

BARN THEATRE

NEWS

Volume 18 Issue 4 November 2014



Opera Returns to the Barn in 2015

The Merry Opera Company brings us Rossini's great masterpiece of comic opera, fizzing with musical brilliance, bold humour and famous tunes.

The Barber of Seville

Presented in the house style 'with charm, energy and wit' (*Opera Now*), we follow the escapades of the quick witted and irrepressible Figaro as he untangles the fortunes of a beautiful imprisoned heiress, her greedy and lecherous guardian and a love-struck Count.

'This is opera for people who don't like opera, but more interestingly it's also opera for those that love it'. The New Statesman.

'A great evening out, with a terrific cast of talented young singers.' David Mellor, Mail on Sunday

Saturday January 24th at 7.45pm

Tickets on sale now from 01959 561811

or online for card bookings at

www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk



Commedia Productions join us for the first time next May to present an entertaining production of Mozart's Opera,

The Magic Flute

It is fully-staged, sung in English and features a company of professional soloists accompanied by the Virtual Reality Orchestra. Mozart's final theatrical masterpiece is an exotic cocktail of ritual and symbolism and perhaps a dash of pantomime for good measure. It is a playful and at times irreverent look at man's search for love and his struggle to attain wisdom and virtue.

Friday 29th and Saturday 30th May 2015 at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale online for card bookings at

www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk

NODA Accolades for OJOS and TOPs

Lance Milton, Southern Area NODA representative and frequent visitor to the Barn has written in glowing terms about two recent productions at the theatre.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

From the opening scene, it was clear that the standard and high performance value of the OOS adult group permeate perfectly to the junior group. The pace and energy were superb and my daughter, Eve, four, was captivated constantly through both acts without a fidget or lapse in concentration - no mean feat for any production! This is one of the best youth productions I have seen in a long time and all I can say is that the OOS adult casts had better watch out as they have some serious competition in the youth group but how nice to know that the future of the group is so bright with this sort of talent coming up through junior members.

My Boy Jack

Rudyard Kipling and David Haig (writer) would have approved of and enjoyed Elizabeth Callows's production, *My Boy Jack*, which tells the tale of Kipling's only son being sent off to fight in the trenches in France in World War I.

The attention to detail was apparent in all areas, not just the staging and acting performances. The set and costumes too were some of the most exquisite I have seen in some time. The Batemans' drawing room was outstanding and having seen the real thing impressed me greatly, down to the very smallest dressing. Martin Beatty, its designer, had help from master painter, Patrick Tricker and friends to make it look incredibly realistic. Muriel Lister and her stage management team ensured that scene changes were slick and effortless, transforming and transporting us in to the trenches of the Western Front in moments.

It must have been an inspiration for the cast of ten as each and every performance was noteworthy in its unique and deft delivery. Every character had depth and breadth, belying the tender years of some of the principal troupe. Jacob Carter as John Kipling was particularly striking and managed to get across the attitudes and behaviour of the time incredibly for someone of 16, living 100 years after the time. Megan Saunders (Elsie), too was an incredibly affectionate sister and the scenes played out between the two of them were as moving as they were captivating. The Irish Guardsmen, George Cooper, Keir Gilbert-Halladey and Alex Barnett helped us to gain some small insight into the frightening prospect of trench warfare. Further plaudits must go to Chris Bassett (Rudyard) and Alex Barnett who was the incredibly believable shell-shocked Irish Guardsman, Michael Bowe. However, for me, it was Ghislaine Bowden as Carrie Kipling, with her broad and totally accurate turn of the century US accent, who stood out as her emotional responses were just incredible.

