

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 22 Issue 3 August 2018

## New Musical Premieres at the Barn!

Caterham's Joe McNeice, who has previously produced shows here at the Barn, including *Sweeney Todd* (2014) and *One Man, Two Guvnors* (2015) is back with a brand new musical!

Having just graduated from the University of York in *Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance*, Joe met his collaborator, Matt Spalding, while working on student theatre productions. Matt studied in the Department of Music at York and has recently completed a Masters degree in Musical Direction from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London.

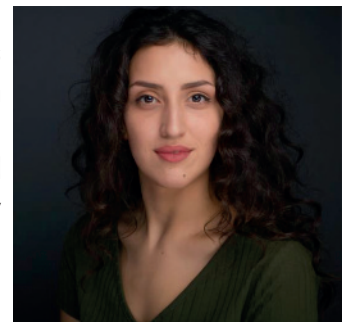
The musical is inspired by true events, as Joe explains, "Matt and I had been looking to write a musical together for some time, but we couldn't find a story that we wanted to tell. However, when I heard the news that my grandmother was going to have to leave her retirement home in East Grinstead because it was closing down, inspiration struck!" Indeed, that's where the similarities

between the real events and the plot of *Twilight Robbery* end. The show follows a group of pensioners who hatch a daring plan to carry out a diamond heist in order to save their retirement home from closure. Combining elements of farce, traditional musical comedy and touching drama, *Twilight Robbery* addresses a number of important issues faced by elderly people in Britain today, including mental health and loneliness, whilst pushing the uplifting message that age should never get in the way of living your life to the full.

The cast features some notable rising stars, including Em Barrett who has just graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she awarded the prestigious Welsh Young Singer of the Year prize, Josh Benson, who recently appeared in Gary Barlow's West End musical *The Girls*, and Martha Pothén,



who, after graduating from the Royal Academy of Music last year, has most recently appeared in *Privates on Parade* at the Union Theatre in London. Joe notes, "I'm absolutely thrilled that we are bringing our musical to the Barn Theatre for its debut production, as the theatre holds very fond memories for me and I wouldn't be going into the industry without its early support of my projects as a teenager."



***Twilight Robbery* runs from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September with tickets for sale at £15 (or £12 for students). Tickets are available from [barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01883 331400. Visit [twilightrobbery.com](http://twilightrobbery.com) for more information.**

The Oxted Players begin their exciting 2018/2019 season by celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Young Players' August Workshop with David Rowan as director.



David is a highly experienced and motivated Corporate Training actor. He has worked as an actor, role-player, writer, facilitator and coach for on training, events and Assessment Centres for companies such as: Sky, eBay, BBC, Nationwide, Exxon Mobil, BP, Lambeth Council, Sellafeld, Leaseplan and North Bristol Health Trust. David has extensive experience as a Theatre Director and as a stand-up comedian and YOPs are delighted to welcome him back for his 20<sup>th</sup> season as their workshop director.

Anyone who appeared in those earlier shows is invited to the performance on 25 August at 7.00 pm and to meet up with David again. Please contact [secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk) to reserve a place.



Our May production *There Goes the Bride* provided great entertainment for its audiences. The eight strong cast had laughed their way through rehearsals but managed to concentrate sufficiently to give polished comedic performances during the run. Having praised every actor and the production team individually, Jon Fox of NODA ended his review saying "This was another top class production, quite in keeping with the professional standard of plays so regularly presented by the elite members, both on and off stage in TOPs." The full review can be read on our website at [www.oxtedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxtedplayers.co.uk).



After a welcome summer break, we now look forward to our exciting 2018/19 season. Following the Young Oxted Players August Workshop with David Rowan is our Autumn play, *Hobson's Choice* (17 to 20 October), the classic Lancashire comedy by Harold Brighouse. Our cast is Peter Damesick (Hobson), Martin Brackpool (Will Mossop), Jane Kortlandt (Maggie), Phoebe Sleeman (Vicky), Luke Grizzell (Fred), Philippa Lucas (Alice), Chris Bassett (Albert), Andrew Claringbull (Jim), Bruce Christie (Tubby), Shannen Knutsen (Ada), Jackie Barrett (Mrs. Hepworth) and George Duda (Dr. Macfarlane).

Our 2019 panto is *Robin Hood* (11 to 19 January). We welcome a new production team of Jane Maisey (Director), Andy Rapps (Musical Director) and Catherine Blundell (Choreographer). There will be a read through on Saturday 9 September at 2.00 pm and auditions on Sunday 16 September from 11 am to late afternoon at St. Peter's Church Hall, Limpsfield. Everyone is welcome to the read through but you will need to become a member of the Society to audition. For further information about the show and characters please go to our website or contact the secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk

Please also look out for the launch date of our exciting May 2019 production of, *Pride and Prejudice*, an adaptation by Gary Andrews of the classic Jane Austen novel. The play requires a large and varied cast and anyone interested in learning more and getting involved with the play are invited to attend the launch meeting in late September. Information about the play and launch date will be posted on our website and circulated to our membership very soon but if you would like to register an interest in the production to ensure you receive the details, please do contact us as above.

