

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 22 Issue 2 May 2018

NODA AWARDS FOR BARN GROUPS

The NODA South East Region awards for 2017 were announced at a celebration in Whitstable in March and Kenley Holiday Workshop were delighted to find they had won the coveted Youth Award for their production of *Singin' in the Rain*.

Jon Fox, the area representative is pictured presenting the certificate to William Huke who played Don Lockwood. In his review of the show,



Jon said "In summary then, a superb show with pace, good diction, believable American accents, great dance and tap routines, tuneful music allied to some top quality singing, costumes to die for and a vibrancy which elevated what is by itself already a wonderful story, into an evening that will long live in the memory."

KHW is immensely proud of this achievement – each year they produce a full book musical to this very high standard with only 10 days of rehearsal. The sets are designed and built in house in the first week and an army of volunteers

comes together to achieve everything else needed to present a show with a large cast of 9-18 year olds.



This year, KHW will present *Guys and Dolls* from 15th -18th August.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR AREA NODA REP, JON FOX

After completing five years as the NODA rep for various companies using the wonderful Barn Theatre, I have become accustomed to consistently good productions from the three companies I review, namely The Oxted Players, Oxted Operatic Society and Kenley Holiday Workshop. Prior to becoming the NODA rep I regularly attended many of the productions by various groups using this lovely and unique theatre. Ninety five years since its inception it continues to thrive with a talented and motivated team of volunteers under the inspirational and visionary leadership of Barn Chairman, Bruce Reed.

The Oxted Players (TOPS) have established their reputation for innovative productions with painstakingly constructed and well decorated stage sets. Indeed, the 2017 production of "The Ghost Train" had a magnificently realistic set of a Cornish Railway Waiting Room, complete with GWR on the windows and even a fire for the freezing passengers. The NODA award winning "The Foreigner" was also complete with a highly realistic wood cabin and was in every respect a professional standard show. I have never enjoyed any NODA show as much as this one!

Oxted Operatic Society also produce consistently high-class productions complete with fine musicians, performers and also excellent sets.

Finally, the young enthusiasts who make up Kenley Holiday Workshop (KHW) under the stewardship of the indefatigable Sally Dalosso are certainly the best run, most organised and talented youth group I have ever seen. Their magnificent "Singin' in the Rain", which currently holds another NODA Award of Excellence had to be seen to be believed.

This sparkling jewel of the Barn Theatre, in our region, continues to excite and enthral. It has achieved a status quite unrivalled in Surrey and countless keen theatregoers have been entertained royally by the many talented performers and by those wonderful, dedicated people who so willingly and unassumingly offer their time and talents on behalf of us all. I salute you all!

Jon Fox

NODA Area 19

At the same ceremony, a NODA Accolade of Excellence for Drama was awarded to The Oxted Players for their 2017 production "The Foreigner" and was presented to the director, Tricia Whyte.

In addition, two awards for TOPs 2017 pantomime "Once Upon a Time" were presented to the director, Carly Thompson, one being the Best Panto Award for Area 19 and the other being the Pantomime Runner Up Award for the whole of the South East Region.





Following on from panto, our very popular Young Players Workshop run by David Rowan saw our youngsters performing *If I Were A Monster* and *The Peapod Players Present Moby Dick*, to the delight of parents and friends who came along to watch on the last day. It never ceases to amaze how well the children perform with only 2 ½ days of preparation but David's scripts are great fun and he is an excellent director. We are now very much looking forward to our week long August workshop when we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of David working with us.

Our entry for the 2018 Southern Counties Drama Festival was the very moving *Nine* by Jane Shepard directed by Ghislaine Bowden with Croia Reilly and Amy Prosser as two women imprisoned in Syria. The play won Best Adult Play and Festival Winner and now goes through to the Eastern Area Finals in Maidenhead. Ghislaine also won Best Director and Amy won Best Actress with Croia also nominated for that award. The team worked so very hard and we wish them every success in the Area Final at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts on 13 May in Maidenhead when they perform in the afternoon. Please go and support them if you can.

Our Young Players were in action again in March with *Dracula – The Final Countdown?*, a hilarious spoof by Geoff Bamber directed by Chris Bassett assisted by Sophie Mactavish. In his review, Jon Fox of NODA began "I have not been privileged to have seen this put on elsewhere, which made this immensely funny evening all the more enjoyable. I applaud the choice of this short, but stimulating show for your richly talented young players. It is very reassuring and satisfying to see so very many really young actors in our area who so love being on stage and who have the dedication to their craft as was so evident tonight." Jon went on to praise every actor individually, the technical and backstage teams and the costuming. His review ended "All in all, this production was another "howling" success for the Young Oxted Players. I would only add that if any



parents of talented and stage struck young people in the area want their child to learn all about performing and to progress quickly, get them to join this wonderful company tout de suite!"

