

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 21 Issue 3 August 2017

WELL DESERVED NODA SUCCESSSES FOR THE OXTED PLAYERS

As July's Sunday Club was being packed away for another month, with Alan, a glint in his eye and dry washing his hands, skipping home to count the takings, Elsa doing her best impersonation of a Hoover on the bar floor and revellers old and young heading off to tuck into Sunday lunch (or many



John Fox with June Brown

hours of rehearsal as in my case..) a pair of unlikely, intrepid explorers, Pat Brown and David Morgan, headed off to the South Coast for the annual South Eastern Area NODA award ceremony. And why was this? Well, other than to stop and gorge on fish and chips en route on the Players' expenses, we are in Area 19 as far as NODA are concerned and for the entire year that was 2016 they handed out just five awards of excellence to shows that had taken place in that area - and The Oxted Players won two of them! These were presented for the

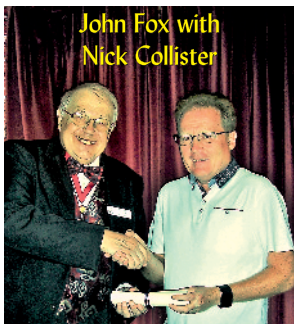


John Fox with Izzie and Sophia members of the cast of Mother Goose

productions of 'Murder on the Nile' directed by the inimitable June Brown and the pantomime 'Mother Goose' directed by the wonderfully mustachioed David Morgan himself. This follows on in a rich vein of form from the Players' recent NODA successes with 'My Boy Jack', 'Life x 3' and 'The Happiest

Days of your Life'. We are starting to build up a nice little collection!

However, the awards didn't stop there. For not just Area 19, but the whole of the South East of England, there was a poster competition into which every eligible poster from each show in the whole region for the entire year was entered. Now, whilst we were pipped to the post for the first prize, there were just two runners up awards given: and the Oxted Players got them both! Yes both the posters for the afore mentioned play and panto were sole runners up to the eventual winner and this is a massive feather in the cap for our wonderful graphic designer Nick Collister who not only produces such wonderful work but also is so accommodating and easy to work with (especially when there is an entire committee of people wanting minute changes! Ask David about the parrot for 'Ghost Train' later in the year..)



John Fox with Nick Collister



The two award winning posters produced for TOPs by graphic designer Nick Collister. These are just two of the many masterpieces produced by Nick over the years for TOPs



So I can say one thing for sure: the Oxted Players and the Barn Theatre have been talked about a lot in the corridors of NODA recently and together we are hopefully becoming more and more synonymous with the ideas of excellent productions, a gorgeous venue and a very warm welcome on your entrance!

Enormous congratulations to all involved in making these productions so enjoyable and successful and to continuing the excellent standard, year after year! More about that to follow..

Peter Calver, Chairman, Oxted Players



Mother Goose cast in full flow



Relaxing on deck of the Lotus as we glide along the Nile

Generous donation by Oxted Players to DRIP At the recent AGM of the Oxted Players, Peter Calver chairman of the society presented Muriel Lister, one of the Theatre Trustees with a cheque for £5,000 to help with funding Phase Three of the Dressing Room Improvement Project. Phase Two is coming to an end with the first flush promised for later in September, after which Phase Three will commence as space in the theatre permits and this will not be easy as 2018 is already a very busy year.

'Sweeney Todd' – Minack 2018

Launch Night & Auditions

As reported in our previous issue of BTN, The Barnstormers will be returning to the Minack Theatre, Cornwall in August 2018 with Stephen Sondheim's thrilling musical masterpiece 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street'.

This multi-award winning musical will be staged for the very first time at the Minack Theatre from Monday 6th to Friday 10th August 2018. There will also be local previews, to be presented in the open-air in the grounds of Oxted School, on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July, the weekend before the Minack tour.

This is a tremendously exciting project and the opportunity to perform in the spectacular setting of the Minack Theatre is never one to be missed. The production requires a large company of principals and chorus/ensemble, The Barnstormers will be looking for around 50 - 60 performers to join their cast.

Launch Night

DATE: Saturday 30th September 2017.

VENUE: The Barn Theatre.

CALLED: All those interested in auditioning to be in the show or helping out in any way with this production.

TIME: Drinks from 7.30pm. Main proceedings start promptly at 8.00pm.

DETAILS: The entire production team will be on hand to tell you about the show and the planned Minack tour. The bar will be open with the first drink on The Barnstormers for all who register in advance. A light buffet will also be provided. Please come along for what promises to be both an enjoyable and informative evening. A great chance to enjoy drinks with friends and chat to the production team. All those planning to audition for the production are asked to attend this event.