Child Performance Legislation

As you may be aware, the Government issued a policy statement in December 2013 concerning the proposal to make changes to the Child Performance legislation. An amendment to the Children and Families Bill is currently progressing through parliament. As the legislation dates back to 1968 the amendments are long overdue. The Department for Education is currently consulting on their proposal to change the allowed performance times and breaks and a few other aspects of the child performance regulations. They are keen to have the view of young people who are, or have been, involved in performances, to help inform their decision and final proposals. Therefore Surrey County Council invited the **Barn Theatre** to run a workshop on behalf of the DfE to gain the views of young people. We were delighted to have been chosen to represent Surrey and ran the workshop with the young people from **Kenley Holiday Workshop**.

It was a privilege to spend the morning with such a superb group of young people who took part enthusiastically in the workshop and gave some really interesting responses to the questions posed.



Southern Counties Drama Festival 2015



Jan Palmer Sayer

The Southern Counties Drama Festival makes its annual visit to the Barn Theatre from Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th February.

This year this popular Festival of One-Act Plays will be playing host to at least 14 entries, including Sevenoaks Players, Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club, Heathfield Drama Club and the Barn Theatre's resident groups The Oxted Players, Young Oxted Players and Glow Theatre Company. We also

welcome new entrants Epsom Players and hope to receive more entries shortly.

Each play will receive a public adjudication from Jan Palmer Sayer, GoDA. On the Saturday evening the Adjudicator will select a winner to go forward and compete in the All-England Festival of One-Act Plays.

Festival week is always a relaxed and enjoyable occasion and a time to meet fellow thespians. So why not come along and support these groups for a good evening of drama.

Tickets from 01959 561811 or online for card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

The Little Barn Reopens as a PreSchool Nursery for Youngsters

September saw the Little Barn reopen as a PreSchool, under the watchful guidance of Westerham resident Nicci Perry. The trustees are delighted that Nicci chose the Little Barn for her first venture of running a nursery and wish her all the best for the future. The Little Barn now has a new kitchen, the envy of all the mothers and electric heating has been installed to replace the out of date and inefficient gas heater that was so slow to warm the room on cold winter days and nights.



Little Barn PRESCHOOL

Qualified Early Years teacher and Early Years qualified and experienced staff. A tailored curriculum in the EYFS enabling your child to work towards Early Learning Goals set out by the Government. A fun, secure indoor area and outdoor garden with regular activities, park, library days out.

Our child-centred approach promotes the development of creativity, individuality and self-confidence, whilst delivering the highest standards of care.

Open 5 days a week:

morning session 9– 12, lunch break 12– 1pm (extra) and afternoon session 12– 3. Early Years funding available for 2 year olds (subject to status) and all 3 year olds. Childcare vouchers also available.



For more information please contact littlebarn@outlook.com or call 07920 425117 www.littlebarnpreschool.com

Spud n' Bubbles

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first **Sunday-Club** of the New Year, on **4th January** we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and like last year it will also include a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £7.50 (all profits to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay upfront. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or make contact if you haven't seen me. I shall serve at 1.00pm and everyone who has ordered and paid for their meal by 12.45pm will be guaranteed a spud but after that they will be available to anyone who turns up on the day and pays. Please e-mail me (carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 2nd Jan) as I intend to restrict numbers to 50, on a first come, first served basis.

Dressing Room Improvement Project

Fundraising for DRIP continues apace and those little red buckets have already raised over £2600 in loose change from retirement collections after the run of summer shows since Barn 90 in June. The total DRIP fund is now around £80,000 and we are hoping that with additional monies from donations and fundraising shows, together with an input from the theatre's cash reserves we will be able to plan our start of Phase One works for September 2015 as always anticipated.

MOTOWN and SOUL NIGHT

Saturday 6th December at 7.45pm

Imperial Grooves are one of the top Motown and Soul bands in the UK.

The energetic show covers the classics, including Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Sister Sledge, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Jackie Wilson, Ben E King and many more.

Book your tickets now by telephoning 01959 561811 or online for card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Jingle Bell Barn

Saturday 13th December at 2.30 & 7.30

All tickets sold within six days of the box office opening to take orders for the evening performance of our Christmas production "Jingle Bell Barn" when we welcome a heavenly host of performers to the stage. These include Oxted Glee Choir, pupils from St. Marys and Downs Way schools, Starmakerz and some of our very own talented friends from the theatre including Peter Calver and Melissa Cox. We have therefore made the decision to stage a matinee as well. The Barn, St Mary's and Downs Way Schools are the beneficiaries of the proceeds so please do support.

