

FEBRUARY 2016

newsletter

sewellbarn
THEATRE

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Welcome to our February newsletter. This is a bumper issue as there is so much going on between now and the end of the season. We have four excellent shows coming up, opportunities for you to help and support your favourite local theatre, and much more.

Our Next Production

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Martin McDonagh | Directed by Michelle Montague

31 March-2 April & 6-9 April at 7.30 pm, matinée 9 April at 2.30 pm



Mandy Kiley (Maureen), Christopher Whitley (Pato), Gillian Tichborne (Mag), Matt Rolls (Ray)

Photography: Andrew Evans

Set in the mountains of Connemara, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* tells the darkly comic tale of Maureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman in her early 40s and Mag, a manipulative aging mother. Mag's interference in Maureen's first and potentially last loving relationship sets in motion a train of events through the blackest of humour and with festering resentment. Wildly funny and grotesquely macabre, you won't know whether to gasp with horror, laugh or cry. An absolute cracker of a play by one of Ireland's finest playwrights.



The Beauty Queen production team recently went to see *Hangmen* – the new McDonagh play. In true Irish style, they had to stop off for a pint of the black stuff in Tipperarys, Fleet Street!

Rehearsals are a joy. Hard work, belly-aching laughter. One happy company! If any of you enjoyed our production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, or more recently, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, you will not be disappointed with this! For booking details, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Miche Montague

Coming Soon

The Burial at Thebes

by Seamus Heaney | directed by David Green

12-14 & 18-21 May

This version of Sophocles' classic tragedy *Antigone* is the oldest play in the Sewell Barn's current season by some two thousand years. However, it's also one of the most modern of the season, as this particular version was written in 2004. Passion and intensity is invested into every moment of the story, and its themes have never lost their potency. Seamus Heaney has done an amazing job of bridging the gap between the classical heritage of Sophocles' play and a modern audience, and the language is powerful and evocative as you'd expect from a Nobel Prize winning poet. I'm extremely excited to be working on this play and I'm fortunate to have a fantastic cast on board to bring it to life - a really great mix of familiar faces and newcomers to the Barn.

David Green

Brimstone & Treacle

by Dennis Potter | directed by Jen Dewsbury

9-11 & 15-18 June

"You have to be able to choose between good and evil, you see. And for that, you have to have a soul." Martin

I find Dennis Potter's work absolutely fascinating. I saw the original BBC film back in the 1980's and it's haunted me ever since. Re-reading the text was electrifying - he sees and writes in such detail and is utterly brutal and very clever with dialogue. In 'Brimstone', he takes taboos to their limits, forcing his audience and his characters to compare what they think they believe with what they truly feel inside. Although it was written in 1974, a lot of the subjects are still relevant today.

We haven't begun rehearsals yet, but I can't wait. I have a great cast - Stewart Thompson and Abbe Swain play Tom and Amy Bates, the parents. Hattie Amey plays their daughter Pattie, and Jonathan Massey is Martin, the mysterious visitor who transforms their lives.

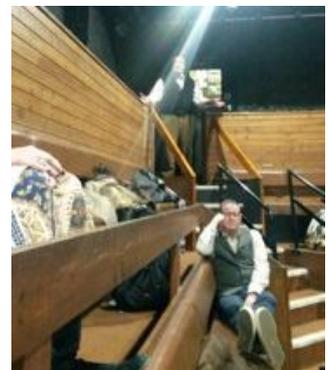
Jen Dewsbury

The History Boys

by Alan Bennett | directed by Michelle Montague

14-16 & 20-23 July

The History Boys is now cast after a great afternoon of auditioning the 'boys' and evening auditioning the 'teachers'. As always, there was more talent than roles! Thank you to everyone who attended the auditions.



Hector.....David White
Mrs Lintott..... Gillian Tichborne
Headmaster..... Terry Cant
Irwin David Green
Dakin Joe Darbyshire
Posner Luke McCulloch
Rudge Greg Arundell
Timms Dominic Sands
Scripps Jack Rumsey

LockwoodCharlie Skinner
Crowther Sam Todd
AktharJonny Gale

Stage Manager Adrian Wenn
Deputy SM Pauline Stinton
Designer Jonathan Adkins
ConstructionMike Carson (Tinks)

Tickets for *The History Boys* are already selling, so while the Barn is fresh in your mind, go online to Prelude Records (see last page of this newsletter for details) and book your tickets – you won't be disappointed.

Miche Montague

Our previous production

The Go-Between

L P Hartley | Adapted & directed by Roger Parsley



We were absolutely delighted to receive this wonderful review on our TripAdvisor page. "Watched "The Go Between" on January 16th. It was our first visit to the theatre as we live 130 miles from Norwich. What a fantastic little gem, the front of house staff were very helpful and the play itself was a professional performance from amateur players. I will not single anyone out for special praise but will just say that the evening was exceptional - and I am usually very critical of "amateur theatre". Thank you to all concerned with the performance."

More reviews and other information can be found on our blog at <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.co.uk/>.

Opportunities: outside the Barn

Actors needed for Edinburgh

I am looking for actors to join the cast of *The Necessity of Atheism*, a farcical play set at the height of the Napoleonic wars about the expulsion of the poet Percy Shelley from the University of Oxford after he writes a pamphlet asking for proof of God.

Actors can be either gender and any age but will need to be available between the 3rd and 21st of August for the show. There are some costs involved, however, profits from ticket sales will be shared amongst the actors. More details and a copy of the script can be sent on request to the director at sdpoole93@hotmail.com.

Auditions will be held at 4pm on Sunday 6th March in the main hall at InnerSpace Norwich on St Benedicts Street. Please contact the director for more information.

