

# BARN THEATRE

## NEWS



Volume 26 Issue 3 November 2021

## When you think of Jack the Ripper the first thing that comes to mind is not a hilarious cockney knees-up – but that’s exactly what *Jack the Ripper – a musical comedy* is!

Written for London’s Player’s Theatre in 1974 and nominated for Best Musical in the Evening Standard Theatre Awards of the same year, *Jack the Ripper – a musical comedy* is loosely based on the East End murders of 1888 as retold through the company of a Whitechapel Music Hall. With bawdy company numbers that could come straight out of *Oliver!* alongside moments of poignancy evocative of *Les Miserables*, this fun, upbeat, tongue in cheek celebration of Victoriana is a ripping romp for all the family - and definitely not doom and gloom!

*The Daily Express* called it “a lively musical, exhilarating, melodious, delightfully comic.” Whilst the *Daily Mirror* referred to it as a “very amusing bawdy knees up. Verve and wit and above all a good musical score.” The *Evening News* said “I so like this show. It has so much authentic London flavour.” But I think *The Sun* said it best. “Super Jack is a roaring hit. This fast, fun musical is the best to hit town in many a season. RIP, RIP, hooray for Jack the Ripper!”



*Jack the Ripper – a musical comedy* is brought to you by Oxted Musical Theatre Company (formerly Oxted Operatic Society) and runs from 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with performances nightly at 7.45pm.

### OMTC LOTTERY

The price of putting on musical productions is ever increasing, so to alleviate this rising cost the Oxted Musical Theatre Company (formerly Oxted Operatic Society) have decided to institute an annual lottery. The tickets, or “shares” are £5 each and will go on sale at the Barn Sunday Club on 5<sup>th</sup> December. From that date they will be available at every Sunday Club and also by emailing [enquiries@oxtedmtc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxtedmtc.co.uk)

The prize will be drawn at the December 2022 Sunday Club. 25% of all monies raised will be divided into 5 prizes. The remaining 75% will be used by Oxted Musical Theatre Company for production costs during the year.



We managed to complete our recent run of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* without any hiccups or positive tests! It was performed to over 800 people across 6 performances which is a fantastic attendance for a play...and I am told the first time in 40 years TOPs has performed a play on a Tuesday. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to watch, to everyone who helped front of house and all those involved behind the scenes. Finally, congratulations to the cast for what were consistently brilliant performances across the board. We couldn't have wished for a more successful relaunch of our main programme in the theatre.



Cast of And Then There Were None



Moving on, we now turn our attentions to January's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* directed and choreographed by Jo Morrison and musically directed by Andy Rapps. The production is fully cast and the company is raring to go with an array of eccentric and magical characters from the Pantomime Dame, trusty sidekicks and ferocious beasts, to witches, candlesticks and glamorous dinnerware – there is a favourite for everyone in this fun packed show that is the perfect trip out for all the family. Performances are 14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January. Tickets are £13 and already on sale. To book, please visit [www.oxtedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxtedplayers.co.uk) or email [tickets@oxtedplayers.co.uk](mailto:tickets@oxtedplayers.co.uk) and for group bookings

please call 01883 714062. We are already at around 30% sold and numbers are increasing steadily, so book soon to avoid disappointment.

Casting our eye further ahead, it is the turn of our junior players to take centre stage in YOPs biennial play in March 2022 with

*The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. We welcome back Fern Simmons to direct. Audition details will be announced very soon so keep an eye out on [www.oxtedplayers.co.uk](http://www.oxtedplayers.co.uk) for details. Chris Bassett, Chairman



## FRIDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT OF IRISH MUSIC

Multi-Award-Winning Irish Band **The Wild Murphys** perform songs by The Dubliners, The Fureys, The Pogues, Van Morrison, The Dropkick Murphys, Daniel O'Donnell and many more. The **Wild Murphys** will set up **Murphy's Pub in the Barn**, guaranteeing one glorious night of high-energy Irish Music and more than a little bit of Irish Craic. The seven-piece live band is headed by lead singer Middi Murphy armed with blarney, banter and an accordion, alongside Trevor Brewis (Jimmy Nail) on drums, Tony Davis (Prelude) on keys and the BBC award-winning fiddle player Sophy Ball on fiddle. In their own inimitable style, The Wild Murphys celebrate Irish classics with tracks including: Galway Girl, Tell Me Ma, Dirty Old Town, The Irish Rover, Brown Eyed Girl, Seven Drunken Nights, Sally MacLennane, When You Were Sweet Sixteen, Whiskey in the Jar, Wild Rover and Molly Malone, to name just a few.

