

BARN THEATRE

NEWS



Volume 19 Issue 4 November 2015

STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN, **ANITA HARRIS** JOINS “THE HOTTEST LITTLE BIG BAND IN THE SOUTH EAST” FOR THEIR FEBRUARY CONCERT “THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT”

The New Foxtrot Serenaders, “the hottest little big band in the South East”, return for their annual visit on Friday 12th February at 7.45 pm with “*That’s Entertainment!*” – featuring songs from the golden era of movies, theatre and radio made famous by Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Ella Fitzgerald and other great singers of the time. Special guest vocalist is star of stage and screen, Anita Harris, with a breathtaking career spanning over fifty years. In 1967 Anita starred in two of the best loved ‘Carry On’ films, firstly as ‘Corktip’ in Carry On Follow That Camel and then as ‘Nurse Clark’ in Carry on Doctor, starring alongside such wonderful names as Frankie Howerd, Phil Silvers, Hattie Jacques, Barbara Windsor, Sid James, Jim Dale and Kenneth Williams. Anita has graced the pop charts, starred in Cats in the West End for thirteen years, featured in seven Royal Command performances and has worked alongside legendary names in the world of entertainment such as Harry Secombe, Morecambe and Wise, Tommy Cooper and magician David Nixon to name but a few! She is currently working on two very exciting commissions – Anita Harris’s Great Big Book of Pantomime and her own autobiography. Both are scheduled to be released to coincide with her national tour next year. This will be a fantastic evening and one not to be missed, so hurry and buy your tickets now.

Tickets £16 from the box office 01959 561811 or for online credit and debit card bookings www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Anita with the band at a previous concert at the Plaza Theatre, Romsey



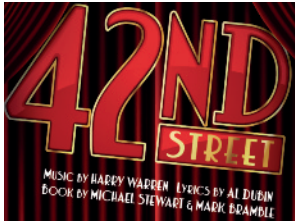
Anita Harris in concert



Grizabella in ‘Cats’



As the year gallops onwards, hot on the heels of our highly successful OJOS production 'Dazzle', preparations for our Autumn production, '42nd Street' are well underway in the good hands of Paul Robinson (Director), Fran Newitt (Choreographer) and Andy Payne (Musical Director). We welcome some new faces to the cast as well as many more familiar ones and it is a particular pleasure to welcome back some members we haven't seen treading the boards for a while. The production features a very talented and experience cast:



- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Bessie Lee | Fiona Steel |
| Maggie Jones | Katy Reid |
| Bert Barry | James Saunders |
| Mac | Richard Seagroatt |
| Phyllis Dale | Louise Wilkinson |
| Lorraine Flemming | Carly Thompson |
| Diane Lorimer | Charlotte Edwards |
| Ann Reilly (Anytime Annie) | Cat Longhurst |
| Ethel | Jenny Roe |
| Gladys | Elke Starr |
| Billy Lawlor | George Cooper |
| Peggy Sawyer | Penny Parker |
| Julian Marsh | Richard Allen |
| Dorothy Brock | Jane Maisey |
| Abner Dillon | Gareth Thomas |
| Pat Denning | Paul Bowles |

Plus an Ensemble of : Stephen Fanis, Claire Sheehy, Melanie Vinall, Debbie Brown, Lauren Kite, Emma Clandon, Tash Rose, Kat Callow, William Huke, John Harris

'42nd Street' is a classic, lively song and dance show full of toe-tapping numbers such as 'We're In The Money', 'Shuffle to Buffalo', 'Lullaby of Broadway' and '42nd Street' plus many others. This will be a great night's entertainment so if you haven't already done so, **order your tickets now either online for debit and credit bookings at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or through our ticket secretary, Jackie Huke on 01883 331400.**

Our Spring production will be 'The King and I' (12-16 April 2016). *Set in the 1860's against a dazzling and exotic Eastern backdrop, the show follows the moving story of Anna Leonowens, a widowed British schoolteacher brought to Siam to tutor the King's children. Though she enjoys an instant connection with her students, she struggles with cultural differences and a headstrong King, trying to come to terms with a modern world but unable to resist the forces of ancient customs. Through her kindness and persistence, Anna eventually connects with the King, helping to fuel mutual feelings of social understanding and cultural acceptance and openness.* This well loved musical is always a firm favourite, with a score bursting with such well known numbers as 'Whistle A Happy Tune', 'Getting To Know You', 'Something Wonderful' and 'Shall We Dance?'

