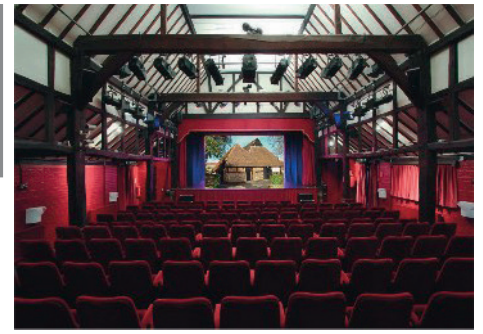


BARN THEATRE

NEWS



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Barn 100

is proceeding apace, with progress on Phase One of the works showing visibly daily. The costs are within budget and the build is on time, all thanks to the clement weather and skills of the builders on site, in planning ahead and sourcing materials early to avoid delays.

Increased costs of building materials are horrendous, increasing daily and our earlier than planned start was to avoid our savings being eroded as much as possible. However the increases continue and we must be vigilant as the works progress, so as not to over stretch ourselves.

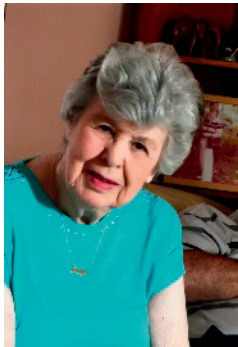
Your financial support is desperately needed please, if we are to be able to continue to the end of the project and be ready for our very special centenary celebrations in 2024. Please scan the QR code here and follow the instructions to make a donation via your card.



Southern Counties Drama Festival winners perform at the Eastern Area Final of the All England Theatre Festival 2022

LCA Stage Academy, winners of the Verlinque Festival Winners Award at SCDF, are preparing to perform their production of Three Kings by Stephen Berrisford at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on Saturday 22nd May. They will be joined by members of Oast Theatre, Tonbridge, who as winners of the Best Adult Production will perform their play, Tone Clusters by Joyce Carol Oates.

Both these productions were highly acclaimed by the SCDF adjudicator, Louise Manders and we wish the teams all the very the best of luck on the 22nd.

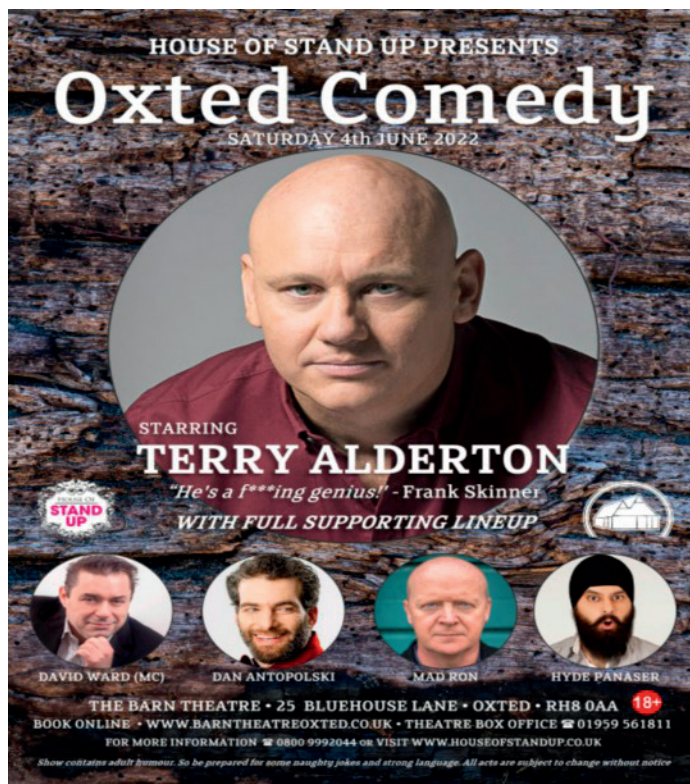


Betty Jeal. A lovely lady taken from us very suddenly.

Very sadly on Thursday 14th April, Betty Jeal passed away aged 90. Betty was a stalwart member of the Barn Theatre for many years. She could be found in many different guises around the theatre, from treading the boards, costumes, front of house and helping out with junior's shows. Over the years she shared the stage with up to three generations of her family, one show with all three at once was a

particular highlight. This year she had managed to see two shows, The Magic of the Musicals the most recent, she much enjoyed.

