

APRIL 2019

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box Office: 01603 626414

www.sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production

The Children

by Lucy Kirkwood | Directed by Peter Wood

2-4, 8-11 May 2019, matinée 11 May at 2.30pm



Photography: Andrew Evans

Lucy Kirkwood's play *The Children* is about much more than a disaster at a nuclear power station. It explores relationships and what one generation owes the next – as well as over-flowing toilets, burying cows one at a time, and the underwater tolling of church bells. There are children involved, although they don't appear on stage. Or do they?

"What particularly impressed me about *The Children* is the play's scope and ambition, and the way it creates a space for audiences to engage with the issues" commented Peter Wood, the director of the Sewell Barn production. "It starts as an exploration of marriage, parenthood, a past love affair and the process of ageing, but broadens its scope to bring into sharp focus some of the most pressing issues affecting society today."

Responsibility is a key theme in the play but so too is the notion of legacy. What kind of world will future generations inherit? What do we owe to those who will follow us? While *The Children* is unsettling, it is laced with humour, poignancy, pathos and sexual rivalry. Its three protagonists are retired nuclear scientists; they are also ordinary people who listen to Radio 4 and dance in the kitchen to the music of James Brown.

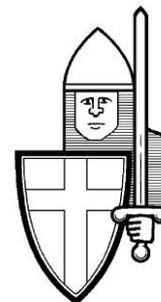
While the play's setting is never made explicit, references to crumbling cliffs, a power station with a "great white dome like a duck egg" and a medieval town that fell into the sea give strong local resonance. Hardly surprising, since Kirkwood lives in south Norfolk and has sent a personal message of support for this production, its Norwich premiere.

In addition to *The Children*, Lucy Kirkwood has also achieved success with award -winning *Chimerica* (now a four-part drama on Channel 4) and *Mosquitoes* at the National Theatre, starring Olivia Colman.

Three experienced and accomplished actors, well known to Barn audiences, tackle the play's challenges with great skill and aplomb. Jane de la Tour and Kevin Oelrichs take on the roles of Hazel and Robin, the retired couple, while Glenda Gardiner plays the part of Rose, the former work colleague and unexpected visitor, whom they have not seen in nearly 40 years.

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

Faustus

by Christopher Marlowe | Directed by Chris Bealey

28-30 March, 3-6 April 2019



Photography: Barry Parsons

It's more than thirty years since Marlowe's classic morality tale was last presented at the Sewell Barn, and director Chris Bealey presented a magnificent, pared-down, relevant interpretation for 2019. Audiences were enthralled by the performances, both individually and in a powerful ensemble.

"[Faustus] is **the most accessible and persuasive production of this piece, professional or amateur, that I have seen (including RSC)**. It has been heavily cut, it is 21st century, and it is powerfully acted throughout. Director Chris Bealey and his cast and creatives have taken the essentials of Marlowe's poetic and dramatic masterpiece and made them work for a modern audience. Thanks to a great team and to the genius of Christopher Marlowe." *David N*

"This play has long been a favorite of mine and I have seen it staged a number of times over the years. **This production/direction/design was the best, the most creative and sizzling!** I loved the use of masks, especially with Helen - superb. Adam Edwards was quite brilliant and John Dane. Also Nina Taylor as Good and Bad Angel - what a great idea with the mask and the way she switched from one to the other. Unfair in a way to single out when it was altogether so exceptional. Thank you all so much." *Jill C*

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

Coming Soon

Yerma

by Federico Garcia Lorca | Directed by Phil Rowe

2-4, 8-11 May 2019



“Theatre cannot be anything other than emotion and poetry.”

Lorca’s classic play of female isolation, passion and frustration in a male-dominated world has both emotion and poetry in abundance.

In rural Spain of the 1930’s, a childless woman in a cold marriage becomes so obsessed with the idea of motherhood that her frustration leads her to commit a terrible crime that ultimately kills her own dreams. Lorca’s play sees the collision of female sexuality and toxic masculinity, Catholicism and paganism, tradition and change dressed in evocative poetry, song, imagery and ritual. It results in an adult parable of dark beauty and visceral humanity.

We need a piano!

For *Waiting in the Wings* (the final show in our 2018/19 season) we need a good upright piano onstage. One of the main characters plays it regularly throughout the show either while dialogue is going on or to accompany the six songs sung by others.

We have a wonderful electric keyboard that was kindly donated to the Barn some years ago by Cooke’s, but as the play is set in 1960 this is obviously a long time before such things were invented! We also have a 1930s upright piano that was donated to the Barn by the UEA for the production of *A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol* in 2015, but this is in very bad condition and recently has sadly been pronounced unusable by a professional tuner.

Does anyone have – or know where there is – a good upright piano that looks 1930s (as its front will be visible to the audience for the whole play) that we might be able to borrow for the last couple of weeks of rehearsal and for the run? We would very much prefer to borrow rather than to rehome, as backstage space at the Barn is very limited. All details negotiable, just knowing where there is one available would be a great start! Please, if you do, could you get in touch urgently with director Cassie Tillett (cassie@tillett.org.uk) or with Selwyn our stage manager (selwyn@tillett.org.uk)?

Many thanks!

Our next season

Joint Artistic Directors Cassie Tillett and Clare Williamson are delighted with the exciting line-up for 2019/20. We look forward to welcoming you to our ‘launch day’ which will take place on **Sunday 12 May**, at the theatre. The bar will be open between 3.00pm and 6.00pm, with the main launch meeting taking around an hour from 4.00pm onwards. Teatime treats will also be provided! The new brochures will be available to take away, together with casting notes; all details will be available from our website very soon after the meeting.

We are promised another season of wide variety, many opportunities for every age of performer, and plays ranging as always from the classical to the contemporary, casts of varying sizes, and directors familiar to the Barn stage as well as welcome newcomers.

Can you help us?

We are always on the lookout for extra help – many hands, etc. We'd especially like to hear from folks who are able to help us with the following:

Front of House

For every performance, we have to provide three stewards and to serve on the bar we need two more volunteers! We need you! Could you possibly spare an evening during the run of a production to help out? We will train anyone new to it .. it is not actually an arduous task! It is also a very nice way to meet people and to promote the Barn through chatting to audiences. So if you would like to be involved, please contact Jane Page, who will put you on the rota. If you can help, please email Jane Page on foh@sewellbarn.org.

Technical staff: riggers, design & programmers, operators

We are delighted to have welcomed some new members to the team in recent months. However, there is always a lot of work to be done in all the areas above, and the whole show to be covered by operators (tech weekend, three dress rehearsals and eight performances). We have some excellent kit (a new Apple Mac and QLab), more appraisal is taking place for considering further investment, and it's a great opportunity to learn skills and support our community at the same time. Please email technical@sewellbarn.org if you can help.

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

For Services Rendered by W Somerset Maugham **19-27 April**



Great Hall Theatre Company

www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Ladies who Lunch by Tudor Gates **7-11 May**

