Students' Union opens Book Swap Shop

Sophie Layton (she/her)

The Students' Union has announced a new literature division of the Swap Shop. Located next to the main Swap Shop on the third level of the Students' Union, it allows students to exchange their old & read books for new publications of their choosing, free of charge. Education Officer Maria J. Lourido Moreno praised the new initiative, saying: "Knowledge and education have to be free and community-based, these are little steps to getting that future".

This adds to the scheme established in 2022, whereby students can trade in clothes they no longer wear and get something new. This extension allows students to not only declutter before the end of the year, but also encourages sustainability and helps our student community keep reading as the summer months approach.

The Book Swap Shop can be found on level 3 of the Students' Union



Credit: Sheffield SU

Theatre Deli Sheffield to close in latest blow to local arts

Sophie Layton (she/her)

Theatre Deli's Sheffield venue has announced that it will close by the end of May. The arts venue, which hosts productions from small and amateur theatre groups, including the University of Sheffield Light Entertainment Society's (USLES') upcoming musical *Chosen Ones*, revealed its closure earlier this month in an announement that has shocked the city's arts community.

Taking to social media, the venue said: "IMPORTANT: End of our Arley St journey". The post explained that "as of May 2024 Theatre Deli Sheffield will be closing it's current home on Arley Street permanently. We had planned to stay for longer and will be sad to say goodbye to the beautiful space we created". They also took the opportunity to "thank all the artists, companies and community organisations who have worked with us this past year".

Theatre Deli, which also has a London location, is a small venue located towards the south of the city centre, which specialises in programming small theatre companies and original works. In their past year, the venue has programmed over 70 performances and provided nearly 50 artists with space and developmental time free of charge.

The reaction among the local community has been one of sadness, including from our own student community.



Credit: Theatre Deli

Martha Allison, President of the Sheffield University Light Entertainment Society (USLES) and writer of the upcoming musical *Chosen Ones*, which is to play at the venue, told Forge Press: "Theatre Deli is the first official external venue that USLES has had the honour of performing in. Hearing about it closing down is absolutely heartbreaking".


Credit: The Star

She added: "How the arts are treated in this country is shocking. As someone who wants to write scripts professionally in the future, it's distressing that there are fewer and fewer homes for stories as time goes on. The arts deserve funding and support!".

Mudskipper Theatre Company, whose show *SPIT* was performed at Theatre Deli in October, said: "We are deeply saddened to learn that Theatre Deli Sheffield will be pausing its programming. In a time when support for independent artists is scarce, seeing one of very few small venues in Sheffield close its doors is disheartening. We owe a lot to Theatre Deli – they hosted our first ever performances and have been great supporters of [our] work. We hope to see them open their doors again in the near future".

Whilst Theatre Deli did not reveal the reason for their closure, it comes just months after Sheffield's Abbeydale Picture House was named on the Theatres at Risk Register, before it was able to secure government funding to help protect the future of the venue. It is also another incidence of local arts venues closing their doors.

Despite the underlying issues at local and national levels, we know that many in our city's arts communities will be saddened that Theatre Deli is closing its doors in only a few weeks time, with many artists relying on the space the venue offers. They have said that they are "very much look[ing] forward to 'popping up again' soon and supporting the fantastic work of local artists", but when or if that will occur is currently unconfirmed.

Theatre Deli Sheffield is located on Arley Street, south of the city centre. Paul Blomfield, MP for Sheffield Central, has been contacted for comment

Amy Trigg makes History at Oliviers

Sophie Layton (she/her)

For the first time in the category's history, a wheelchair user has been named the Olivier Award winner for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical. Amy Trigg, who has shot to fame since debuting as Agnes in the musical *The Little Big Things*, is only the second wheelchair user to ever win an Olivier Award, after Liz Carr in 2022.

This year's Olivier Awards, held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, saw the biggest names in theatre come together to honour the best in British theatre in the past year. From casts and crews, to creatives, pundits and celebrities, the star-studded awards ceremony featured performances from the nominees for Best New Musical, including the eventual winner *Operation Mincemeat*, which also received the accolade for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical, for Jak Malone.

But just as seen in the WhatsOnStage Awards earlier this year, the event was dominated by a favourite revival, which captivated minds during its short run on the West End. Jamie Lloyd's reimagining of the classic story *Sunset Boulevard* secured a stunning and record-equalling seven awards, including both Best Actor and Best Actress in a Musical, Best Lighting and Sound Design and Best Director. Whilst the nominations last month saw a three-way race at the top, *Sunset Boulevard* performed far beyond any of its revivals, with every other show receiving no more than two awards apiece.


Credit: Amy Trigg

Both other shows set to have competed with *Sunset Boulevard* suffered huge upsets at the award ceremony. Despite being nominated for nine awards each, *Dear England* finished up with Best New Play and Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Will Close's portrayal of Harry Kane, and *Guys & Dolls* only managed to secure Best Theatre Choreographer for Arlene Phillips and James Cousins.

Many productions will be celebrating their successes at this year's Olivier Awards, having been named some of the best in British theatre, with many making history with their wins, most notably Amy Trigg's charge to the top of her category. But with *Sunset Boulevard* sweeping yet another awards ceremony, some productions have been pushed out of many awards they may have otherwise have claimed, having been eclipsed by Jamie Lloyd and Nicole Scherzinger's phenomenal revival, set to transfer to Broadway in New York City later this year to amaze an entirely new audience.

The 2024 Olivier Awards were held on April 14th at the Royal Albert Hall