

ON MY RADAR

Edward Hall's cultural highlights

Edward Hall, 43, is an acclaimed theatre director who runs the all-male Shakespeare company Propeller. Son of the former National theatre and RSC director Peter Hall, he is also artistic associate director at the National theatre, the Old Vic, the Watermill theatre, Newbury, and, from February, the Hampstead theatre in London. His latest Propellor productions, *Richard III* and *The Comedy of Errors*, are at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, until 5 February, then touring nationally.

Alexandra Groszek



Comedy



Omid Djalili

I find his comedy very brave. He takes on taboo subjects and has the skill of making his audience feel like he is talking only to them. He tackles religious and cultural issues in the same iconoclastic way that Dave Allen used to in the 1970s.

Dance



Cardoon Club by Rambert Dance Company

I love physical performance. This exhilarating and sparkling revue piece, designed by the ever-inventive and elegant Michael Howells, is a transporting experience. I will go in May when this brilliant company comes to Sadler's Wells in London.

Music



Johnny Flynn

A young British musician who plays contemporary folk-rock, inspired by Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan. I saw him play with the Sussex Wit at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. A singer with real soul, who harks back to times gone by but who places us firmly in the world today.

Architecture



The London Eye

It was supposed to be a temporary structure, but it was quite clear when it was going up that it was not going to be taken down. Such an elegant addition to the London skyline and a hugely successful piece of modern urban design. A contemporary masterpiece.

Books



Perfect Lives by Polly Samson

A series of artfully connected stories, eye-opening, surprising and beautifully observed. As you read her deeply expressive prose, the subliminal connections slowly emerge. I couldn't put it down. I am sure it will be made into a film.

Food



Gail's Bakery, Battersea

The ingredients, from the smallest tomatoes to the lovely pieces of bacon, are all organic and so delicious so perfect, so tasty, you can taste everything. It's more than you'd spend in other places but you get what you pay for. It's a real treat to go there for breakfast.