

VISITLEEDS

# WHAT'S ON

*Spring 2026 Edition*



*loveLEEDSlonger*

Gemma Coutts and Alessandra Bramante in Gentleman Jack. Photo Guy Farrow

# LEEDS

Jan/Feb 2026

A Midsummer Night's Dream c. Helen Murray

THU FRI  
29 JAN to 30 JAN

## STRICTLY LIVE TOUR

*first direct bank arena*

The Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour is waltzing its way into Leeds this January, to start 2026 in spectacular style. Featuring a selection of this year's contestants along with judges Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood and Anton Du Beke and live music by the iconic Strictly band and singers.

[firstdirectbankarena.com](http://firstdirectbankarena.com)

SAT  
31 JAN

## DAY FEVER

*Project House*

The UK's favourite afternoon rave returns to Leeds to celebrate the end of January. Enjoy perfect party music curated by Jon McClure of Reverend and the Makers, Vicky McClure and Jonny Owen.

[dice.fm](http://dice.fm)

FRI FRI  
30 JAN to 20 FEB (selected dates)

## OPERA NORTH'S THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

This brand-new production of Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro re-imagines the mischief in a typical modern country home. It's a great opportunity to see one of the world's best loved and most performed operas, with much of the iconic music recognisable from TV and film. [leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

SAT SAT  
14 FEB to 28 FEB

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

*Leeds Playhouse*

In this new production by Leeds Playhouse in collaboration with Shakespeare's Globe, Headlong and Bristol Old Vic, experience Shakespeare's most magical play as you've never seen it before.

[leedsplayhouse.org.uk](http://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

FRI SAT  
13 FEB to 21 FEB (selected dates)

## OPERA NORTH'S PETER GRIMES

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

This critically acclaimed version of Benjamin Britten's most famous opera returns to the Leeds stage, exploring themes of paranoia and mob mentality. With rave five-star reviews from The Guardian, The Times and many more this production is utterly absorbing. [operanorth.co.uk](http://operanorth.co.uk)

SAT SUN  
14 FEB to 08 MAR

## LEEDS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

*Leeds Libraries \*check website for specific library venues.*

The inaugural Leeds Storytelling Festival is held in partnership with Wrongsemble and LIVEwire Poetry. It's a city-wide celebration of storytelling designed for families and children, featuring workshops, readings, film screenings and more. [leedsinspired.co.uk](http://leedsinspired.co.uk)

SUN  
22 FEB

## LEEDS BLUES RHYTHM AND ROCK FESTIVAL *Brudenell Social Club*

A packed line-up of some of the best bands from Leeds and across the country. [brudenellsocialclub.co.uk](http://brudenellsocialclub.co.uk)

# Ongoing

UNTIL

19 APRIL

## 'DON'T LET'S ASK FOR THE MOON': NOCTURNES AND ATKINSON GRIMSHAW

*Leeds Art Gallery*

Leeds' artist John Atkinson Grimshaw's Moonlights from the 1880s brought him international success and recognition. His haunting paintings illuminated by the light of the moon have gained in popularity again recently, and this exhibition reexamines the artist as a painter of modernity. [museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

UNTIL

19 APRIL

## PLANT DREAMING

*Leeds Art Gallery*

This group exhibition brings together recent works by contemporary artists featuring large-scale textiles and installations, as well as ceramics, drawings, photography and film. Each featured work explores a different type of plant knowledge and asks questions about the position of humans in an interconnected world. [museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

UNTIL

19 APRIL

## BEYOND THE VISUAL

*Henry Moore Institute*

Beyond the Visual is the UK's first major sculpture exhibition in which blind and partially blind practitioners are central to the curatorial process and make up the majority of participating artists. [henry-moore.org](https://henry-moore.org)

UNTIL

28 JUNE

## MUSIC LEADS US: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MUSIC IN LEEDS

*Leeds City Museum*

Marking 60 years of Leeds Conservatoire, this special exhibition celebrates the people, places and magic moments that have shaped the city's musical identity across six vibrant decades. [museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

UNTIL

07 JUNE

## CHARLOTTE VERITY: THE SEASON FOLLOWING

*Harewood House*

Experience the fleeting nature of the seasons through the work of Charlotte Verity, a British artist known for her meticulously observed paintings of plants and flowers.

