

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 27 Issue 1 February 2022

**We look forward to welcoming you back at the theatre, where our sanitising stations remain available for your use. In view of the continuance of COVID, customers are requested to wear masks as a courtesy to others when not eating or drinking. Masks are freely available at various points around the theatre, please just help yourself to one.**

## BARN100 WORKS START

Tenders for the Barn 100 project were received in May 2021, since when material prices have rocketed increasing the cost of works daily. Fundraising is in its infancy but due to tremendous support from our Barn supporters, Oxted Parish Council and Tandridge District Council, the Barn Trustees took the decision to allocate some cash reserves and to start works on Phase One as soon as possible, to avoid even more soaring costs.

S M Atkins Ltd are the appointed contractor and are now just starting works as we go to print. This company is known to us from the successful DRIP project and we look forward to working with them again.

Please do donate what you can to help this project. It will transform customer comfort front of house and also our street face will be modernised and improved tremendously. See photo on back page of builders on site.

Scan this QR code and donate now



### FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT OF IRISH MUSIC

Multi-Award-Winning Irish Band The Wild Murphys perform songs by The Dubliners, The Fureys, The Pogues, Van Morrison, The Dropkick Murphys, Daniel O'Donnell and many more. The Wild Murphys will set up Murphy's Pub in the Barn, guaranteeing one glorious night of high-energy Irish Music and more than a little bit of Irish Craic. The seven-piece live band is headed by lead singer Middi Murphy armed with blarney, banter and an accordion, alongside Trevor Brewis (Jimmy Nail) on drums, Tony Davis (Prelude) on keys and the BBC award-winning fiddle player Sophy Ball on fiddle. In their own inimitable style, The Wild Murphys celebrate Irish classics with tracks including: Galway Girl, Tell Me Ma, Dirty Old Town, The Irish Rover, Brown Eyed Girl, Seven Drunken Nights, Sally MacLennane, When You Were Sweet Sixteen, Whiskey in the Jar, Wild Rover and Molly Malone, to name just a few.

Tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



Having lost three weeks of rehearsal during December to Covid and not moving properly into the theatre until 2<sup>nd</sup> January, there was a time when it felt like panto was slipping through our fingers. However, after a frankly Herculean effort from all involved, we got the show ready and managed to

complete the full run without further disruption! Huge thanks to everyone involved onstage, backstage and front of house...it was a true company effort and we are so grateful to each and every one of you. It was amazing to be back with a full scale panto and the run was thoroughly enjoyed by cast, crew and audience alike.

Moving forward, it is the turn of our young players to take centre stage with The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Adapted from the book by C.S. Lewis; Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy embark on a magical mystery tour to the Land of Narnia through the wardrobe. There they encounter the wicked White Witch, representing the forces of evil, and the King of the Beasts, Aslan the lion, representing all that is good and right.

This is a hugely talented cast under the guidance and the watchful eye of Director Fern Simmons, and we can't wait to see this magical play being brought to life on stage.

- Peter Pevensie - *Tom Prebble*
- Susan Pevensie - *Niamh Davis*
- Edmund Pevensie - *Adam Alladina*
- Lucy Pevensie - *Emily Cook*
- The Professor/Father Christmas/Ensemble - *Samuel Gower*
- Mrs Macready/Ensemble - *Bea Deacon*
- Tumnus - *Kate Oxlade*
- White Witch - *Louisa Francis*
- Maugrim - *Isla McTavish*
- Dwarf - *Ben Evans*
- Mr Beaver - *Jacob Gower*
- Mrs Beaver - *Jess Bartholomew*
- Aslan - *Darragh O'Brien*



- Leopard 1/Ensemble - *Serena Bartholomew*
  - Leopard 2/Ensemble - *Ben Starr*
  - Voice of Giant Rumblebuffin/Ensemble - *Emmy Vince*
  - Ensemble - *Alex Cundhill, Elfin Edwards, Rose Edwards, Aoife Witham, Isabella Cambell, Amelie Eltringham, Sophia Kozminski, Scarlett Walsh, Ridley Walsh, Alex Kozminski, Sarai Patel, Livvee-Rae Turner.*
- Performances are Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are £13 and available at [www.oxteedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxteedplayers.co.uk) or alternatively you can email [tickets@oxteedplayers.co.uk](mailto:tickets@oxteedplayers.co.uk).

