For any arts organisation to survive for 90 years without outside or local authority financial support is a measure of the strength of the organisation and those who work within it in any manner of ways. From the very beginning the Barn has been very fortunate to have many willing volunteers who have continuously striven to ensure that the place is a success and that continues today.

To celebrate the 90 years we have a programme of shows and entertainment that we hope you will support and enjoy. There is something for everyone and of all ages too, so please check below, study the fliers that came in the envelope with this issue and book your tickets to ensure that you are part of this special celebration.

**BARN 90**

**A Festival of Entertainment**

- **Saturday 31st May at 7.45pm**
  Randy and the Rockets

- **Sunday 1st June**
  Special Celebration Lunch at 12.30pm
  The Wabbit King at 4.30pm and 7pm

- **Thursday 5th June at 7.45pm**
  The Whore’s Tale and Easy Stages

- **Friday 6th June at 7.45pm**
  Cheek by Cheek with the New Foxtrot Serenaders

- **Saturday 7th June at 7.30pm**
  Let Us Entertain You Too

- **Sunday 8th June**
  Barn Theatre Open Day 11am - 3.30pm
  FOBs Quiz Night with a difference at 7pm

- **Thursday 12th June at 7.45pm**
  An Evening of Songs from the Shows

- **Friday 13th June at 7.45pm**
  Nicholas Nickleby with Gerald Dickens

- **Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm**
  Schoolfest

www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959561811
We are delighted to announce that The Barnstormers will be returning to the Barn (this time actually inside the theatre!) in October this year with the hilarious smash hit musical comedy ‘The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’. They will be staging four performances from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th October and we hope that many of you will come and join in the fun and support The Barnstormers’ continuing efforts to raise funds for our DRIP charity project.

The spelling bee (competition) is a modern day American phenomenon that has been brought to the stage in this quirky Tony Award winning musical comedy. It tells the story of six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, and who learn that winning isn’t everything and that losing doesn’t necessarily make you a loser. A hilarious tale of overachiever’s angst that chronicles the experiences of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. It is the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom the spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

The show is being produced and directed by Richard Allen, who is joined by Barn regulars, Colin Warnock as Musical Director and Fran Newitt as Associate Director / Choreographer.

This is the first time the musical has been produced at the Barn Theatre and we’ve no doubt that The Barnstormers will once again be pulling out all the stops. They promise us a unique, funny and memorable evening’s entertainment with perhaps just a few unexpected stars to light your grey matter working, but they are also planning to test all of your senses, with some quirky rounds requiring you to listen, taste and touch! A Posh Ploughman’s supper is included in the price and the bar will be open all evening. So why not get a team of friends (6-8 persons) together or if not they can slot you into a team on the night. Come along have some fun and expect something a little different!

Contact Lizzie Skinner for more details. Tickets are £10 from 01959 561811 credit and debit card bookings online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Southern Counties Drama Festival
February 24th to March 1st 2014

After a warm and thoroughly entertaining welcome from Peter Calver (Festival Chairman), the Festival continued apace for the rest of the week with some high class drama of all genres. The results for the week were very close with Mole Valley Scriptwriters Group as Festival Winners with their production of Satin Doll by Tony Earnshaw. Runner up was Sevenoaks Players with their production of The Trial by Anthony Booth, Best Stage presentation went to Alternate Shadows with their very effective cellair in Canary Cage by Diana Raffle. Awards for Best Actor, Best Actress and Martin Patrick award for Best Director, all went to the cast of the Oxted Players with their production of The Whores Tale by Archie Wilson. For the youth section Glow Theatre Company were winners of the Best Youth Award with their production of Blood Brothers by Willy Russell which also won them Best Young Actor award shared by two of their cast Jamie Patterson and Sean Wareing. Best Young Actress award went to Natasha Cooper of Heathfield Drama Club in Obsessed by Mike Newbold and Ivo Salway also of Heathfield Drama Club won the Adjudicators Award for his excellent playing in Small Fry by Neil Duffield.

Mole Valley Scriptwriters Group will represent the Eastern Area at the semi final of the AETF over the weekend of 3rd and 4th May and we wish them the best of luck.