The Barn was a very prominent part of her life and that of the family. Husband Don was a scenery builder and very active Barn Director giving his time away from the family firm of builders to remodelling and maintaining the Barn. A lasting tribute to Don remains in the form of the sound box, a cosy place seemingly suspended in fresh air in the auditorium. Thank you Betty and Don for your huge contribution to life at the Barn.



The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Barn was held on 1 March and was attended by 35 members.

The following were elected as officers of the committee for the coming year:

- Paul Robinson (Chairman),
- Teresa Chinnock (Secretary),
- Helen Clarke (Treasurer),
- Chris Muscio (Membership Secretary).

Elected as General Committee Members were Nikki Boorman, John Clarke, Angie Muscio, David Sutton and Ellie Wyncoll.

Despite the theatre being open for only the second half of 2021, we were delighted to be able to present to Bruce and the Trustees a cheque for £8,000, which will be put towards the ongoing Barn 100 project.

It has been an extremely busy start to the year for us, and with the relaxation of the COVID restrictions that were in place, we look forward to welcoming back to the theatre more of our volunteers to help share the workload. As always, if you would like to become part of our front of house team (even if only on a very occasional basis) please drop me a line - I would be delighted to hear from you.



Paul (fobs.chairman@barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

A thief walked into a theatre

He stole the spotlight



Photos by Abi Chapman

Following their smash hit production of *The Magic of the Musicals*, **Oxted Musical Theatre Company** are thrilled to announce that their November production will be the murder mystery musical comedy *Curtains*.

From the same writing team as *Chicago* and *Cabaret*, *Curtains* tells the tale of Jessica Cranshaw, a leading lady and a triple threat: she can't sing, dance or remember her lines! To the relief of everyone, she is murdered during her opening night curtain call, leaving the whole cast and crew as suspects. Enter Lt. Frank Cioffi, a police detective and amateur musical performer, to solve the crime, save the show and maybe even get the girl in the process! Packed with glorious tunes and an hilarious script, *Curtains* is a fun-packed journey for both performers and audiences alike.

The show runs from Wednesday 16th – Saturday 19th November 2022 with rehearsals starting in September. Auditions will be in the near future and the company is very interested in welcoming new members to be part of this production. For further details, please email chair@oxtedmtc.co.uk

Two men were talking. Said the first "I went to the theatre last night but had to leave after Act I."

"Why was that?" asked the second. "Well, the program said 'Act II - one year later', and I couldn't wait."



The New Aquarian Opera Company

The Merry Widow 26th - 29th October 2022

Following a hiatus of over a decade, The New Aquarian Opera Company relaunched in November last year, with "A Night at the Opera" and the English premiere of Gilbert and Sullivan's improbable new musical: *Less Miserable!*

We were extremely grateful for the support of our audience in such interesting times.

We are delighted to be returning to the Barn Theatre in October, with Lehár's most popular operetta, *The Merry Widow*, in a new English translation, which Peter Melville has adapted especially for us. One of the most enduringly successful of the great Viennese operettas, *The Merry Widow* is a frothy comedy of love, filled with memorable tunes, elegant settings and realistically drawn, likeable characters. Lehar's beautiful score appeals to lovers of opera and musical theatre.

This will be a fully staged production with our wonderful soloists, chorus and dancers accompanied by a live ensemble.

If you would like to be involved either onstage as a performer (it's not too late to join our chorus!) or behind the scenes, then please contact Melanie@aquarianopera.com

Joyce Newitt, A lady dedicated to the art and passion of theatre at the Barn, has died.

Mum's involvement with the Barn Theatre goes back to the mid 1960's when she played many lead roles in pantomimes, plays and the Betchworth Festival with the then Student Players. Back then, as ever, her whole life revolved around theatre. She attended workshops with notable directors such as Alan Ayckbourn and was over the moon when she found out that she had gained her LAMDA Licentiate (hons).