## THE RAYMOND & MR TIMPKINS REVUE AWARD WINNING COMEDY DUO



*"A mad, anarchic triumph of stupidity over style. Not to be missed"*

The Guardian

Join Raymond & Mr Timpkins and guests as House of Stand up presents

"An evening of Top London Comedy with full supporting acts"

*Raymond & Mr Timkins are a comedy twosome with over two decades of mucking about behind them, they've been everywhere from New Zealand to the Falklands and Exeter to Edinburgh with many a stop in between. During that time they have played the lowliest pub back room to the London Palladium. In December 2019 they won the UK Comedy, Comedian of the Year Award!*

Book your tickets now for  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm

**Fundraising** has now commenced in earnest for our Barn 100 project and we are waiting to hear from the builders when they can start works on Phase One, hopefully later this year. 28,000 appeal brochures have been circulated around this and surrounding areas during the recent months and the results are already optimistic.

If you have not received a brochure and would like to donate please go to [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) which takes you to the page where you will find the PayPal button.



CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH US

# In the early 1990's, Q Magazine questioned if R.E.M. could possibly be the best band on the planet at that time?

Nearly thirty years after the release of their landmark REM album "Automatic For The People" in 1992, REMbrandt explore every era of the band's eventual 31 year, 15 album career, which racked up over 85 million record sales.



REMbrandt were formed in 2014 from a seemingly imperfect circle of acquaintances and friends from the Southampton music scene. The band have risen beyond local club gigs to playing arts centres, theatres and festivals throughout the South East of England supporting and appearing on the bill with a wide range of artists from Lindisfarne to The Hoosiers, as well as headlining many local events.

Expect the hits you remember, "Losing My Religion" "Man On The Moon" "Shiny Happy People" and "Everybody Hurts". Expect some hits you might have forgotten, like "The One I Love" "Drive" and "Radio Free Europe", and expect some album tracks for die hard fans. REMbrandt also play a select number of covers by artists R.E.M. themselves covered or performed with in

concert, such as U2, Elvis Costello, Neil Young and David Bowie, all delivered with the love, energy and passion the music deserves.

**Coming to the Barn on Saturday 11th December at 7.45pm. BOOK NOW**

## Spud 'n' Bubbles returns for 2022

For what had become a Barn tradition until Covid broke the continuity, for the first **Sunday Club** of the New Year, on **2nd January** we are again having a simple baked potato lunch with a meat or veggie option and including a glass of Bubbles or a soft drink. 'Spud n' Bubbles' will cost £9.00 (all profits to the BARN 100 fund) 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](mailto:carolyn.rowley@btinternet.com)) with orders as soon as possible (last e-mail orders 30th Dec) 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 30th December or expect to be asked for the money as last year we had some 'no-shows'!



## Our Friends at St Mary's and the Barn

The restrictions which came about during the pandemic resulted in 43 productions at the Barn Theatre being cancelled or rescheduled multiple times. Each one has been a disappointment to the theatre, and to the visiting companies we enjoy hosting. One of the organisations we have particularly missed working with is our local primary school, St. Mary's. St. Mary's have been a regular visitor to the theatre for many years and, since 2016, have produced an annual show to raise necessary funds for both the school and the Barn.

Financially, so many organisations have missed out on their usual fundraising opportunities due to COVID-19. St. Mary's school is no exception.

Each year, the talented students of St. Mary's (as well as the school's very talented staff) have wowed their audiences with music, song, dance, drama, and poetry. Through such performances, the school has raised over £15,000 to support a multitude of projects. These include the maintenance of St. Mary's all-weather pitch, the addition of mirrors to the dance studio, a collection of Chromebooks that were loaned to students during lockdown, and the purchase of two electric pianos and a drum kit. Alongside raising funds for their own projects, St. Mary's have donated an electric piano to the theatre which we are very pleased with.

We are delighted to welcome St. Mary's back to the stage on Saturday 5th February 2022. They will be performing twice, once at 2.30pm and again at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available for sale at £15 each from 9am on Friday 14th January [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) Funds from this show will go towards the new school swimming pool.

We feel so lucky to have such a positive relationship with the teachers and helpers who are utterly dedicated to making every performance a success. It is a privilege to witness the excitement of every child as they take part in the production, and we cannot wait to provide them this opportunity once more. The school motto is 'Confidently me, Belonging together, Challenged to Contribute' and performing and their shows at the Barn are a chance for them to live these values for our enjoyment.

Angie Muscio



## BLUES BROTHERS LITTLE BROTHER RETURNS BY POPULAR DEMAND



**SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM**

# Barn delighted to announce the appointment of Jackie Driscoll and James Vinnal to the Board of Trustees



As the director of Glow Theatre Group I have been directing and producing shows at the Barn for 14 years. The theatre has been a spiritual home for so many of our cast members (and me!) over the years, and I'm really delighted that I can give something back to this gem of a theatre as one of the Trustees. I'm looking forward to the challenge of joining the team and helping to support and develop everything that goes on at the theatre. Exciting times ahead!



The Barn is an enormous asset for our community and it is a privilege to be part of the team. The sound of an audience having a great time and the pride on the faces of the performers coming off stage is what the Barn Theatre was created for and long may it continue. As a Trustee of the newly formed Aquarian Opera I am looking forward to our first show here in the Barn, later in November too.

