

Time for Stuart

Originally from Kidderminster Stuart grew up in Portsmouth and started singing from a very early age. At the age of 16 Stuart moved to Croydon to attend the BRIT School on their Musical Theatre course. After BRIT, Stuart couldn't decide whether to pursue a career in composition or acting and took a few years out of education. After a holiday to New York his spark for performing was reignited and in 2004 he began training at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in North London where he graduated with BA Hons First Class Degree in Musical Theatre.

Since graduating he has travelled the world performing, singing and writing including a few shows in London such as *The Cradle Will Rock* at the Arcola Theatre, *Merrily We Roll Along* at the Donmar, and *Beyond the Gate* at the Gate Theatre, Notting Hill. He has also toured around Germany as the youngest person to play Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show*. One of Stuart's highlights was playing Jesus in Barnstormers' production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. "JCS will always be a very special time for me; I had the chance to work and meet with incredibly genuine and supportive people who have a real love for every second on stage. With such a lovely and warm bunch of friends, it was nicely topped with the gorgeous and stunning back-drop of the Minack Theatre. Being crucified 200ft in the air isn't something you get to do often!"

Since performing in JCS Stuart has gone on to record his first debut album, *All Things In Time*, which supports and promotes new musical writing by British and American composers. Stuart is only just setting out on his journey into musical theatre, but is loving every second of it. As a result he is returning to the Barn Theatre where he hopes to share his journey and these new songs with the Barn audience. You can also find him on stage at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane for this year's new production, *Shrek The Musical* (based on the hit Dreamworks animation film) which also features Nigel Harman, an ex-Barn Theatre child prodigy. Stuart is delighted to have the opportunity to return to the Barn Theatre and is looking forward to seeing his Oxted friends at this intimate night of song.

Tickets are available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or by telephoning the office on 01959561811

Surrey Opera

Britten's *Albert Herring* at the Barn

Surrey Opera will be bringing an exciting new professional production of Benjamin Britten's comic opera *Albert Herring* to the Barn in September, with performances on Tues 20th, Wed 21st, Fri 23rd and Sat 24th at 7.30p.m.

Albert Herring is a stunning piece, very witty and musically ingenious. The Barn Theatre is an ideal setting for this opera with its hilarious plot, which tells the story of rural life in a Suffolk town, where no girl is pure enough to be May Queen, so it is agreed that they only have one option – to crown someone May King – guess who? Albert of course, the shy young greengrocer! But all is not necessarily straight-forward!

Nationally respected conductor and musician, Jonathan Butcher, returns to his home town to conduct the opera, with a talented young production team – Director, Joe Austen and Designer, Simon Kenny – promising to bring the comic masterpiece to life. The cast is made up of young professional opera singers accompanied by professional chamber orchestra, so this really will be a quality production not to be missed!

Tickets can be booked through the Surrey Opera Box Office on 0208 657 7909 or online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Kenley Holiday Workshop

Oklahoma!

The talented youngsters of KHW will be returning to the Barn Theatre once again this summer with their latest production, *Oklahoma!*, the ground-breaking first musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Against a background of conflict between farmers and cattlemen, *Oklahoma!* tells the tale of farm girl Laurey and the two rivals for her affections; happy-go-lucky cowboy Curly and the sinister farm-hand, Jud. This wonderful hit show includes such classic numbers as "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'", "Surrey With a Fringe on Top", "People Will Say We're in Love", "I Cain't Say No" and "Oklahoma!"

The show runs from Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th August and if you want to see if the corn is really as high as an Elephant's eye you can book your tickets now on 01883 331400 or online at www.kenleyholidayworkshop.co.uk

Government cuts to the arts budgets

You will all be delighted to learn that the resolute independence of the Barn Theatre keeps it safe from the recently announced government inflicted cuts to the arts industry. Many other splendid organisations will founder without the financial support they have grown accustomed to over the years.

Tea and cakes time comes round again

Saturday 2nd July is the annual Oxted Carnival and as usual the Barn stalwarts will be out on the field early erecting the tea tents ready for the afternoon crush of visitors. Always a fun day, getting some fresh air and working in daylight rather than a dark theatre it is the opportunity for the theatre to support the community as we hope they will support us.

Dinner with an AfterGlow

Fresh on the heels of their entry into the Southern Counties Drama Festival, the AfterGlow performers at Glow Theatre Group are embarking on a brand new venture in June... Interactive Dinner Theatre. Concentrating on the skills of improvisation, the group will present *Murder at the Lodge* to their audience, who during dinner will then have chance to interrogate the actors, before making their allegations as to who may have "dunnit"! Taking this show out of the theatre and into a venue in which actors can move amongst the audience will be a challenging and interesting experience....Glow loves to be different!

Meanwhile, the main Glow Theatre Group has taken on the giant that is Disney... David and Goliath springs to mind! With a production of *High School Musical* set to take to the stage in June and July, in December the group will present Disney's *The Jungle Book*. Glow was recently asked to sum up what the group is all about. It's hard to encapsulate your raison d'etre into one phrase, but after looking at the growing faith in themselves from the children and their ready smiles, enjoyment and love of performing, in the end it was easy.... Glow Theatre Group - For A More Confident Future!