Tea and Cakes Time Comes Round Again

Saturday 5th 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.
Our April Production, Pirates of Penzance, closed with a sell-out Saturday evening performance and excellent reviews and glowing comments from each evening’s audiences but one thing that especially shone out for me was what a happy show it was. The cast all got along famously and pulled together to make the production the success it was. Indicative of this was the fact that, 2 weeks before opening, ticket sales were very sluggish and, to put it mildly, of some concern but many members of the cast donned costumes and paraded Oxted high street on two Saturday mornings handing out leaflets and generally promoting the show. I am reliably informed that Mr John Harris, dressed as a policeman, targeted the unsuspecting public at the zebra crossing and threatened arrest for not buying tickets! Mr Chris Hepher managed to get a recorded message onto Classic FM and everyone generally did their bit to sell to friends and family, notably Geoff Martin, Elise Claringbull and Mike Tomlin who would all win the award (if one existed!) for selling by the row rather than by the seat! By the end of the run, ticket sales had very nearly doubled compared to a month earlier. All in all, it was a pleasure to be a part of this production, whether it was as part of the production team, on the stage, in the wings or front of house and my sincere thanks go to everyone that made it the experience that it was.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

“Joseph” is now fully cast and our talented OJOS will begin rehearsals for the first week of May following a bonding and music session in April with the production team of Carly Thompson as Director, Andy Payne as MD and Catherine Blundell as Choreographer. Tickets went on sale 3 weeks ago and are being snapped up at a rate of knots, in fact, the first week of May following a bonding and music session in April with the production team of Carly Thompson as Director, Andy Payne as MD and Catherine Blundell as Choreographer. Tickets went on sale 3 weeks ago and are being snapped up at a rate of knots, in fact, the final performance on the Saturday evening is already 48% sold so don’t delay, buy your tickets today! Tickets available online at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or by calling yours truly on the box office hotline: 07530 528094

Barn 90th A Festival of Entertainment

We will be presenting an evening of Songs from the Shows, a potted history of Oxted Operatic, on Thursday 12th June and had our first get together on the 15th April with our MD for the event, Tom Carra-dine who has recently finished a professional tour of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. There was a very definite feel of excitement in the air as we all sang through a few well-known pieces of music from shows past. Members of the OOS are welcome to take part and, whilst auditions are not necessary for those wishing to sing in the chorus, auditions will be held for those who would like to perform a solo. For further information on taking part, contact the lady of the moment who is organizing the whole shebang, Fiona Steel at secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk

Thoroughly Modern Millie

We will shortly be announcing our Production Team for our November offering, Thoroughly Modern Millie, but we will be looking for some strong dancers for this show so if you want to tap and Charleston to your heart’s content, watch this space for further information. We are hoping to run some tap workshops for anyone wishing to polish their skills or learn the basics. Don’t forget that these skills will be called on again in November 2015 when we will be performing 42nd Street. There will be an initial get together for “Millie” in late July followed by a round of auditions. Rehearsals begin in early September. Please register your interest by emailing secretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk or chairman@oxtedoperatic.co.uk and we will keep you in touch with all dates and announcements.

Dena Watts

Happy Wabbits Day

Sunday 1st June 4.30 & 7pm

Having made their professional debut at the Barn Theatre as part of the Oxted Adventure, the Wabbits are delighted to be coming back with their ‘magical’ new musical The Wabbit King, as part of the Barn 90 celebrations.

The delightful Wabbit puppets have been made by Oxted local and Barn Theatre regular Jill ‘Wigs’ Wilson, and will be brought to ‘magical’ life by talented young actors and puppeteers.

The Wabbit King is being produced by local professional theatre company Another Way Theatre in collaboration with The Arc Arts Centre, Caterham. Written by ex-Caterhamian, Chris Chambers, The Wabbit King is a charming piece of musical theatre for all ages and delivers an important message about bullying in an entertaining way. It is particularly suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years and tackles major areas of the primary PSHE curriculum.

