

JULY 2016

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

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Our Next Production

The History Boys

by Alan Bennett | directed by Michelle Montague

14-16 & 20-23 July at 7.30 pm, matinée 23 July at 2.30 pm



Photography: Michael Stanislaw

Miche's farewell production as Joint Artistic Director

'It's a performance. It's entertainment. And if it isn't, make it so' - Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

THE HISTORY BOYS production has recently moved into the Barn and the theatre is filled with activity. I am directing in the auditorium while Charlie is rehearsing songs in the foyer. If there is anyone left over, they are in the rehearsal room working whatever scenes possible. Tinks and Jonathan are advising on design and Pauline and Adrian have their work cut out managing 8 young men. Oh, and Gill Tichborne... she just walks round with a permanent smile on her face!

It's one of those plays that you could work on for months. There is so much in it - so much to discuss, so many relationships to work out, so many scenes! We have a dream cast - David White is Hector, what more can one say; Gill is a wonderful Totty; Terry was a headmaster so understands the role perfectly; David Green and his Oxbridge candidates are talented actors who I feel privileged to work with. Blessed with a great cast and crew, we are lucky to have Charlie Caine with us as director of music - at this time, he is busy working on harmonies for *Bye Bye Blackbird*.

Free drink opening night; free drink for members on company night; £5 student tickets on the Wednesday - a play recently voted 'the nation's favourite' - buy your ticket now! Timelessly relevant, **The History Boys** is a lesson not to be missed.

Contains strong language and mild scenes of a sexual nature.

Michelle Montague

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).

Coming Soon

Lark Rise to Candleford

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

Adapted from the novels of Flora Thompson

8-24 September

See our website for full details of this ambitious and exciting production, directed by Robert Little - his final production as Joint Artistic Director. This production consists of two separate, but very connected, plays. During the run, they will be performed separately and on the two Saturdays they will both be performed, **Lark Rise** in the afternoon and **Candleford** in the evening. Booking on the Saturdays is for the complete production (with a cream tea served between). Tickets for this production are selling fast so booking is essential.

Our Previous Production

Brimstone & Treacle

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



We were delighted with the positive reactions to this brave, challenging and powerful production. This comment on Facebook sums up many of the comments in the auditorium, sent to us by email and published around social media.

"Brimstone and Treacle, superbly directed by Jen Dewsbury, and featuring riveting performances by the cast, will long remain in my memory. Jonathan Massey was diabolically intense as Martin, and was admirably matched by the gentle, trusting, hopeful persona portrayed by Abbe Swain as Mrs Bates. These two commanded one's attention throughout the play. Sabrina Diane Poole performed the difficult role of the catatonic daughter with sympathy and intensity, and Stewart Thompson showed us the dark politically loathsome side of Tom Bates well. A fantastic, uncomfortable, and perversely enjoyable event. Congratulations to you all."

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

Auditions

Two auditions are being held during July. After a highly successful first audition, there is an **additional** date for **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime** on **18th July**, for some actors who were unable to attend in June; so if you still wish to be considered for a part in this wonderful black comedy of manners, please contact the director, Rob Morris, as soon as possible. The audition for the third play in the 2016-17 season, **There Came a Gypsy Riding**, is being held on **24th July**.

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.

AUDITION

18 July 2016 at 7:00 pm 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)

THERE CAME A GYPSY RIDING by Frank McGuiness

Director: Clare Howard

Contact: 07847 333032 clare@clarehoward.plus.com

Performances: 12-14 & 18-21 January 2017 (matinée 21 January)

THE PLAY

Haunted by the suicide of their youngest child, Eugene, an educated, cultured, Dublin family retreat to their holiday cottage on the untamed west coast of Ireland, the place of his death, to mark his 21st birthday. The family are divided by their grief, and in this place they are challenged by the primal landscape, superstitions, their relationships and their need to move on. The guardian, or spirit, of the place is an elderly cousin, Bridget, who found Eugene's body. Arriving uninvited, she chooses this moment to reveal a secret about his death.

