

MAY 2019

newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box Office: 01603 626414

www.sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production

Yerma

by Federico Garcia Lorca | Directed by Phil Rowe

6-8 & 12-15 June 2019, matinée 15 June at 2.30pm



Photography: Barry Parsons

Yerma tells the story of five years in the life of a Spanish woman in the early 20th Century. In the harsh landscape of Granada, dominated by honour, tradition and Catholicism, Yerma (whose name means barren) is the young wife of Juan, an ambitious local farmer. She dreams of having a son; however, her husband is only interested in what he can make money from. As the chance of motherhood slips through her fingers the dream becomes a need, then a dangerous obsession that drives her in the end to commit a terrible crime, killing her dream forever.

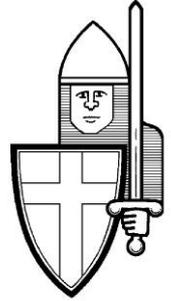
The sounds of a rural community, Spanish-inspired music (specially composed for this production by the director) and projections complete the experience in which the entire Sewell Barn space is used to immerse the audience in Yerma's world. But all of this is only a backdrop. The real power of this play comes from the story and the characters within it, and the monumental struggle of the eponymous character to reconcile the world around her and the inner drive that defines her.

Yerma is played by Sarah Jenkins, and the rest of the characters (around 30 in all) are performed by an ensemble of eight actors (Zachary Burbridge, Matthew Long, Dawn Brindle, Katie Appadoo, Meryl Dempsey, Janet Morrison, Rebekah Oelrichs and Emma Aldridge) using masks, costume, audio recording and puppetry. Their characters range from a traditional husband and a forbidden love, a pagan cynic and a herbalist miracle worker, giggly girls and gossipy washerwomen, and a host of others all telling their stories in poetry, song, ritual, dance and movement. At the heart of all this is a very real and powerful story that is beautiful, dark, visceral and brutally human. It gives us a tragedy the equal of any other.

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 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

The Children

by Lucy Kirkwood | Directed by Peter Wood

2-4, 8-11 May 2019



Photography: Andrew Evans

Dark, reflective and unsettling, while often very funny, Lucy Kirkwood's thought-provoking play was received with much praise for the production and for the excellent work of the three actors.

"One of the many charms of the Barn is the wide range of plays that make up each season. There's comedy, romance, tragedy and more. Then there are those that are made up by a bit of all the above. *The Children* is one of these plays. A thought provoking, perhaps prescient story that is at the same time beautiful, tragic and funny told engagingly by the three actors who were relatable and believable and you really feel for them as you discover more about each of them and their loves and losses. Well done all!" *Matt S*

"Those present were totally involved at all times and also clearly got the humour of the play. One impressive feature of the production was the pace and also the pauses which worked very well. Your cast gave strong performances. Sewell Barn should be very pleased with the quality of the production." *John S*

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

Coming Soon

Waiting in the Wings

by Noël Coward | Directed by Cassie Tillet

11-13, 17-20 July 2019



A cast of eighteen, ten of whom are playing the senior residents of an retirement home for actresses (and the furniture on the Barn stage to accommodate them!), music and backchat and ancient feuds (between the characters, I hasten to add, not the performers!); what could possibly go wrong?

Well, rehearsals so far have been far more fun than is decent (and very noisy!). Coward's late comedy, a tribute to many of the senior actresses who supported him in his career, has moments of great poignancy and reflection alongside his characteristic sharply observant humour.

Our magnificent cast consists of both newcomers and much-loved familiar faces (some of whom haven't board-trodden for a few years, some of whom are seldom absent). Thank you for all the hard work so far to these lovely folks: **Gill Tichborne, Anne Giles, Ina Bullen, Jan Farrar, Jill Fuller, Joy Davidson, June Gentle, Mel Sessions, Pam Akhurst** and **Sue Newstead** as the residents of The Wings (affectionately known as the Old Broads); **Francesca Hempsted, Jane Keidan, Janet Clay** and **Lauren Baston** in the 'non-resident' female roles, and last but not least, **Jim Howard, Jonathan Redding, David Van Den Burgh** and **Terry Dabbs** as the far-outnumbered gentlemen. Together with a mighty team for set design, construction, stage management and a somewhat hysterical number of costumes, I couldn't be more delighted with my current stage family. See you there!

Cassie Tillet - Director

Auditions: The Tempest

Performance dates: 17-19 & 23-26 October 2019, matinée 26 October

This is the first production of the 2019/20 season. Please take a look at the relevant page on the Barn website (<http://www.sewellbarn.org/tempestauditions.html>). That'll introduce you to the play and all the characters and give you some idea about who you might be interested in auditioning for.



The auditions are happening at the Barn on **Sunday 9 June** from 7.30pm onwards. If you want to have a look beforehand at the specific audition pieces I've found from the play for any of the individual characters, then please let me know and I will email them to you in advance of the audition. You should be familiar with the play and, for this purpose, any copy of The Tempest will do.

I will be casting gender blind or gender fluid. This means either sex can audition for any part but all the roles will be played according to the gender specified by Shakespeare. So for The Tempest there will be 9 male roles, one female role and one asexual role - Ariel.

I look forward to seeing you at audition but if you can't be there on the day, I can arrange a separate audition for you at a time to suit. Please let me know if you're interested, and in what characters!