Principals' Auditions

DATE: Sunday 15th October 2017.

VENUE: The Little Barn (located immediately behind the Barn).

CALLED: All those auditioning for the listed principal roles.

TIME: 10.00am - 6.00pm. Each registered auditionee will be allocated a specific time slot.

DETAILS: A list of the principal roles will be available at the Launch Night and shortly online at www.thebarnstormers.co.uk and Facebook page (see below). Audition pieces will be available to collect at the Launch Night. A pre-audition music rehearsal is also being scheduled for Wednesday 4th October.

Chorus/Ensemble Auditions

DATE: Wednesday 18th October 2017.

VENUE: St Peters Hall, High Street, Limsfield, RH8 ODR.

CALLED: All those auditioning to be a member of the chorus/ensemble.

TIME: 7.45pm – 10.00pm.

DETAILS: No preparation is required as the Musical Director will work with everyone on one of the chorus numbers from the show. There will also be a movement audition.

To register your interest in being involved with this production and to receive an official invitation to the Launch Night please contact Associate Producer, Paul Robinson at paulr@thebarnstormers.co.uk. Information can also be obtained from the Facebook group - The Barnstormers 'Sweeney Todd' – Minack Theatre 2018 - or by contacting Richard Allen on 07979 650901 or richard@thebarnstormers.co.uk.



A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

My apology to the editor for holding back for so long before submitting this copy, but I

really did have to wait! I had to wait for what I consider to be one of the most thrilling and rewarding theatrical experiences of an old man's life! I am referring to the opening night of the junior production of *West Side Story*. If you were not there then you have missed a fabulous treat, very rarely are we permitted to see the youth of our Society performing with such exuberance, such excitement, such talent! My heart is so full that all I can say is that I have witnessed one of the best pieces of musical drama, adult or junior, in the amateur theatre to date.

I also have to add that the support that these young people have had from their mothers, has been exceptional. So many mums turned out as Chaperones and I have to say may have enjoyed themselves almost as much as their young charges. And so therein is a challenge for you all. You don't have to perform to be an active member of the Oxted Operatic Society, to enjoy being part of the show.



Which brings me to a very important part of this message. IF! there are any among you that are too shy to don the motley and tread the boards, but still wish to be part of a production, are willing to work front of house but have not got round to doing anything about, then this is your chance! We are looking for front of house volunteers who would be happy to wear Edwardian costume and sell programmes, sweets, ice creams for the *Old Time Music Hall* (Fri 1st & Sat 2nd September). You might not think that you know the songs but just wait until you hear them and you will want to sing along and nobody is going to stop you. If you feel that this could be your first real step to getting involved, then please get in touch with me havegavelwilltravel@gmail.com.

This is an exciting year for us all. For the first time ever, we are presenting four productions in one year. This can only be done with the full support of and assistance from all members of the Society. We need your help! We are strong but we could be stronger, so please don't sit back. Become one of the 'doers', even in a small way, and help the Society to make it happen! I promise that you will find it satisfying.

And finally, we would like to invite you to take a peek at our brand new website www.oxtedoperatic.co.uk. Please feel free to let us know what you think about it by emailing cwyncoll@gmail.com and whether there is anything else you would like to see on it and we will see what we can do!

David Morgan, Chairman of OOS

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



The increasing activities at the Barn places an ever greater demand on FOBs to provide the necessary staffing for the many Front of House requirements. We have been fortunate in attracting a number of new volunteers and it is a pleasure to welcome the new faces of

all those who have joined, however we still need more helpers.

As our summer fades into autumn so the events at the Barn seem to increase and once again there is a very varied and interesting programme. At the last FOBs meeting in June it was decided to introduce a selection of Twining teas. This is quite a change from our customary 'tea bag' in a cup and as a result the price for both coffee and tea has been increased to £1 - the first increase in more than 10 years!

Alan Jackson Chairman of FOBs



Our busy 2016/17 season marking our 70th Anniversary ended in May with the successful production of *The Foreigner*, a little known comedy by the late Larry Shue. Directed by Tricia Whyte with a cast comprising Peter Calver, Chris Bassett, Laura Brand, Wendy O'Mahony, Phil Fry, Teddy Stevenson and Steve Bedford, the play has received excellent reviews. In his review, Jon Fox of NODA was full of praise for the direction, acting, set and general presentation and ended by saying "As you will realise, I did not just like this production but loved it and everything about it. The inspirational director Tricia Whyte has a triumph on her hands, as anyone in the enthusiastic audience will doubtless concur. Her direction of this masterpiece will live long in the memory, not only of the talented and together cast for certain but also in the memory of anyone as fortunate as I was to be there on the night that TOP's set the bar almost unbeatably high." Equally complimentary was the review for *Sardines Magazine* by Arthur Rochester, the SCDF



Adjudicator. He particularly highlighted the performance of Peter Calver as "Charlie" and ended by saying "All in all, a memorable theatrical experience of which the Oxted Players may be justly proud." The full reviews can be found on our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk.

