

What's on

Soundscape of human voices

REVIEW *Mmm Hmmm*, Tobacco Factory theatre
THERE are loads of choirs in South Bristol. And there are tons of performers, creative-types and live gig-goers. So it's no surprise that there was a packed house for *Mmm Hmm* on January 21 – it's a perfect combination of all these things. I was delighted to have a ticket, having missed out on the previous run back in 2014.

This short a cappella performance – only 45 minutes – was startling in many ways. The set? Just the black floor and walls of the Tobacco Factory, lit with boxes of light. Three women in black leather shoes and block-coloured... well, you could call them dresses, but throughout the show arms were in, arms were out, hoods were up, monk-like, to cover faces, empty sleeves were tied tight, or tucked in to create formless bags of cloth. It was physical too, with pushing and shoving, mimed tea-drinking, stomping



Note perfect: Ellie Showering, Verity Standen and Jannah Warlow

and clapping, something close to formation pogo-ing, chocolate biscuit-eating and breathlessly panting out the crumbs.

But most incredible was the sound – three human voices creating soundscapes, hair-on-end harmonies, clashing discords, songs of joy and sadness. And they pulled

the audience right along with them – we leaned in to catch breaths and whispers, laughed heads back, and, right at the end, were visibly moved – I wasn't the only one wiping a tear away at something, not as simple as a song with a meaningful lyric – somehow they conveyed something of the human experience, without

one note of preaching or anything as simple as verse-chorus-verse.

Sadly this was the last run of this show. But watch out for composer Verity Standen, collaborator Ellie Showering and fellow performer Jannah Warlow, all Bristol-based, all fantastic, all guaranteed to come up with more great stuff. *Beccy Golding*

consciousness by John Peel in the early 1980s, performance poet, musician, journalist and political activist Attila the Stockbroker has spent 35 years touring the world." £10/£8.

• www.thethunderbolt.net

Friday February 19

Stained glass workshop for intermediates, from 9.30am-12.30pm at Windmill Hill City Farm. "A course for students who wish to advance their skills in stained glass making and copper foiling, as well as learning new techniques such as fusing and painting on glass." Run by the WEA. 15 sessions, £210 – free for those on a means-tested benefit, £40 materials fee payable by all.

Saturday February 20

Friends of Avon New Cut meet for litter clearance along Cumberland Road and Rail track. Meet at Gaol Ferry Bridge at 10am for around two hours. Followed by complimentary hot drink and cake.

• www.franc.org.uk

Sunday February 21

Young Farmers Club for children aged 8-12 years at

Windmill Hill City Farm, every Sunday, 9am-noon. "We have a new term-time opportunity for children to help us regularly on the farmyard and get to know all the animals. Activities will include feeding, mucking out and grooming the animals, as well as collecting eggs." £12 per session. Call 0117 963 3252 or email info@windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk

• www.windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk

Chosen Wedding Fair

Paintworks, Bath Road. "Uninspired and looking for that something that's uniquely you? Join us for a day of discovery and inspiration, celebrating local designer, maker and vintage talent that will help you make planning your big day as fun as it should be!" 11am-4.30pm. £3 in advance & £4 on the door.

• www.chosenwedding.com

• www.paintworksbristol.co.uk

David O'Doherty at the Tobacco Factory theatre. Shows at 4pm and 8pm. Extra shows by the Irish comedian. "David O'Doherty, the Lidl Enya, the broken Bubl , is delighted to present a new show of talking

and songs played on a stupid keyboard from 1986." Ages 16+. £16.50.

• www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com

Tuesday February 23

Sisters Acta theatre, Gladstone Street, Bedminster. Also on February 26. The Acta company revive a show first produced at the theatre in 2013. "Stacey and Sharon share everything, all the ups and downs, the laughs and tears of adult life. But when an elderly relative dies, their close relationship is suddenly under threat."

• www.acta-bristol.com

Friday, February 26

Quiz and supper night Windmill Hill community centre, Vivian Street. Held last Friday of every month, 8.30pm.

• www.whca.org.uk

The Feminists (Berlin) + Myst + Cosmonaut & Creature + The Backhand Jags, 7.30-11.45pm, The Thunderbolt, Bath Road.

"Berlin girls The Feminists ... with a documented penchant for sweet dresses and subtle make-up, show not only skin and sweat, but also an electrical

stage presence. With the unique Samantha Fuchs as frontwoman, the force of the band is irresistible."

• www.thethunderbolt.net

Saturday February 27

Willow weaving workshop at Windmill Hill City Farm, 10am-5pm. "This one-day course is an excellent, relaxing, opportunity. Over the course of the day we will teach you how to weave a basket from willow. You will leave at the end of the day with your finished basket and the skills to make many more." Cost £45.

• www.windmillhillcityfarm.org.uk

Sunday February 28

No Such Thing As A Fish with the QI Elves Tobacco Factory theatre. "The QI Elves take to the road in the first live touring version of their multi-award-winning podcast, on the back of their sell-out Edinburgh Festival run. Join Dan Schreiber, Andrew Hunter Murray, James Harkin and Anna Ptaszynski as they serve up bizarre, extraordinary and hilarious facts from the QI universe." 8pm. Ages 16+. Tickets £15.

• www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com