

NOVEMBER 2018

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box Office: 01603 626414

www.sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production Not About Heroes

by Stephen MacDonald | Directed by Rob Tiffen

22-24, 28-29 November, 1 December 2018 7.30pm, matinee 1 December at 2.30pm



Photography: Cassie Tillett

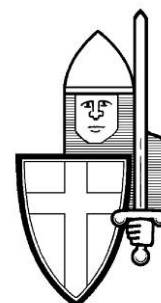
This year's commemorations of the centenary of Armistice Day have been powerful, poignant, moving and thought-provoking. We are proud to present our own tribute to two of our most influential war poets: Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. This beautiful two-hander explores the relationship between the men, who met at the Craiglockhart Hospital, and the influence of each on the other's life until Owen's tragic death just one week before Armistice.

Director Rob Tiffen says: "I have had the real pleasure of being able to work with two such accomplished and talented actors in rehearsals for the show. Both of them are producing fine performances, and they have had a strong chemistry between themselves, and an instinct for the text from the very beginning. I have also been fortunate to work with Anne Giles as stage manager, who has been tremendous a support (as always) and has ensured the boys have had rehearsal set and props very early in the process.

"I really would urge people to come and see the show. The story is interesting and compelling, the performances are moving and amusing and the whole evening is a rewarding and engaging tribute to Owen and Sassoon."

Bookings

Our telephone and walk-in ticket bookings are handled by **St George's Music Shop** (near the Norwich Playhouse). Chris and his team will be pleased to welcome you to 17-19 St George's Street Norwich NR3 1AB, tel: 01603 626414, or visit our online bookings link at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn>. Payment can be made by credit or debit card at St George's, but please note that only cash payments can be made if purchasing tickets on the door.



Our previous production

Handbagged

by Moira Buffini | Directed by Clare Williamson

11-13, 17-20 October 2018



Photography: Sean Owen

We could not have been more delighted by the success of the opening show of the 2018/19 season. Clare Williamson and her team transported us back to the 1980s in superb style. Audiences were generous in size and in appreciation, and we were thrilled by many glowing reviews:

"...while the playwright's inventiveness of structure and dialogue was very interesting and gave us much fun, and was greatly appreciated, I think most of them would agree that our main pleasure came from the **excellence of the players**. None should be singled out, because in each of them abide uncanny skills that tingled our spines with sudden recognitions and understandings. But to all of them, a very big 'thank you'!" *Rob F-W*

"Congratulations on another very fine production which I enjoyed immensely last night. You have set the bar high again and the show will be a hard act to follow! **The standard of acting was exemplary** too. The play itself worked beautifully in the Barn's space. Good luck for the remainder of the run." *Peter W*

"Just got back from seeing it tonight. **Fabulous, well done everyone**. But worried I'll have nightmares after having to listen to that voice again..." *Stewart T*

For more reviews of this and other shows, please visit <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.com/>.

Coming Soon

These Shining Lives

by Melanie Marnich | Directed by Jessica Hutchings

10-12, 16-19 January 2019

Catherine Donohue has secured a job at Radium Dial. For a young woman in 1920's Illinois this is unusual; however, the work is simple and the money is good. Catherine and her colleagues are to paint the hour markings onto different sized watch dials using a radium compound which glows in the dark. Catherine has heard of the health benefits of Radium, and following the re-assurance of her supervisor doesn't immediately worry when her hands start glowing in the dark.



As the condition of Catherine and her colleagues worsens, they decide to raise their concerns to Radium Dial's management and company doctor. The women are subsequently ignored, shamed and eventually dismissed. Inspired by real people and events, **These Shining Lives** tells of Catherine's empowering and heart-breaking fight for the rights of herself and her friends, transforming employment conditions for the better.

Jessica Hutchings makes her directorial debut at the Barn with this remarkable and moving story. She has assembled a first-rate cast and crew who are enjoying enormously the emotion and the humour of a beautifully-written play, and we look forward very much to presenting it to you in January.

Audition news

Our next auditions are on Sunday 2nd December at 6.00pm for the multi-talented ensemble required for our exciting March/April production of **Faustus**. A wide range of ages across both sexes are required, each making their own contributions to a strong team. We're thrilled to welcome Director Chris Bealey back to the Sewell Barn after many years' absence, and this will be a tremendously exciting project to be part of. For more details, please check our website at <http://www.sewellbarn.org/faustusauditions.html>, and contact Chris on chrisbealey@gmail.com to register your interest or with any queries.

