

The
**AUTUMN
FESTIVAL**
of Norfolk

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL NOTICE BOARD

Immense gratitude for everything you and Peter have given Norfolk, for the learning, the inclusivity, the fun and for the myriad of wonderful memories you have left us with across the county. Norfolk owes you all a profound debt of gratitude for your extraordinary, inspirational legacy, not only to individuals, but across the city, and the county as a whole.

THE LADY DANNATT, MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, Patron of The Autumn Festival of Norfolk

Congratulations to you Stash and Peter on all that you have achieved over the 15 years of the Autumn Festival. It has been outstanding. It has also been very good working with Victoria, who has been so helpful. The Festival has established itself as a significant part of the Cathedral's year and we will certainly miss you! What you have done here has been such a brilliant and imaginative use of the Hostry space. You have filled it with life and colour, and created many lasting and joyful memories.

We wish you well for whatever the future holds, and know the Festival legacy will live on.

THE VERY REVEREND DR. ANDREW BRADDOCK

Well done on all that has been achieved over these 15 years. Your inspiration, dedication and gentle care have been such a part of making it work. So many happy memories have been created. Thank you! With prayers and all good wishes.

THE RT REVD GRAHAM USHER

Norwich School congratulates all involved with the Autumn Festival of Norfolk on 15 successful years. Your varied programme has provided countless cultural highlights for our county; this stemmed from your consistent commitment to high standards across different art-forms, balanced with a desire to be for and representative of the whole community, particularly under-represented groups. You filled an obvious calendar gap through your autumnal offering but, more importantly, you gave experiences for us all to enjoy, whether as performers or spectators.

STEFFAN GRIFFITHS, NORWICH SCHOOL HEADMASTER

Congratulations on creating such an amazing festival over the past 15 years and bringing so many fascinating and fabulous artists to Norfolk as part of the Hostry/Autumn festival.

The energy and imagination you needed to make everything happen has been phenomenal and it was so interesting, talking to you over the years, about the new projects and programmes - and your own life leading up to launching the festival.

I hope you get a bit of time to reflect on all your achievements with the festival, before moving on to whatever you are doing next.

ROWAN MANTEL, formally Newsquest now Diocese Press Officer

Huge congratulations on 15 years of bringing the festival to life. What an incredible achievement and one of which I hope you are rightly very personally proud.

CLAIRE MACINTOSH, Norfolk Community Foundation

So sad to hear this news Stash and Peter but at the same time very proud and grateful for the commissions you gave me over the years. We have had some great fun, late nights and big laughs. To you both and all the great people I have met, worked with and photographed in the various productions, rehearsals, awards nights and socials THANK YOU.

"The arts make a bridge across this world in ways that nothing else can." – Julie Andrews

SIMON FINLAY, Festival Photographer

Being part of the festival over the years has been an absolute privilege and a real joy for us both. The care, vision, and humanity you've poured into it have always been felt so strongly, and it's been an honour to contribute to something so special. Those years from 2019 to 2025 really do feel like chapters we'll always treasure.

Thank you for trusting us, for the camaraderie, the laughter, the high standards, and for creating an environment where people truly wanted to give their best. We've loved every minute of being part of it, and we're deeply grateful for the friendships and memories that will stay with us long after the final curtain.

Sending you our warmest thanks and very best wishes.

The impact of the festival will be felt for a long time to come.

SUZANNA & SIMON REDFORD, Norfolk Actors Company Stage Manager & Festival Volunteer

It was wonderful being part of the Autumn Festival of Norwich's family - both on stage and front of house. Every year that I've been part of the festival I have felt so welcome, valued and supported as an actor and as a volunteer. I have some wonderful memories. Thank you

LAURA LANDEMORE, Norfolk Actors Company & Festival Volunteer

I wanted to get in touch to thank you so much for inviting me to be a part of the festival for the last two years. Having dipped my toe back into theatre after 30 years away, your support and the opportunity you gave me helped me regain the confidence to once again do what I love. That meant a huge amount to me. I have had the most amazing experience, met the most wonderful people and made some fantastic friends. I wish I'd been aware of the festival for a lot longer so that I could have enjoyed all the offerings that you and Peter and your team have brought to Norfolk.

