

BARN THEATRE

NEWS

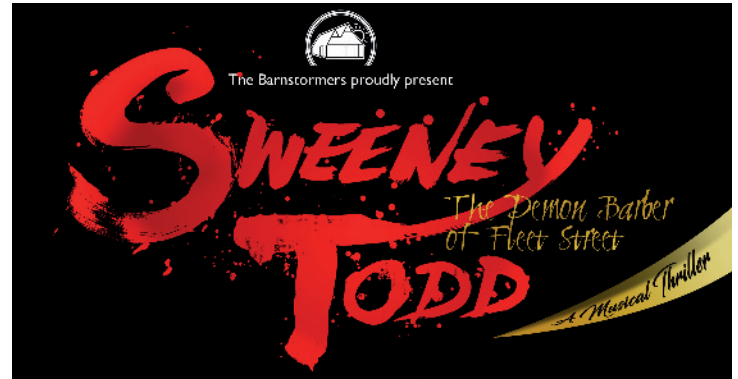


Volume 22 Issue 4 November 2018

Sweeney's Cornish Adventure

Just prior to our August BTN issue being published, around 125 tired but very contented souls were arriving back at the Barn following The Barnstormers highly successful tour to the stunning Minack Theatre with the musical 'Sweeney Todd'. They were delighted to have played to packed houses throughout their week in early August, with the show selling out every one of the seven performances in advance, 4,970 tickets. All in all, a truly fantastic achievement!

It was an extraordinary, magical and wonderful week in Cornwall that will undoubtedly stay in people's memories for many years to come. The Barnstormers once again staged a stunning production, with superb and powerful performances by both principals and ensemble alike. The audiences were totally gripped by the thrilling and dark tale and feedback from the Minack Theatre management, staff and audience members has been excellent. We are pleased to report that after some very wet and windy previews at Oxted School, the weather for the Minack week was on the whole, pretty kind, with only a few showers here and there – one producing an incredible full rainbow over the backdrop of Logan Rock during the Thursday matinee.



This was The Barnstormers sixth tour to the Minack and has to be one of their best Minack weeks in the company's history. All the Minack stalwarts struggle to remember a more friendly and bonded group. The way in which every member of the company – cast, crew, techies, FOH, orchestra – pulled together was truly exceptional. It was quite something to see just what a talented and committed team could achieve. The Producers, Richard Allen and Paul Robinson and indeed the whole production team, could not have been prouder of the final result. For many, the true heroes of the week were our amazing crew and set builders, who pressed on hour after hour in the hot sunshine and then late into the evening during that first weekend to construct easily the largest and most complex set we have ever taken down to the Minack. They thoroughly deserve the special thanks and admiration they received from all the cast and production team.

Since getting back from Cornwall, we were delighted to hear that our Mrs Lovett, Sarah Trotman, was one of five actors recognised by the Minack for the most memorable and outstanding performances of the 2018 season.



Whilst this was without doubt the most expensive production The Barnstormers have ever staged, it is still hoped, once the final accounts are in, that they will be able to make a donation to the Barn charity.

Local reviewer Jenni Barlow spoke very highly of the whole cast and production team 'Steven Geraghty makes a very sound debut at the Minack as musical director, with an orchestra that delivers scarily and screechingly as demanded. The director Paul Longhurst, assisted by Fiona Steel, and technical director Bruce Reed working with set designer Tara Usher, make a great team with costume designer Penelope Konstantara and Caro Rowley, with spot-on cue lighting.

Everyone in the whole company took on the considerable challenge of staging this ambitious show with incredible enthusiasm. Without their unstinting support, and of course the support of all the Barn's Trustees and Directors, this tour, and indeed all Barnstormers productions, would simply not have been possible. Congratulations and thank you to all concerned. Richard Allen





We would firstly like to say a big "Well Done" to our cast and production team on the success of our October production, *Hobson's Choice*. In particular we congratulate Tricia Whyte who took over as Director of the play late in the day when several important roles were still unfilled but she managed to cast all the missing roles by early September, to the great relief of all concerned.



The end result was that this classic comedy was able to return to the Barn Stage after an absence of 20 plus years and provide great entertainment to its very appreciative audiences.