AGM

Despite a very disappointing attendance, this was a sociable and enjoyable event. Reports from Kate (our treasurer) and Cassie as Joint AD (Clare was away) told of an extremely successful season. artistically and financially.

The committee was duly elected: Jill Fuller as Chair, Selwyn Tillet as Secretary and Kate Anetts as Treasurer. The rest of the committee was elected *en bloc* (Andrew Evans, Phil Williamson, Jane Page). Malcolm Robinson was also elected to the committee. Anne Giles remains the Trust representative (nominated by the Trustees) and the Joint Artistic Directors remain as committee members *ex officio*. June Gentle has resigned from the committee but remains the Company Wardrobe Mistress. Jill thanked her for her years of support on the committee and presented her with a small gift.

Jill as Chairman said how pleased the committee are to announce that Clare and Cassie have agreed to stay as Artistic Directors for another term of three years. We look forward to some more exciting seasons. Cassie followed on with a few words about how they see their continued role.

At the close of proceedings, everyone adjourned to the bar area to enjoy a bring and share lunch.

Our gallery: would you like your photograph?

If you've been in the theatre recently, either to see a show or to rehearse for one, you'll have noticed that the display of photographs opposite the bar has been changed. We've included some marvellous historical images from very early seasons (King Lear, Woyzeck, Oh What A Lovely War, Sergeant Musgrave's Dance) as well as more recent shows.



As a result, we've taken down the previous display, which was created two years ago. While we'll move images around at different times, we'd also like to pass on those that have been displayed to anyone – directors or actors – who would like them. The images are printed on lightweight foamboard and are of good quality. A donation to theatre funds would be much appreciated and will enable us to continue to have new images produced every season or two! A donation of £14 for a larger board (A2) or £7 for a smaller one (A3) would cover the costs of production.

Follow the links below to see the images that are available.

Large (A2): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wtaogb8d1dc04sc/2016-A2.pdf?dl=0>

Small (A3): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/p3wpqy96z165fxo/2016-A3.pdf?dl=0>

If you are interested in any of these, please email admin@sewellbarn.org and we'll sort it out.

A message from our Health and Safety Officer

As announced at the AGM, the Sewell Barn now has a number of policies and procedures in order to ensure the safety of our members, and importantly, the safety of our patrons during our performances, and in the event of an emergency when the theatre needs to be evacuated.

For your information, there have been accidents involving actors in the recent past, one of which involved surgery for a broken arm, and it is our aim to reduce "preventable" accidents by introducing Risk Assessments for a number of our activities. We all have a mutual responsibility in common law to exercise a Duty of Care to other Barn users, and these new policies are intended to reflect that duty.

Policy and procedural documents are listed on our website: www.sewellbarn.org/policies.html. If you have any queries about policies, especially Health and Safety, please contact me via the website.

Better to be Safe than Sorry!

Malcolm Robinson

Help needed!

You'll be aware from our shoutouts in newsletters that a great deal of help is needed to keep the theatre running. We are all volunteers and we all have day jobs, and the more help we have, the lighter the load. Without these, the shows at the theatre simply wouldn't happen.

We've recently compiled a list of the areas where we can always use assistance. If you would like to support us in any of these ways, please get in touch with admin@sewellbarn.org to begin with, and we'll link you up with the relevant people. This list will shortly be published on our website, but for the moment, [please click here to open the document](#) (a copy is enclosed if you are receiving this newsletter by post).

We need help from the following (most urgently those in bold):

- Front of House (**stewards, bar staff**)
- Technical Team (designers, **set construction, riggers, programmers, operators**)
- Rehearsal Prompts
- Stage Management (SM and ASM)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Performer needed

Would any of our ladies be interested in this?

“Hello. I am a founder member of the Wymondham-based stage and radio play writing Four be Four. I am looking for a female in age range of 20 -30 for one of the unpaid roles for my 25 minute stage play to be performed on 1 and 2 [March 2019](#). Would you care to pass this message on to anyone who might be interested. Tony Vale 07851 370666. tony@valemail.eu.”

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

The Diary of a Nobody by George & Weedon Grossmith, adap. Hugh Osborne **16-24 November**

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, adap. David Wood **15-31 December**



Great Hall Theatre Company

www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Someone Waiting by Emlyn Williams **22-26 January**

