

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



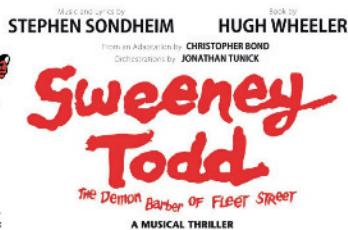
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### Minack 2018 will definitely be a cut above the rest!

We are delighted to report that Richard Allen and The Barnstormers have recently announced that they are signed up for another tour to the world famous Minack Theatre in Cornwall in August next year. They will be presenting Stephen Sondheim's thrilling musical masterpiece 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street'.

The Barnstormers will be performing Sweeney Todd at this spectacular open-air theatre on the cliffs at Porthcurno from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018, and this will be the very first time this dramatic and gripping musical has been staged at the Minack. Local Oxted previews are also planned a week or so prior to the tour, at a venue to be confirmed.

Sweeney Todd is described as a 'musical thriller' with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler, all based on an original play by Christopher Bond. This multi award winning musical is a story of obsession and revenge set in Victorian London. It is a dark and unsettling tale of a barber who returns home to London after fifteen years of exile, to take revenge on the corrupt judge who ruined his life. When revenge eludes him, Sweeney swears vengeance on the entire human race, infamously dispatching as many people as he can, whilst conspiring with Mrs Lovett, who is in desperate need of fresh meat for her pies. Perhaps Stephen Sondheim's most perfect score, Sweeney Todd is lush, operatic and full of soaring beauty, pitch-black comedy and stunning terror.



Richard Allen will once again be heading up the talented production team as Producer & Associate Director. Paul Longhurst makes a very welcome return as Director, and Steven Geraghty joins The Barnstormers for the first

time as Musical Director. Musical staging will be in the capable hands of their Choreographer, Francesca Newitt. This is probably one of the most challenging projects The Barnstormers have ever taken on and therefore Richard is delighted to have Paul Robinson working alongside him as Associate Producer.

Sweeney Todd is an artistically and technically demanding show, requiring a very talented cast, a large 20-piece orchestra and a huge, complex set. On that front, The Barnstormers welcome back the wonderful creative talents of Jill Wilson ('Wigs') as Production/Set Designer. Of course, it goes without saying that they will be able to count on the considerable skills and experience of the Barn Theatre's trustees and supporters, headed up by Technical Director, Bruce Reed.

Once again, they are looking to assemble a sizeable cast, consisting of nine principal roles and a large chorus/ensemble. A Launch Night and Open Auditions are planned for later this year in the autumn, with further details in our next issue. As with any Minack tour, The Barnstormers will require legions of helpers, set builders, front of house team etc, and they would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to get involved.

This is Richard's sixth tour to the Minack and he promises to pull out all the stops to make this the most spectacular one yet. You can be sure this will be an unforgettable experience and is definitely not one to be missed!

### Astounding success for Jingle Barn Rock

The Barn Theatre combined forces in December with St.Mary's and Downs Way schools to present Jingle Barn Rock. 170 children on stage and a wonderful day of Christmas fun and entertainment for all was the order of the day, under the stewardship of The Really Happy Company. The final proceeds of just over £6,000 were split between the participating schools and the theatre, with over £3,000 going to each. Huge thanks to theatre Chairman, Bruce Reed and the Barn team, Head Teacher, Mrs Sarah Lewis and her team, all the children who performed and all the families who came and supported the show.



A fabulous day was had by all. Photo shows Bruce, Angie from the Really Happy Company and Mrs Lewis of St Mary's and Downs Way Schools with their cheque held proudly by four members of the cast from Jingle Barn Rock. The schools propose to buy a new drum kit and provide arts based workshops for the children and the Barn will use the funds to boost the DRIP fund.

Summer Holidays 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> August  
Minack Theatre, Porthcurno, Cornwall.  
Book your accommodation now.





A Happy New Year to all.

In 2016 we saw successes with both 'The King and I' and also 'Sister Act'. Just the two shows for us in 2016, but for 2017 plans are afoot to astound you!

