

MAY 2018

# newsletter

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**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

Constitution Hill  
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box office: 01603 626414

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

## Our Next Production

# Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare | directed by Carole Lovett

10-12, 16-19 May 2018 at 7.30pm, matinée 19 May at 2.30 pm



Photography: Andrew Evans

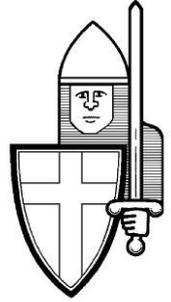
**Romeo and Juliet** presents any company with a challenge in that most people, even if they have never seen it in performance, know the story and therefore, obviously, know how it ends. However, the more we have worked on this production and the more the actors have explored the text then the more we have all realised that the emotional depth and psychological intensity of Shakespeare's drama transcends any cursory glance at the plot-line or the historical background.

The 'star-crossed lovers' are heart-breakingly young and their elders, who should all know better, have neither guided them nor protected them in any way from the disaster towards which they are heading. There is a surprising amount of comedy, also, tucked away between the more serious episodes of the story and some of the most lyrical poetry that can ever have been written. My cast have risen to the challenge of presenting this play against a present day setting with exceptional commitment and understanding and I have been continually amazed by their dedication. Every rehearsal seems to have ended with at least one of the actors pointing out to me yet another nuance or fresh outlook that until that moment had completely passed me by. These rehearsals have been thought-provoking and rewarding and I am looking forward very much to seeing their end-result.

*Carole Lovett - Director*

# 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>. Payment can be made by credit or debit card at St George's, but please note that only cash payments can be made if purchasing tickets on the door.



## Our previous production

### Dinner

by **Moira Buffini** | directed by **Jen Dewsbury**

**5-7 & 11-14 April**



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

The glowing reviews of this cracking black comedy started to arrive as soon as the bows had been taken after the first performance. There was one gentleman in the audience on the final night who was making his FIFTH visit to the show, he enjoyed it so much... Huge congratulations to director Jen Dewsbury and her magnificent cast and crew for a show that enjoyed enormous success, both artistically and commercially.

"I have just got home exhausted after the opening night of Dinner. Horror and hilarity combined to give us a gruesome feast of an evening, which made us laugh and wince, sometimes simultaneously. **First rate performances all round, razor sharp direction and a great script made a fantastic evening.** I would like to come back for a second helping..." *Barnaby M*

"Dinner is **one of the best plays I have ever seen.** And I've seen rather a lot . . . **Go and See It** if you possibly can." *Golda C*

"Beautifully paced throughout, and the sharp bits of rapid action slick and natural... So - what a treat: **seven experienced players, strong, confident, fluent, and flawless, in a very strong drama** [with more laughs than I'd expected], in the middle of an enthralled, sometimes shocked, but always genuinely happy audience." *Rob F-W*

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

## Coming Soon

# A Month of Sundays

by Bob Larbey | directed by Mel Sessions

14-16, 20-23 June 2018



On the first Sunday of every month, John Cooper's daughter and son-in-law come to see him. The visits are seldom a success. Cooper's conversation tends towards jokes about ageing and senility, their talk revolves around their challenging journey. The grandson has stopped visiting.

Bob Larbey's first stage play, which followed huge acclaim for his TV series 'The Good Life' and 'A Fine Romance', 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.

We are thrilled to welcome Mel Sessions, well known as both actor and director in Norwich, for her directorial debut at the Sewell Barn. Her cast includes names both familiar and unfamiliar to our audiences: Ruby Barrett, Janet Clay, Mandy Kiley and Chris Whitley, with David White and Ralph Yarrow as Cooper and Aylott. With the wry observational humour for which Larbey is famous, this promises to be a delightful and moving evening.

## Thank you to our Sponsors

We are delighted to announce that three local businesses have agreed to support the Sewell Barn for our new season. **Spire Solicitors LLP** and **Norfolk Gin** sponsor us at Gold level and will appear in our new brochure, with **Smith & Pinching IFA** at Bronze level. If you know of any other local businesses who would like to support us in this way, please contact our Marketing Officer, Phil Williamson, on [marketing@sewellbarn.org](mailto:marketing@sewellbarn.org).

We are also thrilled and grateful to have received a grant of £1,500 towards the upgrading of our lighting and sound equipment from the **John Jarrold Trust**. We do need to raise a similar additional amount in order to complete this vital work. Further details of ways in which you can help will be published very soon.

## New Season Launch 2018/19: Sunday 13 May

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the traditional Season Launch meeting and social will be held on the above date. **Please note that this is the Sunday between the two halves of the run of *Romeo & Juliet*, rather than the traditional date which would normally be the following week.**

Artistic Directors Clare Williamson & Cassie Tillet have once again created a widely varied programme, including the classical and the contemporary, the familiar and the lesser-known, tiny casts and huge casts, feel-good and challenging, and with dozens of wonderful roles for both sexes and all ages.

If you are unable to join us, don't worry; the programme, casting notes and interest forms will be available from our website very soon after the launch.

The bar will be open from 12 until 3pm and the meeting will begin at 1pm; please 'bring and share' food for lunch (don't bring a greater quantity than you could eat yourself, or we will have a lot left over!). We look forward very much to seeing you there.

## Wardrobe Sale: Sunday 20 May

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!

### Would you be available to help?

We will need lots of helpers (before the event - e.g ironing to present the clothes in tip top condition) and on the day to help set up, sell items, provide teas etc. If you would be able to help, please contact June Gentle: [wardrobe@sewellbarn.org](mailto:wardrobe@sewellbarn.org).

*June Gentle*

## 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



### MadderFirst New Writing Festival

***King Alfred's Kitchen*** by Chris James

**21-26 May** at 7.30pm; matinée at 2.30 pm on 26 May

***The Audition*** devised by Panda Monium, Russel J Turner and the Company

**29 May – 2 June** – check Maddermarket website for times

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

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

***The Reunion*** by Peter Gordon

**8-12 May** at 7.30 pm, matinée 12 May at 2.30 pm



To keep up-to-date on all the excellent theatrical offerings from our three very different Norwich venues (the Sewell Barn, the Maddermarket and the Great Hall), visit [norwichamateurtheatre.weebly.com](http://norwichamateurtheatre.weebly.com).