

FEBRUARY 2019

# newsletter

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**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

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Box Office: 01603 626414

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

## Our Next Production Confusions

by Alan Ayckbourn | Directed by Cassie Tillett & Clare Williamson

21-23, 27-28 Feb, 1-2 Mar 2019 at 7.30pm, matinée 2 Mar at 2.30pm



Photography: Andrew Evans

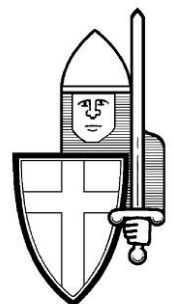
Alan Ayckbourn is well known for his sharply observant creations. Apparently comic (and there is a huge amount of laughter), we are often brought up short by darker situations and personalities, both above and below the surface. These characters – twenty-one of them in all – are played by just five actors. They, and the situations we meet them in, are commonplace and extraordinary, sad and hilarious and ridiculous. There are links between the plays, some creations appearing in more than one; but each separately holds a mirror up to nature, and to ourselves.

Our talented cast has had a wonderful time morphing through these different faces and places; our creative team has created a magnificent and flexible set and effects; and we hope to welcome you to Ayckbourn's slightly skewed world, which we all inhabit, one way and another. Oh, and by the way: watch out for the ducks.

*Clare Williamson & Cassie Tillett*

## 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

# These Shining Lives

by Melanie Marnich | Directed by Jessica Hutchings

10-12, 16-19 Jan 2019



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

In her directorial debut, Jessica Hutchings, with her dedicated cast and crew, created a totally mesmerising and powerful tribute to the Radium Girls. Audiences were moved, shocked and wholly absorbed in this beautifully creative and heartfelt production. Our 'comments' chalkboard has never been so full of praise!

"Rarely do I see a play which is intense, gentle, frightening and moving in equal measure! Rarely do I leave the theatre wanting to share that experience with the world. But such was my experience tonight at The Sewell Barn Theatre in Norwich. These are real people - these were real happenings! This was *These Shining Lives* - **a superb production with a talented young cast** playing out this tragic story of the cynicism and ruthlessness of big business and the common man." *Robin S*

"A great setting, atmosphere and professional performance. 'These Shining Lives' was **the best performance I have ever been to**. Well done cast & crew. I look forward to my next visit to Sewell Barn Theatre." *Dearbhla Q*

For more reviews of this and other shows, please visit <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.com/>.

## Audition news : Waiting in the Wings by Noel Coward

It's hard to believe that just one audition remains for the 2018/19 season. We finish with the fabulous, often hilarious, often moving *Waiting in the Wings*: a late work of the Master himself, Noel Coward, created with many of his favourite senior actresses in mind (including Dame Sybil Thorndike, who played the original Lotta).

Joint Artistic Director Cassie Tillett is looking not only for **TEN magnificent ladies in their later years** (playing age of 60+) but also a further **four men and four ladies of varying ages** for the remaining roles. There are wonderful opportunities for tiny roles and huge ones, for the sedentary and the lively, for the hilarious and the tragic, for the placid and the argumentative. This will be an amazing show to work on, and we hope to welcome many of you to our auditions on **Sunday 3 March at 2:00 pm**. The smallest roles (Topsy, Doctor Jeavons, Dora and Alan) will be dealt with first, but as there is so much



interaction between the other characters, we'd like to work with everybody for the rest of the afternoon. Tea, biscuits and camaraderie are on offer!

Library copies of the script are available to borrow from Cassie & Selwyn; please email [selwyn@tillett.org.uk](mailto:selwyn@tillett.org.uk) to arrange collection, and to see details of sections to be used at audition. Likewise, please get in touch if you are unable to attend the auditions but would like to be considered; and please see our website for full details ([www.sewellbarn.org/casting.html](http://www.sewellbarn.org/casting.html)).

## Coming Soon

# Faustus

by Christopher Marlowe | Directed by Chris Bealey

21-23, 27-28 Feb, 1-2 March 2019

Can we have it all? Dr John Faustus thought so, and the terrible price he pays for gorging his appetites is explored in this timeless morality play. Faustus makes the original pact with the devil. He sells his soul for eternity in return for 24 years of his every desire being satisfied. He has great knowledge but cannot satisfy his thirst for more and once given access, the devil seduces him by degree with baser and baser temptations. The production explores how temptation can unravel us all, through live music and a cast of characters who transmute from real to grotesque.



## Volunteering: ways to help your theatre!

We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers in every aspect of our work, which is performed entirely voluntarily. The more help we have, the lighter the load on us all!

We have produced a friendly summary of the various areas that can use your help, and you can find this by visiting our website at [www.sewellbarn.org/policies.html](http://www.sewellbarn.org/policies.html), and choosing the link to **Volunteering at the Barn**. This includes front of house, stage management, prompting, all areas of technical work, and costumes. Please email us on [admin@sewellbarn.org](mailto:admin@sewellbarn.org) and we'll be very happy to put you in touch with the appropriate people. We can't do it without you!

## 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

***The Thirty-Nine Steps*** by Patrick Barlow & John Buchan **15-23 February**



### Great Hall Theatre Company

[www.greathalltheatre.org.uk](http://www.greathalltheatre.org.uk)

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

***The Edge of Darkness*** by Brian Clemens **12-16 March**

