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# All set for celebration of the arts

The stage is being set for a celebration of the arts in Norfolk at Norwich Cathedral.

The second Hostry Festival will take place from October 26 until November 4, and the 2012 programme promises audiences an array of events ranging from the world premiere of a sequel to Shakespeare's Hamlet to an afternoon with Norfolk authors to children's theatre and staged readings of newly commissioned plays.

Stash Kirkbride, the festival's artistic director, said the festival would be a great showcase of creativity in Norfolk, with more than 90pc of the programme being commissioned work from the county.

He said: "It is about being made in Norfolk and celebrating Norfolk. This year is all about pushing the boundaries creatively. It is about specially commissioned works and community and seeing really great performances in one of Norfolk's most prestigious and welcoming venues."

Topping the festival bill is a newly-created sequel to Shakespeare's Hamlet. Called Hamlet: The Undiscovered Country, it is written by Mr Kirkbride and festival co-producer Peter Beck.

Mr Kirkbride said: "It is a brand



**Ready for the festival:** Stash Kirkbride, artistic director, getting ready for the Hostry Festival at Norwich Cathedral; Above right, Tom Harper, who is playing Hamlet in Hamlet: The Undiscovered Country.  
PHOTOS: DENISE BRADLEY/MATT DARTFORD

new story which is a sequel with a major twist, taking some very familiar characters and placing them in very unfamiliar surroundings."

Before each of the Hamlet performances the inclusive theatre company Total Ensemble will perform a piece of movement theatre exploring themes from the

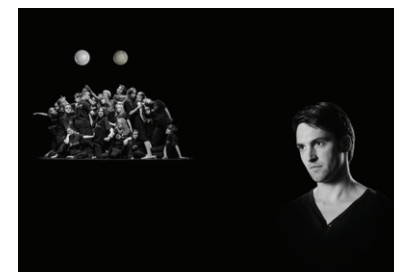
Bard's tragic masterpiece. Other highlights are the staged readings of A Visit to the Villa Edouard VII by Julian Maclaren Ross and Voices: Moments from the Lives of Others by Adrian Drew.

Five Marys Waiting, a new play by David Banks, is also being presented as a staged reading in a double bill with a concert starring

cellist Clare O'Connell and violinist Marcus Barcham-Stevens.

Younger audiences can enjoy watching Thumbelina presented by Norwich Puppet Theatre and also Tilly the Talespinner and Obee Joyful.

Literary fans can enjoy an afternoon with Norfolk authors



Simon Gough, Sarah Ridgard, Elspeth Barker, Dennison Smith, Doug Stroggins, Stash Kirkbride and Peter Beck. There will also be a 2012 Norfolk Arts Awards to celebrate creative talent in Norfolk.

The closing event will be a free screening of the classic Hamlet film starring Laurence Olivier.

Mr Kirkbride established the festival last year along with Peter Barrow, Peter Beck and Rebecca Chapman. It is now supported by a number of local businesses and more than 100 volunteers.

The principal sponsor of the festival is Fosters Solicitors.

→ **For more details, including dates and times of events and ticket prices, visit [www.hostryfestival.org](http://www.hostryfestival.org). Tickets can also be bought at the Cathedral Shop and by calling 01603 218450.**

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