

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



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Southern Counties
Drama Festival



Glow Theatre Group Triumph Again at the Southern Counties Drama Festival



The young members of Glow Theatre Group were rightful winners of the festival again this year, with their play "Everyman" adapted by Carol Ann Duffy. Taking home not only the ICB Festival Winners Award, they were also awarded the Best Youth Production Award, the Stage Presentation Award and the Adjudicators Award. Matthew Falconer was declared Best Young Actor and director Jackie Driscoll was awarded the Martin Patrick Award for the Best Director. Tom Gardner and Edward Cowland from this same production were also nominated for the Best Young Actor and Charlotte Bridson for Best Young Actress.

Woldingham Player's were winners of the award for the Best Adult Production and Rick Morris won Best Actor award for this group.

Glow now go onto the AETF Eastern Area Final being held this year here at the Barn on Saturday 27th May and the winner from that Final goes forward to the English Final on Saturday 3rd June at the McMillan Theatre in Bridgwater, Devon.

Tickets for the Eastern Area Final can be obtained by telephoning 01959 561811 or for online card bookings from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk and we do hope that you will come and support the Glow team on the day, whilst enjoying entertainment by some very competent contenders for the winning award.

Glow Theatre Group - "Everyman" adapted by Carol Ann Duffy An extract from the review by Tricia Whyte

This modern adaptation by Carol Ann Duffy of a medieval morality play was a brave choice for Glow Theatre Group. The talented and experienced production team put together a compact and highly visible show which kept the audience enthralled throughout. This was a very tight and disciplined production involving both ensemble work and individual vignettes. It attained a very high standard of performance. Simple black cube boxes were moved about the stage to create the different locations. The plastic city and tsunami scenes were cleverly devised. They were imaginative and very effective. The acting was controlled and very powerful. The blend of chorus and actors worked well and the whole company were focused. They all maintained concentration, even when they were not participating in the action. It was a true team effort. Young Edward Cowland as Everyman gave continuity throughout and is to be congratulated on his very long and arduous role. Tom Gardner as Death provided a sinister element and was a menacing presence even when he was not speaking.



SCDF Welcome New Sponsor to the Annual Drama Festival



Peter Calver, Chairman of the Southern Counties Drama Festival was delighted to introduce the audience to the new face of the SCDF sponsor, Maia Olesen, of ICB Group, who helped distribute prizes on the final night of the festival in February. ICB have enjoyed a long association with the Barn Theatre and

are delighted to be involved with the festival where their sponsorship aids winning groups in managing the costs of travelling to other rounds of the nationwide competition. The photo shows Peter with Maia and Adjudicator, Mike Tilbury standing, with Vice Patron Jill Perry, seated.

FOBs Donate £8,500.00 to DRIP Phase 3

At their AGM in March, the FOBs kindly presented the Barn with a cheque for £8,500.00 as a contribution towards the works of Phase 3 of DRIP. This annual donation from the FOBs makes all the difference to the fund-raising each year and is warmly welcomed and very much appreciated.

Thank you to all you FOBs who work tirelessly front of house to ensure our guests are comfortable in our lovely theatre and support us in our pursuit of the ongoing improvements to the theatre that make such a difference to all and which are widely admired by visitors from far and wide.



Invitation to All from Oxted Operatic!

As Spring is finally springing, the weather warmer and gardens begin to blossom, so your new Committee is settling in. We have a four-show year which is a huge commitment for the society and the Committee just can't do it without the help and support of our members and the wider Barn community. In addition, we are determined to make Oxted Operatic the society you want to be part of. Our membership has been dwindling for some time, so we are asking the question and reaching out to members, supporters, friends and would-be members in and around the Barn to hear your ideas, your feedback and your comments about what may help to bring us back to being the thriving organisation we all want. Your views are critical in the society's development so do let us have them on email, by letter or by approaching anyone on the Committee.

JOIN US FOR DRINKS, NIBBLES & CHAT

ALL WELCOME!

