



Fun at the 2016 Hostry Festival launch

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES

Several features of the festival are now mainstays of the programme, including the Norfolk Arts Awards - which includes the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award, supported by the EDP Norfolk magazine. This will take place at The Hostry on Friday, October 21; tickets are £25.

Total Ensemble Theatre Company, which stars actors of many abilities and disabilities, has created a new production for 2016 which will be performed at The Hostry on Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30, from 2-3.30pm; tickets £12, £10 concessions.

There are many musical performances too, plus Mustard TV's Never Too Late project, following six older people trying new challenges.

The not-for-profit Hostry Festival, supported by more than 100 volunteers, runs from October 15 to 30. See the festival brochure for more details; tickets from www.hostryfestival.org, the Theatre Royal box office, or 01603 598676.

PICTURES: MATT DARTFORD 2016 / SIMON FINLAY

Hurrah for the Hostry

Images of New York will be projected through the glass walls of the theatre space on to the side of Norwich Cathedral, as part of King Lear In New York. Festival artistic director Stash Kirkbride says the play will be the festival's most high profile event to date.

"I saw the play more than 20 years ago and really loved it and thought I'd love to produce it one day," says Stash. "Over the past six years of the Hostry Festival we have always tried staging new plays. So I contacted Melvyn this spring and he said he had no problem with us doing the play but he wanted to



Stash Kirkbride at the launch of the 2016 Hostry Festival

rewrite it for us. Now it's a 90-minute, one-act play, which suits the festival very well. It's a domestic, humorous, moving and touching drama, about family, fame, friendships and human frailty."

Stars include Norfolk actor Louis Hilyer, who has performed with the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and played Inspector Vyner in the TV series Downton Abbey. The play has an original music score and is produced by the PBSK Partnership (Peter Barrow and Stash Kirkbride, who set up the Hostry Festival in 2010).

