



www.sewellbarn.org

2013-2014 Season

Newsletter 8 May 2014

Editor: Jill Fuller, 20, Blofield Road, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5NN 01603 715346; jill@ramatuelle.co.uk

+++++

Our Next Production

The Attractions

By Tony Marchant, Directed by Jen Dewsbury

June 12th -14th and 18th -21st at 7.30 pm; also a matinée at 2.30 pm on June 21st

The Attractions was written by award-winning playwright Tony Marchant. It was performed at the Soho Poly Theatre in 1987 and aired as a BBC Screenplay in 1989. As a 19 year old wannabe actress I loved this series and The Attractions was one of two that made a real impact on me.

As the rehearsal process gets under way I am gratified to find that not only is it as dark and fascinating as I first thought, but it's also much funnier. It is set in a small, black box of a room, a tribute to the victims of crime and like the characters in it, the play both attracts and repels.



Jo Sessions (Ruth) says "Getting to grips with the very complex characters in The Attractions is proving challenging but the process is very exciting. It is such a privilege to work with such a talented group of people and every rehearsal is a new discovery."

I have a wonderful cast and technical team, and watching the characters come to life as we explore what makes them tick has me on the edge of my seat every rehearsal! I also can't wait to see the set in its full glory, as I think Gemma Goodwin, the set designer, has done a marvellous job.
Jen Dewsbury

Rehearsal photos



The Attractions will be the Company's last production of the season as we are not now going ahead with The Libertine, which would have been performed in July. (see below for a visiting production)

Our Previous Production

All My Sons

I will admit, here and now, that hitherto I have not been a great fan of Arthur Miller's stage works. However, this production of his "All My Sons", directed by Jenny Hobson, grabbed the attention of the audience from the very start and held it firmly, right through to the very end. The opening storm effectively presaged the emotional turmoil which would develop during the rest of the play until its devastating climax which brought a shocked response from the audience.

For those of you who don't know it, the play is the story of the Keller family, Joe and Kate and their sons, Larry and Chris, during and just after the war. Joe had allowed faulty engine parts to be shipped out for use by the military, resulting in the deaths of a number of pilots. He and his partner went to jail for this, although Joe was subsequently exonerated while his partner remained locked up. Joe's son, Larry, also a pilot, went missing, presumed dead, but Kate will not allow herself to believe he is gone for good. As if this were not enough, further complications arise when Ann Deever, the daughter of Joe's partner and once "Larry's girl", arrives and is proposed to by Chris. Ann holds a letter written by Larry before he died, in which he reveals that he cannot live with the knowledge of what his father had done and will kill himself. The family are devastated and Chris, once a loving son, turns on his father with hatred.

Despite all this, there are moments of humour in the play as well as the complex emotions and relationships to deal with. Miller's writing is not always easy to put across; one has to look behind the printed page, as it were, to find his intention, but this strong cast succeeded in doing just that. The characterisation was excellent, even the very minor characters coming to life and one could really believe in the world of small town America in the 1940's struggling with the aftermath of war. It would be invidious to single out individual performances, but David Shaw and Mandy Kiley tackled the very difficult roles of Joe and Kate with apparent consummate ease, although I am sure a great deal of hard work went on during rehearsals to produce the end result. They were ably supported by Vincent Gaine and Abbe Swain as Chris and Ann, together with the rest of the cast, and all gave us an evening to remember. 'Stunning' 'Remarkable' 'Overwhelming' 'Brilliant' are all comments I overheard afterwards. Jenny and her team have certainly succeeded in maintaining the Barn's high standard for productions.

Sadly this is Jenny's last production for the Barn as she is moving away. During her time in Norwich she has given us some excellent shows and will be very much missed both in her directorial capacity and as an actor. Until recently, she was also chair of the Management Committee and ran that through good times and bad, with inimitable charm, probably a more difficult task than producing plays!! We wish you well in your new home, Jenny.

I would like to finish with my own personal thanks to her for finally converting me to Arthur Miller!!

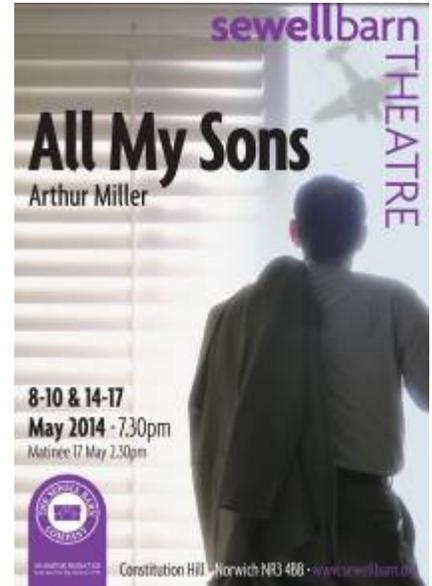
Anne Giles

New Box Office service:

The Attractions by Tony Marchant is the last of our productions where the Box Office is managed by Jarrolds - call 01603 697248 to book your tickets.