Tues 16th May, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

at St Peter's Hall Limpsfield

as we say 'Goodbye' *Fiddler on the Roof* and 'Hello' to our next two shows, *Old Time Music Hall* & *Our House*

More details from secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk

View From the Operatic Chair

It was a delight to see so many of you at our AGM and joining us for a drink and buffet afterwards. Catherine Wyncoll (Secretary), Richard Seagroatt (Treasurer) and Nicki Lewis (Committee Member) were elected onto the Committee. I wish them well in their new roles. Thanks go to our three retirees whose great efforts for the Committee cannot be dismissed lightly, in particular, Teresa Reed and Janette White, who were both awarded Life Membership.

This year is our 70th Anniversary year in which we have a full programme of 4 productions which began with *Fiddler on the Roof* last month which proved to be a very popular show with audience, cast and crew alike. The summer brings our OJOS presentation of *West Side Story* (19 – 22 July), a re-telling of the Shakespearian tragedy, *Romeo & Juliet* in 1960's New York. Our talented junior members are already busy getting to grips with some very complicated dance numbers and would be only too appreciative of your support.

Late summer we intend to entertain you all with an *Old Time Music Hall* (1-2 September). This show offers the audience the opportunity to join in the fun as we replace the front rows of the theatre seating with four round tables seating parties of ten, encourage them to don Victorian dress, and sing along. Auditions for cast will be in June.

We then finish our year with a death defying leap into the world of 'Madness' with *Our House* (22 – 25 November). Put on your Baggy Trousers and join us in a musical full of fun and 80's music. Auditions will be in mid-July.

This will be a hugely busy year for us and our hope is that there will be something for everyone to participate in and enjoy.

David Morgan - Chairman

Carnival Time Comes Round Again

Saturday 1st July is the annual Oxted Carnival and as usual the Barn stalwarts will be out on the field early, erecting the tea tents ready for the afternoon crush of visitors. Always a fun day, getting some fresh air and working in daylight rather than a dark theatre. It is the opportunity for the theatre to support the community as we hope they will support us. Many of you will receive the annual phone call from Caro in the weeks before – please do your best to supply the stall with your usual delicious home-made cakes and visit us during the afternoon to partake of our wares.

Barn AGM Wednesday 7th June at 8pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Oxted and Limpsfield Barn Theatre Company Ltd and charity will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 8pm in the Barn and all are welcome to join us for a review of the year and hear our plans for the immediate future.

The New Foxtrot Serenaders,

"the hottest little big band in the South East"



We went recently to the Barn theatre and enjoyed a super evening of "Swing Swing Swing" from a great set of musicians. As a Press Reporter I wrote a piece for the Surrey Mirror newspaper along

with a picture I took there that evening, all of which was published.

The whole thing was great and I was sorry that I hadn't been there for over 25 years. The positive changes are great, the warm welcome and smart turnout of the "volunteers?" was really nice.

That stage lighting was just super so well done everybody, All the best,

Dave Bishop from Tatsfield - Press Card Holder.

CROYDON MALE VOICE CHOIR RETURN AFTER A SEVEN YEAR BREAK SATURDAY 28TH 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 £10 from 01959 561811 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



The month of February saw many of our Young Players taking part in David Rowan's very popular Half Term Workshop in the theatre. The younger ones performed "The Golden Age of Radio" and the older ones "Inspector Wicket and the Disco Dance of Death".

Also, 13 of our youngsters were hard at work rehearsing their Southern Counties Drama Festival entry "Bully Dancers" under the direction of David Rose assisted by Phil Clarke. They all gave very creditable and entertaining performances on the night, earning praise from the Adjudicator and from their audience. Our adult entry "The Twelve Pound Look" written by J.M. Barrie and directed by Peter Shore was also well received.

From 17 to 20 May at 7.45 pm we present "The Foreigner" written by a relatively unknown playwright, Larry Shue. The action is set in a small rural community in America's deep south. Widow Betty Meeks owns a fishing lodge but she is struggling to maintain her home, so takes in paying guests. A British Sergeant arrives on his annual visit and brings with him an ex-army pal. Also staying there are an ex-debutante, her 'simple' brother and her fiancé. Add to the mix a bumptious civil servant and you have the makings of a hilarious plot.



