

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Celebration & Transformation:**  
***Lewisham Youth Theatre's 'Catford Tales':***  
***Promenade performance and week of events***  
***celebrating the past, present and future of Catford.***

*Over 60 local performers and artists will transform the town centre in a promenade theatrical event through the historic Broadway Theatre, Catford shopping centre and council buildings on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015.*

**Catford, South East London, June 2015**

Today's Catford in South East London is often best known as the place one drives through on the South Circular. But the area was once a thriving hub of music, night life, shopping and civic campaigning. Could Catford be transformed again?

'Catford Tales' interweaves verbatim testimony from local community members with historical events to celebrate the changing face of Catford. Initiated by Lewisham Youth Theatre's Senior performance groups, the play now involves over 60 performers of all ages and includes contributions from local artists, photographers and musicians. Starting from the historic Broadway Theatre, audiences will follow a dynamic trail of performances around Catford town centre.

**Celebrate Catford:** The play is complemented by a week of activities celebrating Catford, including:

- Silent Movie Night showcasing one of the few surviving Compton Organs;
- 'Broadway Stories' Historic Talk;
- Photographic and Artistic Exhibitions;
- Projects by local artists.
- *Full listings attached below*

**Sir Steve Bullock**, Mayor of Lewisham, says, "*I believe this project to be a wonderful opportunity to help build a positive perception of Catford, to expand the community's pride in the local area and to harness the local people's involvement in considering what they want their community to be in the future.*"

As a Centre of Excellence for youth and community arts, Lewisham Youth Theatre has drawn together organizations across sectors and art forms to realise 'Catford Tales'. Contributors to the project include outdoor visual arts specialists Emergency Exit Arts and designer Patrick Bullock.

**Catford Tales Performances:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

**Celebrate Catford:**

From 20<sup>th</sup> July, see full programme below

**Tickets:**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/lewishamyouththeatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lewishamyouththeatre)

**Information:**

020 8690 3428 / [info@lewishamyouththeatre.com](mailto:info@lewishamyouththeatre.com)

Web: [www.lewishamyouththeatre.com](http://www.lewishamyouththeatre.com)

Twitter: @LewYouTheatre

**About Lewisham Youth Theatre:** Since 1987, Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) has provided free drama activities and performance projects to young people aged 8-24 in Lewisham. Our aim is that all young people, regardless of background or ability, have access to high quality arts provision that builds their confidence, inspires them and increases their life chances. In the last year, the charity has engaged 170 young people in sustained activities at the Broadway Theatre in Catford and reached over 1000 young people through outreach sessions.

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*'Catford Tales' is supported by:*



## **CELEBRATE CATFORD EVENTS**

Booking for all events: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lewishamyouththeatre>

Information: [www.lewishamyouththeatre.com](http://www.lewishamyouththeatre.com)

### **Catford Pub Quiz**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 8pm

Catford Constitutional Club, Catford Broadway SE6 4SP

What famous silent movie star was from Catford? Which two infamous 60s gangs had a shootout in Catford? Come test your knowledge of all things Catford at the Constitutional Club's quiz night.

### **Broadway Silent Movie Night**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.30pm

Broadway Theatre, Catford

**Tickets:** £12 / £10 concession

The Broadway Theatre, Catford was opened in 1932 as a silent movie house, and still has one of the few working Compton Organs remaining in situ in the UK. Join expert Peter Hammond and organist Richard Hills as they show you the inner workings of the Organ's instrument loft, screened live as the organ is playing. Then, enjoy a short silent movie as it was meant to be experienced - with the accompaniment of the Compton Organ.

Featuring slapstick classic *Blue Bottles* (1928) starring Catford's own Elsa Lanchester (best known as Bride of Frankenstein), directed by Ivor Montagu and written by Frank Wells from a story by H.G. Wells.

Presented in association with Ashton Bentley Concepts.

### **Broadway Stories**

*Historical Talk by Chris Hare and Martin Costello (FREE EVENT)*

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 7.30pm

Broadway Theatre Studio, Catford

Join raconteur Chris Hare and the Broadway Theatre's General Manager, Martin Costello, for a hilarious evening of anecdotes about the Broadway's varied past. From Morecambe & Wise and Tommy Cooper to Roy Orbison, the Temptations and Maya Angelou, Chris and Martin will regale you with fly-on-the-wall stories of the acts that have graced Catford's Broadway Theatre.

Presented in association with the Lewisham Local History Society.

### **Catford Tales**

*A promenade theatrical event by, for and about the people and places of Catford*

Friday 24th July, 7.30pm

Saturday 25th July, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Broadway Theatre, Catford

**Tickets:** £8 / £5 concession

## **FREE EXHIBITIONS**

**Hidden Catford** @ Catford Constitutional Club from 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Photography by Kevin Ireland, Cathy Myers and Bridie O'Sullivan

**People's Patchwork** @ Catford Library from 20<sup>th</sup> July  
If you had one patch to tell a story, what story would you tell? Come see a patchwork quilt that captures the richness of Lewisham residents' stories and explores what Lewisham means to us all. <http://peoplespatchwork.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Catford Cats** @ Lewisham Civic Suite from 20<sup>th</sup> July  
An exhibition of artwork from Community Education Lewisham's learners, inspired by cats.