

JANUARY 2019

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
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Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019, and we wish you a happy, healthy and successful new year!

Our Next Production

These Shining Lives

by Melanie Marnich | Directed by Jessica Hutchings

10-12, 16-19 Jan 2019 at 7.30pm, matinée 19 January at 2.30pm



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

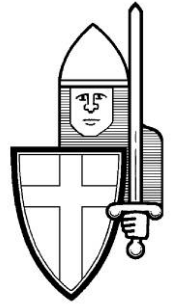
It is rare to bring up the case of the Radium Girls in conversation without having to explain their importance in history, which is a great shame as their story should be known. It is for this reason that we are delighted to present **These Shining Lives**, a tribute to the women who lost their lives fighting against worker injustice. We see Catherine Donohue (Michelle Moore) reflecting on her life working in Ottawa, Illinois, and the events at Radium Dial that caused her to die at the terribly young age of 35 in 1938. We see the women encouraged to lick their radium covered brushes to make a point, dismissed when they become ill as a result, and their resulting case against the Radium Dial Company which changed Illinois law for the better.

These Shining Lives is full of complex, challenging roles for young actors. The chemistry between the women is fantastic and I've enjoyed the camaraderie shown between Catherine and her friends, Frances, Charlotte and Pearl (Megan-Alice Reilly, Fiona MacPherson, Laura Dean). I've been blessed to work with experienced and talented actors who have made the parts their own, from our loving and honest Tom Donohue (Benjamin Turner) to our sly and guilt ridden Mr Reed (Drew Howard). I've been honoured to have Emma Kirkham by my side all the way in her role as stage manager, she has often solved problems before they even arise and we could not have done this without her. The dedication and creativity shown by my cast and crew has been inspiring, and I really hope you are as moved by this production as I am.

Jess Hutchings (Director)

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

Not About Heroes

by Stephen MacDonald | Directed by Rob Tiffen

22-24, 28-29 November, 1 December 2018



Photography: Barry Parsons

Opening in the very month of the Armistice centenary, this powerful, emotional two-hander was highly praised, especially for the wonderful and deeply moving performances of the two actors, Zachary Green (Wilfred Owen) and Matt Scantlebury (Wilfred Owen).

"Awesome performance this afternoon Zachary Green and Matt Scantlebury. Moved me to tears. You know someone has real talent when you no longer see your friend, on stage son and general lovely chap but instead see a young man full of dreams for the future that he has glimpsed senselessly marching toward death. **So proud and honoured to have seen this fabulous piece of theatre.**" *Kat T*

"If you don't have plans this weekend, go and see this. If you do have plans, change them and go and see this. A hauntingly beautiful story about two of my all-time favourite poets, brought to life by two first-class actors. **A wholly captivating and deeply moving production.** Congrats to the whole cast and crew!" *Sarah J*

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

Audition news

Two auditions take place within the next month. On Sunday 20th January, Peter Wood will be looking for three performers - two women, one man. The play is Lucy Kirkwood's **The Children**; a fascinating, thought-provoking and unsettling play, with a strong line of humour underpinning the challenging storyline. It offers superb opportunities to the actors, all with a playing age around their sixties.

Then we are delighted to welcome another new director to the Barn: Phil Rowe, who was recently seen as Lord Byron in last season's *Blood and Ice*. He will be directing the Lorca's superb classic **Yerma**, which not only needs the iconic central young woman driven to madness by her desire for a child, but a strong ensemble cast of both sexes, a wide age range and various abilities in musicality and movement. This will be a tremendous opportunity to take part in another exciting project with a strong group dynamic and plenty of creativity. Auditions for the name role take place on Sunday 27 January, and for all other roles on Sunday 3 February - both at 7pm.

For both auditions, please see our website for details (www.sewellbarn.org/casting.html) for details of characters, auditions and rehearsals, and the directors' contact details.

Coming Soon

Confusions

by Alan Ayckbourn | Directed by Cassie Tillett & Clare Williamson

21-23, 27-28 Feb, 1-2 March 2019

From babies to babes, politicians to vicars, tea urns to toys, dinner and doubts, Alan Ayckbourn offers us a wry view of 1970s suburban Britain. In a sequence of five, interconnected one-act plays, all loosely linked by characters or locations, a cast of five play more than 20 parts and morph through a bewildering range of wigs, costumes and accents.



Better known for his high speed farce, here Ayckbourn explores hypocrisy and loneliness in middle England through series of comic snapshots which view life with a slightly skewed eye, asking the audience, are these people pitiful, or just plain ridiculous?

Artistic Directors Cassie & Clare have taken over direction of this show due to unforeseen changes in circumstances for Angela Rowe, who we look forward to welcoming back in the future. They have assembled a superb team of actors and a first-rate crew, and are already much enjoying creating Ayckbourn's darkly humorous observations of 1970s life.

Volunteering: ways to help your theatre!

We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers in every aspect of our work, which is performed entirely voluntarily. The more help we have, the lighter the load on us all!

We have produced a friendly summary of the various areas that can use your help, and you can find this by visiting our website at www.sewellbarn.org/policies.html, and choosing the link to **Volunteering at the Barn**. This includes front of house, stage management, prompting, all areas of technical work, and costumes. Please email us on admin@sewellbarn.org and we'll be very happy to put you in touch with the appropriate people. We can't do it without you!

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/p3wpgy96z165fxo/2016-A3.pdf?dl=0>

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

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

The Thirty-Nine Steps by Patrick Barlow & John Buchan **15-23 February**



Great Hall Theatre Company

www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

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