Our very talented cast of Chris Bassett, Steve Bedford, Laura Brand, Peter Calver, Phil Fry, Wendy O'Mahony and Teddy Stevenson are directed by Tricia Whyte who skilfully directed "Boeing Boeing" for us in 2015. For ticket enquiries and cheque payments please contact our Ticket Secretary on 01883 724852 or buy on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for all card payments.

Following on from the successful 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance last September, we are welcoming the summer with a *Midsummer Night's Dream of a Social* for our members and friends at the Royal British Legion, Limpsfield, on Saturday 24 June from 7.30 to 11.30 pm. There will be live music taking us back to the 60s and 70s and a tasty supper, all for the price of £10. Tickets now available from secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or 07768525778.

Moving on to our October production, David Morgan will be directing "The Ghost Train", a classic suspense thriller by Arnold Ridley. Set in the 1920s, a group of mismatched travellers are stranded overnight in a haunted rural railway station. There is a read through in the theatre on Sunday 7th May at 5.30 pm at which non-members are welcome. Auditions follow on 10th and 16th May at 7.30 pm but you will then need to be a member. A cast of 4 women and 8 men is required. For further information please contact us on secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk.
THE OXTED PLAYERS



June Brown Retires as a Barn Trustee and Director After 32 Years Service to the Theatre.

June was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Oxted and Limpsfield Barn Theatre Company Ltd in May 1985 and has hardly missed a Board Meeting since that time. Recently however, June has been very poorly and has decided to step down from her role of working with the the other board

members to ensure her beloved theatre continues to improve facilities for all whom visit in any capacity, be they audience, performer or technician. Always hands on and at the forefront of regular working parties that kept the place clean and inviting, June will be sorely missed as a very important member of the team. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



New Appointment of Paul Robinson as a Trustee and Director of the Barn Welcomed

Paul's 35-year association with amateur theatre began whilst still at school when he regularly performed in G&S operas, plays and concerts. Since then he has been involved in over 90 productions with companies including Croydon Stagers, Leatherhead Operatic and Epsom Players.

His first Barn appearance was with Oxted Operatic in 1996, since when he taken part in nine of the Society's productions. As well as performing, Paul has also spent time on the technical side, either as Deputy Stage Manager for several companies or directing shows such as *Guys and Dolls*, *The King & I* and *42nd Street*. As a member of FOBs Paul can often be found serving behind the bar at the theatre or performing duties as one of the Barn's Front of House Managers.

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



Those of you who were present at the FOBs AGM in March will already know that we were able to present Bruce with a cheque for the amazing sum of £8500 that will go towards Phase Three of DRIP. Isn't that a great

achievement? I wish to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make this possible. At the end of the day this is what FOBs is about - supporting our wonderful theatre, which I regard as being Oxted's 'Jewel'.

While the theatre could not function without the support of FOBs, in turn FOBs could not and would not exist without our members and volunteers for various Front of House (FOH) duties. To date, we have 272 members. So, if you are reading this and have not joined FOBs then why not do so? The cost is £5 per year or £12 for 3 years and if you attend the AGM then a free drink is included! We need 15 persons to carry out the various duties at each performance so if you are able to volunteer this would not only support the Barn but could be a fun and sociable evening.

If you would like to know more about the Barn and FOH duties, then either come to 'Sunday Club' which occurs on the first Sunday of every month or contact Karen Jackson on 01342894669 or email Karen.jackson1958@btinternet.com.

On June 4th, Dave Nichols, our box office guru, is holding a Box Office Training Session. If you wish to come to this then please contact Dave on 01883722716 or 07774243666 or email thenicholsfamily@btinternet.com so that he can have an idea of the numbers and give details of times etc.

FOBs are currently seeking a person to join the committee as secretary, with responsibility primarily for taking of meeting minutes. There are usually 5 meetings and the AGM through the year so if you are interested please contact Karen Jackson as above.



