



www.sewellbarn.org

2014-2015 Season

Newsletter 1: September 2014

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SEASON 2014/15

Our fourth season as joint artistic directors – in collaboration with actors, technicians and directors of individual productions – introduces one of our most ambitious and bold seasons.

From **Unscorched**, written by our very own Luke Owen (winner of the 2013 Papatango New Writing Award), and **That Face** by award-winning British playwright Polly Stenham, to Shakespeare’s classic comedy **Much Ado About Nothing**, we hope you will agree that we offer a challenging and inspiring programme for you to share.

WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON!

Michelle Montague & Robert Little, Artistic Directors

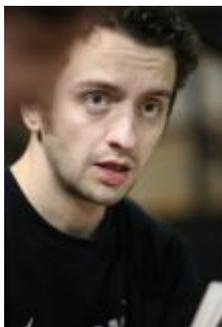
Our First Production of the Season

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by William Shakespeare

October 9th -11th; 15th -18th

Directed by Luke Owen

Benedick and Beatrice used to be lovers. But now they seem to hate each other with a passion, trading witty insults and entertaining their friends in the process. Their friends hatch a clever plan to get the two warring ex-lovers back together, in spite of the odds. One of Shakespeare’s funniest and most popular comedies.



We have decided to locate our version of 'Much Ado' in a modern office setting, allowing us to create an energetic and current take on Shakespeare's classic comedy, while staying true to the text. Jonathan Adkins, designer, has again come up with an amazing set. Early rehearsals have been thoroughly enjoyable, with everyone giving it their all and with some cast members off-book already. I'm highly optimistic that our opening production of the season will be a funny and engaging treat for our audiences.

Luke Owen, Director



Casting:

Antonio - Alwyn Edgar

Beatrice - Laura

Landamore

Benedick - Joe Trewellard

Borachio - James Thomson

Claudio - Ben Sheridan

Conrade - Matthew Tucker

Dogberry - Jeff Price

Don John - Sam Terry

Don Pedro - Vincent Gaine

Friar Francis - Terry Dabbs

Hero - Sabrina Poole

Leonato - Kevin Oelrichs

Margaret - Wendy Atkinson

The Messenger/The Sexton - Kerry Stanley

Ursula - Glenda Gardiner

Verges - Daniel Taylor

Watchpersons - Rebekah Bigwood, Madeleine Jones, Katherine Green



UNSCORCHED by Luke Owen

Nov 27th -29th , Dec 3rd -5th Directed by Michelle Montague

This play, written by our very own Luke Owen, won him the 2013 Papatango New Writing Award – chosen from 527 entries to develop and produce outstanding new talent in the UK. **Unscorched** follows the story of Tom who begins a job as a digital analyst. It sensitively tackles the subject of child abuse and looks at how one's professional life can intrude on personal life – in this case, through the daily exposure of horrific images.

The script is subtle, detailed and incredibly natural. My first rehearsal was as exciting as I had hoped it would be. The two actors I was working with dared to experiment with the script and there were some beautiful moments. We also found a lot more humour than I had expected. The words leapt from the page and when it worked I felt like I was listening to a private conversation – a bit of a gooseberry, even!

Michelle Montague, Director

Casting: Simon – Myles Crowder Nidge – Neil Auker Mark – Joe Darbyshire
Tom – David Green Emily – Hattie Amey

Why not go online now and book your tickets for the first two plays of the season!

Remember Welcome Wednesdays - students & under 18s, £5 tickets! Members, bring your valid membership card to Wednesday performances for a free drink from the bar.

Our Previous Production

June seems a long while ago, but here is something to remind you of the end of last season:

The Attractions.

If anyone else spent a childhood of summer holidays at seaside places, they also will have memories of the sometimes drab and strange museums and other attractions which could be visited. The dreadful waxworks at Great Yarmouth; the shell museum at Blakeney;. Museums about the sea and lifeboats at Southwold and Cromer. The displays and lighting were disappointing for a child who had visited Madame Tussauds.

Tony Marchant's The Attractions which was the last Company production of the season seemed to be set in a bygone time and the setting in the cockpit of the Barn had an atmosphere of menace as the audience entered past rope nooses and sat amongst other examples of horrific crimes. The somewhat unhealthy relationship between the curator, Lawson, and Ruth his assistant is interrupted by the arrival of the out of work, difficult Danny.