The 'Meet & Greet' (Adults ONLY) for The King and I will take place on **Thursday 26th November @ 7.45pm** at St Peter's Hall when you will get a chance to sing through the songs and talk to the production team of Peter Reed (Director), Kerry Brackpool (Choreographer) and Sue Rowlinson (Musical Director). In addition to the adult principals and chorus, we will require two strong teams of children for this production. Provisional audition dates will be **Tuesday 1st Dec 7.45pm – Chorus/Dancers; Thursday 3rd Dec 7.45pm – Principals** at St Peters Hall Limsfield. The children's auditions will be held on **Sunday 6th Dec 10am – 12.30pm** at Hurst Green Community Centre, Hurst Green.

For further information regarding The King and I, please contact Teresa Reed, on secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk or ring 01883 625731.

Call For Help - Our Social Secretary Stephanie Hornett – Johnson would like some volunteers to help on the social sub-committee. We are looking into venues for a Quiz Night, Barn Dance and Skittles Night, so watch this space. If you are interested in being part of the social sub-committee, please contact Stephanie on 01883 625598 or 07747022877.

Teresa Reed
Hon Secretary.

Jessica and the Really Happy Company bring Christmas to the Barn.

In the summer of 2016, Jessica Muscio will be travelling to Tanzania where she will be teaching at a school for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. Projects such as these require a great deal of fundraising and so what better place to do this than at the Barn Theatre, who will also benefit from her fundraising for the Dressing Room Improvement Project.



On **Saturday 12th December** at 2.30pm and 7.30pm Jess will be presenting a "Winter Wonderland at the Barn". This will be a show for all the family to come and see, featuring lots of local talented performers. The Barn Theatre has been a huge source of opportunity for Jessica and so many other young people so please do come and support the show if you can. Tickets have already sold out for the evening performance and an additional matinee is also selling fast.

Tickets are available by telephone 01959561811 or for credit and debit card orders www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Volunteers in Tanzania

Spud n' Bubbles 2016

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year, on 3rd January we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and like the past few years it will also include a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £7.50 (all profits to the theatre) and if possible please order and pay upfront. I can collect the money any time I am at the theatre or make contact if you haven't seen me. I shall serve at 1.00pm and everyone who has ordered and paid for their meal by 12.45pm will be guaranteed a spud but after that they will be available to anyone who turns up on the day and pays. Please e-mail me (carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 1st Jan) as I intend to restrict numbers to 50, on a first come, first served basis. Also, if you need to cancel please do so by 1st January or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!



Quo-incidence

U.K's Premier Authentic Tribute To Status Quo

Saturday 5th
December
7.45pm



Get your tickets now for this fantastic evening of music from one of the UK's finest tribute bands

01959 561811 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Our 2015/2016 season which leads us into our 70th Anniversary Year has started with a bang (literally!).

We have just finished our run of *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, directed by Guy Hudson. With the talented cast of Peter Calver, Phil Fry, Grace Fairbairn, June Brown, Anthony Goddard, Catherine Wyncoll, Joanna Silcox, Bob Wilson, Andrew Claringbull and Sophie MacTavish, our audiences were treated to the very entertaining attempts by *Lord Arthur* and other conspirators in trying to fulfil a prophecy that he would commit a murder before his marriage to the love of his life, Sybil. The set, designed by Mike Sutton (sympathetically painted by Patrick Tricker and dressed by Muriel Lister) and the costumes, sourced by Patti Thomas-Verweij convincingly transported the audiences back to the 1890s. The play ran for more than 2 ½ hours but those watching were not afforded the luxury of a crafty nap as in the second act the theatre resounded from two explosions - an umbrella and a bomb - both provided courtesy of the over enthusiastic anarchist *Herr Winkelkopf*. However, we are pleased to reassure you that all attempts at murder failed and the Barn Theatre is still standing. A special thank you to David Sutton, Chris Bassett, John Chinnock (sound) and Richard Grogan (lighting) for managing the "explosions" so realistically.



