

NOVEMBER 2019

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
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Box Office: 01603 626414

www.sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production

Mojo

by Jez Butterworth | Directed by Nick Meir

21-23, 27-30 November at 7.30pm (matinée 30 November at 2.30pm)



Photography: Barry Parsons

It's 1958. Soho. There's a body in two bins and five friends spend the weekend locked in a London night-club waiting for the chop.

When Jez Butterworth's Olivier-award winning *Mojo* debuted at The Royal Court in 1995 it was hailed as one of the most important pieces of theatre in the twentieth century. Other awards included those from the Writers' Guild and Critics' Circle. The Sewell Barn Theatre has now assembled a supremely talented cast of young men to take on this fast paced black comedy. "It's like Beckett on speed" explained director, Nick Meir. "Butterworth's writing never lets up, and we have an extraordinarily talented cast who are very, very funny. Audiences are in for a real treat".

Former BBC Watchdog and Radio Norfolk presenter, Nick is no stranger to comedy, having produced the early work of *League of Gentlemen* stars Mark Gatiss and Steve Pemberton. He promises *Mojo* will be just as dark as Royston Vasey. "I'm not giving away too much, but let's just say the audience will need to bring strong stomachs with their sense of humour. The plot is dark and characterisations supremely funny."

Mojo unites six young actors, five of whom are making their Sewell Barn debut. Lewis Garvey plays nightclub manager 'Mickey', Michael Hill is the psychotic 'Baby', the pill popping 'Sweets' is played by Sam Webber, Cameron Panting the irrepressible 'Potts', Stan Gordon is hapless 'Skinny', and Sam Nanka-Bruce plays teen heart throb "Silver Johnny".

Please note: this production contains very strong language and adult themes.

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 www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn. Payment can be made by credit or debit card at St George's or online, but please note that only cash payments can be made if purchasing tickets on the door.

Our previous production

The Tempest

by William Shakespeare | Directed by Clare Williamson

17-19, 23-26 October 2019



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

With gender-blind casting, a magical sound tower worthy of Heath Robinson, extraordinary lighting effects and colourful characters, The Tempest was an exciting and challenging wander through Shakespeare's enchanted world.

"Just went to see the Tempest this evening. ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. **The scenery and atmosphere were extraordinary as was the acting which was beyond brilliant.**" *Clive E*

"Excellent production of 'The Tempest' at the Sewell Barn. **Imaginative setting, superb performances, enthralling direction.** Brave new world indeed! Highly recommended!" *Vincent G*

For more reviews of this and previous shows, please visit our blog at <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.com>.

Coming Soon: The Innocents

By William Archibald

Adapted from Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw*

9-11, 15-18 January 2020

Based on the greatest of Victorian ghost stories – Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw* – this is a play about a haunted mansion and a governess's attempts to save the two orphaned children who inhabit it. Are the ghosts real or a figment of the imagination? Of those two possibilities, which is the most terrifying?



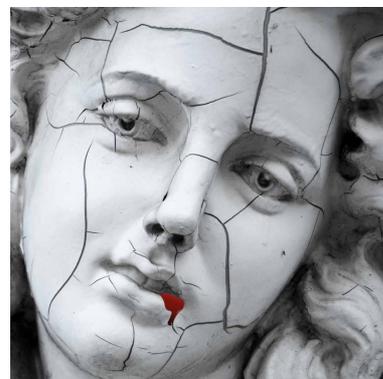
We are delighted to welcome familiar faces and new friends alike to be part of this production. The new governess, Miss Giddens, is played by Megan Artherton; Mrs Grose, the housekeeper, by Gill Tichborne; the children, Flora and Miles, are played by Freya Prigmore and Oscar Meir; and the ghostly Quint and Miss Jessel by Ed Cairns and Georgia Dimopoulou. Directed by Richard Hand, this is a rare opportunity to see this masterpiece of horror theatre; we dare you to visit Bly House, with its imposing battlements and rambling corridors, and let yourself be immersed in a Gothic world of terror.

