



www.sewellbarn.org

2014-2015 Season

Newsletter 5 February 2015

Editor: Jill Fuller, 20, Blofield Road, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5NN 01603 715346; newsletter@sewellbarn.org

+++++

Our Next Production

That Face

By Polly Stenham, directed by Carita Liljendal

26-28 Feb, 4-7 Mar at 7.30pm, Matinée 7 Mar at 2.30pm

Rehearsals of That Face are soon coming to an end. Two weeks left to opening night and we are pleased to say that we have the performance all together and now have a powerful piece of theatre in our hands. Polly Stenham's debut play is a raw and strong portrayal of a dysfunctional family. The focus is on the kids, Mia and Henry, who are struggling to get by with their divorced parents. How much of the parents' insecurities, actions, addictions, and frustrations affect the children? Can parents fix past damage? 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.

On stage we will see Mandy Kiley's outstanding performance of the bipolar and alcoholic mother Martha.



Henry is played by Jonathan Massey, who goes deep, very deep in character and brings out a multi-layered performance. The much hated and loved father Hugh is played by wonderful Steve Askew, who brings order and naturalism in the play. You will see three new faces on the Barn's stage: very special and highly talented Hannah

Bethell playing Mia, who gets in trouble by torturing a thirteen year old girl; another raw talent, Alexandra Bannon, is playing Mia's partner in crime, Izzy; and Louise Latham gives a strong and dramatic physical performance of the abused torture victim Alice.

Carita Liljendal

Booking:

Tickets can be booked at 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. 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).

PRELUDE
RECORDS

You can book tickets for any of this season's shows, so why not check your diary and book us in now...

Coming Soon: Caligula

By Albert Camus, translated by David Greig

Directed by David Green

April 9th -11th and 15th -18th



Rehearsal photos



Our Previous Production

A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol

Baby it's cold outside. Deepest, darkest January with Christmas fading into memory so what better winter warmer than a farcical Yuletide celebration with a heart.



The conceit here is that we are not only the Barn audience, but also the studio audience as Radio WOV (in beautiful downtown Newark, New Jersey) puts on its first annual production of A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens.

It's a conceit embraced by the audience I joined, reacting to 'applause' and 'laughter' cue lights with gusto.

At its big New Jersey state heart the play has a darker side. It is Christmas Eve 1943. It is two years into the war in Europe and Asia from which

news bulletins intrude into the Yuletide celebrations which themselves will be broadcast to troops at the fronts. And young sound engineer Buzz Crenshaw (Chad Mason) is on his last broadcast before joining the fray.

Into this comes veteran film and stage actor William St Claire. He has taken the role of Scrooge as his career slides and maintains his denial of the loss of a son in the airforce.

Rob Fradley-Wilde plays up perfectly the ageing thesp who, on his first foray into radio drama, still insists on costume changes between scenes.

But the pain from the loss of his son finally hits home as Scrooge contemplates the potential loss of Tiny Tim - a dark moment, which sets up the most delightful sequence, as the assembled company ad-lib their way into their usual Friday night Gumshoe drama performance.

This is the highlight of a wonderful ensemble piece, demonstrating not only the highly-drilled versatility of the WOV acting company, but the sheer hard work put in by the Barn cast in moulding a production which they seem to enjoy as much as the audience.

As we all know, Tiny Tim is eventually rescued from the basement where he is being held by the Nazis and all is well and God is blessing us, one and all.



Bob Carter

Artistic Director

As you will be aware, Michelle and Robert are coming to the end of their tenure as Artistic Directors. 2015 /16 will be their final season. They are already in the planning stages for this and we must thank them for their hard work and commitment over the years.

However, we must now look to the future and seek a new Artistic Director (or a partnership). The new person(s) must be well in place by the end of the year so the next season can be planned.

We are inviting people to apply for this role. If you think you have the skills needed, please do not be shy at coming forward. We will ask candidates to put together their artistic vision of the Barn in the future and this will be discussed by the committee and a suitable person will be invited to plan the season. The tenure is for three years initially, with the possibility of extending this if wished.

The role involves organising the directors for the season and ensuring a balanced programme.

During the season, the AD supports the directors by ensuring that all aspects of the production are covered.

The successful person should be an experienced director, ideally at the Barn so they are aware of how the theatre works.

This is a very simplified view of the role and if you are interested, more details can be provided, and talking to Michelle or Robert would be advisable.

If you would like to be considered for this exciting challenge, please contact me by the email / phone/or address above and I will be happy to meet you and discuss the possibilities.

Jill Fuller (Chairman Sewell Barn Management Committee)

Marketing and Publicity

It is proposed to assemble a committee of people to promote and extend all aspects of the marketing and publicity of the Barn. If you would be interested in joining this group and have some ideas as to how we could better promote our productions, then Dan Taylor would like to hear from you. Please email him : daniel180@btinternet.com

Jill

Company History.

I don't know if anyone was aware but during the last production the company history was beautifully displayed in the corridor as you enter the theatre. These were all sponsored by company members and friends, and we would like to express our thanks for their contribution towards these important documents. It gives me personally, immense pleasure when I look at all the wonderful productions that have occurred in our brilliant theatre that we must all be proud of. I am a founder member of the company and have either come to support or have been directly involved with nearly all the show on display. It never ceases to amaze me at the amazing theatrical creativity achieved over many years by a dedicated band of amateurs, who constantly reach professional standards. The Sewell Barn Company is a very precious part of our community which has brought entertainment and joy to thousands of people that we have come to know as our friends. So once again thank you for your support and long may it continue.

Together we are strong

Robert Little

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 at very reasonable rates. 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:

Creative Dance and Movement

Wednesday March 11th 7.30 pm at the Barn

Carita Liljendal will lead this workshop: Finding Ways to explore moods, emotions and philosophies through physicality

Auditions

Copenhagen

Monday March 9th 7.30 pm at the Barn

Carole Lovett will be directing Copenhagen.

See our web site for details of the cast needed and to download the speeches to be used in the audition.

What else is on in the Area?

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

'Private Fears in Public Places' by Alan Ayckbourn March 24th – 28th at 7.30 pm; also matinée March 28th at 2.30 pm.

The Maddermarket Theatre:

'The Ghost Train' by Arnold Ridley March 19th – 28th :7.30pm; also matinée March 28th at 2.30 pm.

