

Damon Hill races into city for talk

For the first time, Damon Hill, a former F1 world champion and one of motorsport's most compelling figures, will take to the stage to share his story.

An Evening with Damon Hill will see him talk through the highs, lows, and untold moments of his iconic career – a career which reached its peak when he became the FIA Formula 1 World Drivers' Champion in 1996.

Hill is also remembered for his thrilling battles with Michael Schumacher and for partnering the late Ayrton



Senna at Williams in 1994.

In conversation with Tom Clarkson, host of the official F1 podcast *Beyond the Grid*,

Damon will share stories from his remarkable journey, from his unconventional late entry

into the sport at 32 to becoming the first son of a champion to claim the title himself.

But this isn't just a trip down memory lane as Damon, son of F1 great Graham Hill, will also turn his expert eye to the present, reflecting on the captivating 2025 season.

An Evening with Damon Hill will be coming to the Cambridge Corn Exchange on Tuesday, 13 January.

■ Tickets, priced £38-£163 (including booking fee), are available from cornex.co.uk.

MODO to launch lecture series

Art and Culture Education CIC (ACE CIC) in partnership with the MODO Gallery in Cambridge are to launch a new initiative, *The Cambridge Lecture Series: Creativity, Cognition & the Future of Learning*, from 9-18 February.

Sally Clark, director of MODO Gallery and founder of ACE CIC, said: "A new kind of revolution is unfolding – a cognitive evolution that is already reshaping culture, industry and the way we think. Cambridge is uniquely placed



to lead that conversation.

"These lectures bring artists, researchers, and innovators together to explore how human creativity remains the force that drives progress in an

intelligent world."

Talks will be exploratory, discovering how creativity, neuroplasticity, and cross-disciplinary thinking shape the future of education, innovation, industry and the economy in the age of AI.

The series will bring everyone from teachers to tech industry leaders together to examine how Cambridge can become a national centre for arts-based cognitive innovation.

■ For more on the gallery, go to modoart.co.uk.



Rehearsal for *Guys and Dolls*
Picture: Peter Buncombe

Arts Theatre hosts *Guys and Dolls*

The second play to be staged at the newly-renovated Cambridge Arts Theatre – following this season's pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty* – will be a Cambridge Operatic Society production of iconic American musical *Guys and Dolls*, writes *Adrian Peel*.

Smooth-talking gamblers, earnest missionaries, and dazzling showgirls are hilariously intertwined in this timeless piece. Lovable rogue Nathan Detroit seeks a venue for his illicit craps game while the charming Sky Masterson makes a bet that he can win the heart of Sarah Brown, a determined sergeant at the Save-a-Soul Mission.

Cambridge-based Saskia Edwards-Korolczuk plays Sarah Brown. Though an experienced actress who has appeared on stage in and around Cambridge in theatres like the ADC, *Guys and Dolls* marks her debut with Cambridge Operatic Society, which she describes as "very exciting".

"We're thrilled to be bringing *Guys and Dolls* to Cambridge audiences," says Saskia, who is originally from Oldham. "It's a real honour and privilege to be one of the first shows in the newly-refurbished Arts Theatre."

"And the Arts Theatre is a professional venue, so the brief is to deliver a really professional-standard production using local talent – and given the scale of talent in the city of Cambridge, that feels really achievable."

"It's great to be part of bringing the Arts Theatre back to Cambridge audiences with a bit of a bang."

Guys and Dolls was recently revived at the Bridge Theatre in London, starring Daniel Mays and Marisha Wallace.

"That really immersed audiences in a party-like atmosphere," says Saskia of that particular stage adaptation, which ran from March 2023 to January 2025.

"We can't do that at the Arts but it has meant that we've been able to make it lean into the cinematic spectacle a little bit more – make it visually big."

"We've got this enormous scaffold skyscraper that's covered in LEDs, and maps of the New York skyline across the stage."

"We've got one of those wide, illuminated staircases which descends onto the stage, a bit like the old Hollywood movie musicals..."

"So you can tell we're really leaning into that cinematic spectacle side of things, which is certainly something I've not seen recently in Cambridge. It's going to be exciting to see."

Guys and Dolls premiered on Broadway in 1950, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and the book written by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows.

It is considered one of the greatest Broadway musicals and was subsequently made into a film, released in 1955, starring Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando.

Well-known *Guys and Dolls* songs include *Luck Be A Lady*, *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat*, and *A Bushel and a Peck*.

Saskia, who says that the play contains a lot of "witty dialogue and gags", has seen both the movie and the recent stage version so is very familiar with the story.

"I think a lot of the music as well is familiar," she notes, "there's a lot of classic jazz numbers in there."

Saskia concludes: "We're hoping this show is just an indication of what audiences can expect to see from all theatre available in Cambridge – not just this production of *Guys and Dolls* at the Arts Theatre, but at the ADC Theatre too, at the Corn Exchange, at the Junction..."

"You have new musicals, like *Unfolding*, that opened this year [2025] at the ADC, and the creatives backstage and on the stage who go on to be internationally award-winning, so there's something really exciting about being able to see some of those performers and those productions right here in Cambridge."

Cambridge Operatic Society (CaOS) was founded in 1910 and has produced musicals and shows at The Arts Theatre Cambridge almost every year.

Recent productions include *Legally Blonde* and *9 to 5: the Musical*.

CaOS welcomes Cambridgeshire residents of all ages and abilities to perform in and be part of professionally produced and directed musical theatre productions.

Guys and Dolls will be on at The Arts Theatre Cambridge from Wednesday, 14 to Saturday, 17 January. The opening night is a black tie gala.

■ Tickets, priced from £20.50, are available from artstheatre.co.uk.



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