We are all looking forward to our May play *There Goes the Bride* (16 to 19 May). This is the hilarious comedy by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. The cast of Peter Calver, Amy Prosser, Bob Wilson, Dena Watts, Kay Sandford-Beal, Guy Hudson, Becky Wilkes and Phil Fry have been kept in stitches while rehearsing but hope to control themselves for the performances. There is a matinee on the Saturday and tickets are available on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for all card payments or 01883 724852 for cheques or enquiries.

For the Autumn we are presenting the delightful classic comedy *Hobson's Choice* directed by Elizabeth Callow (17 to 20 October) and are currently still looking for some cast members. Further auditions will be held towards the end of May so if you are interested please contact secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or 07768525778 and we can give you more details.

IMPORTANT Please be aware that the next envelope stuffing Sunday is 12th August, the second Sunday in the month as opposed to the first which it is usually. Please put this date in your diaries now. Ed

GIRL IN A BUBBLE



Loss and betrayal have left Lily hiding away from the sparkling world of theatre that she knows so well, but her twin sister, Eva and best friend Danny, have a plan. *Girl in a Bubble* follows Lily's journey, rediscovering her passion for life and finding love along the way.

INTRODUCING GILLY BARNES

Gilly has been writing original music and lyrics for over 30 years and has written emotional ballads, powerful rock songs, quirky indie tracks and beautiful country sounds. In collaboration with her co-writer, Andy Bellinger, they worked on marrying some of those original songs with a humorous, sometimes dramatic, story with a vision to see it performed on stage. You can visit her website to sample the songs used in the show at: www.gillybarnesmusic.com or purchase the CD at the show.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Girl in a Bubble is a new musical experience that has taken over 20 years to put together. 2018 sees the first stage version at the Barn Theatre, Oxted, and like many original musicals we are working out the details and defining the production with a view to the future. Gilly approached Four58 Productions to help breathe life into the work and to hone the script for the stage. The production team, meeting regularly, developed ways to expand the characters and their surroundings, designing and visualising stage sets and developing creative solutions to realise some of the more challenging scenes. Please come along and support this new production, we would love to hear your feedback to help us develop the show further.

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

A cast of 12 people aged from early 20's to late 50's is required.

Music samples at; www.gillybarnesmusic.com

Audition Dates: Tuesday 15th May 2018 6:30 - 10:30pm and
Saturday 19th May 2018 1:30 - 6:30pm
Address: Christ Church Purley, Brighton Road, Purley

Rehearsals start: 5th June 2018.

Production Dates: 19th – 22nd September at the Barn Theatre, Oxted.

For full Audition Pack and more details contact:-
Gilly: gillybarnes@icloud.com or 07846 492405
or Bex on 07958 527847



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theatre**

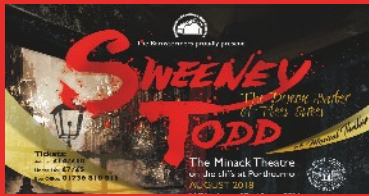


Tandridge Together is a newly-launched weekly online lottery which supports good causes and local charities, such as the Barn, in their fundraising.

Tickets costing £1 are available at www.tandridgelottery.co.uk/support/the-barn-theatre-oxted

Participants have the chance to win a top prize each week of £25,000. 50% of the value of all tickets sold through the Barn's page will go directly to us, with 10p in every pound going into a fund for the Council to distribute in the form of small grants, to a wide range of good cause projects who apply for support in the Tandridge district. The rest of the money goes towards prizes and administration costs.

Weekly draws now take place every Saturday, and the Barn has already had a number of winners! If you would like to support the Barn and in return have the chance of winning a cash prize please consider buying a regular weekly ticket for just £1. Every ticket purchased will help support our much-needed fundraising. Best of luck!



At the time of going to press, the 'Sweeney Todd' production/set design team have just returned from a successful trip to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall to help plan the construction of the ambitious and complex set.



Regular full company rehearsals have started with the highly talented cast of both top amateur and professional performers. The principal cast members include:-

Sweeney Todd: *Stuart Pendred*, **Mrs Lovett:** *Sarah Trotman*, **Anthony Hope:** *William Huke*, **Johanna:** *Rachel Kitchen*, **Judge Turpin:** *Nick Heritage*, **The Beadle:** *Shane Perry*, **Tobias Ragg:** *Kaidyn Hinds*, **Beggar Woman:** *Sophie Grace Griffin*

These principals are underpinned by a first-rate chorus/ensemble, bringing the total cast numbers in the production up to around 50 performers. Sitting alongside this substantial cast is a 20 piece orchestra, and together with the production/technical team, stage crew, set builders, front of house team and general hangers-on, there should be around 120 people heading off on tour to the Minack Theatre in August.