Wiggy started her theatrical career at the Barn in the early seventies designing lots of shows for both the Student Players and Oxted Operatic Society and since 1992 she has mainly been involved whenever there is an opportunity to take a show to the Minack. She originally trained at Reigate Art College and after two weeks work experience at Selfridges she became part of the team behind the world famous Christmas window displays. In 1984 she went freelance and has worked on a huge variety of projects from tiny scale models to huge floats for the Lord Mayor’s Show. She prides herself on her great attention to detail, and will do her utmost to create something extra special whether it be for a big corporate client or local dramatic group.

We are extremely fortunate to have Wiggy as Another Way Theatre’s resident designer and in June last year she created the most incredible Oyster Bed and 16ft Cleopatra’s Needle for our production of ANTONY & CLEOPATRA for The Minack Theatre. In July she helped design & construct a huge life-size tree for The Barnstormers production of PARADE erected at The Barn & Minack Theatre. And by mid August, Wiggy had already carved six polystyrene rabbit puppets who travelled in the car wherever she went. Friends and family started referring to them as ‘Wiggy’s Wabbits’ and hence the puppet show being named The Wabbit King.

I first encountered her wonderful creative talent 30 years ago, in 1984, when she designed a production of GODSPELL at The Barn Theatre. This unassuming and amazing lady made me a huge rainbow jelly to help celebrate my 18th Birthday which I shared with the rest of the cast and crew including many names you may recognise - Cat Longhurst (then Newitt), Chrissie Rodgers, Helen Harris-Rees and Julian Chenery. Janet Brown directed and musical direction was in the ever capable hands of Colin Warnock.

I feel very privileged to be able to bring The Wabbit’s to The Barn for their 90th celebrations and look forward to seeing many familiar faces in the audience.

Don’t miss this charming new show - suitable for children of all ages! Tickets £8 only Book now for an end of half term treat from the Barn Theatre Box Office 01959 561811 www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
Looking forward to the Autumn, the society are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of The First World War with its production of My Boy Jack by David Haig (15 to 18 October with Saturday matinee). This is a very powerful and poignant play based on true events which bring home the horror, tragedy and sadness of a war which touched the lives of so many people. Elizabeth Callow directs, and anyone interested in being involved in the production in any way please contact us on catherine.webber@btinternet.com

A Young Oxted Player speaks to us at BTN

The Young Oxted Players put on Carrie's War in March and I was so glad to be a part of it. I have been in other productions at the Barn for the OjOS (Oxted Junior Operatic Society) but this was my first all dialogue show and I really loved the change. The cast and crew all put on an amazing show and we had such a fun time rehearsing it. In the first few weeks of rehearsals it was hard to see how it would all come together, but thanks to the team, we had an amazing train to travel on, an atmospheric grove and fresh ham sandwiches for each performance!

Being a Young Oxted Player requires a lot of patience and concentration but in the end, it's all worth it. The cast of Carrie's War were all so nice and everyone got along really well; even if we weren't all familiar with each other. We shared some funny moments like when someone missed their line during an important scene, or people slipping up (some literally!) and of course, the Welsh accents and having to learn a Welsh hymn was a fun challenge! It was a great show for all of us and I can't wait for the next one. Many thanks to June Brown and her team for putting the show on. Teddy Stevenson

DRIP donation

Jonathan Tull Chairman of the Oxted Players presents Bruce Reed, Chairman of the Barn theatre with a cheque for £5000 as a generous donation towards the Dressing Room Improvement Project.

Katanya returns to the Barn in December, with her Motown band

Imperial Grooves are one of the top Motown and Soul bands in the UK. The group features some of the UK's top session musicians to bring you the best in live Motown and Soul music. The vocalists are truly the best there are, having won MOBO awards and clocked up performances alongside the likes of Ed Sheeran, Beverley Knight, Boys II Men and Stevie Wonder. The energetic show covers the classics including Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Sister Sledge, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Jackie Wilson, Ben E King and many more.

Katanya Pierre-Louise the female vocalist, was last seen at the Barn in the Barnstormers production of Parade, when she played the part of Angela, and we are delighted to welcome her back.

Saturday December 6th is the date for your diaries and book your tickets now www.barntheatroxted.co.uk or 01959561811

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The Editor of Barn Theatre News is Bruce Reed barntheatre@btinternet.com