This beautifully written play won acclaim when premiered in 2007, and, in the best modern Irish tradition, overlays rationalism with a gloss of something ancient and poetic. Although dealing with a dark and difficult subject, the play is infused with humour and is ultimately cathartic.

CASTING

3F, 2M. Ages given are approximate playing ages. All roles are substantial and complex.

Margaret	mid-late 40s	The mother. A Donegal woman, who retains her accent. A university lecturer in English Literature.
Leo	mid 40s - mid 50s	The father. A successful businessman with a chain of pubs
Louise	early 20s	their daughter, a primary school teacher
Simon	early 20s	their elder son, a bookseller
Bridget	70+	Leo's distant cousin. Eccentric, mischievous and fey.

AUDITION: Sunday 24th July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Barn

If you are unable to make this date, please contact the director as soon as possible to make another arrangement.

Membership renewals

Just a quick reminder that membership fees are now due, and a reminder is enclosed with this newsletter where appropriate. It's an excellent way to support our work at the Sewell Barn, and we very much appreciate it. It costs £10 for a year, £15 for a couple at the same address, or £50 per person for lifetime membership.

Calling all backstage crew!

We are **urgently** in need of **technicians** for the new 2016-17 season. We are delighted to have filled all but two of the stage management roles and all the set design roles; but we will need set builders, and our technical team (both designers and operators) is seriously depleted at present. If you feel that you could assist in any way at all, please email admin@sewellbarn.org or phone Cassie on 07802 475110.

From a patron

We were thrilled to receive this delightful message just before this newsletter was created, and wanted to share it with you. Thank you to all who contribute to our wonderful theatre in any way, helping to give such pleasure to our audiences.

“Dear All at Sewell Barn,

I wish to congratulate you all for providing wonderful theatre. My friends and I are regular patrons and thoroughly enjoy every production we have seen.

The most recent productions, The Go-Between, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Burial at Thebes and Brimstone and Treacle, have all been fantastic. The actors are BRILLIANT! I am amazed at their talent and professionalism. I look forward to seeing The History Boys and Lark Rise to Candleford.

It is a shame the all the seats are not occupied on some evenings. Lots of local people are unaware of your great theatre on their doorstep. I feel that the word is not getting out there! I will be happy to put up posters in my local area, on notice boards etc. in Old Catton, if that would help.

Please pass on my good wishes to everyone involved, thank you for all your hard work. Also, your stage sets, sound, lighting, costume etc etc. are brilliant. Keep up it up, everyone at Sewell Barn!

Yours sincerely

Elaine Wilson”

Theatre Award

You may have noticed that the Theatre Award that we won last year has disappeared from its shelf behind the foyer desk. We would very much like to have it back on display! Does anyone know what has happened to it?

If you have removed it for any reason, or know who might have done so, please contact Jill Fuller on chair@sewellbarn.org. Many thanks.



Date for your Diary: Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the Sewell Barn is to be on Sunday October 2nd at 7.30 pm. All are welcome, but only paid up members are eligible to vote. Please try to keep this date as we also are using the occasion to say goodbye to Robert and Miche, who have been our very successful Artistic Directors for the last 5 seasons.

Jill Fuller

Another new arrival!

Huge congratulations to Dean & Ayse Weston on the safe arrival of baby Evan.

What else is on in the area?

Opportunity for Actors: Primevil

Helen McLaren of the Primevil Production Team writes: "This year we are looking to take on approximately 100 scare actors to work in our various attractions over the 16 live nights during October. Many of our crew return year after year as the experience of working at PrimEvil, although hard work, is an enormous amount of fun. We provide full training, all costumes, make up etc and also pay an hourly rate effective from casting day in September. We are looking for all ages of applicants from 18+ and have a few of our returning actors in the 60+ age bracket. We have spaces for people who are talkative and those who are not so talkative and those who have high physical energy and those who don't...."

If you would like to apply or any further information, please contact Helen direct either by email (helen.mclaren@goymourproperties.co.uk) or on 01953 715331. www.primevil-scare.com



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

Maddermarket Theatre

Return to the Forbidden Planet by Bob Carlton
22-30 July at 7.30 pm , matinée 30 July at 2.30 pm