Following on from our July AGM where we said a fond farewell to Carly Thompson who is moving North and welcomed Phil Fry and Peter Shore to the Committee, we are looking forward to a very busy 71st season. We begin this with our popular August Workshop (20th to 26th) when our young members spend a week in the Theatre with actor/director/playwright David Rowan and rehearse one of David's clever plays which they perform on the Saturday evening. For further information please go to our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk.

Our October production is *The Ghost Train* directed by David Morgan. Written by Arnold Ridley of "Dad's Army" fame, this is a story of mismatched travellers stranded overnight at a rural railway station. There is a local superstition about a phantom train which is said to travel along this same set of tracks at the dead of night, carrying the ghostly apparitions of the passengers killed in a train wreck 20 years before at this very location. Throughout the night the travellers experience ghostly visitations and each cope in their own way with what is happening to them.

This popular classic thriller has stood the test of time and will be performed by Steve Bedford, Bob Wilson, Croia Reilly, Amanda Stronge, Alex Campbell, Jenny Roe, Kay Sandford, Richard Peachey, Guy Hudson and Alan Barlow. Set design is in the skilful hands of Martin Beatty. The play runs from 18 to 21 October in the evenings at 7.45 pm and a matinee at 2.30 pm on the Saturday. Tickets available on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for all card payments or from our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852.

Finally, as we move towards panto season, our January 2018 pantomime is *Puss in Boots* directed by Chris Bassett with Jamie Cordell returning as MD and Kerry Brackpool as Choreographer. The performance dates are 12 to 20 January. The read through takes place on Sunday 3 September at 2.00 pm at St. Peter's Church Hall, Limpsfield, followed by auditions on Sunday 10 September from 10.00 am. For the audition schedule and further information please contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or 07768 525778.



BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

Following the announcement of the retirement from the Barn Board of Trustees and Directors, due to poor health, of June Brown, the Board presented June with a chair for her garden, with best wishes for a speedy recovery to her normal jolly self and with many thanks for the 34 years of unstinting service to the theatre.



A SUCCESSFUL SUMMERFEST

This highly popular annual event masterminded by Angie Muscio and her team of over 45 adult helpers enabled 179 young people of varying ages to showcase their talents on the Barn stage, some of them enjoying their first appearance in a live theatre show. It was also the first time that performers from Orbit Shed, a local charity based in Redhill joined the cast. An all inclusive theatre school inspired by the renowned Chickenshed Theatre Company benefited by £500 donated from the profits of the day, the remainder going towards the DRIP fund at the Barn. The red bucket collections on the day raised a fabulous new record amount of £547 comprising £175 at the matinee and an astounding £372 in the evening.

The parable of the boy who was loathe to host a show.

Recently I was asked to host a show at the Barn Theatre in Oxted. I said yes to keep my mum happy but I really didn't want to do it – I was worried about not looking cool, getting it wrong, looking a geek, feeling stupid and so on. You name it I was worried about it.

Anyway, I had to prepare, I had to practice and I had to rehearse in front of people – I still didn't want to do it. On top of all this I was supposed to dream up ideas of getting people to donate money and the pressure was on to collect more money in my bucket than anyone else had done previously. Well I was fed up but it was pretty obvious I was going to have to do it so I decided I better get on with it and feel my fear and do it anyway. In fact if I was going to do it all, I had better do it to the best of my ability and hope I didn't look stupid or get it wrong.

So, you know what. I worked hard, I learnt my words, I made people laugh and I with Louisa collected more money than anyone ever before us – in 94 years! Other kids came up and told me how well I did, how they wished they could have been me and had the chance to do what I did.



So now I feel good about what I did and I know that sometimes you must feel the fear and do it anyway!

Thomas Muscio

Carnival

day can throw up many challenges, but having run the Barn Tea Tent for a number of years we are generally able to overcome them without too many problems. There is however one challenge over which we don't have any control, the British weather! Four years ago it rained right up to the day and we thought it was going to be a washout, the following year it was the complete opposite, dry, sunny and very, very hot, then it was hot and windy and last year was fine all morning and as soon as things started to get busy the heavens opened and it poured. Thankfully, this year it was what we call 'pleasant' although the sunny spells caused some angst whilst we tried to keep the cakes in the shade. Little wonder the Brits spend a lot of time talking about the weather!. Despite the fact that we didn't seem to see as many people as we did a few years ago we cleared £1000 profit which will be put towards the DRIP fund.

