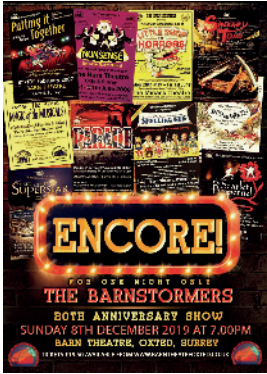


BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 23 Issue 3 August 2019



20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Barnstormers have been staging productions and raising money for the Barn since 1999, and so 2019 marks their 20th anniversary year. We couldn't let this important anniversary go by without some sort of celebration, so we're delighted to announce that they will be back at the Barn for one night only on Sunday 8th December with their 20th Anniversary show – 'Encore!'.

'Encore!' is a fabulous musical compilation show featuring some of the very best performers and musical theatre numbers presented by The Barnstormers over the last two decades. For one night only, on Sunday 8th December at 7.00pm, you will be able to enjoy the talents of Barnstormer stars from past and present, performing some of the wonderful musical hits from shows like Jesus Christ Superstar, Little Shop of Horrors, Into the Woods, Parade, Nunsense, Sweeney Todd and many many more.

The Barnstormers have raised in the region of £60,000 for the Barn over the last twenty years, and as you would expect, all profits from 'Encore!' will once again be donated to the Barn's charity to help fund various development projects already in the pipeline.

Tickets for this one off gala event are expected to sell out quickly, so we highly recommend you book yours now at www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk or by telephone 01959 561811.



The Ultimate Rock Tribute Show!

Purple Zeppelin are proud to pay tribute to the two greatest Rock Bands of all time:

Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin – together on the same bill!

As featured in the BBC TV documentary 'The Joy of the Guitar Riff' and twice voted Best UK Tribute Act, Now touring for over 10 years and seen by more than 6 million people, live and on TV! In a 'full on' two and a half hour show, using the same stage costumes, guitars and equipment as the original bands, you'll hear more than 30 classic songs.

THE BEST BITS, ALL OF THE TIME.

However, this is more than just a great band performing the 'Greatest Hits' – it is a theatrical insight to these two Giants of Rock, complete with special effects, onstage 'artistic differences' and even some audience participation! With the accent firmly on entertainment, this is a show not to be missed, complete with Ritchie Blackmore's on stage antics, Jimmy Page's twin neck Guitar and Theremin and a very special violin bow solo. Purple Zeppelin are four talented and versatile musicians – with decades of playing between them comprising thousands of sessions and gigs, both in the UK and overseas.

Saturday 26th October at 7.45pm



Our May play, *Pride & Prejudice*, directed by Peter Reed was a great success with good audiences and reviews. The cast of 25 worked extremely well together and really enjoyed the experience of bringing this classic to the Barn stage. The production was enhanced by the inclusion of period dancing, cleverly choreographed by Nicky Roberts and by the sound and lighting provided by John Chinnock and Stephen Tickell. Jon Fox of NODA was impressed by the performances of all the actors whether in major or minor roles but particularly praised Beckie Wilkes as Elizabeth Bennet, Sophie MacTavish as Mrs. Bennet and Richard Peachey as Mr Bennet. Jon ended his review saying "All in all, this was a top class production, marvellously directed by Peter Reed".



Many of our Young Players are now looking forward to our annual August workshop with David Rowan in the Theatre from 18 to 24 August. The children spend the week rehearsing a full length play which is then performed on the Saturday evening. For further details on any remaining availability please contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk.

Our October play (16 to 19 October) is the hilarious comedy *The Safari Party* by Tim Firth and directed by Peter Shore. Three households have agreed to hold a "safari party" – a dinner party where each course is served in a different house - but it all goes horribly wrong! Luke Grizzell and Rob Medhurst play two young brothers, Daniel and Adam, who have no culinary skills. Their snobbish neighbours Lol and Esther are played by Bruce Christie and Ali Morris with Phoebe Sleeman as their rebellious daughter Bridget and Jenny Roe completes the cast as Inga, a dubious antiques dealer. Tickets available on www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 724852.

Our 2020 panto is *Treasure Island* by Ben Crocker to be directed by Chris Bassett. All are welcome to come to the read through for this exciting production on 15 September at 2 pm at St. Peters Hall, Limpsfield, followed by auditions on Sunday 22 September from 11 am at the same venue. For further information about the panto and characters, please refer to our website at www.oxtedplayers.co.uk or email secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday 19 October and performances run from 10 to 18 January 2020.

As we previously reported, **Aquarian Opera** is being rejuvenated by Melanie Vinall, Andrew Claringbull and James Vinall. Aquarian are hosting a Christmas Re-Launch Party in the Barn Theatre bar at 7:30 pm on Thursday 12th December 2019 and hope previous performers and supporters can come along for drinks and nibbles to hear the plans. Melanie will outline ideas for the first production in October 2020 at the Barn of Lehar's operetta *The Merry Widow*, which is much loved and has a large cast. Aquarian Opera musical director, Paul Arden-Griffith (the original Monsieur Reyer in *Phantom of the Opera*) will be on hand and there are some further delights and surprises to be announced.