We are already well underway with our April production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' (26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April) a little later than usual to accommodate

Easter. Directed by Paul Robinson, choreographed by Beth Hinton, musical director Robert Randall and with set design by Wiggly. The talented cast sees the return to the stage of my predecessor, the lovely Mrs Dena Watts and so it's a must for all you music lovers. Get your tickets now from our box office on



01883 331400 or through the Barn Theatre web site. They're already selling fast!

In July, we will be presenting our next Oxted Junior Operatic Society (OJOS) show at the Barn Theatre - 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July. 'West Side Story' is a wonderful modern version of Romeo and Juliet. Fresh from her success with our sister society the Oxted Players, for whom she directed this year's panto, Carly Thompson will be at the helm. Carly has previously directed 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' for OJOS and on this occasion she will be ably assisted by Choreographer, Fran Newitt. So if you are aged 8-18yrs, come along and find out what it's all about on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 2.00pm - 4.30pm at Hurst Green Community Centre, Hurst Green. Auditions will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February from 2pm until 6pm at the same venue. Please note that juniors must be paid up members of the society to audition. For further information please contact Teresa Reed on 01883 625731 or [teresareed@bopenworld.com](mailto:teresareed@bopenworld.com)

Then in early September (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> September) we will be presenting our first Old Tyme Music Hall for many years. It'll be three performances in one weekend with minimal rehearsal commitment beforehand, so if you're a budding Marie Lloyd or Harry Champion, watch this space for more information. The evening will be a compilation of songs, sketches, comedy and maybe even the odd melodrama thrown in. So dig out those old music sheets for G&S, love duets or even more modern pieces written for the period; all will be considered as the aim will be OTT enjoyment rather than suffocating accuracy! We'll even be encouraging the audience to dress up, and digging out large hats and feather boas from our wardrobe store! We will be asking those interested in participating and contributing a piece to this event to come forward in early summer.

To round off 2017, our November production (20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November) will be the musical featuring the great songs and style of Madness, 'Our House'. All in all what a wonderful year to look forward to.

Away from shows, our AGM is almost upon us and will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the Oxted Royal British Legion (in Church Lane by Master Park). A welcome drink will be on the house and a few nibbles will be provided afterwards. It would be good to see a good turn out, giving support to one of the most successful societies around! At the AGM, three stalwart members of our Committee will be standing down after several years service; our Hon. Treasurer Janette White, Hon. Secretary Teresa Reed and our Publicity and Props Manager Geoff Martin.

Their absence will leave a massive gap in both skills and experience in our committee which we need to fill. Committee meetings are not as arduous as you might think and are (usually) good humoured, productive and satisfying. No one is asked to shoulder too much responsibility and your most important asset will be your thoughts. If you are interested in taking on any of these roles, please contact Teresa Reed as soon as possible to register your interest and she will be able to let you know what the formal process for nomination is.

Finally, with an OJOS show this year we will be in urgent need of lots of chaperones. The Barn Theatre is running a chaperone course shortly, please see elsewhere in this newsletter for details, and it would be good to see as many as possible of you mums and dads coming along but you must pre-book, you cannot simply turn up on the day. It's a great way to support your children and you'll have fun in the process and make lots of new friends.

Chairman David Morgan



## The New Foxtrot Serenaders, "the hottest little big band in the South East" return on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45 pm with "*Swing, Swing Swing*"

A celebration of the big band music from the 1930s and 40s. Songs from the swing era were made popular by big band leaders such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw and Harry James and through the Great American Songbook by vocalists Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin, Judy Garland, Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald.

BBC Radio Kent's Bill Rennells will once again be helping to co-compere the evening.

Tickets £16, available from telephone 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk).



## CROYDON MALE VOICE CHOIR RETURN AFTER A SEVEN YEAR BREAK SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT 7.45PM

The Croydon Male Voice Choir has been singing for 40 years at venues in and around Croydon, raising money for a range of charities. It was founded as the David Neal Gentleman Singers, had around 15 members and rehearsed at the Croydon Co-op. It has since expanded to its present size, with some 65 members, a diverse repertoire and a reputation as one of the most dynamic choirs in southern England.