Peter Sowerbutts, as the curator, has a dark presence which reaches across to the audience from the darkness of the Black Room. He has a languid, menacing delivery which sets the uncomfortable scene so that the audience is constantly waiting for something awful to happen.

Jo Sessions plays Ruth as a conundrum who could cause trouble between the two male characters at any time. She holds our attention by the way she manipulates them and us.

Luke McCulloch as Danny disrupts the relationship between the other two and makes the audience feel nervous about what might happen next, an unstable threatening character who can also make us laugh

Jan Dewsbury directs the cast into making the audience feel uncomfortable, intrigued and expectant without losing any of the dark comedy.

All this takes place on a superb set by Gemma Goodwin which is both a Gothic horror room and pier by the sea made realistic by sea sounds and lighting with well observed playing of paddling in the waves

As a Sewell Barn production it has an added interest when reading the exhibition cards in the interval. Altogether an excellent end to the season, which has provided a number of challenges to the Company and the artistic directors.

Don Millwood

Reminder: Our new box office.

PRELUDE RECORDS

Hopefully most of you are already aware that our ticketing service has moved from Jarrolds to Prelude Records who are located on St Giles Street in the city centre.

With this new service, you can continue to buy tickets in person and over the phone by calling 01603 628319. New for this year, we've also introduced online booking available on our website and via Prelude Records (a small booking fee applies online).



You can book tickets for any of our 2014/15 shows so why not check your diary and book us in now...

Your chance to win a pair of free tickets!!

We'd love to put the Sewell Barn Theatre on the Norfolk tourist map. We know that many people visiting the area check popular review site TripAdvisor - currently, we have only five reviews so we need your help to give us a boost.

Simply head to TripAdvisor (Google them) and search for 'Sewell Barn Theatre Norwich' to write up your very own review. You may have to set up a login but it takes mere minutes to share your opinion. It would mean a lot to us.

Anyone that writes a review by midnight on 14th September (so get in quick!), will be entered into a prize draw to win one of three pairs of complimentary tickets to a show of your choice (excludes opening nights, no cash alternative).

How to enter:

Once your review is complete, simply email our marketing coordinator Tracie Harris at marketing@sewellbarn.org with the subject 'TripAdvisor' telling her your TripAdvisor username. Thanks for your help - and best of luck!

Help Needed



We are currently looking for some more folk to deliver a few of our posters. We are hoping to find some people to deliver in their own road, particularly if you live fairly near the Barn. We are aware that there are neighbours who are barely aware of our existence ... we would like to change that!!

If you think you can help, please contact Mike Beavis: 01603 446628
michael.beavis01@ntlworld.com

Annual General meeting

This year the AGM will take place on Sunday October 19th at 2.30 pm. The doors will open at 2.00 pm.

As a change this year the meeting will be followed by an opportunity to catch up with other members whilst enjoying some delicious cakes and a drink ... tea and coffee will be served and the bar will of course be open.

With a view to the refreshments Are there any members out there who feel like joining in the Sewell Barn Bake Off and could provide us with some cakes (small ones or a large one we could cut up)? If you can help in this way, please let me know so I can make sure we have enough.

Please, in order to make catering possible, could you tell me if you are intending to attend the meeting.

You will receive the usual notice of the meeting and last year's minutes nearer the time.

Many thanks, hope to see you there,

Jill (contact as at the top of this newsletter)



Tourist Publicity

Greetings fellow Sewell Barn members! I have been co-opted onto the committee as Secretary. I'm spearheading a new approach to the Barn which has never been done before. I would like to advertise and get the word of the Barn out to all tourists who come to Norwich for holidays.



The advertising will be directed at this demographic and I think the Barn has a huge amount of potential to offer in terms of historical value which I know tourists will be keen to soak up. I would like to play on the Anna Sewell and Black Beauty link in particular. Therefore I am asking all members to please have a delve into their archives for any old pictures/pieces of information we can use for the brochure, especially if it is particularly visual in nature as we feel this could be very eye catching.

Dan Taylor

Party

On August 22nd a large number of members and friends gathered at the Barn for a very sociable evening. The buffet supper was provided by members and the sparkling wine flowed! All our volunteer supporters were thanked: front of house, backstage, actors, publicity deliverers, techies, audience, directors, workshop leaders, the list goes on and on. To those of you who were unable to join us on the night, can I publically also say a big thank you.

Everyone is appreciated; a theatre such as ours can't survive without you.

And of course, our thanks to Tracie Harris who organised it all.

