

MARCH 2016

# newsletter

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THEATRE

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As last month's newsletter was something of a bumper edition, we're keeping this one as brief as possible. Please, however, do read and enjoy, and especially we would be keen to hear from anyone who is able to support the Barn in any of the ways shown on page 3.

## 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



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

*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.

Brilliant script, stunning design... the Barn at its best. What are you waiting for? Buy your ticket now!

*Miche Montague*

## Coming Soon

A brief reminder of our next three shows for your diary, plus news of the reintroduction of the postponed production of *Lark Rise to Candleford*.

## The Burial at Thebes

by **Seamus Heaney** | directed by **David Green**

**12-14 & 18-21 May**

Irish Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney's dazzling adaptation of *Antigone* brings life and breath to Sophocles.

## Brimstone & Treacle

by **Dennis Potter** | directed by **Jen Dewsbury**

**9-11 & 15-18 June**

Dennis Potter's haunting, disturbing, controversial and theatrically stunning exploration of good and evil.

## The History Boys

by **Alan Bennett** | directed by **Michelle Montague**

**14-16 & 20-23 July**

Alan Bennett's masterpiece about a group of gifted, charming sixth-form schoolboys was recently voted 'the nation's favourite play'.

## Lark Rise to Candleford

by **Keith Dewhurst** | directed by **Robert Little**

**8-24 September [for precise dates see below]**

We are pleased to announce the new dates for the promised productions of *Lark Rise* and *Candleford*. The company was very keen to keep this in the 2015/16 season as originally planned. Couple this with the good news that the Director, Robert Little, is making a really good recovery from his operation and is very much looking forward to completing his challenge of producing this exciting double bill.

Dates are as follows (all **September 2016**):

**Lark Rise** Thu 8, Fri 9, Sat 10 & Wed 21 at 7.30pm plus Sat 17 & Sat 24 at 2.30pm

**Candleford** Wed 14, Thu 15, Fri 16, Sat 17, Thu 22, Fri 23, Sat 24 all at 7.30pm

Remember, the same deal applies as shown in the brochure: book to see the matinée of *Lark Rise* and evening performance of *Candleford* together and will give you a free cream tea (Saturday 17 & Saturday 24 only).



# Opportunities to help

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

While we hope to have somebody willing to take over from Ginny Porteous in the short term, we still need a longer-term 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 wish to become fully involved with Barn business, or prefer to act solely as a book-keeper, your support 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.

## 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 roles 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](mailto:chair@sewellbarn.org)).**

## Can you help backstage?

As explained in the previous newsletter, we are keen to refresh our lists of the essential people without whom our shows will not happen. *Please* don't wait for us to contact you – we may not know who you are! Email Cassie & Clare [your ADs-in-waiting] at [sewellbarnad@gmail.com](mailto: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**

## Free Workshops

**Wednesday 23 March 2016** at 7:30 pm  
at the Barn (Rehearsal Room)

### **Mask Theatre**

led by David Green

**Wednesday 20 April** at 7:30 pm  
at the Barn (auditorium)

### **Discover Your Voice**

led by David White

*And speaking of voices...*

## Do you have an authentic Norfolk voice?

Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse writes: "We are urgently searching for authentic Norfolk voices and character actors to be part of the new 'Voices from the Workhouse' exhibition at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse. This is an invitation for you to play your part in bringing the workhouse back to life. We are open to volunteers and professionals alike."

To find out more about the casting process please get in touch: [voicesfromtheworkhouse@gmail.com](mailto:voicesfromtheworkhouse@gmail.com)

## What else is on in the area?

### **Maddermarket Theatre**

***King Lear*** by William Shakespeare

22-30 April at 7.30 pm , matinée 30 April at 2.30 pm



### **Great Hall Theatre Company**

***Ding Dong*** by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Tudor Gates

26-30 April at 7.30 pm, matinée 30 April at 2.30 pm



## 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).



## Help keep our costs down!

If you are receiving this newsletter by post, would you consider trying the email version? Please email [newsletter@sewellbarn.org](mailto:newsletter@sewellbarn.org) and we'll make the necessary changes.