Clare Williamson cwilliamson197@gmail.com

Auditions: Mojo

Performance dates: 21-23, 27-30 November 2019, matinée 30 November

This is a slick, violent black comedy set in the Soho clubland of the 1950s. The play is set in Ezra's Atlantic Club in Soho during the summer of 1958. Silver Johnny, Ezra's seventeen-year-old rock 'n' roll protégé, is causing a sensation at the club. Two petty crooks, Sweets and Potts, high on amphetamines, introduce us to this criminal milieu. They are joined by two others, Skinny and Baby. Baby enjoys tormenting, even torturing, Skinny. While the youngsters mess about, a local gangster, Sam Ross, kills Ezra, and takes Silver Johnny. Terrified, the gang, now led by Mickey (Ezra's number two) barricade themselves in the club and prepare for an attack. Although he is Ezra's son and heir, Baby realises that Mickey is now in charge and suggests they run the club together, but Mickey rejects him. In the power struggle that ensues, Baby demonstrates that he's more than a match for Mickey – and nobody escapes unscathed.



There are six roles in the play for six young men – ages ranging from late teens to mid 30s. For details of the characters, auditions and rehearsals, please visit our website (<http://www.sewellbarn.org/mojoauditions.html>). Audition pieces available here: <http://bit.ly/2QxfEmB>. **Audition: 16 June** – 1400-1700 at Creative Space, 3 St Benedict's View, Norwich, NR2 4HH.

Nick Meir nick@ahousecalledalice.com

Our next season

We were thrilled to welcome around sixty people to celebrate the launch of our FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY 2019/20 season. Artistic Directors Cassie Tillet and Clare Williamson introduced the lineup of plays, and many of the new directors; cake was provided, and there were plenty of opportunities for questions and socialising.

If you're receiving this newsletter by post, there will be a copy of the brochure enclosed. If you're on our email lists, you can collect a copy when you're next at the theatre (for Yerma and/or Waiting in the Wings – see elsewhere in this letter for details); view all details on our website (www.sewellbarn.org); or drop us an email at admin@sewellbarn.org if you'd like us to post you a copy.

Right: the Artistic Directors with their supportive husbands – who also happen to be the Secretary and the Marketing Officer for the Sewell Barn! – proudly showing off our new brochures.



THE TEMPEST

by William Shakespeare

Director: Clare Williamson **17-19, 23-26 October 2019**

MOJO

by Jez Butterworth

Director: Nick Meir **21-23, 27-30 November 2019**

THE INNOCENTS

by William Archibald

Director: Richard Hand **9-11, 15-18 January 2020**

THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

by Joanna Murray-Smith

Director: Mel Sessions **13-15, 19-22 February 2020**

THE LOVE OF THE NIGHTINGALE

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Director: Tony Fullwood **26-28 March; 1-4 April 2020**

AMY'S VIEW

by David Hare

Director: Pip Sessions **7-9, 13-16 May 2020**

ORCA

by Matt Grinter

Director: Sabrina Poole **11-13, 17-20 June 2020**

UNDER MILK WOOD

by Dylan Thomas

Director: Cassie Tillet **16-18, 22-25 July 2020**

Technical Workshop

We are delighted to announce that, after a successful sound workshop run by Chad Mason a few weeks ago, **Rob Little** will run a lighting workshop on **Wednesday 19 June** at 7.00pm at the Barn. Rob will be demonstrating use of the lighting desk as well as which lamps are best used in various circumstances.

Rob has twice been our Artistic Director, as well as acting, directing and much more. His experience as Senior Drama Technician at the UEA, coupled with his long-term support and understanding of our theatre, means that this will be a very valuable learning opportunity in a vital area of our work. Please contact Rob to let him know of your attendance or with any questions on R.Little@uea.ac.uk.

Can you help us?

We are always on the lookout for extra help – many hands, etc. We'd especially like to hear from folks who are able to help us with the following:

Front of House

For every performance, we have to provide three stewards and to serve on the bar we need two more volunteers! We need you! Could you possibly spare an evening during the run of a production to help out? We will train anyone new to it ... it is not actually an arduous task! It is also a very nice way to meet people and to promote the Barn through chatting to audiences. So if you would like to be involved, please contact Jane Page, who will put you on the rota. If you can help, please email Jane Page on foh@sewellbarn.org.

Technical staff: riggers, design & programmers, operators

We are delighted to have welcomed some new members to the team in recent months. However, there is always a lot of work to be done in all the areas above, and the whole show to be covered by operators (tech weekend, three dress rehearsals and eight performances). We have some excellent kit (a new Apple Mac and QLab), more appraisal is taking place for considering further investment, and it's a great opportunity to learn skills and support our community at the same time. Please email technical@sewellbarn.org if you can help.

Health & Safety Officer

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility for the health and safety of the Barn. Ideally this would be someone willing to join the committee but that is not essential. Some experience is needed. The Barn has a Health and Safety policy which can be viewed on the web-site www.sewellbarn.org. If you have some experience in this kind of area, and can spare a small amount of time or if you would like more details of what this would entail, please contact me.

Jill Fuller - Chair of Management Committee chair@sewellbarn.org

What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

Towards Zero by Agatha Christie **21-29 June**

Great Hall Theatre Company

www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

Proscenophobia by Bettine Manktelow **2-6 July**