Tickets 01959 561811

or online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Our panto *Once Upon a Time* gave great pleasure to its audiences throughout its run. Carly Thompson had chosen an excellent script and skilfully directed her talented cast. There was lively choreography by Kerry Brackpool, excellent music provided by Jamie Cordell and his band and colourful costumes by Elizabeth Callow. Although not a well known pantomime, there were familiar fairy tale characters including *Cinderella* (Jane Maisey), *Snow White* (Amanda Stronge), *Jack* (Jon Tull) and two *Prince Charmings* (Alex Campbell and Clive MacTavish). Peter Calver returned as *Gertie the Dame* with Laura Brand as Snow White's son *Prince Marvellous* who was due to



marry *Cinderella's* daughter, *Princess Lottie* (Fern Simmons) but the wedding was prevented due to intervention of the baddie *Evelina* (Sophie MacTavish). Steve Bedford and Chris Bassett as *Nick* and *Nack* provided the slapstick moments. As with all panto endings, good triumphs over evil and everyone lived happily ever after.

In addition our charity raffle raised over £500 for Children With Cancer UK.

We have two entries in February's Southern Counties Drama Festival. On Friday 24 February our youth entry is *Bully Dancers* by Frank Gibbons directed by David Rose and assisted by Phil Clarke, with a cast of 13. The town's annual Arts Festival is looming and bitter rivals, The Zodiacs and The Scorpions, are sharing the same rehearsal studio as they prepare for the freestyle dance team competition. Both groups are determined to lift the trophy this year and their mutual disrespect is very much in evidence. While The Scorpions' preparations are going extremely well, The Zodiacs find themselves buckling under a succession of problems, not helped by malicious interference by their rivals.

On Saturday 25 February, our adults perform the gentle comedy, *The Twelve Pound Look*, by J.M. Barrie. Sir Harry is rehearsing for his impending knighthood ceremony, assisted by his present wife. His smugness and complacency that this honour is no more than he justly deserves is challenged by the arrival of a typist who is revealed as his ex-wife and whose visit has unexpected consequences.

Our spring play (17 to 20 May) is *The Foreigner*, by Larry Shue. This is a fast-paced comedy with thought-provoking dark undertones. Set in a fishing lodge owned by widow Betty Meeks, in the deep south of America, in a small rural community. A British sergeant arrives on his annual visit and brings with him an ex-army pal Charlie and they meet with a strange assortment of other guests. Tickets available on 01883 724852 or [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) for online card payments.

## FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



May I wish a belated Happy New Year to all our members. The activities at the theatre in the past three months have meant a busy time for the many volunteers who we rely upon to carry out Front of House activities. It is always very pleasing when visitors comment on how well everything is organised and we couldn't do it without you. At the current time, Karen (Jackson) has taken over from Pippa in persuading people to carry out the many Front of House duties and I am grateful for her efforts. I am happy to say that we have welcomed a number of new FOBs members as well as new FOH volunteers.

It has always been difficult to get volunteers who are prepared to be Front of House Manager but two newly trained members have eased the filling of that role. If you think you would like to become a FOH Manager but are not sure, let Karen know and she will arrange for you to shadow a FOH Manager one evening. If you decide it is the role for you we can then arrange training.

Our end of year AGM will be held on the 13th March at 7.30pm in the theatre and even if you are not a member of FOBs you are welcome to attend the meeting and find out more about the functions of the theatre and perhaps be persuaded to take part in the supporting roles. I look forward to seeing you, Alan Jackson, Chairman



## Strictly Music Hall Saturday 4th March at 7.30pm

Wickham's Wandering Oldtime Stagers will be returning to one of their favourite haunts, the Barn Theatre Oxted, to present for your Delight And Delectation, **Strictly Music Hall**, Traditional Old Time Music Hall ... at its Very Best! Book now to witness the company presenting their own mix of traditional Music Hall Mayhem at the popular Oxted Hall Of Varieties!

Book Now to avoid missing this treat!! 01959 561811 or for online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Here at the Barn, we are delighted that local primary schools, dance and theatre schools and other talented young people have agreed to stage another special spectacular show, *Summerfest*, on Saturday

10th June as part of our ongoing fundraising programme. Don't miss this very special showcase by talented young performers and do make a note to book early as seats are limited. There will be two performances, 2.30 and 7.30pm and tickets priced at £12.00 each are available from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811 from Tuesday 24th April.