Jill (with my Chairperson's hat on)

Company News

NEW SEASON OF WORKSHOPS

Please don't forget we offer a programme of diverse workshops for the continual development of the company. Our Black Horse Bar is available for drinks on these evenings, offering an ideal place for friends to gather and catch up on this season's events. Open to anyone, these workshops are free. Please book by emailing the workshop coordinator – workshops@sewellbarn.org

Weds 22nd Oct 2014: Writing Plays 1: Get Writing: led by Luke Owen. Writer of the award-winning 'Unscorched' offers advice and guidance on how to start scriptwriting.

Weds 10th Dec 2014: Writing Plays II: Taking your Script Further: led by Luke Owen. Luke offers advice on creating strong dialogue as well as tips for dealing with the industry.

Weds 28th Jan 2015: Character and Text Analysis: led by Carita Liljendal. Creating the character's speech, behaviour, thought process and physicality.

Weds 11th Mar 2015: Creative Dance and Movement: led by Carita Liljendal. Finding creative ways to express moods, emotions and philosophies through physicality.

Weds 22nd Apr 2015: Ensemble Theatre Part I: led by Tom Sparkes.

An introduction to ensemble rhythm work. Developing group skills through patterns, claps, stomps and sounds.

Weds 27th May 2015: Ensemble Theatre Part II: led by Tom Sparkes. Following session one, this will look at physical impulses and how we can begin to introduce text.

Weds 24th Jun 2015: Viewpoints Technique: led by Dave Green.

A practical way of creating dynamic, and expressive, ensemble movement work through creativity.

Weds 29th Jul 2015: Mask Theatre: led by Dave Green.

Join us and enter into a world in which the smallest gesture can convey the biggest idea.

Workshop times – 7.30-9.30pm. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing for all workshops.

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US & TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE AMAZING FREE WORKSHOPS!



Michelle Montague & Baz Barrett

Auditions

A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol by Walton Jones, David Wohl & Faye Greenberg

Directed by Robert Little

It's Christmas eve, 1943, and the Feddington Players are now broadcasting from the hole-in-the-wall studio in Newark, New Jersey, and set to present their contemporary "take" on Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

September 17th at 7.30pm. Mostly text based but with some improvisation

That Face by Polly Stenham

Directed by Carita Liljendal

Polly Stenham was nineteen when she wrote this play. It is a story about siblings, Mia and Henry, who are trying to survive without proper parenting. Mia rebels. Henry is taking care of their alcoholic mother. Daddy is flying over from Hong Kong to fix everything. But is his help going to be appreciated?

October 27th at 7.30pm. Initially text based, leading on to scene work

Opportunities



***Cast** is a commercial drama consultancy from the University of East Anglia in Norwich. We deliver drama-based skills training and education in communications, customer relations and management through live, interactive role-play with actors in simulated situations. We also write and produce videos and podcasts for online or DVD distribution.

*Cast is wholly-owned by UEA, and managed by UEA Consulting Ltd.

We have a range of ongoing contracts with the Norwich Medical School, and the Schools of Social Work and Pharmacy at UEA, the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and the James Paget Hospital. We have previously collaborated with Brent Council's Adult Social Care team on communication skills, and are currently producing a short video for UEA's School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Our roster of role-players, writers and trainers draws upon students, graduates and tutors of UEA's drama and scriptwriting programmes, and a wider pool of professional and semi-professional actors.

From September 2014, *Cast will be providing role-players for an expanded range of sessions focusing on **health and social care for ageing and elderly populations**. We are looking to recruit new role-players in the **60+ and 70+ age ranges**, and would welcome expressions of interest or applications from:

- Actors, particularly those with previous role-play experience;
- People with work experience in related fields such as medicine, nursing, social care, who would be interested in undergoing training to become role-players;
- People with a range of personal, family and/or work experience, who would be interested in undergoing training to become role-players.

To help us reflect the diversity of 21st century Britain, we wish to encourage applications from a wide range of ethnicities, cultural and social backgrounds, beliefs, abilities and disabilities.

If you would be interested in joining us as a role-player, and/or would like to know more about our work, **please contact the *Cast team:**

Email: weare@join-cast.com

Telephone: 01603 593024

What else is on in the Area?

The Maddermarket Theatre:

'Arms and the Man' by George Bernard Shaw

September 25th – October 4th :7.30pm; also matinée October 4th at 2.30 pm.

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

'Rumours' by Neil Simon , October 7th – 11th at 7.30 pm also matinée October 11th at 2.30 pm.