## GHOST HUNTERS COME TO THE BARN FOR FIRST INVESTIGATION 22<sup>nd</sup> April, late until early

Kent based ghost hunting company Ghost Hunter Tours are making their first visit and paranormal investigation at the Barn this April. Ghost Hunter Tours take guests to the UK's most haunted locations for them to investigate the locations. Theatres of course are no strangers to having ghosts, with many stories existing about the ghosts and hauntings across most of the theatres in the land. Even payday for actors is kindly referred to as 'the ghost walking' and with so many superstitions backstage it comes as no surprise paranormal investigators just love to investigate theatres. We believe this to be the first time the location has been investigated by a team of investigators. Andrew Ayres said "our team cannot wait to get to the Barn in April to investigate the very interesting and charming theatre", any first visit is very exciting as it is a totally unknown venue for this kind of night.

The investigation is due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April with more information and tickets available via [www.ghosthunterstours.co.uk](http://www.ghosthunterstours.co.uk).

## Choice GRENFELL

Join us to celebrate the genteel, generous, ground-breaking genius of the incomparable...

*Joyce Grenfell*



Starring SUZANNA WALTERS & ANDREW D. BREWIS



Directed by SIMON DOWNING



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.45pm

Choice Grenfell is a wonderful tribute featuring some of the best of Joyce's hilarious songs and monologues from *Stately as a Galleon* and *School Nativity Play* to *A Terrible Worrier* and *First Flight*. Joyce is our guide for a delightful delve into some of her most endearing characters, ably accompanied by her trusted pianist William Blezard.

We are delighted that the family of William Blezard have allowed us access to previously unpublished rehearsal recordings and personal letters from Joyce allowing a unique insight into the queen of comediennes.

*Tremendously funny and totally on the ball*

- THE TELEGRAPH

*Andrew Brewis' practical musical prowess, as William Blezard, sitting at the keyboard is masterly. Suzanna Walters gives us the perfect Joyce, of fondest memory, with uncannily accurate facial expressions, movement and posture*

- OPENING NIGHT REVIEW

As Joyce would have said:

*"We request the pleasure of your company".*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.45pm

*Experience the two greatest decades, an era of big riffs, timeless tracks and unforgettable anthems by artists including T Rex, David Bowie, Led Zeppelin, Cream, Jeff Beck, The Kinks, Jimi Hendrix and more. Get down to the true spirit of the 60's and 70's, when the world was changing... and the earth moved for everyone!*

Tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the Oxted Musical Theatre Company have had to postpone their production of Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame* until 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Therefore, their next production at the Barn will be *Magic of the Musicals – an evening of musical theatre showstoppers*. Experience the magic of Broadway and the West End as you are taken on a journey through musical theatre's greatest showstoppers from across the years. Performances run from 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.45pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm and tickets are on sale now for only £15. The show caters for all musical theatre fans, both young and

The relaunch of Aquarian Opera after an eleven year hiatus as The New Aquarian Opera Company finally happened in November with the English premiere of Susan Ellerby's Gilbert & Sullivan's Improbable New Musical - *Less Miserable!* with a first half concert of opera favourites. We thank the audience for coming to support our production during these trying times.

We originally planned a fully staged production of Lehár's *The Merry Widow* in October 2020, but Covid intervened, post lock down casting and rehearsals challenged the show we could present. In the end, the audience were delighted with no small amount of thanks to the cast, crew, production team and all at the Barn Theatre for their encouragement and continual support.

We now look forward to an upcoming series of concerts in the Spring and Summer, before we finally perform a new English translation of *The Merry Widow* at the Barn Theatre in October this year. The New Aquarian Opera Company has professional singers working alongside talented amateurs in the lead roles, with amateur performers in the chorus and supporting roles.

If you would like to perform with us, auditions for *The Merry Widow* will be announced soon. We are particularly keen to hear from singers who would like to join our chorus. You don't need to be able to read music, you just need to be enthusiastic and to be able to sing in tune.