Tickets are available by telephoning 01959 561811 or online for card bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

FOBS

After a fairly quiet few weeks we are now back to a very busy period at the theatre. The many performances are detailed separately in this News.

One of the difficulties we have is getting a sufficient number of volunteers for the various duties associated with running the Front of House. The usual method adopted by Pippa is to send out an email to her long list of helpers.

Unfortunately, with so many emails being circulated these days there is a tendency for a reply to be put off to another day. Therefore, would all those who are able to assist on a particular date please reply as soon as possible, so that we are not trying to fill various slots in the last week before a performance.

When you receive this newsletter we shall be in the period approaching Christmas and I would like to thank all those who have helped during the year and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year and I hope to see you at the Barn during this next few weeks.

Alan Jackson, Chairman of FOBS
alanjackson1911@btinternet.com



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Our OJOS production in July was a runaway success with standing ovations every performance and wonderful feedback from the audience and our patrons. With over 90% ticket sales and glowing reviews, our juniors have definitely raised the bar with "Joseph" and the Society is rightly proud of everyone involved. The review by Lance Milton of NODA, printed elsewhere is high praise indeed.

Thoroughly Modern Millie

At time of writing we are now half way through our rehearsal period for "Millie" and, as Production Secretary (as well as playing the evil baddie), I can safely say everyone is having a great time, working hard on what promises to be an excellent and exciting production. The tap shoes are out in force and in danger of being worn out before the show. We open on Tuesday 18th November and close on Saturday 22nd November with a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are available on 07530 528094 or, if you wish to pay by debit or credit card, online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

My Fair Lady

We will be holding our initial meet and greet for our April 2015 production of My Fair Lady on Thursday 27th November 7.45 pm at St Peter's Hall, High Street, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG, with sing through and movement sessions on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th December. Principal auditions will be on Tuesday 9th December and Chorus auditions on Thursday 11th December.

Our production team comprises Peter Reed - Director, Zoe Humphries - Musical Director and Kerry Brackpool - Choreographer. If you are interested in attending the initial dates, please contact secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk but please do remember you must be a member of the Society to audition.

A Second Word Regarding One of Our Juniors!

You may recall in the August newsletter I reported that Phillip Langham had recently successfully completed the 5km RBC Race for Kids in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. In 2013 Phillip ran the race and raised £1,370 but this year I am pleased to report that he topped that figure completely and raised the impressive sum of £2,065. Our congratulations to Phillip – well done!

And Finally...

A great many of you reading this newsletter have taken part in Oxted Operatic Productions over the years and we value your opinion. The OOS Committee is in the process of choosing productions to perform in the future and we would welcome your input. What productions would persuade you back to perform at the Barn with the OOS? Or what have you seen in other theatres recently that you would like to see OOS perform in the next few years? Please contact secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk or chairman@oxtedoperatic.co.uk

Theatrical Logic!!

In is down, down is front. Out is up, up is back. Off is out, on is in. And of course, left is right and right is left. A drop shouldn't and a 'block and fall' does neither. A prop doesn't and a cove has no water. Tripping is OK. A running crew rarely gets anywhere. A purchase line buys you nothing. A trap will not catch anything. A gridiron has nothing to do with football. Strike is work (in fact, a lot of work). And a green room, thank God, usually isn't. Now that you're fully versed in theatrical terms, break a leg.

But not really!



As a fitting commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War I last month, we presented My Boy Jack by David Haig. Based on true events involving the renowned author and poet Rudyard Kipling, the play charts the tragedy which befell his family, mirroring the experience of countless other families during that devastating period in our history. However, in this case family conflict arose by reason of Rudyard's determination that his myopic son John should go to war, despite having failed Navy and Army medicals. Nevertheless Rudyard's military contact secured John a commission in the Irish Guards.

