

JANUARY 2018

sewellbarn

newsletter

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THEATRE

Our Next Production Blood and Ice

by Liz Lochhead | directed by Sabrina Poole

11-13, 17-20 January 2018 at 7.30 pm, matinée 20 January at 2.30 pm



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

New Year's Day 1818: the publication of Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. The Sewell Barn is proud to celebrate this literary milestone with this dark, absorbing, powerful play. Director Sabrina Poole says:

'Describe what haunts you, Frankenstein. You have thought of a story.'

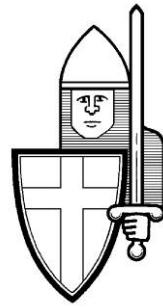
On a stormy night in England 1824 the shadows of the past come back to haunt Mary Shelley. Alone in her rooms, disturbed by what moves in the dark, she reaches for the comfort of her writing, her new creation. But memories of the old novel, her firstborn, refuse to be forgotten. It wants the answer to the question that plagues its existence - "why did you make me, Frankenstein?"

The answer lies in the broken dreams of the past where romance and imagination roamed wild. Unshackled from the rules of society, Mary and her companions lived in a fantasy of unbridled passion and artistry on the shores of Lake Geneva where a bet sparked the beginning of a story. But such moments are not made to last and, removed from the safety of that dream, thrown out into the icy clutches of the world and tormented by cruelty, the creation becomes the monster it was always feared to be. Malicious in their misery, the creator and creation are inextricably linked. Try as she might to move on, when Mary looks in the mirror she can see her monster staring back at her.

Because of the nature of the themes that are explored by this play, it is not considered suitable for young children.

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>.



Happy New Year!

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from myself and the rest of the management committee and to thank you all for your support and help during 2017. We look forward to seeing you at the Barn again for our exciting productions in 2018.

Jill Fuller – Chair, Sewell Barn Committee

Our previous production

Accidental Death of an Anarchist

by Dario Fo | adapted by Gavin Richards | translated by Gillian Hanna
directed by Karl Hartland & Clare Williamson

23 November – 2 December



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

Dario Fo's manic political farce has long been considered a classic of twentieth-century theatre, and for good reason. As Director Karl Harland said: "Are you worried that the world has descended into corruption, incompetence, and bad language? If so then Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* will reassure you that you're not wrong and it's nothing new."

The positive reviews started arriving as soon as the first night was over, and we're very proud of the magnificent cast and crew who brought their energy and skills to this show.

"This show is a blast and I honestly thought I was going to explode with laughter. A madcap frantic evening which will entertain and delight! My face is still aching from all the laughs, and the cast were clearly loving every moment! Bravo!" *Barnaby M*

"Directors Karl Hartland and Clare Williamson preside over a successful farce, powered throughout by a hyperactively brilliant, rapidly paced central performance from Hattie Scopes as the Maniac, whose machine-gun delivery of Fo's punishing lines comes with shattering speed and clarity..." *Charlotte Valori*

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

Coming Soon

The Killing of Sister George

by Frank Marcus | directed by Clare Williamson

22-24, 28 Feb, 1-3 March 2018

Sister George is the kindly, caring nurse in a much loved radio soap opera. She is played by June Buckridge, in real life a gung-zizzling, cigar-chomping, slightly sadistic woman, the antithesis of the sweet character she plays. When she discovers that her character is scheduled to be killed off, she becomes even more difficult and her treatment of 'Childie', the younger woman she lives with, reaches impossible levels.

Frank Marcus' dark 1965 comedy mercilessly parodies The Archers, exposes the fragility behind the theatrical mask, and explores a manipulative and destructive relationship with sharply-observed comedy and sensitive affection.



Auditions

A Month of Sundays was Bob Larbey's first stage play, which followed huge acclaim for his TV series 'The Good Life' and 'A Fine Romance', and is gentle and perceptive. Living in a retirement home, Cooper is becoming physically frail and Aylott is losing his memory. However, the two men find solace in each other's company, and face their waning years with heroic good humour. There are six wonderful roles – 3M/3F. We're delighted to welcome Mel Sessions for her first directorial experience at the Sewell Barn.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 21st January at 3.00 pm at the Barn, and you'll find more details on our website at <http://www.sewellbarn.org/sundaysauditions.html>



What else is on in the area?

Great Hall Theatre Company www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Come in to the Garden, Maud and **Song at Twilight** by Noel Coward

30 January – 3 February at 7.30 pm, matinée 3 February at 2.30 pm

great hall
THEATRE COMPANY

Maddermarket Theatre www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn

16-24 February at 7.30pm; matinees at 2.30 pm on 17 & 24 February

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