

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 19 Issue 3 August 2015

NODA recognises the high standards of productions by The Oxted Players and Kenley Holiday Workshop



Elizabeth Callow, director of TOP's 2014 "My Boy Jack" production receiving the NODA Accolade of Excellence from Jon Fox at the NODA SE AGM on 5th July. Of the 10 strong cast, five were Young Players, Jacob Carter who played "Jack", Keir Gilbert-Halladey, Alex Barnett and George Cooper as the Irish infantry and Megan Saunders who played Kipling's daughter.



Kenley Holiday Workshop were delighted to discover that their 2014 production of "Half a Sixpence" was nominated for the NODA London Young Stars award – as the best youth production seen by their NODA reviewer during the year. Pictured with the certificate, are Joe McNeice and Florence Budge who starred in the show. Joe and Florence are also starring in **Calamity Jane** here at the Barn 12th - 15th August. Details for tickets are on page 2.

DRIP, Phase One, goes out to tender

At their meeting in May the Trustees decided that they must begin to realise the DRIP project before building costs which have risen considerably in the last few years, soared again. Advice from our Quantity Surveyors indicates that at the present time there should be enough in our funds for completion of Phase One works and so the tender documents are currently being produced with a view to starting works later this year. Very exciting times for us all if the builders prices come in at the right level.

Trident Building Consultancy Ltd have been appointed as Project Managers and Matthew Tracey Bsc (Hons) Building Surveying, a Director, pictured here will lead the team of professionals and contractors in progressing the project. Trident have been involved at the Barn over many years, always giving welcome professional advice when required.



Matthew joined Trident in 2011 and is a proven and knowledgeable Project Manager and Chartered Building Surveyor with experience

in a wide range of building consultancy advice. He lives in Warlingham with his wife and two young daughters and is a building surveying consultant to one of the larger West End theatre companies. We look forward to working with him.

Farewell to a good friend, Eric Forster



Eric became involved with the Barn theatre in 1982 when he joined the Operatic Society, despite not having sung since his days as a choir boy in Gateshead. He fell in love with the theatre and became part of the team, ready to help in any way he could. He helped with the spring cleaning, sometimes up a ladder vacuuming the beams, or working on the garden and later became one of the Barn Directors. Even after he stopped appearing

on stage, he was ready to help Front of House, and attended almost every show. He greatly valued the many friends he made and was delighted to be able to see "My Fair Lady" a few weeks before his death at the end of May. He would have been 90 on June 18th. Our condolences to Moreen and the family of a lovely person.

Oxted Carnival

It is always a great day to be part of Oxted Carnival and this year was no exception. However the hot and windy weather kept the volume of people on the field down and our takings too. We still cleared just over £800 on the day, which is a great number of teas and cakes. This was then made up to £900 by a very generous donation and all this money will be put towards the DRIP fund. Thank you to all the helpers and cooks who made this possible.

Oxted Pram Race

We were delighted to once again be chosen as a beneficiary from the Oxted Pram Race. Many thanks to those who volunteered from the theatre to help out at the race, including Dave Nichols pictured here.



A date for your diaries, Sunday 20th September

Nigel and Debbie Brown are organising a DRIP fundraiser Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday 20th September. 2.00pm meet and registration at the Barn Theatre, £5 per car, £5 per driver and per passenger. It will last approximately 2.5 hours with the final rendezvous afterwards at the the Royal British Legion Limpsfield Chart for a Ham, Egg and Chip tea from 4.30 (donation of £2.00 per meal pre ordered). All funds to the Barn Theatre DRIP fund. **More details from Nigel on 07545 855633.**

YOUNG PLAYERS AT THE BARN

Over recent years the number of young people appearing at the Barn has increased dramatically, which is good for them and great for the future of the Theatre. Here is some detail of the various productions, some of which have finished, others which are current and some we must wait to see later in the year

Schoolfest June 13th - A DRIP Fundraiser Production

Schoolfest brought 154 children from six participating schools to showcase their pupil's talents in music, dance, poetry and drama. This was a superb experience for the pupils, particularly those who would not otherwise receive the opportunity to perform on a stage such as ours. Productions such as these rely on an army of people to bring it to fruition and we are deeply appreciative of the time and commitment shown by everyone, particularly the teachers and school staff who gave up their weekend. **Schoolfest made an absolutely fantastic profit of £3,438 which will go to the DRIP fund.**