Under the experienced and careful direction of Elizabeth Callow, with an authentic set, depicting Batemans, designed by Martin Beatty and with an excellent cast, our audiences were transported back in time to 1913 and onwards into battle and beyond. The Barn stage was transformed into the drawing room at Batemans, the East Sussex home of the Kiplings and then into a battlefield on the Western Front. Chris Bassett was Rudyard, the devoted father but also passionate about King and Country and Ghislaine Bowden played his American born wife Carrie, a no nonsense lady driven to emotional turmoil by the loss of her son. Megan



Saunders, showing such maturity beyond her 16 years, gave us a feisty Elsie who had no hesitation in challenging her father's actions. Jacob Carter, also 16, portrayed son John with great conviction, showing the character's strengths and weaknesses. In addition, we had Alex Barnett, George Cooper and Keir Gilbert-Halladey, so believable in the roles of the young Irish Guardsmen, Bowe, McHugh and Doyle, facing the horrors of the trenches. Just as important were the supporting roles filled by David Morgan, Peter Shore and Jonathan Tull who also helpfully doubled up as stage crew in the major scene changes. With impressive sound effects provided by John Chinnock complemented by lighting by Alan Bishop, stage management by Muriel Lister and costumes by Elizabeth Callow and Catherine Webber, this production was a real team effort



and we thank everyone who helped make this production such a resounding success. A special thank you goes to Alex Barnett (Guardsman Bowe), who after a lot of badgering made the ultimate sacrifice for a 16 year old by having his hair cut short for the part!

Leaving the sadness of war behind us, we are now in rehearsal for **Babes in the Wood**, our annual pantomime (9th to 17th January 2015). With their parents away at the Crusades, Jack and Jill must rely on their uncle, Sir Guy of Gisbourne, to look after them but Sir Guy is more interested in the children's money. Protecting Jack and Jill from their wicked uncle and getting them home safely is obviously a job for a hero, but the only local one has not been seen for many years. Chris Bassett directs this panto which is the sequel to our hilarious and successful 2010 production of Robin Hood and His Merry Men in which Peter Calver played the title role. He returns to the more familiar territory of Dame for Babes in the Wood. An ageing Robin Hood is now played by Jonathan Tull, with David Morgan (Friar Tuck), Steve Bedford (Little John) and Andrew Claringbull (Will Scarlett) as the equally ageing band of hapless Merry Men. We have youngsters, Elliott Myers and Katie Bartholomew as Jack and Jill and our baddies are Clive MacTavish as Sir Guy and Kay Sandford as Lady Gisbourne. Added to the main players are Sophie MacTavish as Maid Marian, Carly Thompson as Lottie and Michael Hayes as her admirer Much. To complete the line up we have Janette White and Amanda Stronge as the incompetent guards, Eric and Ernie. Aimee Marie Bow and Jamie Cordell return as Choreographer and Musical Director, so that lively dancing and music is assured. Tickets are selling fast so please book now at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for all card bookings (booking fee applies) or otherwise telephone 01883 724852.



Continuing on in happy mode, our spring production is **Boeing Boeing**, the classic comedy by Marc Camoletti. There will be a read through on Sunday 2nd November at Hurst Green Community Centre at 3.15pm. and then auditions follow on Wednesday 12th November at 8.00pm in the Theatre Green Room and on Sunday 16th November at St. Peter's Hall at 5.15pm. All are welcome to the read through but you will need to be a paid up member to audition. If you would like to register your interest or obtain more information about the play, please contact Tricia Whyte on 01883 370204 or triciawhyte43@gmail.com.

The Oxted Players, performing plays and pantomimes at the Barn Theatre, Oxted since 1946. With three productions a year and four every other year and also annual Festival entries, we are a very busy Society.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our website www.oxtedplayers.co.uk

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.
barntheatre@btinternet.com

Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 16th January