

mainly with the joke rather than the quality of the artwork – the idea is king. But where he may be more used to poking fun at politicians and the like in the press, this exhibition presented him with a whole new, perhaps somewhat serious, challenge.

“It’s a basic fact of being a news cartoonist that most of the time you’re criticising someone – mostly a politician or council. It’s what the job’s about,” said James. “No one wants to see a cartoon that is saying how wonderful the government is. That is why the Stainless exhibition is such a nice change of pace. It gives me the chance to celebrate Sheffield’s heritage.

“Of course the irony to this is that it is actually much more difficult to be funny about something when you’re applauding it. It was a challenge I really enjoyed – but not so much that I intend to start being nice to politicians.”



Wildago has built a well-earned reputation around two main characters, Pearl and Edmund, who are already familiar with our fair city thanks to recent appearances at DocFest. They certainly seem very much at home in these pictures.

“Stainless is a feel-good distraction from the daily grind,” said Wildago. “It not only celebrates Harry Brearley but other Sheffield originals we can be proud of – architecture, apprenticeships, cartoonists, art and industry – all of which are represented.”

Which begs the question, apart from stainless steel, what’s your other favourite Sheffield product?

“The people,” replied James. “Sheffield people are a lot like stainless steel. They are no nonsense with a tough core but they also have a great – if often dry – sense of humour. Without its people, where would the city be?”

Wildago was not quite so philosophical; when asked the same question she just had one answer. “Sean Bean.”

Theatre

Jane Eyre

11-13 April
Buxton Opera House
Water Street, Buxton
Derbyshire, SK17 6XN
Tel: 0845 127 2190
www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk
Tickets: from £13

The classic story of love, loss and redemption is brought to life at Buxton Opera House this April in an intriguing new adaptation of one of the greatest gothic novels.

Directed by Nick Lane, we watch as Jane Eyre has to rely on her own courage and convictions to make her way in the world. She longs to learn. She dares to dream. Employed as a governess, she travels across the bleak Yorkshire moors to the mysterious Thornfield Hall – a house of locked doors with a dangerous secret.

Me and Me Dad

12 April, Lantern Theatre, Kenwood Park
Road Nether Edge, Sheffield, S7 1NF
Tel: 0114 255 1776
www.lanterntheatre.org.uk
Tickets: £10

Dave Lees’ dad, Pete, is the sort of bloke who needs a recipe for toast. The kind of guy who thinks that tortilla fought King Kong and that tiramisu played midfield for Brazil in the 1974 World Cup. In a word, he’s terrible. Good at Subbuteo; hopeless with spaghetti. So when Dave’s mum Jean dies, Dave does the decent thing – he puts his failing acting career on hold



and moves back home to teach his dad how to cook.

Fighting memories (and occasionally each other) and risking the sanity of relatives and



neighbours, not to mention Dave’s girlfriend, the pair set to the task with gusto in an attempt to save Pete from a diet of pickled beetroot and jam sandwiches.

Spring Awakening

22 April, Buxton Opera House, Water Street, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6XN
Tel: 0845 127 2190
www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

Tickets: from £16 Set in late 19th century Germany, Spring Awakening follows a highly religious community with straight and gay teens exploring youth’s furtive sexual awakenings.



This is a seminal play that attacks the sexually oppressive culture of fin de siècle Germany and offers a vivid criticism of the erotic fantasies it breeds. A play well ahead of its time, and with its careful negotiation of teenage pregnancy, homosexuality and religion, it remains bold, challenging and thoughtful today.

Contains nudity and scenes of an adult nature. Recommended for ages 14+ with adults (otherwise 16+).

Opera

Carmen
28 April, Sheffield City Hall
Tel: 0114 278 9789 www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk
Tickets: from £11-32.50

Set in Seville and reflecting a Goya painting, Carmen, the opera classic, guarantees an evening of passion and romance with unforgettable melodies and perhaps the best known baritone aria of all, “The Toreador’s Song”. Directed by Ellen Kent with international soloists and the full Chisinau National Philharmonic orchestra and chorus, and starring international mezzo soprano Nadia Stoianova, Sheffield City Hall presents a dazzling production of the classic Carmen. Sung in French with English subtitles. ➔