Our January pantomime is *Robin Hood* (11 to 19 January 2019) and tickets are selling quickly. Our hero *Robin* of Loxley returns from the Crusades to find *Sherwood* under the tyrannical reign of the wicked *Sheriff of Nottingham* who is determined to have *Maid Marion* for himself and will do anything to achieve his aim. *Robin* teams up with his *Merry Men* to defeat the Sheriff and rescue his sweetheart. Directed by Jane Maisey with choreography by Cathy Blundell and under the highly experienced musical direction of Andy Rapps, our cast includes Peter Calver (*Rosie Dumplings*), Bob Wilson (*Sheriff*), Mike Saunders (*Robin*), Charlotte Faulkes (*Marion*), Amanda Stronge (*Maid Maude*), Shannen Knutsen (*Wet Woman*) and Ziggy Szafranski, David Morgan, Laura Brand, Tom Lilley and John Barnett as the main *Merry Men*. Add to this mix more *Merry Men*, *Maids*, our lively dancers and a vibrant adult and junior chorus, we promise you a great show. Tickets are £10 and available on line at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk for card payments or 01883 724852 for cheque/cash payments. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Looking ahead, our May 2019 production is *Pride and Prejudice* (15th to 18th May) directed by Peter Reed. We are holding a launch/read through for the play on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 7.30 pm (venue to be confirmed) followed by auditions on Wednesday 5th December from 7.30 pm at St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield. Please contact us on secretary@oxtedplayers.co.uk (01342 893217) for more information.

In addition, ten of our young actors have been given the opportunity to perform in a play directed by Fern Simmons at St. Peter's Hall, Limpsfield on 8th and 9th March. The play is entitled *I'm Spilling My Heart Out Here* by Stacey Gregg. More details will be available later.

THE OXTED PLAYERS

Simon Goodall and The Bourne Again Shadows Saturday 9th December

"There are several Shadows tributes out there, and one or two of them are pretty good - but I've never heard a band that completely nails the whole sound with vocals too . . . until now. I have to say that this blew me away. The emulation of the Shadows sound is spot on, and the 'Cliff' vocals are uncanny. I feel qualified to make that statement having worked with Cliff throughout the 90's as part of his band. This is as close as it gets!"



Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card purchases
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk Order Today, Don't Delay!



Simply Dan is made up of an eleven-piece line-up of musicians who have performed with a diverse mix of artists nationally and worldwide. They are united in their love of the music of Steely Dan – faithfully harnessing the jazz, pop and R&B influences of the now legendary Walter Becker and Donald Fagen sound.

Made up of a 4 piece horn section, 2 guitars, 3 vocalists, keyboards and a bass and drums rhythm section, Simply Dan produce a wonderful tribute to the genius of Steely Dan – with the right balance between being respectful to the original recordings and firmly putting their own stamp on the material.

Fresh from their recent performances at The Pizza Express London and The Hideaway in Streatham we are excited to have them play at The Barn Theatre in November with their full stage show.

SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER at 7.45pm
An evening not to be missed.

Tickets 01959 561811 or for online card purchases
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk Order Today, Don't Delay



Thanks to a gorgeous summer it enabled us to do a great deal of work, in particular moving our costume and props store from Tandridge Hall to its new home at Tatsfield, but more of that later.

The most important news for the society is that our idea of combining an adult production of "The Wizard of Oz" with an OJO's theme has proven a success, we are at present well into rehearsals with 27, yes twenty seven, juniors and they are loving it, and so are the adults. Thanks to Melanie Vinall and Phillipa Lucas for stepping into the breach at such short notice and thanks also to a brilliant production team who are supporting them.

This wonderful story of a displaced girl from Kansas and her dog is a perennial favourite at this time of year and I am sure that many of you will catch it on TV during Christmas, but nothing can compare with the thrill of watching it live at our lovely theatre. So book your tickets whilst there are still some available, performance dates November 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, with a matinee on the 24th.

Now to the new costume and properties store. This project has, from the start, been overseen and whip-cracked by Jane Maisey. Believe me she can crack a whip as well as her namesake but thankfully with no calamity to speak of. Jane's team of helpers have been tireless in their enthusiasm to protect and preserve the wonderful collection of costumes, and many surprises have leapt from the anonymous brown cardboard boxes that housed them.

The facility consists of a reception area, big enough for some of the more personal rehearsals, a kitchen, office and most importantly toilet and changing area, as well as room to display the costumes in all their glory.

We had a preview day in September which was such a success that it has led to several other Surrey groups contacting Jane and hiring production costumes from us, indeed if you belong to another society that may be looking for costumes please contact Jane at wardrobe@oxtedoperatic.co.uk she will be only too willing to help you.

Looking forward to next year, we open the season with "Iolanthe" bringing G&S back to the Barn, our summer OJO's production is hoped to be "The Boyfriend" (awaiting a performance licence) followed by another "Old Time Music Hall Spectacular" at the beginning of September and finally in the Autumn we are looking at "Scrooge", again (awaiting a performing licence) so the future looks bright.

Do remember our February AGM, at a date to be announced, which this year will end with refreshments and a mini quiz for the more competitive.

David Morgan

ANGELOS EPITHEMIU



Unwitting star of 'Shooting Stars'(BBC2), 'Dave's One Night Stand' and Channel 4's 'The Angelos Epithemiou Show', cult favourite Angelos Epithemiou takes a giant leap into the spotlight yet again in this shambolic weird and wonderful new live comedy spectacle here at the Barn Theatre.