Huge congratulations on the last 15 years and I hope that whatever is next for you, whether it be more projects or finally some rest and time for yourself, that it is wonderful and joyous.

ALISON UTTING, Norfolk Actors Company 2023-25

I am sad to hear this but I'm sure you can reflect on the many life enhancing experiences you have given people over the years. Best wishes for 2026

CHRIS BEALEY, Associate Director, The Norfolk Actors Company 2015/24/25

Congratulations on a mammoth and impressive 15 years. Such a huge achievement and a legacy that many will remember for years to come. I have very much enjoyed my time with the festival over the years. Thank you for welcoming me when I first started out as your assistant back in 2015, and for continually welcoming me back across various roles - up to directing last year! I will miss it and remember it fondly.

ELEANOR HICKS, Associate Director, The Norfolk Actors Company 2021/25

This feels like the end of a truly momentous era.

Your constant dedication to the arts in Norfolk has been a core pillar of the region's creative community - inspiring, nurturing, and giving countless artists the space to flourish, be celebrated, and feel valued.

As a community, you have achieved so much. I am deeply grateful to have been part of the festival during its life. It has genuinely been life-changing for me - and I don't say that lightly.

Thank you to Stash, Peter, Rebecca, and everyone behind the scenes who have been so central to its care and functioning. I found a creative home here - one that will continue to grow with me long after the festival's final chapter.

TASH CORDEAUX, Norfolk Actors Company 2022/24

Although I've only been involved with The Autumn Festival of Norfolk over the past couple of years, it's so clear how enormously important and beneficial the festival has been to the community and to the brilliant people who have taken part in it, and it's been a privilege to have been part of that work.

SARAH NACMANSON, UEA Drama Studio

Thank you Stash and Victoria for being such wonderful partners, and for bringing such amazing people to UEA's audiences over the years. The Michael Morpurgo event we held with you was an absolute highlight of 2025.

HANNAH TOUGH, UEA Live

I was so sad to learn that the Autumn Festival will not be continuing in its present format. I have only lived in Norfolk for three years, but have been to at least one event every year. I've loved the interviews / Q&A sessions with a variety of people, and then the plays-in-the-round, in the evening. Thank you for providing such informative and enjoyable entertainment over the years.

HELEN MUDGE, Festival Audience Member

Thank you for providing many years of great entertainment in our area; some of the Barn's actors have enjoyed the experience of being part of the Festival's central production.

Continuing thanks to Stash, Peter and all their colleagues for their hard work, and our very best wishes for the future.

SEWELL BARN THEATRE

Well done to you all for such a tremendous programme of work.

ADAM TAYLOR, CEO The Garage & Norfolk Arts Award Education Award sponsor

Many congratulations on an incredible achievement - @uk_harpists

Well done for all your hard work and best of luck for the future - @TrehaneJames

The programme ending is no more than a change in times — restructuring. Keep on being you What a festival, what a family. I look forward to seeing what you have lined up for 2026. Loved the new inclusion of the UEA studio where I witnessed the spectacular Dance into the Fall. You know me — forever grateful - @BradleyBuxton

Thank you for this incredible festival you curated over the last 15 years — an annual highlight. A special thank you from us for creating Dance into the Fall as part of your programme, which has been life-giving to the dance community here. - @GlasshouseDance

Thank you for such an incredible festival, and for an incredible few years of support for the studio and nominations. Wishing you all the best for future adventures. Thank you. - @CopperdotStudio

Thank you both, and all the team, for many years' commitment to this and the Norfolk cultural scene. A big achievement in some challenging times over the last few years post-Covid. A well-earned break and reset — and to new paths ventured. - @PSanchez

Wishing everyone all the best — it was a wonderful project for so many years. - @LifewiththeDigbys