Joyce was on the committee of the Student Players as well as Membership Secretary of the original Friends of the Barn and later went on to join the Oxted Operatic where the whole family gradually joined her on stage or behind the scenes. We remember the countless hours she would help us put a costume together and instilled in us the importance of the right hairdo and accessory!

Mum was a great one for ad-libbing and I remember her telling us a couple of instances;

She was in a costume drama with a box set and when exiting found that the door was well and truly stuck, instead of looking lost she immediately made a grand exit through the fireplace, and on another occasion she had to shoot someone in a play and as I'm sure has happened to a few of you, the gun didn't go off, so Mum threw the gun at her fellow actor who after much crying, moaning and clutching of his head eventually died!

Mum started her directing debut with a selection of mystery plays for the Oxted Carnival and went on to direct some fabulous plays and musicals. She was an avid Barn supporter and always proud of the work created there, she gave her full commitment to any project she was involved with and expected the same from others. Her sometimes stern demeanor at rehearsals came, not from a place of arrogance, but from total and utter passion.



When ill health came upon her, the hardest part was giving up her involvement in community theatre but she continued to support both myself and Fran in our many theatrical endeavours and even this last Christmas directed, edited, made a mini theatre, made tiny figures for, and forced the family to perform her version of A Midsummer Night's Dream followed by a quiz - (Paul won of course)!

Her most notable shows as a performer and director include Man of La Mancha, Oliver, Stepping Out, Mrs Crummles in Nicholas Nickleby, Mama Morton in Chicago and the title role of Jean Brodie in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, (which can be seen as part of the mural in the bar - of which she was very proud).

Mum's passion, knowledge and experience has shaped our lives for the better and I hope yours a little too.
Cat and Fran

I wrote a script about the dictionary for my local theatre

It's a play on words.

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 22nd July

glow
theatre group

One Step Beyond for Glow

The crazy world of Madness is being brought to life by Glow in their next production. Rehearsals are in full swing for the July

productions and a whole new generation are loving the classic Madness hits in Our House. This is a story that resonates with everyone - have you ever wondered what would have happened if you had followed that path instead of this, taken that job and not this, made that decision instead of this? Meet Londoner Joe Casey - his future, his career and his love life all hinge, unknown to him, on a split second decision he makes aged 16. With the magic of theatre we watch both outcomes in parallel, as we race through 1980s Camden Town in this high energy musical romp filled with fun, romance and humour, while soaking up a collection of Madness hits including Baggy Trousers, Driving In My Car, It Must be Love, Wings of A Dove and of course Our House...in the middle of our street!

Meanwhile Glow's younger actors are celebrating standing out in a crowd with their production of Honk! JR. Who doesn't love it when the Ugly Duckling triumphs!

Glow celebrates individuality, inclusivity and independence, so this is the perfect tale for audiences of all ages to enjoy!

Honk! JR is onstage here from 24th June to 1st July and Our House hits the stage from 7th to 9th

We all need something that will send us out from the theatre humming the tunes and feeling that all is well with the world, so this summer Kenley Holiday Workshop return to the Barn with the upbeat Disney High School Musical.



Filled with songs that combine Disney magic and great dance numbers, High School Musical grapples with the perennial question of whether you should conform, or be yourself and follow your heart - whatever your friends and team mates think. Along the way the staff and pupils of East High discover that everyone has more to them

than meets the eye and everyone is happier when we follow our hearts and share our interests and passions.

So come and meet everyone at East High - the Jocks, Thespians, Brainiacs and Skater Dudes as well as the staff - exasperated basket ball coach and over the top drama teacher! All of them ready to show you that we can "Bop To The Top" if "We're All In This Together".

High School Musical at the Barn Theatre
10-13 August at 7.30pm Tickets £18.

Sunday Clubs

Hopefully most people now get the eNews or notifications of events via our Facebook page but just a reminder for everyone about Sunday Club which is held on the first Sunday of every month. The bar is open from noon - 2.00pm and nibbles are served so if you are new to the theatre, why not come along to find out more about what happens there or if you are an 'old hand', come to meet friends or network. We all work very hard, so this is a chance to relax and enjoy somewhere that means so much to so many. Hope to see you there!