

Maynardville Open-Air Festival expands

From 18 January to 3 March 2018, Cape Town's annual Maynardville Open-Air Festival will showcase a season of symphony, ballet, comedy and more weaving elements of Shakespeare into a selection of shows.

The Maynardville Theatre Trust has partnered with Liquid Match productions, and is supported by Artscape, to bring the new festival to life and sees well-known companies and producers contributing work to the line-up.



Symphony, ballet and comedy

The Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra will present the Symphonic Shakespeare concerts between 18 and 20 January, followed by Cape Town City Ballet with *Les Sylphides* and *The Firebird* between 24 and 28 January. The Cape Town Comedy Club will present *Jesters in the Park* (with a nod to the Bard); a high-profile stand-up comedy lineup hosted by Rob van Vuuren from 31 January till the 3 February.

The Shakespeare for 2018 is *The Taming of the Shrew*; a fitting return to the first ever Shakespeare presented at Maynardville, this time, however, it is reinvented and re-energised by Tara Notcutt, and produced by Siv Ngesi and The Pink Couch. Notcutt's all-female cast and pop treatment of the comedy is bound to shake up the stage between 7 February and 3 March.

Maynardville Open-Air Theatre is a firm favourite with schools, and is for many students, a primary exposure to theatre. This year is no different as the festival will work closely with schools to bring groups of youths into the space for a special night under the stars.

Traditional picnic experience

It's not just about the vibrant programme, though. For many, a part of the tradition is taking a picnic to the park before watching the show. This year the festival celebrates its patrons enjoying the picnic space by creating a buzz in the food options. "We are expanding the experience - and upscaling it in terms of quality and service. We will not take away the patron's ability to bring their own picnic - this is often a highlight for them - but we also want audiences to be able to be able to enjoy a prepared offering on site," says Brian Heydenrych, producer.

Tickets range from R140-R210 (for an early bird ticket bought by 31 December) to R150-R220 for a normal ticket purchase. There are various concessions for students, groups and pensioners and a special season ticket for four opening nights can be purchased for R700 (a saving of R180).

Booking has now opened on [Computicket](#) and Artscape-dial-a-seat 021 421 7695

For more information follow the Maynardville Open Air Festival on [Facebook](#).

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