## Simon Goodall and The Bourne Again Shadows Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

"There are several Shadows tributes out there, and one or two of them are pretty good - but I've never heard a band that completely nails the whole sound with vocals too . . . until now. I have to say that this blew me away. The emulation of the Shadows sound is spot on, and the 'Cliff' vocals are uncanny. I feel qualified to make that statement having worked with Cliff throughout the 90's as part of his band. This is as close as it gets!"



Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card purchases  
[www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) Order Today, Don't Delay!

## Simply Dan Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November



With many of our members working as session musicians in London and the south east and performing with a diverse mix of artists nationally and worldwide, Simply Dan are an incredible band who faithfully capture the sound of Steely Dan. The band was started in late 2016 when members Mark Roadnight, Mark Claydon, Russ Parker and Roger Evan decided to work on a band that that could deliver the beauty and virtuosity of Steely Dan, while still portraying the fun of a stage show. A few of the members currently write for major recording artists and decided to take that level of professionalism to this project. They spent a few months finding the right players to join the group and who also had a passion for replicating the sound of Steely Dan. The band members have performed with such diverse artists as current major vocalist Raye to Graeme Clark (wetwetwet), Tony Christie, Pee Wee Ellis, Marcella Detroit and Liberty X to name just a few. We are very excited to be bringing Simply Dan to the Barn Theatre, where we will also be inviting local musician Steve Thurlow to perform with us on the night.

It promises to be an evening not to be missed!

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OOS Newsflash

The Wizard of Oz – 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Melanie Vinall as Director of *The Wizard of Oz*. Melanie directed *The Pirates of Penzance* to great acclaim for us several years ago and we are thrilled she will be able to bring her talents to bear on this magical piece of theatre.

We still need to finalise casting of 3 key parts, Scarecrow, Tinman and Cowardly Lion and there are places for more adult and junior chorus members. Auditions will take place towards the end of August (dates to be finalised) in preparation for a 4th September start to rehearsals. Melanie has asked those who have already auditioned for the character parts mentioned above to please feel free to re-audition. The cast is as follows:-

Dorothy	Grace Rumsey
Aunt Em/Glinda	Sophie MacTavish
Henry/Guard	Mike Tomlin
Gulch/Witch	Nicki Lewis
Professor/Oz	David Morgan

Adult Chorus

Hetty Duck, Jan Blackmore, Carol Moss, Natassia Gunn, Laura Chapman, Jenny Roe, Becky Wilkes, Emma Denny, Robert Medhurst

Junior Chorus

Adam Alladina, Sophie Budd, Maisie Felstead, Eva Foxwell, Olivia Francis, Isabella Hotston, Zoe Morgan, Tom O'Reilly, Thomas Prebble, Tali Rumsey, Aiofe Witham, Orlaith Witham

New Costume Store

On a totally different note, the new Costume Store is taking shape, thanks to Jane Maisey and her team of volunteers who have done a magnificent job. Different people have spared a few hours when they can, however, the huge commitment Jane has made to this project means that order is emerging from the chaos. In fact, we have already had our first hire to the Surrey Quays Society. If you are a member of another Society/Societies then please let Jane know as we will be holding an Open Afternoon on the Sat 15<sup>th</sup> September for Directors, Wardrobe Mistresses and interested committee members of neighbouring Societies and of course our own Members and Members of the Barn Community.

Enquiries for costume hire etc to David Morgan on havegavelwilltravel@gmail.com .

The Metropolitan Police Choir  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August  
in aid of the The Sandcastle Trust

The Sandcastle Trust is a small national charity, based locally in Surrey. They support families affected by a rare genetic condition. These families face substantial pressures in their lives and The Sandcastle Trust provides much needed fun and respite. The charity is holding two events at the Barn Theatre this year to raise much needed funds. On Friday 31 August The Metropolitan Police Choir will perform a varied repertoire combining the traditional and the new. (Tickets are £15 per person and available via the Barn Theatre Box Office).

Secondly, on Sunday 16 December West End performers from many shows including Les Miserables and The Phantom of the Opera will take us through a fun filled trip of an A-Z of Christmas! (Tickets are £20 per person and available via the Barn Theatre Box Office). You can currently buy a ticket to both performances for £30!

Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card purchases [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

**GUYS AND DOLLS**  
**15 TO 18 AUGUST**

AWARD WINNING Kenley Holiday Workshop return to the Barn for their annual Summer workshop next week.



Jennifer Tucker and Summer Park appear as Sarah Brown and Miss Adelaide in KHW's production of *Guys and Dolls*. Tickets are still available - best availability on Wednesday and Thursday. Come along and travel from the streets of New York to the heat of Havana and on

the way enjoy some of Frank Loesser's most memorable songs, *Luck be a Lady*, *If I Were a Bell* and the show stopping *Sit Down you're Rockin' the Boat*. So come along and #sitdownyou'rerockinthebarn.