Chocolate time with Lord Arthur Savile

Our 2016 traditional family pantomime, *Mother Goose*, (8 to 16 January) directed by David Morgan offers its audiences two hours of entertainment which we genuinely believe compares more than favourably with professional pantos with their soap stars and TV personalities. Our ticket prices are also very reasonable (£10 adults and £9 children). We have comedy, popular music and dancing courtesy of Jamie Cordell (MD) and Kerry Brackpool (Choreographer), colourful costumes by Elizabeth Callow and a lively and enthusiastic cast.

We are pleased to welcome to the Barn, Ziggi Szarfranski, who takes on the role of *Mother Goose*. The Dame's sons are played by Carly Thompson (*Tom*) and Sophie MacTavish (*Billy*) with Katie Bartholomew (*Mary Mary*), Izzy Boorman (*Priscilla*), Sophie Moss (*Lana the Lamb*), Janette White (*Fairy Snowdrop*), Richard Peachey (*the Demon*), Jonathan Tull (*Squire*), Chris Bassett and Steve Bedford (*the Squire's men, Ben and Jerry*). **Tickets are selling fast and are available now on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk (card payments only) or 01883 724852 for cheques.**

February will be a busy month for our young members. In addition to David Rowan's February half term workshop we plan to enter two plays into the Southern Counties Drama Festival. Ghislaine Bowden directs our adult entry, *Lions and Donkeys* by Steve Harper set at the end of the First World War. Our Youth entry is *The Domino Effect* by Fin Kennedy, directed by Libby Bliss.

Following hot on the heels of SCDF we have our biennial Youth Production on 11 and 12 March 2016 which is *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Carly Thompson which is fully cast. To wind up our 2015/16 season we are presenting Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile* (18 to 21 May 2016) with a Saturday matinee. Our director is June Brown and there is a read through on Sunday 8 November at 5.15 pm at Hurst Green Community Centre. Auditions will follow over the following two weeks. Auditionees will need to be paid up members of the Society. Further information can be obtained by emailing secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk or ring 07768525778.

A STUNNING Summer of Young Talent at the Barn

From June through to September we experienced the busiest summer ever and some wonderful productions, all from young people. The same young people that give our theatre hope for the future. Starting with *We Will Rock You*, by Glow Theatre Group and followed by *Dazzle* from OJOS, *Calamity Jane* from Kenley Holiday Workshop, *Sherlock and Shirley Holmes* and the *Case of the Vanishing Princess* from the YOP's and concluding with the Scaena production of *One Man, Two Guvvners*.

Due to lack of space we are only able to print extracts from two of the reviews and our thanks to Kevin Black and Peter Reed, the reviewers, for allowing this.

The Kenley Holiday Workshop's presentation of *Calamity Jane* at the Barn Theatre was polished, smooth, effortless, class production.

This was a show featuring youngsters (up to the age of 18) and there was no glitch, no hiccup, no off key moments - in fact this *Calamity Jane* offering was nigh on perfect, hence the roars of approval from the audience at the end of the night.

Niamh James as *Calamity* and William Huke as *Wild Bill* forged their own brands of *Jane* and *Bill* with flawless singing and some damn fine rootin tootin acting. Two stars in the making; Huke's vocals belong to the footlights of musical theatre and James has all the hallmarks of future stardom as both a singer and actress. Together they had a perfect chemistry and were the anchors for this excellent show which looked and sounded so good, you could taste the dust whipped up by the Deadwood Stage.

