

APRIL 2015

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

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Our Next Production

Caligula

By Albert Camus, translated by David Greig | Directed by David Green

9-11 & 15-18 April at 7.30 pm, matinée 18 April 2.30 pm

Caligula is a stunning play. A joy to read on the page, a pleasure to hear spoken out loud, the poetry of the writing is gripping, and from the moment I first read the play years ago I was absorbed. It has a historical interest, yet is not a 'history play.' Certainly, it takes Roman emperor Caligula as its subject, but is not especially concerned with telling or retelling the legend of his notorious rule. Instead its interest lies more in exploring the philosophy that transforms a bright young man into a depraved lunatic. The play is grounded in the discussion of ideas - and the freshness of the drama comes from the relevance of this discussion today. Caligula's tyranny is familiar today, and will continue to be familiar as long as absolute power continues to be invested in the hands of unstable individuals. And so! Gone are the togas, the sandals, the spears. This production imagines a Caligula of today in a Rome that failed to grow up.

It is an enormous pleasure to work with a hugely talented group in bringing this play alive. Rehearsals will soon be drawing to a close as opening night edges ever nearer. I hope that (as I continuously do) those who come to see the play encounter the raw viscerality of its poetry and the extraordinary passion of its thought.

David Green

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



PRELUDE
RECORDS

Coming Soon

Cowardy Custard

Devised by Gerard Frow, Alan Strachan and Wendy Toye | Directed by Cassie and Selwyn Tillett

14-16 & 20-23 May

The cast of *Cowardy Custard* has spent a month of 'note-bashing' their music, and are now moving into the main rehearsal phase. Here's the team at the first full-cast session; it is proving to be a highly enjoyable (not to say riotous) experience!

Do put the dates in your diary for this delightful show, full of Noel Coward's superb words and music.

Cassie Tillett



Our Previous Production

That Face

By Polly Stenham | Directed by Carita Drew

Polly Stenham wrote her debut play, 'That Face', when she was just 19. Hailed as "one of the most astonishing debuts in more than 30 years of theatre", it remains a darkly humorous and sometimes uncomfortable study in the dynamics within a dysfunctional family headed by "almost 18" years old Henry, the drop-out son of bipolar, alcoholic Martha. Late teens Mia, his sister, has an antagonistic relationship with her mother. Tensions come to a head when Marta's ex-husband Hugh flies in from his new family in Hong Kong to come to the rescue after Mia is party to a school 'initiation' that goes too far.

Another in a consistently strong season at the Barn, Carita Drew's sensitively directed production saw Mandy Kiley as Martha and Jonathan Massey as Henry convincingly convey the close, enabling, but ultimately damaged relationship between a son desperately believing in the ability of his mother to overcome not just her alcoholism, but also the fast swinging bipolar disorder that pervades every aspect of both their lives. Jonathan Adkins' set captured the mood of the play to perfection. Jonathan Massey communicated both the oppressive claustrophobia and the unswerving love of Henry for his mother, as Mandy Kiley's Martha rode a turbulent sea of emotions from giggling peaks to desperate troughs with a truly disconcerting realism. Meanwhile, Hannah Bethel's Mia was all too aware of her brother's circumstances and remains as in control during her antagonistic contact with Martha, as she did being the apparently subservient partner to the delightfully vindictive Izzy (Alexandra Bannon) in the opening scene with Louise Latham as the victim, Alice. When Steve Askew arrived as Hugh, nicely portrayed as first rate businessman and perhaps second rate (and second time around) father, tensions rose to a head.

'That Face' remains a contemporary play that touches on many difficult themes and provokes much thought and reaction, but it does so with a glimmer of hope. Engaging and interesting, this was a production that was definitely not to be missed.

Myles Crowder

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 on daniel180@btinternet.com.

Theatre Administrator

We are looking for someone to come onto the committee at the next AGM as Theatre Administrator. This role involves liaising with outside contractors, with the school and informing the committee when works are needed to the building. The position will become available when Adrian Wenn steps down at the end of this season.

We would like to publicly thank Adrian for all his years of hard work. Adrian has not just administered the building but he has been very 'hands on' (We won't be losing him in his 'hands on rôle', just on the admin side). The person who takes over does not need to wield a hammer and a screwdriver! This is more of an administrative job. If you would be interested in this rôle, please contact Adrian on adrian_wenn@yahoo.com and he will explain further what is involved.

Company News

Workshop: An Introduction to Ensemble Theatre Part 1

Wednesday April 22nd 7.30 pm at the Barn

An introduction to ensemble rhythm work. Developing group skills through patterns, claps, stomps and sounds. Led by Tom Sparkes, this promises to be an exciting workshop. Tom is a young up-and-coming director whose skills and expertise can only be an asset to the company. Please come and support his workshop and learn new techniques. We look forward to seeing you there.

Miche Montague

What else is on in the area?

The Great Hall Theatre Company (at the Assembly House)

The School for Wives by Molière

5-9 May at 7.30 pm, matinée 9 May 2.30 pm.

The logo for Great Hall Theatre Company, featuring the words "great hall" in a stylized, lowercase font with "THEATRE COMPANY" in a smaller, uppercase font underneath.

The Maddermarket Theatre

Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare

23-2 April at 7.30 pm, matinee 2 March at 2.30 pm