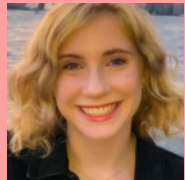
## Sunday Clubs

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!



Those of you who regularly help with providing front of house assistance at the Barn will be aware that Karen Jackson has recently stepped down from the thankless task of co-ordinating our rotas. We are so grateful to her for the countless hours she has spent on this in recent years, and we are delighted that she has agreed to carry on as a volunteer – so you will still see her behind the bar, but without her infamous black folder! I am also delighted to announce that Nikki Boorman has kindly agreed to take over the reins from Karen, and I am sure you will join me in wishing Nikki the best of luck in her new role.

Back in the summer the Trustees relaxed the “no drinks in the auditorium” rule in order to comply with the COVID guidelines which stipulated that drinks bought at the bar must be consumed when seated in the auditorium (i.e. when socially distanced). Now that restrictions have been lifted, the Trustees have agreed to continue to allow drinks to be consumed whilst watching a performance, and we have recently purchased a range of shatterproof, polycarbonate glasses which may be taken into the auditorium. These can be washed and re-used time and time again, and are a far more environmentally-friendly solution than the disposable plastic cups we were using over the summer. The new wine glasses are slightly larger than the old, allowing us to give customers the option of a large wine (250ml) in addition to the existing standard (175ml) and small (125ml) sizes.



**The Barn100 Quiz** was created with dual interest, both to raise funds and awareness for the front of house renovations and also to complete my **Masters Degree in Event Management!** The Barn has been such a massive part of my life, and having completed training at both BRIT School and RADA whilst still being involved at the Barn, it felt fitting to complete my final project at the place where I fell in love with Theatre and Events! I raised £140 and was delighted to add this to the Barn100 fund. Thank you to all that supported me by taking part and thank you to the Barn Trustees for allowing me to use the space!

Esme Driscoll *From the editor, thanks Esme for all your efforts for Barn100*

## A DOUBLE HEADLINER SHOW

### CHARLIE BAKER & RICKY GROVER



Join Charlie Baker with Ricky Grover and guests as *House of Stand Up* presents *An Evening of Top London Comedy*

Charlie Baker's versatile talents as a stand-up comedian, actor, and highly acclaimed jazz-singer have seen him earn a reputation as 'a superior take on the modern showman' (The Guardian).

Baker has exercised his comedy chops with appearances on hit shows *The Last Leg*, *Harry Hill's Tea Time*, *Comedy Central at the Comedy Store*, *The Great British Bake-Off: An Extra Slice*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*, *Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live*, *The Dog Ate My Homework* and *Channel 4's Comedy Gala*.

\*\*\*

Ricky Grover is a regular face on national TV, playing tough guys and villains including hardened criminal *Bulla* in the groundbreaking TV programme, *The 11 O'Clock Show*, *bouncer* and *Heather's* love interest *Andrew Cotton* in BBC1's *EastEnders*, *Maximus* in the hit comedy series *Plebs* and the bullying *Baxter* in cult sci-fi classic *Red Dwarf*.

His menacing persona has also graced the big screen, with Ricky playing the lead in hit movie *Big Fat Gypsy Gangster* and starring in *Guy Ritchie's Revolver*. He also starred in the 2017 screen adaptation of *Porridge*.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January Book now for the best seats**

The Editor of the Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed and contributions are always gratefully received.

Copy should be sent to [barntheatre@btinternet.com](mailto:barntheatre@btinternet.com)  
Press deadline for the next issue is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Since the allowing of drinks in the auditorium we have noticed a significant trend in many audience members arriving with insufficient time in which to purchase their drinks before the start of the performance, and this has led on several occasions to lengthy queues at the bar. This was demonstrated most recently on the last night of *And Then There Were None* when our volunteer bar staff served 22 people between 6.50pm and 7.20pm, and a further 29 people in the last ten minutes before the start of the play at 7.30pm! Whilst we are delighted that so many people are keen to use our bar, we would be extremely grateful if audience members wishing to buy a drink before the show (or order one for the interval) could arrive a little earlier in order to prevent a last-minute rush.

Contactless card payments at the Barn via Square are becoming increasingly popular. Since the theatre reopened in June, 78% of all payments received were by debit or credit card, as opposed to just 22% by cash. We would really like card payments to increase even further so, when paying at the box office or the bar, do please use a card if at all possible. One downside to fewer people carrying cash, however, is that there is less loose change to put into our red buckets. In the past this has been a highly successful way of raising funds for projects such as *Barn 2000*, *BarnCool* and *DRIP* (Dressing Room Improvement Project). In fact, in recent years, donations in the buckets as audiences leave the theatre have exceeded £60,000! We are currently looking at the best ways of enabling people to donate by card to our next project, *Barn 100*, but if you wish to make a donation when next at the theatre this can be done with your credit or debit card, via Square, either at the bar or the box office.

Paul Robinson – Chairman