Of course the main stars could not rise to the occasion without the backing of the support cast. And what a cast it was - the solid as a rock Joe McNeice as Miller, proprietor of the Golden Garter saloon where *Calamity* does her hard drinking and hard hard shooting; Sean Wareing in a fab larger than life turn as Francis Fryer, the travelling actor and song and dance man; and some beautiful singing from Florence Budge as *Katie Brown*, the 'victim' of mistaken identity.

And there were the saloon girls and citizens of Deadwood whose powerful, lovely, tender, rip roaring wall of sound singing - Phil Spector would have been proud of it - was the perfect accompaniment to a group of young actors serving up... well, near perfection.

A great show with some magical moments and let's hope there is much more to come from KHW. Kevin Black



Niamh James as Calamity and William Huke as Wild Bill

One Man, Two Guvvners by Scaena Theatre Company

Forewarned is forearmed as they say, and though, having not seen the recent West End hit, it is true I had managed to acquaint myself with the origins of *One Man, Two Guvvners* based on Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*. Had I further investigated the nature of Commedia dell'arte, it would have not been unthinkable to have found myself on stage half way through Act One lugging a trunk through the hotel entrance. A coup of the first degree, and characteristic of the shenanigans of Scaena Theatre Company's delightful production.

In fact, the question remains whether many of the audience knew exactly what to expect from this rather quirky farce which tried to deliver everything but the kitchen sink, but there was no doubt that they had a thoroughly good time.

And it was evident that the entire company also had a ball with this production - and entertainment is the name of the game. The casting was excellent in every aspect, showing off individual talents in abundance, but more importantly it was clear every player understood the nature and style of the piece. Comedy is a disaster waiting to happen unless it is rehearsed until it isn't funny, and this company stuck to that mantra, enabling them to deliver some of the wittiest stage moments I have seen for some time.

Dialogue was slick, well pointed, well projected and well paced - never gabbled. Joe McNeice's direction was spot on (with virtually every visual gag in the book), always allowing the right interaction between characters which was not easy given the number of players on stage at times, whilst the individual characters were all excellent giving a real insight to those stock characters which would have appeared in Commedia.

To single out specific performances seems a little unfair, but Joe McNeice must be praised for stamping his own particular style on Francis Henshall - perhaps a little rough at the edge in places (acceptable given the enormity of the part) he is work in progress, which in time should mature into something very special indeed. Likewise Dan Webb's portrayal of Stanley was almost a showstopper - one thinks politics will be right up his street.

Overall it was an exceedingly well delivered 3 hours of good fun that I would have been more than happy to see again.

Peter J Reed

Sir Geoffrey Howe

Died on 10th October aged 88. A good supporter of the Barn, he first visited in May 1990 as Patron of the Barn Players when he was MP for East Surrey and Deputy Prime Minister.



As Patron of the Barn Players, a project company set up by Martin Fisher and Bruce Reed to raise funds for cancer charities, he was very amenable and provided good support and publicity for the production of Nicholas Nickleby, appearing on the set with members of the cast and attending the performances, which was well reported in the local newspapers. Nicholas Nickleby was an epic production which raised £8,000 for the charities.

Sir Geoffrey continued as Patron and subsequently, in July 1992 the Barn Players put on a production of the Importance of Being Earnest at the Barn and Minack Theatre, in Cornwall followed in 1994 with Alice in Wonderland at both venues. The Barn Players were the first company from the Barn to have appeared at the Minack.

Sir Geoffrey was delighted to be involved and that these three productions raised a total of £32,000 for Cancer Charities.

DRIP

Tenders for Phase One have now gone out to 5 contractors and prices are due back on November 6th, a few days from now. Following receipt of the priced tenders these will be checked and analysed by Matt Tracey our Project Manager before he reports to the Board as to whom should be appointed and this may take a week or two to finalise. Hopefully there will be a tender that is acceptable and we can begin planning for the start of the works early in 2016.