We Will Rock You 1st - 4th July - A Glow Theatre Group Production

It's a Kind of Magic was definitely true of Glow Theatre Group's recent production of We Will Rock You, with a show that had the audience up and dancing in the aisles (literally) at every single performance. It was a massive challenge for this talented youth group to bring this renowned show to life and do justice to the much loved music of Queen and the late Freddie Mercury.....and one which they pulled off with talent, expertise, energy and enthusiasm.

"The exuberant and energised youth of Glow served up a colourful and spectacular show that was good to watch, good to listen to and tremendous fun."

It is hard to believe that it is seven years since Jackie Driscoll set up this Theatre Company, and she has assembled a first rate team of coaches and backstage experts to help her take Glow from a flicker of a flame to a full blaze. As Producer and Director for this show, Jackie's industrial and futuristic set created a versatile and adaptable background for the rock vibe lighting design created by Andrew Bruce, which lifted the show onto a whole other level. The choreography was slick and the whole cast Bohemian numbers such as I Want it All and Headlong rocked the audience, lifting toward a fitting finale of We Will Rock You, We Are the Champions and, of course, Bohemian Rhapsody. The reviews from the audience have been plentiful and very rewarding for the cast and the Glow team, but to sum them up: "I saw both casts and could have watched it over and over again. You and they should be very proud of such professional and entertaining performances. We were totally entertained and really impressed with the high standard of the show".



Glow cast for 'We Will Rock You' photo provided by Stuart Absolom

There have been a clutch of awards gathered by Glow Theatre Group along their journey so far, all accumulated by the most important part of Glow, the young people themselves. The group have won many plaudits at the Southern Counties Drama Festival over the last four years, including this year's awards for Best Youth Production, Best Youth Actress, Best Youth Actor, Best Set Design and the Adjudicator's Award....a worthy acknowledgement of how far these young actors have come and how established their journey now is. Glow is a fully inclusive group, who do not audition for membership places, believing very strongly that a single spark of interest can be nurtured and all young people can thrive in a dramatic and theatrical setting. "Watching our actors rise from hesitant beginners to accomplished performers is a huge pleasure for us. At whatever stage they are in

their journey with us, we know that our Glow kids are making skills, memories and friendships that will last them a lifetime".

Dazzle 22nd to 25th July - an Oxted Junior Operatic Production

As I sit here writing this we are still one week to opening night of Dazzle but as you read it the show will be over, the set dismantled and all the clearing up will have been done and I trust that those who were able to make it enjoyed the show.

It's been an absolute joy to work with this wonderful group of young people and bring the show to life. We've challenged them, trained them, supported them and, yes, occasionally had to get a bit cross with them, but they have responded magnificently. I truly believe that doing a show like this is so much more than getting to the point of putting on the performances. It's about learning teamwork, concentration, focus and preparation. With a set of show dates in the diary there is no place to hide, no 'putting it off' – you have to do the work or you're the one who looks out of place on stage. These are all skills that transfer readily to other aspects of life and I know that many of the youngsters have discovered new things about themselves that will build and grow their confidence, as well as just having a lot of fun.



OJO's production of Dazzle

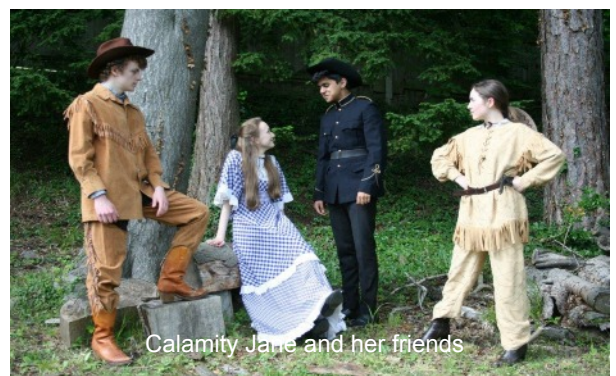
The production team have also benefited hugely from the wonderful support that we have been given by an outstanding team of parents helping out in so many ways. From props to publicity, from set building to scene shifting;

but most importantly of all, the chaperoning. It's been a monumental effort to keep track of everyone at all the rehearsals and look out for the safety and wellbeing of each child, but Alison and her amazing team have done it with cheerfulness and good grace and we absolutely could not have done the show without them. Thanks so much everyone. Mike Millsted

