

JUNE 2016

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

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Our Next Production

Brimstone & Treacle

by Dennis Potter | directed by Jen Dewsbury

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



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

The story begins with a glimpse into the lives of a middle aged couple, haunted by grief and guilty secrets after the accident that left their beautiful daughter severely disabled. They have no way of knowing that tonight is very special. Tonight, a young man calling himself Martin Taylor will knock on their door and change their lives. Forever. Their dearest wish will come true, their prayers will be answered, and the dog that howls on the end of his chain need howl no more...

Brimstone & Treacle has haunted me ever since I first saw it in the 1980s. I wanted to know how a playwright could dare to tackle such a subject? How brave do you have to be to offer the public that kind of glimpse into the dark side your imagination? I was fascinated (and still am) by the skill of the man to be able to take these taboo subjects, these human failings, and make them into a story so challenging, yet so hypnotic.

“You have to choose between good and evil, you see. And for that, you have to have a soul.”

Jen Dewsbury

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).

Our previous production

The Burial at Thebes

by Seamus Heaney | directed by David Green

One of many delightful reviews of this show received on our Facebook page.

"Ok folks, here's a tip for you: If you find yourself in need of a dark, thought-provoking, intense, tragic, dramatic, well-acted, imaginatively staged piece of theatre either tonight or tomorrow, I'd suggest you treat yourself and get yourself off to the Sewell Barn. Their current production of 'Burial at Thebes' has only two more days to run and is a quite captivating and entertaining one-act play. (So it's quite short...)

Huge congratulations all round to the cast, crew and especially whoever designed the stage-set (apologies for the lack of names to drop here - I forgot to grab a programme!) which makes quite the most innovative use of the Barn's space I've seen since their production of 'Bedlam' a couple of years ago. Bravo! Outstanding!"

For more reviews of this and other productions, visit our blog at sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.co.uk.

Coming Soon

The History Boys

by Alan Bennett | directed by Michelle Montague

14-16 & 20-23 July

I have just finished my read-through of ***The History Boys*** feeling very excited. I'm always nervous as we gather for the first time and worry that I may have miscast in some way, but I am pleased to share that the actors compliment each other perfectly! How lucky to have so much talent willing to work for our unique company. Packed with cast and creative team, our small rehearsal room echoed with laughter. I cannot wait to start rehearsals-proper this week!

CAST LIST

Dakin – Joe Darbyshire
Posner – Luke McCulloch
Scripps – Jack Rumsey
Rudge – Greg Arundell
Timm – Dominic Sands

Lockwood – Charlie Skinner
Akthar – Jonny Gale
Crowther – Sam Todd
Hector – David White
Irwin – David Green

Mrs Lintott – Gillian Tichborne
Felix – Terry Cant
Rehearsal Understudy – Matt Rolls

CREATIVE TEAM

Design & Construction – Jonathan Adkins, Mike Carson
Rehearsal prompt – Nigel Coates
Director of Music – Charlie Caine

Stage Management – Adrian Wenn, Pauline Stinton
Tech Team – Dean Weston, Karl Hartland, Alex Hobbs,
Malcolm Robinson

I urge you all to book your tickets now. This is my final production for the company as Artistic Director and I hope to share '***the nation's favourite play***' with you all.

'I thought the read through was an absolute blast. Great promise' – Tinks Carson

Michelle Montague

Launch of the 2016-17 Season

On Sunday 22nd May the new season programme was skilfully and professionally introduced to the Company by Clare and Cassie, who will take over as Artistic Directors at the end of this season.

The evening was well attended (it was lovely to see some new faces along with some folk we haven't seen for a while) and the atmosphere was lively and vibrant. The bar was humming with members after the presentation. The new programme promises to be exciting, varied and innovative. Something for everyone... actors and audiences! Full details will be available on our website soon, together with casting notes, but in the meantime there is a quick summary below. Audition details for the first two shows are also included in this newsletter, and internet users can access the Notes for the full season on this link: <http://www.sewellbarn.org.uk/2016-17-Director-Notes.pdf>.

