

NOVEMBER 2017

# newsletter

Editor Jill Fuller [newsletter@sewellbarn.org](mailto:newsletter@sewellbarn.org) | Design Cassie Tillet [admin@sewellbarn.org](mailto:admin@sewellbarn.org)

**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

Constitution Hill  
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box office: 01603 626414

[www.sewellbarn.org](http://www.sewellbarn.org)

## Our Next Production

# Accidental Death of an Anarchist

by Dario Fo | adapted by Gavin Richards | translated by Gillian Hanna

directed by Karl Hartland & Clare Williamson

23-25, 29-30 Nov, 1-2 Dec 2017 at 7.30 pm, matinée 2 Dec at 2.30 pm



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

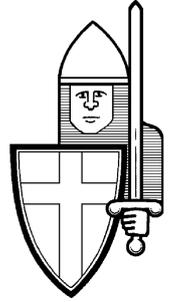
Are you worried that the world has descended into corruption, incompetence, and bad language? If so then Sewell Barn's next show, Dario Fo's **Accidental Death of an Anarchist**, will reassure you that you're not wrong and it's nothing new. It's 1969 or thereabouts and after gaining access to a Milan police station, the scene of the death of a suspect in a previous terrorist incident, our hero the Maniac sets to work digging up the truth that was buried by a nest of corrupt coppers. Add journalist Maria Feletti to the mix and it can only end one way. Or can it?

The recently late Nobel Laureate Dario Fo shows typically mischievous form by taking real events and producing a high energy show that's packed with laughs. It is delivered by a strong gender-blind cast who have made the play their own, including Hattie Scopes as the Maniac, Vincent M. Gaine as the Superintendent, Emma Kirkham as Pissani, Dom Sands as Bertozzo, and Jess Hutchings as Maria Feletti, with Will Harragan making his Barn debut as the Constables. Speaking truth to power has never been so manic.

*Karl Hartland & Clare Williamson*

# Bookings

Our telephone and walk-in ticket bookings are handled by **St George's Music Shop** (near the Norwich Playhouse). Chris and his team will be pleased to welcome you to 17-19 St George's Street Norwich NR3 1AB, tel: 01603 626414, or visit our online bookings link at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn>.



## Our previous production

# Lark Rise to Candleford

**Two plays by Keith Dewhurst adapted from the novels by Flora Thompson**

**directed by Robert Little**

**11-21 October 2017**

As director Robert Little wrote in his programme notes, "this journey has taken a long time to arrive". Unavoidable difficulties, including serious health problems, had derailed two previous attempts to stage this ambitious project. However, we are absolutely delighted that the determination of the director, cast, crew and musicians paid off, and we opened our new season with this charming pair of shows. Audiences were happy and responsive, the community spirit and wonderful characterisations were much praised, the superb band met with great acclaim, the cream teas on the two 'double-bill' Saturdays were greatly appreciated, and the theatre's funds received a much-needed boost from mostly excellent audiences, including a sell-out on the last night.

"Last night was my first visit to [the] Sewell Barn and **I was very impressed both with the theatre itself and the production of *Lark Rise* which was excellent.**" *Mike H*

"I came to Lark Rise and Candleford because I saw both at the National Theatre in London many years ago. **Your production does them credit.**" *Carolyn A*

"I have been coming to Sewell Barn for years but this is **the most brilliant production I have ever seen there - and elsewhere.** Congratulations to ALL concerned" *Elizabeth N*

More reviews of this and other shows can be found on our blog at <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.co.uk>.



Photography: Andrew Evans

# Music at the Barn

We were delighted to welcome back **events@paddlefast** for this superb evening of musical talent. The audience was much smaller than it should have been for such a magnificent show, and we can only strongly urge readers to note the date of the next one (Saturday 10 March 2018) and not to miss the opportunity.

Soloist **Camille Davila**, duo **Don't Lose Heart** and trio **Falling From Trees** all provided enchanting, high-quality music, relaxed and informal personalities and a warm-hearted welcome. The intimate atmosphere of the Sewell Barn was perfect for their style, the stage beautifully dressed by organiser Angela Rowe, and with first-class lighting and sound operation.