Calamity Jane 12th - 15th August - A Kenley Holiday Workshop Production **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW**

Returning to the Barn in August for their annual musical production, the multi-talented members of Kenley Holiday Workshop will present "Calamity Jane" from August 12-15 at 7.30. This classic show made famous by the Doris Day film, features many well-known Oscar nominated songs including "Secret Love", "The Black Hills of Dakota" and "The Deadwood Stage" (Whip Crack-Away).

Calamity Jane can out-ride and out-shoot any man in Deadwood City, but proud and desperate to impress she travels to Chicago to recruit a star for the Golden Garter Saloon – but things go wrong when the newcomer steals the heart of her beau. It takes her long standing friend Bill Hickok to make her see sense and realise her secret love.....This lively, funny and touching story will have your feet tapping in the aisles. **Tickets are available online from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or the box office 01883 331400. YEEHAH!**



Calamity Jane and her friends

Young Oxted Players Workshop 24th - 28th August

The August workshops began in 1999 when around 20 children spent the week rehearsing an adaptation of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" by David Rowan. David is a professional actor, playwright and Director. We have continued yearly since then, with David adapting many classic titles including "Just William", "Pinocchio", "Wind in the Willows" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as well as some "spoo" titles such as "Dr Frankenstein's House of Horrors", "Time Travelling Pirates", "The Shakespeare Show" and "Charles Dickens and the Ghosts of Marshalsea". Very soon the numbers wanting to attend the workshop increased substantially and we had to restrict them.



YOP's Summer Workshop of Midsummer Night's Dream

We pride ourselves in providing a full week of theatrical based activity for our members at a very reasonable cost. During the week the children work on the play with David, have a dress rehearsal on the Saturday afternoon and finally perform it on the Saturday evening in the theatre. Many of our Young Players make this a regular feature of their summer holidays and come year after year.

We also hold a February half term workshop where we cater for two age groups of children and over three days each group separately rehearse a short play and perform this to family and friends on the Friday afternoon.

Young Oxted Players are often seen in the Southern Counties Drama Festival here at the Barn each February winning many awards over the years, notably five awards in 2008 for their production of "The Edge".

Some of our Young Players are able to take part in our annual January pantomime and where appropriate in our adult plays. In addition, every other year in March we have a Young Players production in which we try to involve many of our youngsters and there are three performances. In March 2016 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations for our Society, we are hoping to present a full length version of the children's classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".

One Man Two Guvnor's 2nd - 5th September -A Scaena Theatre Company production

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Scaena Theatre Company was formed by Caterham's own, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Joe McNeice, in 2013, when he was 16 years old. Now 18, and heading off to Bristol Uni in September to study Theatre and Performance, he is bringing Scaena back to the Barn for the third time with "One Man, Two Guvnor's". The entire cast, crew, band and technicians within Scaena Theatre Company are all young adults with a passion for theatre and, despite their youth, have found great success in their work, staging previous productions. Eager to continue their successes, the entire team at Scaena cannot wait until the first week of September to delight audiences with the play that critics have dubbed "the funniest show on the planet."

Scaena Theatre Company is pleased to be making its third appearance on the Barn stage with Richard Bean's hugely popular farce, "One Man, Two Guvnor's". **What's more, Scaena is delighted to announce that their production is to be the first ever amateur performance of the play in a UK theatre, following its extremely successful London and Broadway runs.** A modern adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's 'The Servant of Two Masters', the play follows the attempts of a hapless chancer who tries to work for two

different employers without either of them finding out. The production is set to feature songs in between scenes played by a live onstage skiffle band, creating the upbeat atmosphere of 1960's Brighton. The cast of young adults will be directed by Joe McNeice and accompanied by a band led by Ruari Bride. Rehearsals are well under way and the actors are very much enjoying the challenge of taking on a farce (if the laughter in the rehearsal room is anything to go by, audiences are in for a real treat). With jokes galore, an ever-twisting plot line and bucket loads of audience participation, this hilarious play is certainly one not to miss. **Tickets are available from 01883 331400, or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or www.scaena.org.uk**



Cast rehearsal for One Man, Two Guvnor's

Winter Wonderland December 12th - A fundraiser by Jess Muscio

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM SEPTEMBER 26TH.