We are also looking for dancers, so please do drop us an email to [melanie@aquarianopera.com](mailto:melanie@aquarianopera.com). We are launching our new website in the next few weeks which should better inform performers, friends and our audience of our concerts, productions and events. We hope to see you soon. Melanie Vinall



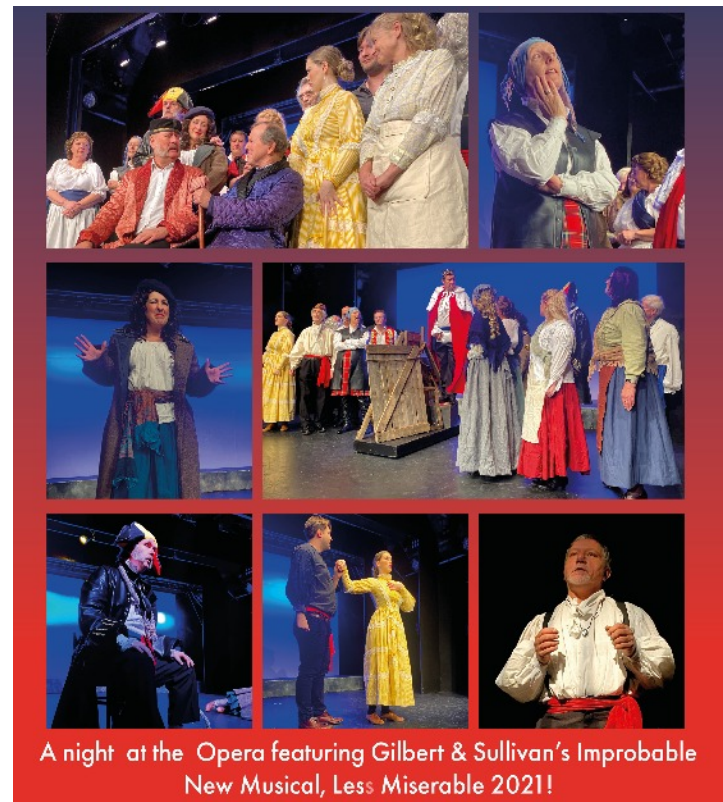
**BARN THEATRE**  
 CHARITY NO: 1093447  
 ★ THE MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS! ★  
 23 - 26 MARCH 2022  
 EVENINGS: 7:45PM  
 SAT MATINEE: 2:30PM  
 BOOK TICKETS AT: [BARNTHEATREOXTED.CO.UK](http://BARNTHEATREOXTED.CO.UK) OR CALL: 07859 499667

old. It will be directed by professional Director and Chair of OMTC David Phipps-Davis, with musical direction from Philippa Lucas, and choreography from Wendy Sheader. OMTC is very much interested in recruiting new members for its forthcoming production of Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. If you are interested in auditioning, please contact [membership@oxtedmtc.co.uk](mailto:membership@oxtedmtc.co.uk) to join their mailing list and for further information.



**SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL**  
 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February  
 Evening performances begin at 7pm and matinee on 26<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm  
**Festival Adjudicator**  
**Louise Manders G.o.D.A**  
 The Southern Counties Drama Festival is a first round of the All-England Theatre Festival  
**VERLINGUE** SCDF sponsor

SCDF is recognised as the premier drama festival in the South East of England and after a break due to Covid in 2021 is delighted to be back this year with 15 entries over 6 sessions including a matinee. We welcome Louise Manders a GoDA adjudicator on her first visit to the Barn and look forward to a great week of drama. All evening sessions commence at 7pm and late comers are not permitted to enter the auditorium once a performance has commenced. Performances are from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> February tickets [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



# LUKE HAINES *(The Auteurs)*

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Barn Theatre, Oxted  
Doors 7pm. Support - Wyatt Riot

Full band w/ Scott McCaughey & Linda Pitmon *(Filthy Friends)* & Album *'Beat Poetry for Survivalists'* Out Now

Tickets £22.50  
from [barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

THE OXTED  
SESSIONS

# PETER BUCK *(REM)*

In May 2019, Oxted's Barn Theatre was the site of something fairly extraordinary. Peter Buck – formerly the guitarist of American rock giants REM – was taking the stage, for one of only six European dates with his new band, Filthy Friends. Buck, an inductee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, had headlined Glastonbury (twice!) with REM, but was now ready to appear in front of just 250 people at a sold out Barn Theatre. In his own words, 'I just love playing music for a crowd', and he clearly thought Oxted were a great crowd as, three years on, Buck is returning to the Barn.

