



The BTN is very pleased to report that The Barnstormers production

at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall in May next year will be Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's world famous rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The Barnstormers will be performing *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Minack Theatre on the cliffs at Porthcurno in Cornwall from Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2010. Unfortunately due to strict licensing conditions there will be no public performances at the Barn, however there will hopefully be an opportunity for supporters and friends to see one of the final dress rehearsals before the company sets off on tour. More details in forthcoming issues.

Jesus Christ Superstar is of course the story of the final six days in the life of Jesus Christ told through the troubled eyes of Judas Iscariot. This iconic rock opera pulses with energy and contains some of the most well known musical numbers from the last 40 years – 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Heaven on their Minds', 'Hosanna', 'Gethsemane' and of course 'Superstar'. The production next year will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the original concept album.

The highly talented production team includes Neil Reynolds (Director), Ian Skipper (Musical Director) and Fran Reynolds (Choreographer) and Jill 'Wigs' Wilson will once again be heading up the design team. It goes without saying that The Barnstormers can count on the considerable skills and experience of the Barn Theatre's trustees and supporters, who will no doubt form the backbone of the technical team.

This is a very exciting and hugely demanding project, which will see this amazing rock opera performed at what we can only imagine must be the perfect venue. The opportunity to perform this show in the spectacular setting of the Minack Theatre is definitely not to be missed, and I'm sure you can count on this being a truly unforgettable experience.

Jesus Christ Superstar will require a large company of principals, chorus and dancers and fully open auditions are planned in September this year – Principals: Sunday 6th September, Chorus/Dancers: Sunday 13th September.

As with any Minack tour, The Barnstormers will require legions of helpers, set builders, front of house team etc etc, so they would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved.

If you would like to register your interest in either auditioning (principals/chorus/dancers) or helping out in any way, please email Richard Allen on rpallen@tiscali.co.uk or call 07979 650901.

FOBS

Members who were able to attend our AGM at the end of March will already be up-to-date with most of the 'news'. Your re-elected committee thank you for your continuing support and look forward to working alongside many of you in our Front of House role during the coming year. It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome Bruce to the meeting and to hand over a cheque for £5,000 which your generous volunteering had raised.

March was an incredibly busy month for us. Following on immediately from another highly successful Southern Counties Drama Festival in February, we supported Janie Harris on a return visit with her Dance School; honorary member, Graham Wright, with his Foxtrot Serenaders; Aquarian Opera with their acclaimed production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*; the return of Glow Theatre on Mothering Sunday and Georgie Adams with her 'sold out' production of *My Darling Clemmie* in aid of the National Lifeboats Association – I understand from Georgie that she has a long list of people who were unable to get tickets and that she hopes to repeat the show later in the year so 'watch this space'!

Recent events have reminded us that the Barn Theatre has always been a 'family affair'. We all appreciate that 'family' feel about the place but for some members it has been and is part of their personal family too. Take the April Sunday Club, for example, when we had young Stuart Dawes visiting with Vicky and their baby, Jasmine, proudly supported by Grandparents, Simon and Sharon, and Great Grandmother, (*hard to believe!*) Betty Jeal. We were delighted to see a father and son each winning a best actor award in the Southern Counties Drama Festival – well done Frank and Ben Atterbury! Then we find young David Sutton following in the footsteps of Grandfather, Terry Rolph and Uncle, Christopher Rolph and stage managing the Young Oxted Players' Festival entry so professionally. There must be many more family stories to tell – I'm sure that our Editor would be pleased to hear about them so do write in.

We were disappointed with the turn-out for our summer BBQ in August last year. Having concluded that it must have been because families were away on holiday, we've decided to try September this year so do make a note in your diaries for the 6th September at midday.

Kenley Holiday Workshop

Since first appearing at the Barn in the summer of 1996 this talented youth group have staged a different full scale musical each August. Their production of *Les Miserables* last year, was possibly their greatest triumph, and received rave reviews. What could they possibly do this year to top that? Well, instead of one production, this year KHW have decided to stage two!

Now you may have noticed that there was no tap dancing in *Les Miserables*, although a covert attempt to sneak a company tap routine in the sewers of Paris was thwarted at the last moment! So this year to redress the balance the group are presenting that dancing extravaganza *42nd Street*, from 12-15 August, the show where you "go out a dancer and come back a star". It is packed with some wonderful toe-tapping numbers and is sure to be another Kenley hit.

The second production is the play that won all the awards when it was first staged at the National Theatre in 2004, *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, which has just been released for amateur performance. This will be at the Barn from 16-19 September. The group say goodbye to a number of boys this year as they head off to University, so *The History Boys*, a play about eight sixth form boys preparing to sit entrance exams to Oxford and Cambridge, is the ideal play. This production will be under the banner of KHW and Friends as the company have invited adult actors to play the teaching staff. Tickets for both productions can be obtained from 01883 331440.

Barn Polo & Sweat Shirts

As summer is approaching (hopefully!) I shall be placing another order for the new Barn polo and sweat shirts. They are available in black, red, navy blue and heather grey in sizes S to 2XL and children's sizes. If you would like to order anything please e-mail me on carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com I may be able to help with sizes as well but as items are ordered on request please note that once ordered I consider them sold.