In the summer of 2016 I will be travelling to Tanzania where I will be teaching at a school for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. I am really excited about this opportunity in my life before I hopefully start university next September. Projects such as these require a great deal of fundraising and so what better place to do this than at the Barn Theatre, who will also benefit from my fundraising. **On Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm** I will be presenting a "Winter Wonderland at the Barn" featuring, amongst others, Starmakerz Theatre School, Downs Way and St. Marys Schools and some of our own very talented Barn performers. This is so exciting for me and I really do hope you will come and support the show and the Barn Theatre which has been a huge source of opportunity for me and so many others. **Tickets go on sale on 26th September and will be available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or by telephoning 01959 561811**

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



When I first became involved with the Barn there seemed to be a lull of activity during the summer months but we now seem to be very busy throughout the whole of the year. Whenever I go the theatre there always seems to be somebody working on a new set or painting scenery etc. This is good for both the theatre and the community.

Since the last Barn News we have enjoyed the hilarious performances of Boeing Boeing and the enthusiastic performances of the children from the Glow Theatre Group in 'We Will Rock You'. These are just two examples of the wide variation in activity which is available at the theatre.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to Dazzle, Calamity Jane, One Man, Two Guvnor's, Randy and the Rockets, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, The Nutcracker, 42nd Street and Winter Wonderland. What a wonderfully exciting programme!

These all require a lot of volunteers to look after the Front of House activities and we really need to attract younger persons to assist with these activities. If you are interested and can find the time then come and join us at Sunday Club (on the first Sunday in each month 12 -2pm) to discuss how you can become involved.

Since the AGM in March we have held one committee meeting. Discussions have been ongoing as to the best drinks to have available in the bar. Two beers from Westerham Brewery have been introduced and these seem to have been well received. We welcome any suggestions or comments regarding the selection of wines, beer or lager which are available.

Alan Jackson alanjackson1911@btinternet.com



We received glowing reviews for our spring production, the 1960s classic comedy Boeing Boeing, including one from Gordon Harris of NODA as follows:

"This 'Boeing Boeing' didn't take a dive!!! American Bernard (David Fanthorpe) has cleverly designed a plot using the airline schedules to keep three affairs with flight stewardesses. His life starts to descend into shambles on the arrival of his friend, Robert (Peter Calver) and changes to the flight schedules. David gave a very enigmatic and charming performance. Peter was a delight to watch. The naturalness of his nervous antics made it even funnier.

On to the ladies, the three Stewardesses, Gloria (Rhian Lally), Gretchen (Ann Lovell) and Gabriella (Catherine Wyncoll) gave great performances too. Not only did these three ladies look stunning, they had the intelligence to handle good comic timing, their accents were convincing and their performances definitely were. However, top of the tree for me was Bertha (Dena Watts). Her deadpan delivery as the downtrodden domestic maid was poetry in motion. Her timing of movement and putdowns showed and her facial nuances were incredibly funny.

Set Design (Martin Beatty) was superb and very solid, nice to have doors in a farce that sound when slammed. And very to the sixties in design. Props/set dressing/costumes/hair were all to a high standard.

I saw the original 'Boeing Boeing' in the West End in the 60s and also the recent revival and Tricia Whyte, your direction equals both of these; I think I enjoyed yours better. You worked your cast to a very high standard and they did you proud with their knowledge of comic timing which can only come from a very competent Director".



Our thanks go to Tricia, her cast and production team for providing excellent entertainment for our audiences.

There are a few spaces available for our members on our August Youth Workshop with David Rowan at the helm which runs during the day from **24 to 28 August** with a read through on **23 August** and a performance on **29 August**. The cost for the week including tickets for the show is £80. Please email secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk for further information.

