river is worth a detour for too. Call 0871 22 117 29. See [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

## RIVERSIDE STUDIOS, HAMMERSMITH

### WHAT?

*Thérèse Raquin*, by Emile Zola. Can infidelity and murder lead to happiness? A dark Valia Phyllis betrays her husband and then conspires to murder him with the help of his best friend.

### WHEN?

Until September 7. Tue-Sat, 7.30. Sun, 6pm.

### HOW MUCH?

£15/12.50 concessions. Tip: Too late for this one, but look out for cheap preview tickets at the beginning of the next run.

### WHERE?

Riverside Studios on Crisp Road, keep going round the left of the Apollo and it's on the left. Call 020 8237 1111. See [www.riversidestudios.co.uk](http://www.riversidestudios.co.uk)

● Valia Phyllis as Thérèse Raquin at the Riverside Studios on Crisp Road, Hammersmith



## BUSH THEATRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH



● (From left) Rose Romain, Shafiq Mirza, Ruth Wanjuco, Emily Penn, Doug Crossley, Esther Shelmardine, Rachel De-lahay and Benedict Adeyemi

### WHAT?

*Turf*, by Simon Vinnicombe and performed by BushFutures.

The Bush is all about new writing. Only plays – by writers great and small – which have yet to be staged are allowed a run here.

BushFutures is the first year of the theatre's youth group which scouts for the hottest

actors and playwrights that live, work or go to school in Shepherd's Bush. Once found, they team up twice a year with professionals like Simon Vinnicombe to keep the cycle of inspiration alive and well.

### HOW MUCH?

£10/6 concessions. Tip: Family tickets. £20 (1-2 adults and 2-3 under 18s).

### WHERE?

Opposite end to beat-bunker bar Ginglik on Shepherd's Bush Green. Call 020 8743 5050 or 020 8743 3584. See [www.bushtheatre.co.uk](http://www.bushtheatre.co.uk)

## FINBOROUGH THEATRE, EARL'S COURT

### WHAT?

*Sons of York*, by James Graham.

Feeling betrayed by the Labour government, a Hull community of 1978 battens down the hatches and prepares to fight.

The sets at the miniature Finborough theatre are always a wonder of simplicity to behold.

Bring a helmet and a shield and get ready for war.

### WHEN?

September 3-27. Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. Sat and Sun matinees, 3pm.

### HOW MUCH?

£13/9 concessions. Tip: Tuesdays all seats £9. Preview shows September 3 and 4 also £9.



● Kazia Pelka and Steven Webb in *Sons of York* at the Finborough Theatre

### WHERE?

Past the perfect-for-a-pint Troubadour pub on the left, a tiny and magical theatre above the pub

on 118 Finborough Road. Call 0870 4000 838. See [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

# WELCOME TO THEATRELAND

## SOHO THEATRE



● Sam Marks and Shaun Rivers in *Tory Boyz*

**WHAT?**  
National Youth Theatre presents *Out of Me*, by Jane Bodie, presented in repertory with *Tory Boyz* and *Eating ice cream on Gaza Beach*. Forty years on from *The Abortion Act*, does freedom to choose make the decision any less difficult? Just one of the prickly questions from the young team that made *White Boy*.

**WHEN?**  
Until September 13. 7.30pm

**HOW MUCH?**  
£20. Tip: The earlier in the run the cheaper the tickets at Soho. Buy now, save later.

**WHERE?**  
Until September 13  
The Soho Theatre's right in the thick of it, just around the corner from *The Tucan* (famed for its Guinness) at 21 Dean Street. Call 0870 4296 883. See [www.sohotheatre.com](http://www.sohotheatre.com) for more information.

## BARONS COURT THEATRE

**WHAT?**  
*White Lies/Black Comedy*, by Peter Shaffer. For the first time in 30 years, *Black Comedy* is preceded by its curtain raiser *White Lies*. Get ready for classic comedy capers as Valiant Rouge Theatre Group turn the spotlight on the audience while they perform in a blackout.

**WHEN?**  
September 2-7. Tue-Sun, 7.30pm. Thurs matinee, 2.30pm.

**HOW MUCH?**  
£12/10.

**WHERE?**  
Barons Court Theatre, below the pub in a cozy cavern on 28A Comeragh Road. Call 020 8932 4747.

## TABARD THEATRE, CHISWICK

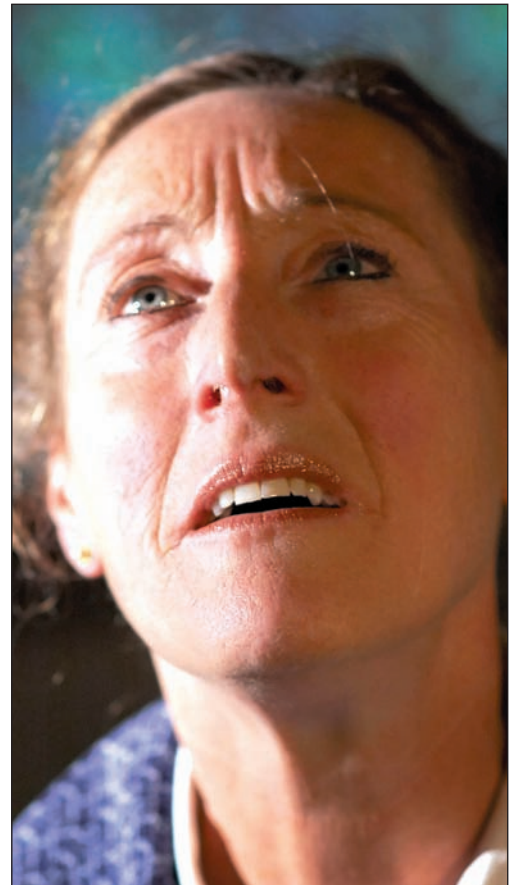
**WHAT?**  
*Another Kind of Silence*, by Liz Rothschild. Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* back in 1962, warning the world of 'wonder sprays' such as DDT. Her life and struggle as a cancer-sufferer are dramatised by an emphatic Liz Rothschild.

**WHEN?**  
September 9-13. 8pm.

**HOW MUCH?**  
£13/11 concessions.

**WHERE?**  
For the Tabard Theatre follow the road round to the right once out of Chiswick tube station and voila! Another lovely theatre above the pub at 2 Bath Road. Call 08448 472 264 to buy, 020 8995 6035 for info. See [www.tabardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.tabardtheatre.co.uk)

● Liz Rothschild in *Another Kind of Silence*, Tabard Theatre, Chiswick



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