[harewood.org](https://harewood.org)



# LEEDS

March 2026

THU SUN  
05 MAR to 08 MAR

## DISNEY ON ICE

*first direct bank arena*

Experience a spectacular show where favourite Disney stories come to life through world-class ice skating, featuring favourites from Encanto, Beauty and the Beast, Frozen and more. [firstdirectbankarena.com](https://firstdirectbankarena.com)

SAT  
07 MAR

## RIONA O CONNOR & OLGA THOMPSON: THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH

*Leeds Glee Club*

Now firmly in the over 40's club, Riona & Olga are battling their perimenopausal panic with belter comedy songs, hot flashes and memory lapses. Enjoy two killer shows for one. [glee.co.uk](https://glee.co.uk)

SAT SAT  
07 MAR to 14 MAR

## WORLD PREMIERE OF NORTHERN BALLET'S GENTLEMAN JACK

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

Northern Ballet bring to the stage the extraordinary story of Anne Lister – better known as Gentleman Jack. A famous local hero from nearby Calderdale, made famous by the popular BBC Drama of the same name. This run will include shows with audio description and touch tours. [northernballet.com](https://northernballet.com)

WED SAT  
11 MAR to 28 MAR

## SMALL ISLAND

*Leeds Playhouse*

A powerful and intimate portrayal of Andrea Levy's multi-award-winning novel, adapted for the stage by Helen Edmundson. This brand-new production draws on the joyful rhythms of calypso and the harsh realities of post-war Britain to explore the emotional truth of our collective history. [leedsplayhouse.org.uk](https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

FRI SUN  
13 MAR to 15 MAR

## PHOTO NORTH FESTIVAL

*The Carriageworks*

A celebration of documentary photography and film that tell real stories, challenge perspectives, and spark conversation. This three-day event includes screenings, talks and workshops. [photonorthfestival.co.uk](https://photonorthfestival.co.uk)

SAT  
21 MAR

## IDP X PUNCH DRUNK: THE MINISTRY

*Left Bank Leeds*

Director and Choreographer of legendary theatre company Punch Drunk brings this immersive theatre show to Left Bank in collaboration with MA Students from the Northern School of Dance.

[leftbankleeds.org.uk](https://leftbankleeds.org.uk)

WED SAT  
25 MAR to 28 MAR

## WAR OF THE WORLDS *Leeds Playhouse*

Using miniature environments, model worlds, camera tricks, and projection, imitating the dog mix the live and the recorded, the animate and the inanimate to create a thrilling, audacious and timely retelling of H.G. Wells's classic novel. [leedsplayhouse.org.uk](https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

# LEEDS

April 2026

c. Royal Armouries Museum

DATE  
TBC

## INTERNATIONAL JOUSTING TOURNAMENT

*Royal Armouries Museum*

Travel back to a time of chivalry and knights and enjoy the thrills and spills of an authentic jousting tournament. Over a few days in April, witness highly skilled knights from the UK, Poland and Portugal compete in full armour and showcase their horse-riding abilities and courage.

[royalarmouries.org/leeds](http://royalarmouries.org/leeds)

TUE SAT  
07 APR to 11 APR

## PUNCH

*Leeds Playhouse*

Following sold-out runs at the Nottingham Playhouse and Young Vic, this critically acclaimed play brings to life a powerful true story of hope, humanity and the possibility of change. Written by Olivier Award-winning writer James Graham this deeply moving production brings Jacob Dunne's extraordinary story to the stage.

[leedsplayhouse.org.uk](http://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

WED  
08 APR

## RUBY WAX: ABSOLUTELY FAMOUS

*City Varieties Music Hall*

Ruby Wax has met and interviewed nearly everyone including Pamela Anderson and Madonna to name just a few. In this show she is joined by her friend and producer, Clive Tulloh, to review clips from her extraordinary career and share scandalous stories and fascinating insights never before heard from behind the scenes.