Rehearsals are about to start for our October play, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, by Constance Cox, based on a short story by Oscar Wilde (**14 to 17 October 2015**). Guy Hudson has assembled the very talented and experienced cast of Peter Calver, Phil Fry, Grace Fairbairn, Tony Goddard, Bob Wilson, Jo Silcox, June Brown, Catherine Wyncoll, Andrew Claringbull and Sophie MacTavish. Lord Arthur is engaged to the lovely Sybil Merton but a reading of Lord Arthur's palm has foretold that he will commit a murder. Lord Arthur's only wish is for a peaceful and blissful marriage and he feels it is his duty to get the murder over with before the wedding. Here begins a calamitous and highly amusing series of attempts by Arthur to fulfil the prophecy with help from his butler and an over enthusiastic anarchist. Tickets are £10 (adults) and £8.00 (students) obtainable on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk* for card payments only (*booking fee applies) and 01883 724852 for cash or cheque payments.

We are pleased to confirm that our 2016 pantomime is Mother Goose to be directed by David Morgan, with Jamie Cordell as Musical Director

and Kerry Brackpool joining us as Choreographer. A read through is being held at St. Peter's Hall on **Sunday 6 September** from 2.00 pm and the auditions for members will follow on **Sunday 13 September** from 11.00 am. Further details can be found on our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk. Anyone who is not already a member should contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk. The panto will run from **8 January 2016** with 10 performances and rehearsals begin on **18 October**. Tickets go on sale on **1 October** online for all card payments and at the same time through the Ticket Secretary for cheque and cash payments and are bound to sell fast so don't delay.

PS. We are delighted to report that the bucket collection following our production of My Boy Jack, last October raised over £400 for the Royal British Legion. Thanks to all who donated.



A DAZZLING FEW MONTHS FOR OXTED OPERATIC

Oxted Operatic is renowned for the quality of its productions, and our spring show, My Fair Lady, was a resounding success and praised all round. Under the Direction of Peter Reed the cast sang and danced their way through the famous numbers with gusto. Kerry Brackpool, in her choreographic debut with the society kept them all on their toes and our Musical Director, Zoe Humphries kept them all in tune! As usual we had an amazing technical and front of house team, all of whom deserve their own plaudits and contributed to the show's success.

Never ones to rest on our laurels, immediately My Fair Lady ended we embarked on our next two offerings which we're sure you will thoroughly enjoy. In November we will be presenting one of the best song and dance shows there is; 42nd Street will be on the Barn stage from 17th to 21st November. The show is fully cast and ready to go and we welcome Paul Robinson as Director with Francesca Newitt and Andy Payne as choreographer and MD. This promises to be a real treat, so reserve your tickets early by calling our new ticket secretary, Jackie Huke, on 01883 331400. We could also do with one or two more chaps in the company, and there will be an opportunity for further chorus auditions (especially men) in early September. If you are interested please contact Stephanie Hornett Johnson at stephaniehornett@hotmail.com or on 01883 625598.

By the time you get this newsletter, our juniors (OJOS), will have finished their summer production of the exciting new musical, 'Dazzle', the story of Poppy Pringle and the fairground she tries to save. This was a bit of a coup for us as the composers have high hopes for a professional production at some stage; the music is really inspiring and our audiences went away having had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Considerable praise should go to all the young performers who worked so hard to make the show a success and again to our tireless technical wizards who so ably supported them. Well done all! We're proud to say that the next OJOS show, which will be in 2017 (two years time) will be the acclaimed 'West Side Story'. We're looking forward to it already!

Finally, in the past few months we're sorry to report that for personal reasons our Chairman, Dena Watts, has had to step down. Dena worked tirelessly for the society on the Committee as either a committee member, Box Office Secretary, Hon Secretary and latterly as Chair for over nine years and her experience, humour and calm approach (as well as copious quantities of red wine) will be much missed at our monthly meetings. She has also been a fabulous performer in many shows, most recently Thoroughly Modern Millie last November, and is now also taking a break from performing to

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.
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Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 16th October