

FEBRUARY 2018

sewellbarn

THEATRE

Constitution Hill
Norwich NR3 4BB
Box office: 01603 626414
www.sewellbarn.org

newsletter

Editor Jill Fuller newsletter@sewellbarn.org | Design Cassie Tillett admin@sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production

The Killing of Sister George

by Frank Marcus | directed by Clare Williamson

22-24 February, 28 Feb, 1-3 March at 7.30pm, matinee 3 March at 2.30pm



Photography: Barry Parsons

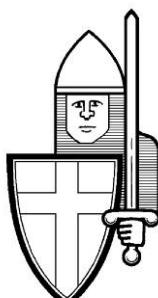
Sister George is the kindly, caring nurse in a much loved radio soap opera. She is played by June Buckridge, in real life a gin guzzling, cigar-chomping, slightly sadistic woman, the antithesis of the sweet character she plays. When she discovers that her character is scheduled to be killed off, she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

Director Clare Williamson says: "I'm fascinated by the complexity of the play which can be read on so many different levels. It is very funny and has many farcical moments but at the same time it is immensely sad and deals with loneliness and loss. The challenge is to convey the bittersweet nature of the play whilst giving the audience plenty of opportunity to laugh at the savagery of the wit and sharp ripostes in evidence throughout the text."

Gillian Tichborne (June) and Mandy Kiley (Mercy) are well known to Sewell Barn audiences for their high-quality performances and professional versatility. Completing this talented quartet, we are thrilled to welcome Joy Davidson (Madame Xenia) and Sophie Blythe (Alice) to our stage for the first time.

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>.



Music at the Barn

Saturday 10 March at 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm)

We are thrilled to welcome another excellent musical evening organised by events@paddlefast. Three first-rate local acts will bring their own unique styles, and from previous experience this is an event not to be missed. Sewell Barn regulars will be delighted to see the wonderful **Chad Mason**, who not only performed in a similar concert in 2015 but often appears in our shows, most recently in our highly successful production of *Lark Rise to Candleford*. Chad brings his quirky view on life, his eclectic conversation, beautiful vocals, touching songs and musical accompaniment back to this intimate setting. **Andrew Taylor**'s gentle vocals, Beatles-influenced story-telling and guitar-plucking will delight and entrance you; and **Stromm**'s impressionistic lyrics suggest, rather than tell, stories from broken romance, passion and jealousy to primordial landscapes and more. **Tickets available now at just £7** (see above) – don't miss it.



Our previous production

Blood and Ice

by Liz Lochhead | directed by Sabrina Poole

11-13, 17-20 January 2018



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

New Year's Day 2018 saw the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's iconic novel *Frankenstein*. We were proud and thrilled to present Liz Lochhead's powerful play, exploring the relationships between Mary, her husband Percy and Lord Byron, shadowed throughout by Mary's frightening creation. Our cast, director and crew did us proud with a focused, intense production which drew great appreciation from our audiences:

"Went to see Blood & Ice at Sewell Barn last night (17th Jan) and **it was fantastic**. Such a strong show, actors were excellent, particularly the young lady who played Mary Shelley. She had so many lines and delivered them incredibly well. I thought it a very credible performance. Well done." *Dawn T*

"Very thought provoking play. Some **very good performances and wonderful direction**. Costumes were excellent too." *David W*

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

Coming Soon Dinner

by Moira Buffini | directed by Jen Dewsbury

5-7, 11-14 April 2018

On a night of thick fog, the fabulously elegant Paige is throwing a celebratory dinner in honour of her husband, Lars, and his best-selling pop psychology book 'Beyond Belief'. She has been preparing the menu for months: 'Primordial Soup', 'Apocalypse of Lobster' and for dessert 'Frozen Waste'. She's even employed a professional waiter especially for the occasion...

This cracking black comedy will have you laughing uproariously one moment and jumping with shock the next. Like a master chef, Moira Buffini mixes familiar ingredients to create something startlingly original. Revenge is a dish best served cold, but at this dinner party it is served frozen.



Contains strong language and adult themes

Auditions: Tomfoolery

Director: Cassie Tillett (Musical Director: Selwyn Tillett)

Contact: cassie@tillett.org.uk / 07802 475110

Performances: 12-14 & 18-21 July 2018 (matinée 21 July) | Auditions Friday 9 March at 7.30pm

A revue of the witty, wicked and thoroughly twisted world of famed satirical songwriter Tom Lehrer

The Harvard-educated professor of mathematics delighted millions of fans during the 1950s and 1960s with his dry, cynical but good-humoured attacks on the A-bomb, racism, pollution, pornography, the military, the boy scouts and, of course, mathematics. He retired from performing in 1972 but his legendary satire has achieved cult status. As Lehrer himself enjoyed recounting, a review from the New York Times in 1958 observed "Mr. Lehrer's muse [is] not fettered by such inhibiting factors as taste." That may be so; but it is also exceptionally funny, intelligent, observant and thought-provoking - and resonates, sometimes painfully, half a century later, proving how little we have learned.



The show consists of songs with linking narrative; there are no spoken sketches. As such, all performers need to have adequate musical skills. The show is originally scored for 3M and 1F. However, we have checked with the publishers and it is acceptable to have any combination of performers we wish, as long as the material and the flow of the show remains unchanged. In practice, experience tells us that a cast of anywhere between 3M/3F and 5M/5F is possible, in

any permutation as long as it's balanced! A broad range of ages would be useful. For more information, please visit our audition page at <http://www.sewellbarn.org/tomfooleryauditions.html>.

Front of House

With effect from our next production (The Killing of Sister George) we are pleased to announce that there will be **free tea and coffee** served at the matinée performances.

Wardrobe

Over the years, many donations of clothing have been made to our wardrobe department by kind people. However, the rails are now at bursting point, so we have decided to have a Vintage Clothing sale. This will consist of articles from the 1920s to the 1980s which we have been unable to use on stage, due to size, colour etc. We have found many items which will suit historical re enactment buffs, and the young who seek individuality. The sale will take place **on Sunday May 20th from 11am to 5pm**. Put the date in your diary!

June Gentle

New Season Launch

It may be hard to believe, but preparations for our **2018/19 season** are well underway. Artistic Directors Cassie and Clare are presently working hard to assemble another group of productions that will display the versatility of our performers, our crew and our unique space, with a broad mixture of the familiar and the unusual, comedy and tragedy, the relaxed and the challenging, classic and contemporary – and, of course, with plenty of acting opportunities for both sexes and a wide range of ages, as well as using the directorial skills of both new and experienced members of the company.

The traditional Season Launch meeting and social will be held on **Sunday 13th May** (the weekend between the two halves of the run of *Romeo & Juliet*). Times and further arrangements will be confirmed very soon, but do put the date into your diary in the meantime.

What else is on in the area?

Great Hall Theatre Company www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Lovers' Leap by Philip Johnson

12-17 March at 7.30 pm, matinée 17 March at 2.30 pm



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

Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth

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



To keep up-to-date on all the excellent theatrical offerings from our three very different Norwich venues, visit norwichamateurttheatre.weebly.com.