Jill Fuller

20/10/2016-29/10/2016

Accolade

by Emlyn Williams

Dir: Clare Williamson

01/12/2016-10/12/2016

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

by Constance Cox (Oscar Wilde)

Dir: Rob Morris

12/01/2017-21/01/2017

There Came a Gypsy Riding

by Frank McGuinness

Dir: Clare Howard

28/01/2017

Music at the Barn

Yve Mary Barwood, Falling from

Trees and Matt Watson

16/02/2017-25/02/2017

Timon of Athens

by William Shakespeare

Dir: Rob Tiffen

30/03/2017-08/04/2017

The Kitchen Sink

by Tom Wells

Dir: Peter Wood

04/05/2017-13/05/2017

Kissing Sid James

by Robert Farquhar

Dir: Angela Rowe

08/06/2017-17/06/2017

Passion Play

by Peter Nichols

Dir: Judi Daykin

13/07/2017-22/07/2017

A Chorus of Disapproval

by Alan Ayckbourn

Dir: Cassie Tillett

Calling all backstage crew!

We are **urgently** in need of **technicians**, **set designers** and **stage managers** for the new 2016-17 season. Some of these roles have happily been filled – we have designers for four shows and SMs for four shows – but still need more; and our technical team is seriously depleted at present. We especially need crew for the December show. If you feel that you could assist in any way at all, please email admin@sewellbarn.org or phone Cassie on 07802 475110.

Workshops

Important note: CANCELLATION of June & July workshops

Wednesday June 22nd and Wednesday July 27th

The final two workshops of the season were due to be a preparatory session and a performance of an evening of entertainment to celebrate the end of the current season, and the end of the tenure of the present Artistic Directors, Michelle Montague & Robert Little. However, as Robert's production of *Lark Rise to Candleford* was postponed due to the ill health of the director and will now take place in September, it is felt that the planned date for the performance (27 July) is no longer appropriate for a 'farewell social'. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Auditions

Auditions for the first two shows of the 2016-17 season take place during June. If you're interested in auditioning, have any queries, or are unable to attend but would still like to be considered, please contact the directors as shown below.

ACCOLADE by Emlyn Williams

Director: Clare Williamson

Contact: cwilliamson197@gmail.com

Performances: 20-22, 26-29 October 2016 (matinée 29 October)

THE PLAY

Will Trenting, the author of ten novels, is riding high. He's about to be knighted and has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. His novels reflect and explore his personal experiences of the seedy side of life: dingy pubs, prostitutes, sex parties. At the same time, he has a loving marriage with an understanding wife and a 14 year old son who, like the rest of society, knows nothing of his father's secret life. When photos involving under-age sex come to light and blackmail is threatened, Will and his family must come to terms with divided loyalties and the destruction of their happy lives.

First performed in 1950 and contemporary to that period in its setting, Emlyn Williams presents us with a likeable, sympathetic protagonist in Will Trenting and then challenges our preconceptions and judgements as the revelations begin. This psychological thriller is as relevant today as it was 60 years ago.

CASTING 6m/3f

Will Trenting	40-50 - "an unusual combination of physical and mental vigour"
Albert	30-50 - Will's valet-chauffeur "manages to have a permanent twinkle in his eye yet remains the perfect servant"
Rona	35-45 - Will's wife - "without Will's unconsciously dominating personality, she is every bit as spontaneous"
Thane Lampeter	40-50 - friend to the Trentings - "the manner of a sophisticated barrister, warmed by kindly tolerance"
Marian Tillyard	35-45 - friend to the Trentings - "a warm, unaffected personality...more conventional than Roma"
Ian	13-14 but could be played by a young adult - the son - "young for his age...his shyness is pleasant and unselfconscious"
Harold	25-35 - one of Will's party-going friends - "lower class...with a preoccupation for enjoyment. He looks like a chauffeur off duty"
Phyllis	25-35 - Harold's wife and one of Will's party-going friends - "lower class...takes vice for granted...a nicely dressed barmaid"
Daker	40-60 "an insignificant man, shabby genteel... quick and nervous with a touch of affable subservience"

REHEARSAL DETAILS

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. There will be a few Sundays to accommodate full runs/tech rehearsals etc. Rehearsals will begin week of Tuesday 30 August. There will be a read through and character workshop shortly after casting.