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 and spectacular showcase, *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 01959 561811 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Kenley Holiday Workshop Present Two Show Season at the Barn

Singin' in the Rain, the "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time" will be brought to the Barn stage this summer by the 52 strong company of Kenley Holiday Workshop. Each unforgettable scene, song and dance is accounted for, including the show-stopping title number, complete with an onstage rainstorm! You are advised to book early as this is bound to be a hot ticket following 2016's critically acclaimed *Anything Goes*.

The company last presented a two show season in 2009, when Martin Patrick directed both *42nd Street* and *The History Boys*. This year, Sarah Morrison who was mentored by Martin during her time as both actor and Stage Manager with KHW, will direct both *Singin' in the Rain* and *John and Jen*.

Over the years, many members of the Kenley Holiday Workshop youth company have taken up careers in the performing arts, both on and off stage. The alumni include actors, musicians, opera singers, dancers, lighting and sound technicians, stage managers and directors.

For *John and Jen*, some of these talented professionals have come together to present this wonderful, truly original musical, and provide an opportunity for Barn Theatre audiences to see this gem produced to professional standards as part of a KHW season.

This is the story of Jen and her relationships with the two Johns of her life: her younger brother, who is killed in Vietnam and his namesake, the son who is trying to find his way in a confusing world. Jen and her younger brother, John, are growing up in the ever-changing world of mid-century America. As the country becomes divided over the war in Vietnam, so does the family, and battle lines are drawn between the once-close siblings.

Brimming with intelligence, wit and beautiful melodies and with a cast of only two people, *John & Jen* is a tour-de-force for two actors, taking them from childhood, through adolescence, and beyond. A chamber musical, beautifully scored for piano, cello and percussion, *John & Jen* is a musical about connections, commitments and the healing of the human heart.

John and Jen 27 – 29 July at 7.30 Tickets £15

Singin' in the Rain 9 – 12 August at 7.30 Saturday matinee 2.30 Tickets £15 and £12

Box Office 01 883 331 400 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Safer Communities - Tuesday 23rd May at 7pm - 9.30pm

Safeguarding is the responsibility of whole communities and depends on the everyday vigilance of everyone who plays a part in the lives of children and/or vulnerable adults. Tandridge Voluntary Services Council and the Barn Theatre have joined forces to bring you a Safeguarding awareness event. Does your work as a volunteer bring you into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults? If so, then join us for the evening to gain knowledge and awareness of safeguarding, including practical ideas for good safeguarding practices. This will be an interactive session with an opportunity for plenty of question and answer time. Free of charge, book online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or telephone 01959 561811 during hours of 9.30am to 12.30 am weekdays only. On the evening coffee will be available from 6.30pm.

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.



Together, they bring their years of experience, entertaining (amongst others) HRH The Queen and Prince Phillip. This promises to be a show you'll never forget! The duo are responsible for creating nationally award winning magic and Pip is not only the Kidology UK Children's Entertainer of the Year for two years running now, but also the overall UK Children's Entertainer of the Year 2016/2017 (which is much better) with

the act they both created together.

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

"Whatever you do, you got to see these guys - AMAZING!" (Paul's Dad), "Who?" (Steven Hawking), "Get out of my garden" (Dame Judy Dench)

Tickets £15 each 01959561811 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Editors note:- Paul of Pip and Paul is known to Barn audiences as Paul Longhurst, a well known actor, Director and jolly fine chap too. This is an evening not to be missed by anyone.

'Sweeney Todd' at the Minack 2018

Dates for your Diary

As announced in our previous issue, The Barnstormers will be making a welcome return to the Minack Theatre next year with Sondheim's thrilling musical masterpiece 'Sweeney Todd'. This gripping and dramatic musical will be staged at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall from Monday 6th to Friday 10th August 2018 and Richard Allen and his team are looking to assemble a sizeable cast for this production, including nine principal roles and a large chorus/ensemble.

The official 'Launch Night' will be held at the Barn on Saturday 30th September from 7.30pm and Principal Auditions will take place in the Little Barn on Sunday 15th October (all day). Chorus/Ensemble auditions will follow on a separate date to be confirmed shortly. For more information, please contact Richard Allen on richard@thebarnstormers.co.uk or by telephone 07979 650901.

**The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received. barntheatre@btinternet.com
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 21st July**