Save the day - **Aquarian Opera Christmas Re-Launch Party in the Barn Theatre bar at 7:30 pm on Thursday 12th December**

Sylvia Kattau

We are sorry to learn of the death earlier this year of Sylvia Kattau. Sylvia and her husband Charles had both been actively involved with the Barn Theatre from the 1950s until they moved to Scotland in the mid 1980s. As well as being Chairman of the Student Players for several years, Sylvia also performed in many productions on the Barn stage but will be particularly remembered for her passion for making costumes. In fact the TOPs' wardrobe store still houses some of her period style costumes, a few of which were used in TOPs' May production of *Pride & Prejudice*. After Charles's death, Sylvia kept in contact and remained an Honorary Life Member of The Oxted Players."

Kenley Holiday Workshop is 30 years old this year,

and to celebrate we are revisiting the show we presented ten years ago, '42nd Street'. We were awarded the Noda London Young Stars award for this production, which was directed by Martin Patrick, with choreographer Andrea Atkinson and music director Michael Burbidge. This time we have the same choreographer and music director, with Martin's protégé Sarah Morrison as director, so the new production could be said to be a tribute to Martin.

'42nd Street' is a lively show with great music and loads of dancing, and we have a company of talented and enthusiastic youngsters who are raring to go.

So if you fancy a great night out then join us at the Barn at 7.30 on any night from Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th August.

Sally Dalosso



In July, Oxted Junior Operatic Society performed *Curtain Up!* a celebration of twenty-nine of the most iconic Broadway musical theatre numbers. The electric pace was set by Tom Hinchcliffe opening the show as the Emcee in *Wilkommen* from *Cabaret*, flanked by a bevy of dancers that most Barn regulars would instantly recognise. We proceeded through the early 1940's and '50's shows with the younger girls performing *I'm Gonna Wash that Boy Right Outta my Hair* from *South Pacific* and Tom O'Reilly and Thomas Prebble bringing the house down with *Brush up Your Shakespere* from *Kiss Me Kate*. Moving on to the '60's and 70's, saw Sophie Calderwood and Alex McTavish wow the audience with *Chicago* and Sophie Moss reducing everyone to tears with *What I Did for Love* from *A Chorus Line*. Zoe Morgan as Annie rounded off a cracking First Act with *Maybe* and all the younger chorus in *It's the Hard Knock Life*. The Second Act moved through the 1980's, all the way up to the modern day with a continual onslaught of showstoppers.



Tom Hinchcliffe and Lily Brown as the *Les Mis Thénardières* were 'masterful', Jess Batholomew's *Castle on a Cloud* was beautiful, Sophie Moss brought out the hankies again with *On my Own*, before the cast burst barricades with *Do you Hear the People Sing*. Seven of the senior singers gave us an unforgettable performance of *Rent's Season of Love* before the junior cast belted out *Naughty and Revoltin' Children*, from *Matilda*. Tom Hinchcliffe took over the tearjerker role with *Miss Saigon's Bui Doi*, before we hit the *Shrek* swamp with Gaby Morris, Elena Vinnall and Sophie Moss singing *I Know it's Today* to rapturous applause. Sophie Calderwood and Lily Brown were *Wicked* in *What is this Feeling* and Grzegorz 'G' Todryk reigned supreme as George III in *You'll be Back*, from *Hamilton*. The show closed with Rachel Budd and Elena Vinnall in *Mack and Mabel*, singing and dancing with the entire cast to *Tap your Troubles Away*. Fresh from *Wizard of Oz* last year, Melanie Vinnall directed and Musical Director Philippa Lucas was joined by her Brit School student band, Lucy, Benedict and Reg. Kerry Brackpool had an enormous task creating and arranging the choreography and Ian Caldecourt held the show together as MC and Miss Trunchbull. Ollie Locket made his OOS lighting debut at the Barn to great acclaim, working wonderfully with John Chinnock on sound, who had more radio mics than ever before for this show. All the 34 cast members ranged from age 8 to 18 with some new faces and many seasoned Barn performers. One Barn stalwart said that the show was very slick and fast paced, which is a credit to 17 year old Tom Allgood making his debut as Stage Manager. Tom's four-man crew, Charlotte, Campbell and Rex were also young, being between 15 and 18, with James being an outlier exception. OJOS are extremely proud that such a young cast and crew, under expert direction have delivered one of the most memorable shows for all who saw it. Tom Allgood had the last word when he said it was crime for anyone who loves musicals to have missed *Curtain Up!*, as both the cast and the audiences wanted to do it all again.