Thank you to all those who helped on the field or provided produce for sale on the day. I suspect we are one of the most successful stalls on the park, after all who can resist a cup of tea and a piece of cake!

The West End comes to The Barn Theatre, Sunday 17th September

An A-Z of Musical Theatre performed by current and past members of Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Miss Saigon and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang directed by Sam Hiller the current Resident Director of Les Miserables and the Associate Director of Phantom of the Opera.

Sam Hiller is kindly putting together this production in aid of The Sandcastle Trust, a small registered charity based locally in Surrey.

The Sandcastle Trust supports families affected by rare genetic conditions. Through the provision of short breaks and special days out they help them escape, for a short time, the emotional, physical and financial strains of their daily lives, build lasting positive family memories and strengthen family relationships. They believe that a diagnosis with a rare genetic condition and any resulting long-term health problem, physical, sensory or learning disability should not be a barrier to experiencing everything that life has to offer and that includes enjoying time together as a family.

Rumour has it that Alice Wright a member of the present cast of Les Miserables and well known to our Barn audiences may be in the cast assembled for this production.....watch this space and order your tickets now

Tickets 01959561811 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

John Kempton MBE, FRICS, MIFireE appointed as Director and Barn Trustee



At the AGM of the Barn in early June, members followed the proposal by the Board and elected John Kempton as a Director and Trustee of the theatre.

John has lived in Oxted since 1979. He became involved in the local community, spending 20 years as a Retained (part-time) Firefighter and 18 years in the British Red Cross which started his involvement with the Barn Theatre providing First Aid at performances. This first aid connection continued as a member of St John Ambulance. He retired as a Chartered Building Surveyor and Fire Engineer 14 years ago. He has been a school Governor for 27 years and has maintained connections with the Fire Brigade as a Freeman of the City of London and a Freeman, Liveryman and the Ceremonial Standard Bearer of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters, a City Livery Company. He now runs Oxted and District's Community First Responder Scheme answering 999 emergencies throughout the wider area.

John is warmly welcomed and already proving to be a great asset on the Board and working backstage, helping the set builders too.



A sobering thought from Moggie

I would like to thank all of those who supported me in last years effort of "Sober October" we managed to raise £300.00 for the DRIP fund. However, with your help once again I intend to increase the pain by abstaining from the Monday immediately after "The Old Time Music Hall" 4th September,

until the Wednesday the 1st. of November. I am aware that this means that most of the time directing "Ghost Train" I will be a grumpy bear but I am sure that the cast can put up with that.

If you would like to encourage me and add a bit more to the DRIP fund then I will arrange for sponsorship forms to be behind the bar of the Barn, we do need the money the project has to be finished and it is for our benefit.

Moggie.

CROYDON MALE VOICE CHOIR

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER AT 7.45PM



Tickets £10 from 01959 561811

or online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Sunday December 10th

The Kast off Kinks are former members of the legendary band 'The Kinks', back together to re-live the good times. Expect all the hits, including: You Really Got

Me, Dedicated Follower of Fashion, Sunny Afternoon, Lola, Days, Waterloo Sunset, Come Dancing, and many more for a great night out!

Tickets £17 each 01959 561811

or online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

HOLLY JOLLY BARN CHRISTMAS

Saturday 9th December at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

After the huge success of Jingle Barn Rock last year, the pupils St Mary's and Downs Way schools will be delighting audiences with their Christmas songs, music, dance and drama again this year.

Don't miss this very special showcase by talented performers from these local schools and please do book early as seats are limited.

Tickets are available from 1st October on 01959 561811 or for online card bookings only www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

The Pip and Paul Show

Friday 27th October at 7.45pm



Magic and mayhem combine in this comedy show for the whole family.

Pip and Paul are two of the busiest entertainers working in the UK today. Both are full time magicians with a long connection

to theatre and comedy. This is a family show with world class magic and illusions that will entertain and delight all ages.

Tickets £15 each 01959 561811

or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Sausage Sunday Again !

Over the last couple of years we have had several Sausage Sunday Clubs which seem to be very popular – all 96 sausages in buns were eaten each time. So, for the October Sunday Club I shall do the same again and hope we get even more people joining us. Please put 1st October in your diaries now and if you are able to let me (Caro) know you are coming on publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk it would be much appreciated so I know how many sausages to buy. If you don't manage to let me know, don't worry, just turn up as I always do a few extra sausages. Veggie sausages are possible as long as you let me know a reasonable amount of time in advance.

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

Copy should be sent to barntheatre@btinternet.com

Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 20th October 2017