In the interim fundraising continues apace and if you would like to help then please do get in touch with Bruce who will be delighted to hear from you. Telephone 01959 561811 or by email bruce.reed@btinternet.com

Oxted Pram Race 2015

We were delighted to once again be a beneficiary of the Oxted Pram Race and extremely grateful to the committee made up from members of Oxted and Limpsfield Rotary Club and local volunteers for all their efforts in making this Oxted event so successful over the years.

There were 24 teams and around 120 contestants and the race ran like clockwork with a great family feel to the event and a real buzz in the atmosphere both on the park and in Old Oxted. There were Barn folk there as marshalls for the race so thank you to them particularly for their support. Oxted Pram race is all about raising money for local charities – putting something back into the community and the following is a list of beneficiaries: Panda Nursery £400, Oxted Scouts £400, Barn Theatre £400, Mathews Friends £400, 1st Hurst Green Guides £400, St Johns Ambulance £400, Oxted & Limpsfield Rotary youth projects £500, Master Park £500, The Woodhouse centre £600

This makes a total of £4,000 going to local charities and good causes, which is a fantastic achievement. Well done and a huge thank you to the committee.

FRIENDS
OF THE
BARN THEATRE



CALLING ALL FOBS !

A message from Sheila Bennett

Having relinquished many of my Front of House duties, I have found time to sort out a small FOBs' Archive. This consists mainly of records of past fund-raising events but also copies of Committee and AGM minutes. There are a few gaps in the records which I have and I wonder whether any FOB out there might have copies which I could have to complete the record.

We need:- Minutes of the 1st AGM of 1983 and Minutes of the 13th to 17th AGMs held from 1995 to 1999. Also committee meeting minutes held prior to the 2nd AGM and between 8th February 1984 and January 1985.

Please contact me if you are able to help. Many thanks, Sheila Bennett (01883 715145)

Changes to FOH arrangements.

Following a review of 'Evacuation in Case of Emergency Procedures', the theatre has expanded the requirements for staffing all shows. In the same way as most West End theatres, we will, for the foreseeable future have two Auditorium Ushers rostered for each performance. Seats N1 & N14 will be reserved at no cost and ushers will stay in the auditorium for the whole show to assist patrons when finding their seats and in case of an emergency evacuation.

Their role will start one hour before curtain up with the FOH safety briefing and finish at the end of the performance.

The opportunity to see the show is a big bonus and we hope to attract a dedicated team trained in evacuation.

If this is something that you would be particularly interested in then please contact either your society secretary or Pippa Bridges, FOBs Front of House staff coordinator, telephone 01883 712459 or Judith.bridges@btinternet.com.

Southern Counties Drama Festival 2016

The Southern Counties Drama Festival makes its annual visit from Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th February. Festival week is always a relaxed and enjoyable occasion and a time to meet fellow thespians. So why not come along and support the groups and enjoy a good evening of drama. Spaces are still available and information and entry forms available from 01959 561811 or online at <http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html>

Christmas Noggin and Natter

Sunday December 6th from noon until 2pm

The December Sunday club is always the best attended of the year and many consider that their Christmas starts at the Barn on that day. Do try to come along, bring family and friends and begin the festive season with a drink and some tasty nibbles

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES IN SEPTEMBER 2016

We would like to give early notice of a joint venture between Oxted Operatic Society and the Oxted Players which celebrates the 70th anniversary of both societies.

A celebratory dinner dance will take place on Saturday 24th September 2016 at Bletchingley Golf Club. Tickets are very reasonably priced at £25 and include a four course meal, plus dancing to a great live band. 'The Debonairs', are a super talented 60s tribute, covering all the quintessential English bands from the era, such as the Kinks, the Small Faces, the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. Tickets will go on sale next year and will be limited to around 100 places, so to reserve your place in advance and be sure not to miss what promises to be a great evening contact Teresa on 01883 625731 or email secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk.

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 15th January