



Happy New Year

Our Next Production

A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol

By Walton Jones, David Wohl and Faye Greenberg

Directed by Robert Little

January 15th -17th and 21st – 24th at 7.30 pm also Matinée January 24th at 2,30 pm

1940's Christmas Carol has all you need to warm you up in the cold January month ahead. This is a first for the U.K, another ground breaker from the Sewell Barn Company. So what has it got?

Well we have many carols that you are familiar with and a few new songs to delight you. Then there is the wonderful classic tale from Charles Dickens and all the laughter that a comedy can give you. So in this radio broadcast by the "Feddington players", you will see a live broadcast being sent on the airwaves to the boys fighting in Europe, sending them all the warmth and seasonal reminders of home. Yes that's right it's live in front of an audience (that's you). The cast will work their stockings off to send you home with warm glow and a smile. The set (designed by John Stokes) brings us into the world of radio drama, even the lights sparkle as they should this time of year. Look out for all our seasonal old friends, Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Ghosts past and present, and Rudolph as you've never seen him before. There are even commercials (well that's radio for you).

The cast are having so much fun working on this play, we feel sure that we are on a winner if you want fun. You are just going to love this show, so don't be a Scrooge, book your tickets and avoid disappointment.

Robert Little

Rehearsal Photos



Coming Soon

That Face

26th -28th February, 4th -7th March at 7.30pm, Matinée 7th March at 2.30pm

Mia gets caught in school, she and her friend have been torturing a thirteen year old girl. The school is concerned of Mia's welfare as she is coming from a problematic and broken family. Mia's brother Henry is taking care of their mentally disturbed and alcoholic mother. Daddy is flying over from Hong Kong to fix everything. But is his help going to be appreciated?

This production is young and dramatic, very funny, but incredibly close to reality and most of all a touching story of a brother and sister.

Polly Stenham is one of the most promising playwrights in the UK at the moment. She wrote her debut *That Face* in 2007 for the Royal Court Theatre and then continued to writing for them for several years. This year she wrote *Hotel* for the National Theatre and she is also writing a screenplay for the director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Drive, Only God Forgives*).

That Face was great success and it won the Evening Standard's 2007 Charles Wintour Award, the Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Playwright, and the 2007 Theatrical Management Association Award for Best New Play. Reviewers praised this beautiful debut play. Charles Spencer of the Daily Telegraph commenting:

This is one of the most astonishing debuts I have seen in more than 30 years of theatre reviewing. Its author, Polly Stenham, a graduate of the Royal Court's Young Writers Programme, is 20 now, just 19 when she wrote a play that sent me reeling into the night... In every respect this is a remarkable and unforgettable piece of theatre.

Cast:

Mia– Hannah Bethell

Izzy– Alexandra Bannon

Alice– Louise Latham

Henry– Jonathan Massey

Martha–Mandy Kiley

Hugh – Steve Askew

Production Team:

Director: Carita Drew

Set Designer: Jonathan Adkins

Production Assistant: Shannon Turnbull

Stage Manager: Hannah Turnbull

Costumes: Adrienne Capp/ Jennifer Flitton

Technician: Malcolm Robinson

Our Previous Production

Anyone within a 50miles radius of Norwich should have gone to the Sewell Barn theatre to see a superb production of *Unscorched* by Luke Owen. If you didn't, you have missed out! It was faultless. Michelle Montague's direction was unobtrusive and seamless. All the performances were excellent. All the performances!

And Luke Owen is a major writing talent. He handled an uncomfortable subject so unsensationally and with such sensitivity, the audience were mesmerised. His talent for dialogue was minimal, naturalistic, and yet so shocking in its sparseness. I was riveted, and yet strangely unsurprised.

The play just progressed ineluctably and left me bereft.

David Green was so good, and one felt for him every step of his journey, and he was wonderfully supported by Neil Auker. Strong, dependable, and ultimately damaged in a very moving penultimate scene. Joe Darbyshire was frighteningly efficient and matter of fact, and Hattie Amy was lovely, warm and giggly yet in the end powerless to affect an increasingly dysfunctional affair. Myles Crowder so effectively and movingly set the whole journey in motion.