AUDITION DETAILS

Sunday 19th June 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Barn

Audition pieces will be provided upon arrival on the night of the audition. There is no necessity to prepare anything in advance. However, all auditionees are encouraged to read the play. If you are unable to make this date, please contact the director as soon as possible to make another arrangement. **SCRIPT:** Samuel French: ISBN 978-0-573-11034-4

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME by Constance Cox

from a story by Oscar Wilde

Director: Rob Morris

Contact: robjmorris@ntlworld.com

Performances: 1-3, 7-10 December 2016 (matinée 10 December)

THE PLAY

A well respected cheiromantist (palmist) predicts that Lord Arthur will commit a murder at some point in his life, so, out of consideration for his wife to be, he conspires to get it over with before his upcoming wedding. It is not as easy as he had thought.

This black comedy, adapted from an original short story by Oscar Wilde, if played well, will be hilarious. The concept is ridiculous which is what makes it so very funny, especially to a modern day audience.

CASTING 5m/5f

Baines	Lord Arthur's butler, 40-60.
Lord Arthur	25-35.
Sybil	Arthur's fiancée, late teens to mid 20s.
The Dean	Arthur's elderly uncle, mid 50s upwards.
Lady Windermere	Arthur's aunt, 40-50.
Lady Clementina	Arthur's great-aunt, mid 50s upwards
Lady Julia	Sybil's mother, 40-50.
Podgers	A cheiromantist, 30 upwards .
Winkelkopf	35-55, needs to have a convincing German accent.
Nellie	The maid.

REHEARSALS

It is my hope to rehearse Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only resorting to Sunday should it be deemed needed and for a possible tech day. First rehearsal 26 September 7.00pm.

AUDITIONS

28 June 2016 at 7:00pm in the Barn

I am usually happy to just read through the script, I am aware that some very good actors do not enjoy reading, if you are such an actor then I just need to know before the audition date. If you are interested but cannot attend this date please email me and we can arrange another time.

SCRIPT

ISBN: 9780573012457 (Samuel French)

What else is on in the area?

Shakespeare at Strangers' Hall : Sundays in July / August

For those of you who do not know it, Strangers Hall is a medieval gem of a building tucked away inside the city centre. It is well worth a visit in its own right but over the months of July and August there will be the added incentive of seeing some familiar faces from the Sewell Barn performing excerpts from Shakespeare's plays and poetry every Sunday afternoon either in the garden or in the Great Hall. The players are Wendy Atkinson, Terry Dabbs, Abi Dennington-Price, Jane de la Tour, Anne Giles, Susan Kydd, Sabrina Poole and Gill Tichborne. Each performance will be different depending upon which actors are there and which pieces they perform and I cannot think of more pleasant surroundings within which to celebrate the life of Britain's greatest playwright. Performances will start at 2.30pm and be repeated at 3.30pm and are included within the normal entrance fee for the Hall.

Carole Lovett

Crowning Glories : a musical celebration for Her Majesty's 90th birthday : Friday 10th June

Several members of the Sewell Barn company can be found moonlighting out at Somerton, a few miles north of Great Yarmouth. Familiar faces include Angela Rowe, Rachel Duffield, Steve Askew, John Griffin, Gill Tichborne and Cassie & Selwyn Tillett. Themed on "royalty, loyalty and London", the evening includes a wide assortment of familiar and unfamiliar music, ranging from operetta to songs-from-shows to soulful blues to sentimental crooning. Seating is limited in this beautiful little church, so please contact Selwyn to reserve tickets, either on selwyn@tillett.org.uk, via Facebook, or on 01493 393430.

Maddermarket Theatre

Ladies in Lavender by Sean McKenna

24 June – 2 July at 7.30 pm , matinées 25 June and 2 July at 2.30 pm

Great Hall Theatre Company

I Have Been Here Before by J B Priestley

21-25 June at 7.30 pm, matinée 25 June at 2.30 pm



Help keep our costs down!

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