The production is headed up by Richard Allen (Producer & Associate Director) and Paul Robinson (Associate Producer). Paul Longhurst has made a very welcome return as Director, and Steven Geraghty joins The Barnstormers for the first time as Musical Director. Fiona Steel is working closely alongside Paul as Assistant Director. Tara Usher, a protégé of Jill 'Wigs' Wilson, and currently studying at the Wimbledon College of Arts, has created the amazing set design, and of course it goes without saying that The Barnstormers will once again be able to count on the considerable skills and experience of the Barn Theatre's trustees and supporters, headed up by the production's Technical Director, Bruce Reed.

Before the week at the Minack Theatre, there will be three local Previews of 'Sweeney Todd' on Saturday 28th July (3.00pm) and Sunday 29th July (1.30pm & 5.30pm) presented in the open air on the all-weather courts of Oxted School, next door to the Barn. With all proceeds from this production being donated to the Barn, it would be great to see as many Barn friends and supporters at these previews as possible. No seating will be provided on site, and audience members are invited to bring their own deck chairs, rugs, picnics etc. Access to the venue will be via the rear entrance to Oxted School, off Park Road, which in turn is off Bluehouse Lane. Extensive car parking is available on site close to the all-weather courts. Preview tickets costing £10 can be booked via the Barn Theatre website or by calling 01959 561811. Don't miss your chance to see this incredible piece of theatre before it heads off on tour.



Well, Spring certainly arrived during the week of our last production "Made in Dagenham", in fact, so that I can catch the deadline for printing, I am writing this as the show is running.

First night was received very well by the audience. It never ceases to amaze me just how much talent we can call on when attempting a production of this size, the singing, (which is what I joined OOS for), could not have been bettered and the acting ability is something that a society such as ours should be proud of.

Next show – auditions in June/July

We have only one other show planned for this year and that is *The Wizard of Oz*.

This wonderful musical with so many memorable songs was chosen to give our Junior section an opportunity of performing this year with the adults. This being a "Minack year" they would have otherwise missed out.

The show is being directed by Chris Bassett, musically directed by Jamie Cordell, and choreographed by Kerry Brackpool. Auditions will be announced in the near future, and will take place in June/July.

New Costume Store

We have a project that needs your support, yes this is an SOS for help! As many of you may be aware we are moving our costume and props store to a new location in Tatsfield, as the old store was no longer fit for purpose. There is a lot of fitting out to be done over the next few weeks and I would appreciate the help of any skilled labour on a Saturday or Sunday, (but please check with the spouse first!).

We will also need help in moving and sorting the costumes and props from Tandridge to Tatsfield, so if you want to get involved, please ring me (tel: 07952 696755) There is a rumour that Bacon Butties may be supplied!! Also if you have a Left Hand draining sink in your garage we need one!

Secretarial skills

Another request from me is for someone who can spare a few hours each month to take minutes and see that they are distributed would be of extreme value to us. This is a non-decision making role but it would assist us greatly as a committee.

AGM

Although our AGM had to be cancelled because of the "Beast from the East" we managed to go ahead with it some four weeks later. It was a great success with two new members being voted onto the committee, Amanda Robinson and Paul Hyde. Welcome to both of you. We also sadly said good-bye to three stalwarts, Carol Moss, Sean Eldridge and Nicky Lewis. Thank you all for your hard work over the past years.

The OOSCA award was presented to Carly Thompson for everything that she has achieved for the society, the OOPSCA award went to Stephen Fannis for the dirtiest underpants in any production, and the PAFTA went to Paul Robinson for making our president cry twice (in a good way!)

DAVID MORGAN

Chairman

The Metropolitan Police Choir Concert in Aid of The Sandcastle Trust – 31 August 2018

The Metropolitan Police Choir (MPC) have a long and honourable history since its origins back in 1872. Having previously performed as the Metropolitan Police Male Voice Choir, since 2016 The MPC has been a mixed voice choir, made up of serving and retired officers and police staff, which now truly represents the diversity of the Metropolitan Police Service.

The choir will perform a varied repertoire combining the traditional and the new to raise money for The Sandcastle Trust. Sandcastle is a small charity which provides much needed fun and respite to families affected by a rare genetic condition. Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



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, 25th, 26th, and 27th, October, consisting of poetry songs and prose. 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.