Join Angelos and guests as House of Stand Up presents an evening of new comedy, old comedy and anything in between. Nothing is off the table when Epithemiou is in the building. Angelos is gearing up for his massive gig at the O2 which has not been booked and is never likely to be, but he's keeping the dream alive. Think Little Britain meets Vic and Bob meets a smattering of Ivan Brackenbury and then lower your expectations and get on board.

Come and revel at Angelos and his special surprise guests for one night only on Saturday 26th January 2019 at 7.45pm. Book Early For Best Prices!

The 'special surprise' guests for this show: Steve N Allen, Alistair Williams, Danny Garnell and Toussaint Douglass.

Show contains adult humour. So be prepared for some naughty jokes and strong language. All acts are subject to change without notice.

'Angelos Epithemiou is currently his only disciple...there is plenty to relish here.'

EVENING STANDARD

Successful DRIP Draws to a Close

The last few weeks have seen the main building works to DRIP completed, providing us with 4 spacious and independent air conditioned dressing rooms, new toilets and other facilities backstage. The culmination of five years of fundraising will be totally finished once we have a quieter period in the theatre to redecorate all these areas and change the mismatched carpets, after panto in January. Funds are in hand to finance these elements and the red buckets have now been retired until the next approved project is brought to the table of the Trustees.

None of this would have been possible without the support of all of you readers who have raised the many thousands of pounds needed to progress the works since the project was launched. The red retirement bucket collections contributed £35,500, a stunning figure made up of small change from you generous people.



Thank you from the Barn Trustees.

Oxted Pram Race supports the Barn and the DRIP works.



We are delighted to report further financial support from Oxted Pram Race this year in the amount of £620, a very generous donation and coming at just the right time as we move to finish the DRIP works.

Pictured are Tom and Phil Littleford and Dave Nichols, Barn stalwarts, all of whom have helped the Pram Race for many years

Spud n' Bubbles 6th January 2019

For what has now become a Barn tradition, for the first Sunday Club of the New Year, we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and like last year it will also include a glass of 'bubbles' or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £8.00 (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 4th 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 4th January or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!



Sunday 16 December at 7:00pm

West End performers from many shows including *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera* will take us on a fun filled trip through

an A-Z of Musical Christmas. The performance is directed by Sam Hiller the current Resident Director of *Les Miserables* and the Associate Director of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and is in aid of The Sandcastle Trust - a small charity providing fun and respite to families affected by a rare genetic condition. Tickets are £20 per person and available via The Barn Theatre Box Office on 01959 561811 or www.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 18th January

FRIENDS OF THE BARN THEATRE



Since the last Newsletter a major change has taken place at the theatre. We had been asked on many occasions recently if card payments could be made and so, to keep up with the changing times, we have introduced a card payment system enabling money to be taken by card (credit, debit, contactless or pin) and Apple Pay. This has involved a lot of input by Dave Nichols and Karen Jackson and I wish to thank them both for all the work that they have put in to get the system installed and running.

We have been fortunate in recent weeks in attracting several new volunteers for the various duties which are required for the theatre to function successfully and look forward to working with our new friends.



Pip Bryant joined the committee after the AGM. She says that her real name is Sarah, Pip being a nickname. Until being made redundant earlier this year she was 'Home Underwriting Manager' for a major insurance company. She first joined the Barn via the Operatic Society when appearing in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' in 2014 which was her first time on the boards since school.

Dancing and acting are no longer her scene and she now prefers to serve behind the bar. I am sure that Pip will make a valuable contribution to the work of the committee and she has already taken on the role of Secretary, following the resignation of Helen Burnside.

Alan Jackson
Chairman of Fobs

Back, (*despite*) popular demand ..

Wickham's Oldtime Stagers with another nostalgic mix of Music Hall Mayhem, Mirth and Merriment with some good *turns* in between.



Always a Fun Packed evening at the Barn, a wonderful venue for music hall, with Song Sheets and Salubrious Scenas, subtly sequestered for your individual delectation and delight!

So, blow the dust off your big hats, warm up your vocal chords and book your tickets soon for, what promises to be a stroll down Memory Lane

Book now for Saturday 16th March a date not to be missed. Tickets from the Barn box office 01959 561811 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk



Oxted Carnival supports the Barn

for many years now the Barn team have turned out on Master Park to support the annual Oxted Carnival whilst fundraising for various theatre projects. It is

always a fun filled day on the park followed by a BBQ party after, for all the helpers. This year we have been delighted to receive a donation of £200 from the Carnival Committee and this has gone straight to the DRIP fund to help finish the project. We look forward to joining the Committee on Master Park next year and thank them for their determination to continue with the Carnival, a great event for Oxted.