### A PLACE FOR YOUR SPARE CHANGE

I am sure many of you will have noticed that the large whisky bottle at the end of the bar is filling up **very** slowly. Last time it was emptied it contained £141.13 mostly in pennies and two penny pieces. All the money will go towards DRIP, the improvement scheme for backstage which I am sure you are aware is progressing nicely but we now have a real need for more money so it would be great if it could be filled up as quickly as possible. So, if you collect small change and don't know what to do with it please bring it down – we are a charity, or if you are standing by the bar and have change in your pocket or are given it after you have paid for your drinks do please put it in the bottle. Every little helps!



### Chaperone Training Tuesday 14th March

We have negotiated with Surrey County Council to provide a bespoke Chaperone Training course here at the Barn at a reduced cost to what the Council normally charge and only over one evening as opposed to two. Applicants must be resident in Surrey. The cost will be £30 per person as opposed to the usual £40. The timings are 6-10pm. At the time of writing there are only **two** spaces available.

To book please telephone 01959 561811 between 9.30am and 1pm weekdays only. If telephoning during these hours is not possible, please email Angela Muscio at [a.muscio@outlook.com](mailto:a.muscio@outlook.com) stating your interest and she will write back asking for further details and to arrange payment. To those who have already booked, please ensure any outstanding payments are made as have been requested by the Barn team.

For those looking to re-register as chaperones there are unfortunately no further slots available. Those looking to renew their licenses will need to call 01483 517838 or 01483 518464. There may be some slots available on the evening of 7th February in Redhill or alternatively, appointments will need to be made to visit the offices in Woking.

### First Aid

We are providing two evenings of free **Basic First Aid Training** in February. The course on Thursday 2nd February is full but at the time of writing there are **three** spaces on Thursday 9th February 7.00-10.00pm (Course Code C3740729)

Participants need to pre-book by calling 0800 328 1060 or visiting [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or if this is not possible please contact Angie Muscio at [a.muscio@outlook.com](mailto:a.muscio@outlook.com) who will arrange things for you.



**Saturday 11th February at 7.45pm**

A musical celebration of human appetites - for drink, food and even for each other! Four professional opera singers perform favourite cabaret songs, operatic arias, duets, trios and quartets with notes of high passion, jealousy and love, spiced with a dash of Merry Opera's sauciness as well.

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



**Friday March 17th at 7.45pm**  
**Jay Aston in concert with Truth is...**

JAY ASTON first came to note as one quarter of British pop group Bucks Fizz. Fizz went on to win The Eurovision song contest selling twenty million albums and secured a string of hits. Jay left in the mid 80's, after the band had a terrible coach crash, to follow her solo career, releasing two solo albums. Jay's newly released album I-Spy is receiving superb reviews and has been likened to Kate Bush.

In 1995 she met her husband DAVID COLQUHOUN and they have continued to write and produce together. Dave's band, TRUTH IS... is a guitar based band with a unique twist. Dave co-wrote F.E.A.R with Ian Brown from the Stone Roses and regularly plays lead guitar for Rick Wakeman, recently headlining at the O2. Dave won guitarist of the year in his early 20's, toured America with Bow Wow Wow and went on to play with Ozzy Osbourne, K-T Tunstall and Brian May. Dave has toured the world with his distinctive upside down playing style.

Enjoy a collaboration of their music, an evening of unique songs, musicianship, visual production and Jay's eclectic style and love of fashion, as Jay recalls her life in the music business and what inspired her particular style of music.

Tickets £17 & £19, online card bookings [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or by phone 01959 561811. A concert not to be missed.



**Sunday December 10th**

Early notice and certainly not to be missed! The Kast off Kinks are former members of the legendary band 'The Kinks', back together to re-live the good times. This great line-up features Mick Avory, the original drummer on

all the classic hits from 1964-84; John Dalton, bass/vocals, Kinks 60's & 70's; Ian Gibbons, keyboards/vocals, Kinks 80's & 90's and still with Ray Davies; Dave Clarke, guitar/vocals, formerly of the Beach Boys; Noel Redding & Tim Rose.

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

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.  
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Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 21st April