Sabrina Poole : Director

The Fourth Norfolk One Act Playwriting Competition

Sponsored by June Owen of The Garboldisham Amateur Dramatic Society to promote play writing for the amateur theatre

- Open to all Norfolk Residents aged 18 or over
- 1st Prize £200 - 2nd Prize £100 - 3rd Prize £50
- Closing Date: 31 July 2016
- Entry forms , full Competition Rules and Conditions of Entry by e-mail from june.owen1@sky.com

A different kind of theatre costume!

There is to be an **exhibition of ecclesiastical robes** dating from the fifteenth century up to the present day in **St Nicholas' Parish Church, North Walsham** entitled **Wrought About With Many Colours**. There will be more than a hundred examples on display and I would recommend this to anyone who has an interest not only in British social and religious history but also to those of you who are involved in **theatre costume and in the evolution of textile design**. It runs from **28-30 May** and further details can be found on the church website at www.saint-nicholas.org.uk.

Opportunities: inside the Barn

The Sewell Barn is a charity, staffed entirely by volunteers. We pride ourselves on the quality of theatre that we produce in our unique venue. It's achieved by the unified efforts of many people, on committees, front of stage and back stage. We can't do it without you!

There are presently several important ways in which you may be able to contribute to our continuing success. In all cases, **plenty of support will be offered** by the previous post-holders and other relevant people. The more volunteers that we have, the lighter the load on everyone concerned. Please consider carefully any ways in which you could help us to continue our exciting work.

Treasurer

Whilst the accounts are not exceedingly complicated, we do require someone with book-keeping skills and computer literacy. [Accountancy experience is not the same as book-keeping experience, and the latter is more valuable in this case!] Additionally, there is the opportunity to be involved in decision-making regarding ticket prices, expenditure and monitoring financial trends. Whether you would wish to become fully involved with Barn business, or would prefer to act solely as a book-keeper, your interest will be greatly appreciated.

Membership secretary

Cassie Tillett has been performing this role for the last year or so, but with her impending responsibilities as joint Artistic Director, she'd really like to hand it over to somebody else before the start of next season! It is *not* a large or time-consuming job; receiving applications from new members, sending out membership cards and information, passing on information to other members of the team, and dealing with renewals across the summer holiday. Other minor administrative tasks (e.g. regular checking of the Barn answerphone) could be covered by this individual, but that depends on your time and capacity. Good organisational skills, computer literacy and an eye for detail will keep this role to a very modest time investment but will provide vital support.

Technical manager

Our equipment is modern and our productions require varied and imaginative lighting and sound. The Technical Manager works closely with the Artistic Directors to ensure that the season's shows are rigged and staffed to the high standards that we are known for.

Please note: The above three roles all have the opportunity to be co-opted to the Committee (formal elections would take place at the next AGM in the autumn), and therefore to have vital input to the business of running our theatre, but that is not a prerequisite of taking on any of the roles.

If you are interested in any of these exciting opportunities, please get in touch with Jill Fuller as soon as possible (chair@sewellbarn.org).

From your new Artistic Directors : tell us what you can do!

We are enormously excited at the challenges and opportunities that await us with effect from the 2016-17 season. Work on the choice and scheduling of plays for that season is already well underway, and we are very much looking forward to presenting you with a varied and enjoyable programme, displaying the variety and opportunity that our theatre is renowned for.

A change of tenure is as good a time as any to refresh our knowledge of the skilled volunteers who are available to help us with the continuing success of our theatre. Help is always appreciated in many areas; people come and go, their circumstances change, the needs of the theatre change. We know the identities of many of our loyal workers on both sides of the footlights; but not having a crystal ball between us, we don't want to miss anybody. **We need you to tell us!**

So... *please* don't wait for us to contact you. Email us at sewellbarnad@gmail.com to let us know if you would like to help, and what your present experience is, in any of the following areas:

**set design – set construction – prompting – wardrobe – sound – lighting
front of house – bar work – props – stage management**

Experience is not necessarily required; enthusiasm and dedication is. Please join us on our new journey!

Clare Williamson & Cassie Tillett

Workshop

Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Barn

Mask Theatre

led by David Green

This workshop gives participants the opportunity to play with using masks and physicality to create heightened emotion, whether tragic or comic. The session will also focus on encouraging spontaneity through improvisation.

Important note: Due to the change in season scheduling (the postponement of *Lark Rise to Candleford* and the introduction of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* on different dates), the Mask Theatre workshop will now take place not in the auditorium as usual but in the upstairs **Rehearsal Room**. This smaller space means that the workshop is **limited to ten participants**. Please therefore remember to **book your place** by emailing workshops@sewellbarn.org. Don't miss this opportunity for a creative and exciting evening.

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

The Dresser by Ronald Harwood

18-26 March at 7.30 pm , matinée 26 March at 2.30 pm

Great Hall Theatre Company

The Constant Wife by W Somerset Maugham

8-12 March at 7.30 pm, matinée 12 March at 2.30 pm



Special ticket rates

Did you know? ... The Sewell Barn's ticket prices are, we believe, very reasonable (£9 standard/£7 concessions). However, there are a couple of even better deals to be had.

- **Students:** on 'Welcome Wednesdays' (in the second week of each run), student tickets cost just **£5**. (You can book this option online in the normal way.)
- **Groups:** at all performances. Specifically aimed at school groups, but also available to other group bookings: if you are booking more than 8 tickets in a party, the cost is **£8 standard / £6 concessions**. (To book this option, please contact Prelude Records direct by visit or phone [details above].)

Booking

Tickets for all shows at the Sewell Barn Theatre 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 (small booking fee if you use a credit card online).

**PRELUDE
RECORDS**