Our next audition: The Love of the Nightingale

Audition date: **1 December 2019** at 2pm

Performance dates: **26-28 March, 1-4 April** (inc matinee on 4 April)

Director: **Tony Fullwood** fullwoodthomas@ntlworld.com



This exciting ensemble production offers many opportunities for performers. There are three single actors, playing Philomele, Procne and Tereus; but the director would like to cast a further ensemble of up to ten actors, a mix of male and female and all playing ages, to play named characters and chorus. If you would like to audition, please email Tony as shown above, as the audition will involve a short speech from the play which will be sent in advance and should be learned. For more information, please visit our website at www.sewellbarn.org/nightingaleauditions.html.

Our fundraising project for new lighting

We are tremendously grateful for generous support received so far for the above. (Full details can be found in our previous newsletter, which is available on our website at www.sewellbarn.org/2019-10-Newsletter.pdf.) **Over £600 has been raised so far**, as can be seen on our JustGiving page (below); and further donations by other means have also been received. We'll be so very grateful for your support, which enables us to continue our work in providing quality productions in our area.

UPDATE: We have been very fortunate to receive a short-term loan enabling us to get these lights in place for the start of our fortieth season. However, this is a loan, which needs to be paid back, and with your generous help, we would like to be able to do this as soon as possible.

How to help us

- Via our **JustGiving** page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sewellbarnlighting>
- Via our **Virgin Money Giving** page bit.ly/2oZYNPf
- **Text:** simply text **SBARNLIGHT** and the **amount to donate** to **70085**
- By **BACS** direct into our bank account: sort code 30 96 17 account number 02167536 – please use your surname followed by **LIGHTS** as a reference
- **Direct Debit:** to make a regular donation (any amount, large or small) to the fund just email to treasurer@sewellbarn.org to request a mandate, and indicating your preferred email address, amount to donate to the appeal and how often (eg monthly, yearly)
- **Cheque or postal order:** by post to Kate Anetts 10 Ninhams Court Norwich NR2 1NX. Please do **not** send cash through the post.
- **Cash:** If you would like to make a cash donation please put it in an envelope marked LIGHTING FUND (with your name and address if you would like an acknowledgement) and hand to one of our front of house staff at the Barn during a performance.

Please note: we can reclaim Gift Aid on all donations – if you are eligible (as a taxpayer) please email us (treasurer@sewellbarn.org) and we will send you a form. *Thank you!*

Can you help us?

We are staffed entirely by volunteers, and we are always in need of new people to spread the load. **We are urgently in need of technical operators and programmers** for this new season just started. We have (as you'll see above) just had brand new LED lights installed; we run QLab on our up-to-date Apple Mac; and the Barn is a wonderful space for technical creativity. If you'd like to be involved, or know of others who would, please contact **Chris Jones** on technical@sewellbarn.org as soon as possible.

AGM

The AGM was held earlier this month with a good attendance. There were reports from our Artistic Directors about last season, and they were congratulated on another successful and exciting programme. Our Treasurer, Kate, assured us we are still making good progress financially too.

After electing the committee, including a new member, Emma Kirkham, we all adjourned to the bar area for light refreshments and a good chat. Thank you all who attended.

Jill Fuller

Our 40th Anniversary! Important notice!

This season is, as most of you are aware by now, our 40th season and we will be putting on our 300th production in February (The Female of the Species). Following that production, we are holding a **celebration evening** in the Barn. This will be on **25 February 2020 at 7.30 pm**. There will be light refreshments and the bar will be open. We hope to welcome previous Artistic Directors, to display some of the history of the Barn and to hear from one or two people who have been with us from the beginning.

For health and safety reasons, our numbers are limited so attendance will be by ticket only on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to come and join the celebrations, please email Jill (chair@sewellbarn.org) to express your wish to attend as soon as possible and we will be issuing tickets in the New Year.

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

Boudica by Tristan Bernays **15-23 November**

Great Hall Theatre Company www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Enchanted April by Matthew Barber **21-25 January 2020**



great hall
THEATRE COMPANY