Tickets 01883 331400 or online for card purchases [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Start of the complex framework



Pirellis caravan by Martin Beatty



A lone stagehand waiting for the audience to arrive



Submerged band tent!

A small selection of photos from the Barnstormers previews at Oxted that tell a story of the change in the recent weather. More in the next issue but 7 days before the performances in Cornwall, all the seats for the evening performances were already sold out, with few left for the matinees.



Stoic audience braving the wet

# A Time to Remember



On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 the armistice was signed and The War to End all Wars was over, To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of this never to be forgotten event, The Barn Theatre in association with the Bluehouse Festival will be staging a production for three evenings, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October.

It will be a very poignant production with poems from such poets as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and Rupert Brooke, songs that were sung both at home and in the trenches (bit of trench humour sneaking in) and letters written home from the Tommy's abroad.

Initial auditions were held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July for this concert but if you missed the opportunity and are still interested then please contact David Morgan on [havegavelwilltravel@gmail.com](mailto:havegavelwilltravel@gmail.com) .

Further Auditions will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 8.00 in the Little Barn.

This is a very rehearsal forgiving piece and can be adapted in every way to suite all talents.

Proceeds from this concert will go to the D.R.I.P. Fund and a special Bucket Collection every evening will be made in support of the Royal British Legion.

## Oxted Carnival 2018

Carnival day can throw up many challenges (and it usually does!), 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. In recent years it has rained right up to the day but then stayed fine, then it was the complete opposite, dry, sunny and very, very hot, then it was hot and windy, then it was fine all morning and as soon as things started to get busy the heavens opened and it poured, last year was what we call 'pleasant' and this year it was like trying to operate inside a furnace. Unfortunately, not only do we suffer but the cakes do as well, although an extra awning did at least keep the cakes in the shade. Little wonder the Brits spend a lot of time talking about the weather!

Unfortunately, it wasn't only the weather we had to contend with but also the football and the tennis so the park was almost empty by 3pm as most people seemed to have gravitated to watch the football on the screen in the beer tent. Because of all this we didn't see as many people as we did a few years ago, so we only took £600 which will be put towards the DRIP fund.

In the circumstances we probably couldn't have done much better, so we all patted ourselves on the back at the Carnival barbeque and relaxed and everyone enjoyed themselves after a very hard day.

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

Copy should be sent to [barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:barntheatre@btinternet.com)

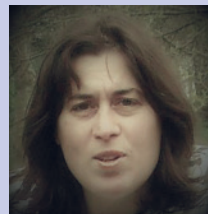
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

## FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



Some of you may have noticed that Pimms is now available at the Bar. This is just for the summer months and we hope that, if you have not already done so, you will give it a try. Certainly the bar staff are having fun trying to remember to put in all the pieces of fruit, the sprig of mint and the straw !! I welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have with regard to the drinks we provide – obviously we are limited for space but we are always willing to consider something new. One suggestion was that we re-introduce Fruit Shoots - which are sugar free – for the children and these will be coming in with the next order from Bookers.

In the last issue of the Barn Theatre News, I reported that at FOBs' AGM two new ladies had been elected to the committee. In this issue Helen Clarke is introducing herself to you and in the next issue we will be hearing from Pip Bryant.



Helen writes: "I was delighted to be voted onto the FOBs committee at the recent AGM. I have had a long association with the Barn Theatre, since my eldest daughter Laura Brand, now 27, required me to chaperone her in productions! In more recent years you may have spotted me pouring you a drink behind the bar or selling you a programme, sweets or ice-creams.

I am married with 2 daughters & have lived in Oxted for 30 years. I currently work for an Air Conditioning & Refrigeration company but for many years worked in the hospitality industry at various pubs, hotels & restaurants, both front of house & as a chef in the kitchens. For many of those years I volunteered with the Scout Association so have 'previous' when it comes to volunteering. The theatre was therefore an obvious choice when I left Scouting.

Oxted is very lucky to have such a wonderful theatre in its town & I look forward to being part of it for many more years. The only thing you won't see me volunteering for is appearing in any productions – I wouldn't inflict my acting or singing on anyone! "

Not surprisingly, FOBs is also looking forward to Helen being part of the theatre for many more years. Thank you Helen for volunteering.

I look forward to seeing you all at future Sunday Clubs and performances.

Alan Jackson  
Chairman

## Final DRIP works delayed.

The last and final works to bring our DRIP to a conclusion have been unavoidably delayed due to circumstances beyond our control.

Steve Atkins, our contractor was badly hurt in a fall recently and this has delayed his current project with a knock on effect on our works which were to start on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted to hear that Steve is making a good recovery and hopes to be with us later in September.

We wish Steve a speedy return to good health, which must be the priority.

This will mean making compromises on what we can achieve in an occupied theatre but we will take things day by day and plan for the best result in the different circumstances.