This time, he is touring in support of a new musical project with British indie rock icon Luke Haines, formerly of influential 90s art rockers The Auteurs. Their collaboration has already produced an album, 'Beat Poetry for Survivalists' (receiving 4 star reviews from likes of Mojo & Q), with a second album in the works.

Haines & Buck visit Oxted ahead of two sold-out shows at London's legendary 100 Club, and will be joined by Buck's Filthy Friends bandmates Scott McCaughey (bass) and Linda Pitmon (drums).

Filthy Friends at the Barn Theatre in May 2019 was an unforgettable night: this show promises to be similarly special. After all, how often does a rock music legend come to Oxted?

Luke Haines & Peter Buck, the Barn Theatre, Oxted. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 7.45pm. Tickets £22.50 from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)



**Orpheus**  
**BEAST & BEAUTY**

Standard Ticket £12.00  
8 February ▶ 7:30pm  
9 February ▶ 2:30pm, 7:30pm

**BARNTHEATREOXTED.CO.UK**

Registered Charity No: 1105213

Trevor Shrimp lost everything when the stock market crashed. A storm descends, as he tries to claw his way home. He finds himself tired and lost but Trevor is saved by lights in the distance, food and a warm bed. The next morning, as he takes a single rose - a beautiful flower for his beautiful daughter, the silence behind him is broken by a long, low growl.....

Set in 1990s Manchesterford, *Beast & Beauty* tells the story of a man outcast by society and asks us to consider, truly, what is beauty?

This show is aimed at audiences of all ages, so join us at the Barn Theatre for another fantastic Orpheus original production!

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 22<sup>nd</sup> April



Back in November, over 100 members joined us at a special Sunday Club to help celebrate FOBs 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In his speech, Chairman of the Barn Theatre, Bruce Reed paid tribute to the countless volunteers who, over the past four decades, have given so much of their time in helping to improve the facilities at the theatre, either by fundraising or by simply putting themselves forward as a front of house volunteer. In recognition of everything that FOBs has contributed to the continued success of the Barn, I was delighted to accept on behalf of all members, past and present, a Barn Lifetime Award from Bruce and the Trustees, to mark FOBs' 40 years of invaluable service to the theatre.

Joining me on stage for the presentation were three previous Chairs of the committee, Alan Jackson, Sheila Bennett and Heather Lloyd. Bruce was asked to cut the anniversary cake which was then distributed to guests, along with a glass of bubbly. Thank you to everyone who came and for helping to make it such a memorable occasion.



November and December proved to be a busy end to the year for us, and in January we successfully filled the 120 front of house duties that were required for the ten-performance run of *Beauty and the Beast*. Thank you to everyone who contributed and also to those who have

already committed to helping with the large number of performances coming up in the coming months.

With the agreement of the Trustees, we took the step at the beginning of January of asking customers to make payments to the box office and bar by card only. This was done partly to improve the speed of service, but also to help us reduce the amount of cash handled at each performance. Foyer purchases for sweets, programmes and ice creams may still be made either by card or by cash.

The date of this year's Annual General Meeting has been set for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, and will be held in the theatre at 8.00pm. Official notification will shortly be sent to all members along with nomination forms for the Committee posts. Membership fees (which were waived last year due to the pandemic) became due on 1 January, and it is a requirement these must be renewed prior to the AGM, or membership will be deemed to have lapsed. The £10 fee may be paid by cheque, standing order, bank transfer or by card when you are next at the theatre. If you wish to renew your membership on the evening of the AGM prior to the start of the meeting, you are welcome to do so, but please arrive in plenty of time.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre again soon.

Paul Robinson – Chairman



First day on site for Barn 100 building team  
Matt, Steve Atkins and Ed.