Thereafter, and into the new season, we are delighted to bring Prelude Records on board as our new Box Office partner. The new number to call for telephone bookings is 01603 628319. Located on St Giles, they're also easily accessible in the city centre.

For the first time, we're also pleased to offer our patrons the option of online booking. You can book our tickets for the 2014-15 season via www.sewellbarn.ticketsource.co.uk



Note from Jenny Hobson

The last night of All My Sons was a very poignant moment for me as I said farewell to my lovely cast and the kind friends who came along to make the evening so special, but after the strike on Sunday morning it really was time to say goodbye. After 20 happy years with Sewell Barn I am sitting back and reflecting on all the amazing opportunities I was given both to act and direct, but also to be a bit of a " Pooh Bah " too (in WS Gilbert's words, Lord High Everything) from prompting, to the occasional stewarding , and enjoying the privilege of chairing the committee for some 15 years.



One of the most refreshing things to someone whose grey hairs increase daily, is the pleasure of mixing with a wide variety of age groups, and it is exciting to see the phenomenal talent that exists within our ranks from young to old, yet it should never be forgotten that there is much work to be done in the less glamorous areas, in order that the Theatre may move forward and continue being a gem in the cultural life of Norwich.

Unsure as to whether I would ever find the courage to step inside yet another new organisation, I spent the afternoon looking up the Mary Wallace Theatre in Twickenham, just 20 minutes from Shepperton. I understand it is the old stamping ground of Cassie and Selwyn, run on much the same lines as the Barn. It stands on the banks of the Thames in a charming little corner of the town, though today it was a case of wellies required to get through the water!

Who knows I may take the plunge in due course (not literally!) nevertheless my heart will always remain with Sewell Barn, and I may well turn up like a bad penny to see future productions (looking forward to the first night of The Attractions) In the meantime friends are welcome to visit me at any time, I am 10 minutes from the station, and Waterloo is half an hour away...National Theatre here I come !

I will post my new address and telephone number when with wonders of technology I should be in communication with the outside world following my move on June 27th Until then I refuse to say goodbye..just Au Revoir

Love Jenny

Coming Soon: Great news



A black comedy by Bill Gallagher is coming to the Barn
We are so lucky to have a visiting professional production of Darkle
Performance dates 27th & 28th June only
Price £8.00 (no concessions) this will sell out fast

Darkle is an award-winning black comedy by Bill Gallagher. Fuelled by fantasy three young people decide to teach their tabloid-obsessed landlord a lesson. When they kidnap his beloved dog they set off a chain of events where farce spins out of control. Winner of the Sunday Times Playwriting Award, Darkle is a madcap theatrical outing from acclaimed film and TV writer Bill Gallagher (The Paradise, Larkrise to Candleford, Conviction, The Prisoner, Blood). A roller-coaster ride of a play, Darkle grabs you by the throat and tightens its grip, with a heady mix of comedy and terror.

Bill is Norwich based and is deeply involved in this production as it prepares to take the Edinburgh Festival by storm.

Please note that the Darkle tickets are being handled by our new box office at Prelude Records.

Prelude Records
25B St Giles Street
NORWICH
NR2 1JN
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)1603 628319 or online at www.sewellbarn.ticketsource.co.uk

News

We are about to launch our new exciting web site.

www.sewellbarn.org - the new season has been announced . Details are to be found on the web site!

Please remember that there is a free drink on opening nights. Also on Wednesday performances on production (at the door) of a valid membership card.

(This does not apply to Darkle performances)

Company News

Workshops:

Introducing Shakespeare, a workshop led by Luke Owen - Wednesday 25 June at 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Next Production: The Attractions by Tony Marchant, directed by Jen Dewsbury - opens Thursday 12 June. For any of you thinking of auditioning for her production next season, buying a ticket would be a good way of checking out her work!

Auditions

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare, directed by Luke Owen - Sunday 22 June at 7pm

Unscorched by Luke Owen (amateur premiere), directed by Miche Montague - Monday 23 June at 7.30pm

Booking Office

*Our ticket office is mid-change so please remember to check our website for full booking details. The new ticket office allows you to book tickets for every production **in the new season** from now on and also to book online!*

Full company details can be found on our new website - casting notes and full workshop programme can be downloaded.

What else is on in the Area?

The Maddermarket Theatre:

'Anne Boleyn' by Howard Brenton

June 19th -28th Time:7.30pm; also matinée June 28th at 2.30 pm.

The Great Hall Theatre Company: (at the Assembly House)

'The Three Musketeers' by Alexandre Dumas, adapted by Willis Hall July 1st – 5th at 7.30 pm also matinée July 5th at 2.30 pm.