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

SAT SAT  
11 APR to 18 APR

## LEEDS SONG FESTIVAL

*Music venues across the city*

Leeds Song Festival celebrates the performance and composition of song and of poetry in many languages. Established in 2004, it is now considered to be one of the UK's leading festivals dedicated to the art of song. It features a lively programme of concerts, talks and workshops from world-class artists and performers, in collaboration with Howard Assembly Room, Opera North, Leeds Conservatoire and the University of Leeds.

[leedssong.com](http://leedssong.com)

THU  
23 APR

## NUBIYAN TWIST

*Project House*

Formed in Leeds and now one of the UK's most respected live acts, Nubiyian Twist have earned MOBO and AIM Award nominations, sold-out tours and praise from NPR, Rolling Stone, Jazzwise and Bandcamp Daily. Expect ultra-tight musicianship and unstoppable energy as Nubiyian Twist bring their electrifying blend of jazz, afrobeat, hip-hop and dance music to the stage. [brudenellsocialclub.co.uk](http://brudenellsocialclub.co.uk)

TUE SAT  
28 APR to 09 MAY

## I, DANIEL BLAKE

*Leeds Playhouse*

Adapted by Dave Johns from the film directed by Ken Loach, 'I, Daniel Blake' is one of the most important stories of a generation. A touching and vital story of how people come together in the face of adversity and how sometimes creating a family to support you just isn't enough. The show is adapted for stage by Dave Johns who played Daniel Blake in the award-winning 2016 film. This show, produced by Northern Stage with Leeds Playhouse, returns after two sold-out runs. [leedsplayhouse.org.uk](http://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

# LEEDS

## May 2026

c. Run for All



SAT SUN  
02 MAY to 03 MAY

### MINT FESTIVAL

*Newsam Green Farm*

Yorkshire's largest dance festival returns, with a brand-new selection of four breathtaking stages and six arenas. [mintfestival.co.uk](http://mintfestival.co.uk)

SAT SUN  
09 MAY to 10 MAY

### NORTH LEEDS FOOD FESTIVAL

*Roundhay Park*

North Leeds Food Festival is a family-friendly celebration of international cuisine and local talent. Taking place over two days in one of Europe's biggest urban parks, expect international street food, chef demos and artisan markets along with live music, bars and children's entertainment. [northleedsfoodfestival.co.uk](http://northleedsfoodfestival.co.uk)

SUN  
10 MAY

### ROB BURROW LEEDS MARATHON

*City-wide*

Starting and finishing at Headingley Stadium, this marathon offers a challenging yet unforgettable 26.2-mile route through the beautiful countryside and communities of Leeds. A fitting tribute to Leeds Rhinos' sporting legend Rob Burrow.

[runforall.com](http://runforall.com)

FRI SAT  
15 MAY to 16 MAY

### HOP CITY

*Northern Monk Refectory*

Northern Monk Brewery presents a curated two-day festival of world-renowned breweries, live music, cocktails, natty wine and street food.

[northernmonk.com](http://northernmonk.com)

SUN  
24

### SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL

*Temple Newsam*

The UK's biggest rock and alt-music festival Slam Dunk, born out of the music scene in Leeds, returns for its nineteenth year.

[slamdunkfestival.com](http://slamdunkfestival.com)

TUE SAT  
19 MAY to 23 MAY

### THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

Based on Stephen King's 1982 novella, this thrilling stage production examines friendship and hope behind the claustrophobic bars of a maximum-security facility. The 1994 feature film was nominated for seven Academy Awards.