The March performance will feature three more delightful acts: **Andrew Taylor, Stromm**, and our very own **Chad Mason**, most recently seen both as a character and as a musician in our successful production **Lark Rise to Candleford** (see above). For £7, this is a bargain-basement price for champagne-quality entertainment – don't miss it next time!

## Coming Soon

# Blood and Ice

by **Liz Lochhead** | directed by **Sabrina Poole**

**11-13, 17-20 January 2018**

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's iconic novel *Frankenstein*, and our exciting January production is an exploration of the nature of female creativity in this dark evocation of the romance between Mary and Percy Shelley. Director Sabrina Poole comments: "With only the first month of rehearsals over, there's already been plenty of brilliant work being produced. The early stages have seen a lot of research and experimental work being done on the overall style and concept of the piece. Over the next two months we'll be continuing to refine that to bring something that's a little bit different to the barn stage. The actors are greatly enjoying playing such iconic and complex characters. It is a highly emotional play with scenes of intense grief, passion and love, interspersed with lighter moments of humour. As a director, I'm already excited to get it in front of an audience." Not to be missed.



## Auditions

Our next auditions take place in early December. **Dinner**, by Moira Buffini, is breathtakingly hilarious and gut-wrenchingly shocking by turns. Director Jen Dewsbury is well known for her professional, exciting and challenging productions (most recently at the Barn she was responsible for Dennis Potter's classic **Brimstone and Treacle** in 2016); both cast and audience are assured of an unforgettable stage experience.

Jen says: "Looking forward to the Dinner auditions and watching some scenes unfold. There are 7 characters: 3 males, 3 females and the Waiter who could be either. All are wonderful characters to play - if I wasn't directing it, I would want to be in it!"



Auditions will be held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm** at the Barn, and you'll find more details on our website at <http://www.sewellbarn.org/dinnerauditions.html>.

## Can you help?

The Sewell Barn is run on an entirely voluntary basis, and we can't do it without you. As we move into a new season of shows, **we are urgently in need of new candidates for the following vital roles**. Full training will be available from the present incumbents of the roles. If you're able to assist with any of the areas below, please contact [admin@sewellbarn.org](mailto:admin@sewellbarn.org) and we'd be delighted to hear from you.

### Bookings secretary

Jenny Wenn has faithfully fulfilled this role for more years than she would care to remember, but changing family and personal commitments means that she needs to step down. The role involves three main elements: making bookings for outside hires using our facilities at the Barn, in consultation with the Artistic Directors; keeping track of rehearsal and performance bookings by our own company in the theatre; and, where necessary, booking outside rehearsal space (normally at Rosebery Road Methodist Church; Jenny will continue to be key-holder for this venue). This is an extremely important role, both for our rehearsal schedules to work smoothly and for much-needed income from other companies, and ideally we need somebody in place before Christmas.

### Postal mailing assistant

We send most of our communications, to company members and to patrons, by email. However, there are still around 100 of our patrons who receive our flyers and information by post, which happens around 10-14 days before each show (eight times per year, plus occasional extra mailings). The (single page) letters and labels are sent by email to our 'postie', who then prints off the labels and one copy of the letter, photocopies the letters on the Barn photocopier, mixes A and B, stamps and sends. The costs of all stamps, stationery etc. are of course covered by the Barn. It's an undemanding but vital role, requiring a few hours' work once every 6-8 weeks.

### Leaflet sorter

We have a team who take care of supplying various outlets with our regular brochures, half-season flyers and single-show flyers at various times of the year. However, we need somebody who would be willing to collect the items from our printers, bring them back to the Barn, and separate them into various envelopes marked up for the recipients to collect at their convenience. The process of collection and sorting has a very precise timetable during the couple of days before a show, together with collecting the programmes for the present show – so while it isn't a long job it does need to be done at a specific time.

## What else is on in the area?

### Maddermarket Theatre [www.maddermarket.co.uk](http://www.maddermarket.co.uk)

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

***Dial M for Murder*** by Frederick Knott

**17-25 November** at 7.30pm; matinees at 2.30 pm on 18 & 25 November



### Great Hall Theatre Company [www.greathalltheatre.org.uk](http://www.greathalltheatre.org.uk)

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

***Climbing the Wall*** by Andy Powrie

**21-25 November** at 7.30 pm, matinée 25 November at 2.30 pm