I loved it!

Congratulations to everyone. A fantastic team effort.

David White

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 if you use a credit card online).

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

Costume Hire

Many of our members are also members of other groups. Please remember that the Sewell Barn has an impressive costume collection, covering almost all periods that is available for hire. If you would like more details of the costumes and how to hire them, please consult the web-site or contact Anne Giles:

hire@sewellbarn.org

Company News

Workshops:

Led by Carita Liljendal

Wed 28 January 2015: CHARACTER AND TEXT ANALYSIS

Carita will guide you to create a character through developing voice, behaviour, thought process and physicality. Using Meisner and Stanislavski Techniques, scene analysis will help explore objectives, obstacles and actions. You can advance a character you know already, or develop one during the workshop.

Auditions

Mint: Monday January 26th ; 7.30 pm at the Barn

Mint follows Alan, a 26 year old prisoner through the next 7 years of his life: prison visits, relocations, release.

The first three quarters of the play see him transferred from prison to prison, his older sister Stephanie gets married and has a daughter, Amber while his younger sister Nicola completes her school education and goes to university. Alan is forced to watch from the sidelines, trapped physically and emotionally, trying to cope with life on the inside.

As time passes and the families' lives go on, Alan becomes more accustomed to prison life and the visits evolve from the awkward initial conversations and inappropriate comments to something resembling a new normal.

Finally, Alan is released, but the initial excitement and promise of a new start quickly fades as the harsh reality of life with a criminal record sets in. Can Alan, or his family, escape from his past?

Clare Lizzimore is a playwright and director based in London. *Mint* is her first play and demonstrates her skill for beautifully observed dialogue and sense of humour.

We need to create a family -

Charlotte	Mid 40s, Alan's Mum	Stephanie	27 Alan's sister
Amber.	6 months, Stephanie's daughter, Alan's niece	Nicola	15 Alans younger sister
Alan.	28	Simon.	Mid 40s, Alan's dad

The ages are the ages of the characters are taken from the scene in which they first appear, however, these these are playing ages and we can be flexible to a degree...a lot depends on who plays Alan.

The play takes place over 8 years, from 1998-2006. Alan is in prison for 5 years.

Locations:

Prison

Open Prison

Alan's family home

Rehearsals:

These will be a combination of Tues/Weds/Thurs from early April (it says mid April on the website but I want to make sure we have plenty of time), probably 7-9.30/10.00pm.

Jen Dewsbury, Director

Caligula

'Auditioning people is always harder than it looks! On paper, the job of casting is easy enough. Gather as many people to audition as possible, have them perform scenes from the play, and while they do so, sit back and see what you like the most. In reality it is a painstaking process involving a lot of to-ing and fro-ing over which actors will work well together and complement one another the best. Fortunately, when it came to casting Caligula there were plenty of auditionees (close to thirty over all the audition nights) meaning I had a healthy sized pool of actors to cast from. Of course, this made certain casting decisions more difficult, and my cast list went through many revisions before being finalised. The standard of auditions was very high, and everybody threw themselves into the roles with a tremendous intensity. It didn't take long for me to realise that I had picked some of the loudest audition pieces possible from the play - frenzied Caligulas could be heard bellowing from all corners of the Barn! Many thanks to all who auditioned for the play. It's always great to see the breadth of acting talent we have in Norwich. I can't wait to get started on rehearsals!'

Final Casting:

Caligula - Joe Darbyshire
Helicon - David Shaw
Scipio - Luke McCulloch
Octavius - Roger Gardiner
Cassius - Arun Joseph
Mereia - Jim Green

Caesonia - Ginny Porteous
Cherea - Myles Crowder
Metellus - Tarek Fadhel
Lepidus - Seamus Walsh
Mucius - James Crawley
Mucius' wife/poet - Gemma Johnston

David Green, Director

What else is on in the Area?

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

'My Cousin Rachel' by Daphne du Maurier, adapted by Diana Morgan January 27th -31st at 7.30 pm; also matinée January 31st at 2.30 pm.