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)



Slam Dunk c. KatieMcMillanPhoto

THU TUE  
21 MAY to 26 MAY

### LEEDS JAZZ FESTIVAL

*Various Music Venues*

A city-wide festival celebrating the rich culture of Leeds Jazz, with a jam-packed programme featuring the best of national and international musicians alongside home-grown talent. [leedsjazzfestival.com](http://leedsjazzfestival.com)

# LEEDS

*A look ahead*

Millennium Square c. Danny Payne

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

### COULD BE REAL TRIBUTE FESTIVAL

*Harewood House*

[harewood.org](http://harewood.org)

### LEEDS TATTOO EXPO

*first direct bank arena*

[leedstatoexpo.com](http://leedstatoexpo.com)

### LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

### LEEDS LIT FEST

*Various Venues*

[leedslitfest.co.uk](http://leedslitfest.co.uk)

### LEEDS 10K

*City-wide*

[runforall.com](http://runforall.com)

### MAMMA MIA

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

### ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CRICKET CUP

*Headingley Stadium*

Five international matches

[yorkshireccc.com](http://yorkshireccc.com)

### BRASSED OFF

*Leeds Playhouse*

[leedsplayhouse.org.uk](http://leedsplayhouse.org.uk)

### MILLENNIUM SQUARE SUMMER SERIES

*Millennium Square*

[millsqleeds.com](http://millsqleeds.com)

### LOVE THE 90s FESTIVAL

*Project House*

[fatsoma.com](http://fatsoma.com)

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

### ROUNDHAY FESTIVAL

*Roundhay Park*

[roundhayfestival.com](http://roundhayfestival.com)

### OPERA NORTH'S THE SOUND OF MUSIC

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[operanorth.co.uk](http://operanorth.co.uk)

### LEEDS PRIDE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY

*City-wide*

[leedspride.com](http://leedspride.com)

### LIVE AT KIRKSTALL ABBEY: THE STREETS PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

*Kirkstall Abbey*

[museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](http://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

### RUM & REGGAE FESTIVAL

*Project House*

[skiddle.com](http://skiddle.com)

### LIVE AT KIRKSTALL ABBEY: THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

*Kirkstall Abbey*

[museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](http://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

### COMEDY FESTIVAL

*Kirkstall Abbey*

[museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](http://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

### LIVE AT KIRKSTALL ABBEY: THE MACCABEES PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

*Kirkstall Abbey*

[museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk](http://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk)

## AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

### VW FESTIVAL

*Harewood House*

[harewood.org](http://harewood.org)

### TEMPLE NEWSAM FOOD FESTIVAL

*Temple Newsam*

[templenewsamfoodfestival.com](http://templenewsamfoodfestival.com)

### IRONMAN LEEDS

*Roundhay Park*

[ironman.com](http://ironman.com)

### MEN'S INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TEST MATCH: ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN

*Headingley Stadium*

[yorkshireccc.com](http://yorkshireccc.com)

### LEEDS FESTIVAL

*Bramham Park*

[leedsfestival.com](http://leedsfestival.com)

### BLACK MUSIC FESTIVAL

*Potternewton Park*

[blackmusicfestival.org](http://blackmusicfestival.org)

### LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL

*Potternewton Park*

[leedscarnival.co.uk](http://leedscarnival.co.uk)



Kirkstall Abbey c. Daniel Johnson

# LEEDS

*Not to be missed  
Autumn events*

Light Night c. Alex Horsley

## SEPTEMBER

### OPERATION MINCEMEAT

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

### MEN'S ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL CRICKET: ENGLAND V SRI LANKA

*Headingley Stadium*

[yorkshireccc.com](http://yorkshireccc.com)

## OCTOBER

### LEEDS OPERA NORTH SEASON

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[operanorth.co.uk](http://operanorth.co.uk)

### LIGHT NIGHT LEEDS

*City-wide*

[lightnightleeds.co.uk](http://lightnightleeds.co.uk)

### LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

*City-wide*

[leedsinternationalfestival.com](http://leedsinternationalfestival.com)

## NOVEMBER

### MRS DOUBTFIRE

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

### LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

*Leeds Grand Theatre*

[leedsfilm.com](http://leedsfilm.com)

### LEEDS CHRISTMAS MARKETS

*City centre*



c. Leeds International Festival of Ideas

We're a city that loves to entertain, with a jam-packed event programme all year round. Please note that the information contained in this document isn't an exhaustive list of the events in the annual Leeds calendar. To find out more about all the events taking place in Leeds this year, please visit: [visitleeds.co.uk/whats-on](http://visitleeds.co.uk/whats-on)

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