If you would like to be part of this event please contact David Morgan at havagavelwilltravel@gmail.com. Auditions will be held at the end of May/beginning of June. There is not a lot to learn as the poetry will be delivered from a lectern, although a thorough understanding of the poem is essential and the songs are so well known that they will not prove too arduous. Rehearsals will be flexible as we can work on individual poems, each performer having only two solo poems each. I do hope that this will interest some of you enough that you will consider this as well as your normal productions. David

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2018

The grey and gloom of February was brightened up as ever by the Southern Counties Drama Festival, and although we were slightly down on entrants this year, the old adage of less quantity, more quality definitely rang true! Overseen by the excellent and very constructive adjudicator Jennifer Scott-Reid, we welcomed one new group from my old stomping ground over in Eltham, The Roan Players, and several returning favourites. The irrepressible Sandra Barfield as usual brought along a veritable feast of drama, and even though having to pull one piece just before the week started due to a cast member having to rush to hospital, she still managed to put on two excellent plays. Merstham entertained us with a very moving story of a couple and their lost son and I believe the young lad involved learnt a valuable lesson about rakes on stages, and footballs.

Then there were the home groups – Glow yet again excelled, entering no less than three plays and, for the first time, one of these was a two hander, Blood on Canvas. I doubt it will be the last as it picked up the Best Youth Production Award with both cast members sharing the Best Youth Actress Award. Glow also presented a very energetic version of the Scottish play and pulling that off in less than 55 minutes with a group of 8 to 12 year olds is no mean feat! Connie McMillan won the Adjudicators Award for her moving and comedic portrayal of Macduff and Zachary Millar as Macbeth was acclaimed the Best Young Actor. Credit to new director Julia Ascott for that. Jackie Driscoll director of the winning youth entry also took away the award for Best Stage Presentation for their last play, 'The Domino Effect'.

For the first time since I've been involved, the overall honours, the ICB Festival Winners Award was taken by The Oxted Players and their production of 'Nine'. Ghislaine Bowden, who won the Martin Patrick Award for Best Director brought a chilling and unfortunately all too real account of two women held in captivity in Syria to life. And as it turned out, death. We wish her and her cast of Croia Reilly and Amy Prosser, who picked up the Best Adult Actress Award, many broken legs for the next round in Maidenhead on 13th May.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

You are being sent this Newsletter because you are a member of a society who performs at the Barn, in which case we have decided you have a genuine and legitimate interest in the theatre, or you have requested to go on the database, either verbally or by purchasing tickets via Ticketsource and ticking the box which allows Ticketsource to share your data with ourselves. If you wish to unsubscribe at any time please e-mail publicity@barntheatreoxted.co.uk

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 27th July 2018

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



The AGM was held on March 12th and the attendance was roughly the same as in previous years. It was good to meet and be able to chat to both old and new members.

The profits from the bar etc. allowed FOBs to contribute £7500 to the Barn. So far, it has been a busy start to the year and it looks as if 2018 may well be the busiest in recent years.

The support of the many volunteers is therefore essential for the success of the theatre and the help of all concerned is greatly appreciated.

Katherine Saunders resigned after several years of service and Helen Clarke and Pip Bryant were elected to the committee.

During the coming months there will be a change at the bar to allow card payments. We are frequently asked if cards can be used and so we are now coming into line with most other businesses.

The bar prices have been the same for the past 4 years and it is with reluctance that the committee has approved an increase in the price of wine to £3.50. However, all other prices remain unchanged.

Under new data protection regulations we have to ensure that the personal information which we hold is properly protected. David Nichols, the membership secretary holds a complete list of FOBs members. Karen Jackson, who is responsible for recruiting FOH volunteers, holds a list of those members of FOBs, OOS and TOPs who are willing to volunteer. Both David and Karen's lists are password protected and not shared outside the Barn. If anybody wishes to withdraw their name from these lists then it is important that you inform David Nichols thenicholsfamily@btinternet.com or Karen Jackson karen.jackson1958@btinternet.com asap.

Alan Jackson, Chairman

TWILIGHT ROBBERY September 13th to 15th

We are absolutely thrilled that *Twilight Robbery* is coming to The Barn this September in an all-singing, all-dancing production and we are very much looking forward to seeing how public audiences react.

This new British musical follows a group of pensioners happily spending their twilight years in a humdrum retirement home in East Grinstead, before the home is sold to property developers and they are forced to leave. Unhappy with their impending eviction, the OAPs hatch a plan to carry out a diamond heist in order to pay off the developers and save their home. It's a story about growing old and everything that comes with that, but it's being told with such a youthful energy. It touches on family relationships, loneliness and mental health, though above all, it's about this daring adventure and not letting age or self-doubt get in the way of achieving incredible feats. With catchy songs, lots of surprises and a hilarious script (if I do say so myself), we are sure that audiences are going to delight at this touching and important story. *Joe McNeice*

Twilight Robbery (book and lyrics by Joseph McNeice and music by Matthew Spalding)

Tickets £15 (£12 for students) at barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 331400.

Tea and Cakes Time Comes Round Again

Saturday 7th 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.