Old Herbaceous Sunday 15th September,

7.30pm *'[Shenton] draws us into his world making the characters so real you feel you have known them forever'* (*Edinburgh Fringe Review*)
'A delightful tale, beautifully told... and not just for garden lovers' (*The Reviews Hub*)

'Reminiscent of going down the allotment with your Grandad. a wonderful, wonderful evening' (*BBC Radio Lincolnshire*)

The Oxted Sessions, in association with the Barn Theatre, are happy to present Kick In The Head's National Touring Production of 'Old Herbaceous', Alfred Shaughnessy's acclaimed one-man play, starring Giles Shenton.

Described as 'Downton Abbey with gardening tips', Old Herbaceous is the charming, funny and poignant love story of a single minded, yet gentle man, with a passion for plants.

Kick In The Head's production has performed to sell out audiences all over the country in the last two years, including at the Edinburgh Fringe and Royal Horticultural Society Arts Festival.

Tickets are priced at £12 in advance, www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959561811 and £15 on the door.



Photos courtesy of Jane Gautrey and words by James Vinnall

On 25th October, join musician and composer Sir Richard Stilgoe as he steps on stage with best-selling novelist, television personality and one of the UK's top gardening experts, Alan Titchmarsh.

Alan was the presenter of Gardener's World, the hugely popular Ground Force and The Alan Titchmarsh Show. He writes regularly in BBC Gardener's World Magazine, Country Life and The Sunday Telegraph, is a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society and patron or president of over 50 charities.



You'll take part in a Q&A, enjoy a complimentary drink (post event reception) and meet Alan after his on-stage interview.

All proceeds will go to the Orpheus Centre in Godstone, a registered charity (1105213) and an independent specialist college. They focus on developing independence skills through performing and visual arts and make dramatic improvements to young disabled adult's lives. They believe that every young disabled person should have the same opportunities as their

non-disabled peers and they offer a personalised study programme focusing on building independence, communication and social interaction skills through the arts, supported housing and a personal care service.

Their students are between the ages of 18 and 25 and have learning and/or physical disabilities. They stay at Orpheus for up to three years. Everything at Orpheus is focussed on maximising lasting independence for their students. They have performed at the House of Lords, the Royal Albert Hall and venues across the UK and worked with schools, prisons, community groups and businesses to break down barriers and challenge stereotypes.

Please note: Doors open at 7.00pm and the event will start promptly at 7.30pm. If you or your party have accessibility requirements, please book Row A.

Tickets are £25-£35 via www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for card purchases or phone 01959 561811.

Better security at Barn

For some time now we have been concerned at the condition of the front doors to the theatre as they begin to show their 95 years of use. We have recently installed a roller shutter door behind the wooden doors which improves security to those doors. Keyholders should please note that this new shutter should be opened at any time the theatre is in use and closed just prior to the lights being turned off.

To all our readers

If you no longer wish to receive this Barn Theatre News and the show information pack in paper then please do let us know at publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

Electronic copies are available on our web site at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/btn.html

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

Copy should be sent to barntheatre@btinternet.com

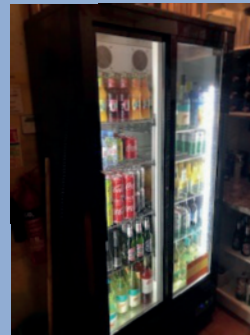
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 18th October

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



It has been another busy few months for FOBs since the last issue of Barn Theatre News, providing front-of-house support for over twenty performances. Thanks, as always, go to Karen Jackson for organising the rotas, and to the numerous volunteers who give so freely of their time. Without them we simply wouldn't be able to open our doors to the public.

A few changes have been made recently to the bar at the theatre - we now have a new hot drinks machine which, in addition to regular tea and coffee, enables us to serve cappuccinos, lattes (including decaffeinated), speciality teas and hot chocolate.



A new, double-height drinks chiller in the bar kitchen has just been installed which dramatically increases our storage capacity and will make life a lot easier for those working behind the bar. We are also pleased to announce that from 1st September we will be trialling the removal of the pre-mixed cans of spirits we currently sell, and offering gin, vodka and whisky along with a range of separate Fever Tree mixers. These will be launched at the September Sunday Club on the 1st, so do please come along and give them a try.

Paul Robinson

The Oxted Sessions presents... Biggins! Unleashed! on Wednesday 23rd October at the Barn Theatre.

Christopher Biggins has been lighting up British TV for over 40 years, and is one of the UK's most recognisable and loved media personalities. Biggins has led quite a life: three years as 'Lukewarm' on the iconic sitcom *Porridge*; host of children's game show *On Safari*; Winner of *I'm A Celebrity...* in 2007; a stalwart of the British panto scene... and that's only scratching the surface of a remarkably varied and successful career.

Biggins will be visiting the Barn on Wednesday 23rd October for an evening of conversation, comedy and chaos! This will be Biggins as you've never seen him before, talking candidly about his career, the television industry and the world today. Audience questions will be answered; audience participation will be required; and there may be a surprise or two in store...

Tickets will go on sale Friday 2nd August at 10am. 01959 561811 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

For more information on The Oxted Sessions, a series of monthly cultural events at venues around Oxted, search @oxtedsessions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or email d.damesick@gmail.com.