

JULY 2019

newsletter

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

sewellbarn
THEATRE

Constitution Hill
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box Office: 01603 626414

www.sewellbarn.org

Our Next Production

Waiting in the Wings

by Noël Coward | Directed by Cassie Tillet

11-13, 17-20 July 2019 at 7.30pm (matinee 20 July at 2.30pm)



Photography: Andrew Evans

The final production in our 2018/19 season celebrates the wisdom, experience and fun that can (sometimes but not always) increase with age. Set in 1959-60, the play and its music takes us back to the earlier theatrical heydays of ten once-glamorous actresses, sharing their memories and fears in a charitable retirement home whilst awaiting their ultimate curtain-call. Noël Coward's fiftieth play reflects his perceptive insights into the human condition: "old age needn't be nearly so dreary and sad as it's supposed to be, provided you greet it with humour and live it with courage".

I've always felt that Coward's plays have an undeserved reputation for being simply "light and mannered". His characters are well-drawn and multi-faceted, his dialogue precisely written. *Waiting in the Wings* is gentle, observant, surprising, tragic, sweet, and extremely amusing. I am particularly pleased to have brought together a cast of 18 exceptionally experienced performers, several of whom have not trodden the boards for some time. We estimate their combined age to exceed 1,000 years; we think that must be a record for our theatre!

Rehearsals have been a challenge (choreographing this number of people, together with furniture, is somewhat akin to an eightsome reel crossed with a complex knitting pattern) but the most enormous fun. My whole cast is dedicated, delightful and – it must be said – mischievous. (Revision of old saying: never work with animals, children or Old Broads...) There has been so much laughter and affection as everyone shares their experiences and their expertise, onstage and off, enhanced by the hard work and creativity of many talented people behind the scenes. We hope you will join us for a very special theatrical experience.

Cassie Tillet - 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 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 : Yerma

by Federico Garcia Lorca | Directed by Phil Rowe

6-8 & 12-15 June 2019

Phil Rowe's directorial debut at our theatre was enthusiastically received and highly praised. The simple but highly atmospheric set, powerful performances and imaginative use of music and dance created a highly emotional and moving experience.



Photography: Barry Parsons

"Sewell Barn really impressed me with its simple layout and profound decor. Yerma's production and delivery was absolutely **intense, passionate and connected**. I felt part of the play... well done all." *Roy A*

"'Yerma' at @sewellbarn. An intense drama full of potent symbolism, set in a stunning piece of design. The cast delivered the visceral yet poetic language in some **heart-rending performances**. Congratulations to all involved!" *David W*

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

Auditions: The Innocents

Sunday 1 September at 1.00 pm

By William Archibald | Directed by Richard Hand

(adapted from Henry James' novel The Turn of the Screw)

Performance dates: 9-11, 15-18 January 2020 (matinée 18 January)

We are delighted to welcome Richard Hand to our team of directors for this show. Richard is presently directing *Proscenophobia* at the Great Hall Theatre (see end of this newsletter for details) and we very much look forward to his use of our unique, intimate space to create this iconic ghost story.



The show has a cast of 2M/4F, including two children (to be played by young adults). Please visit www.sewellbarn.org/innocentsauditions.html for further details.

Coming Soon

The Tempest

by William Shakespeare | Directed by Clare Williamson

17-19, 23-26 October 2019



On a deserted island lives Prospero, exiled after his brother stole his dukedom from him.

In our modern interpretation of Shakespeare's great play, this is no tropical paradise but rather an island destroyed and abandoned after nuclear tests.

When this deceitful brother and his entourage sail close by, Prospero uses his magical powers to create a tempest. In the ensuing shipwreck, they are flung on to the island, bringing with them grief and greed, farce and folly, revelations and revenge but, ultimately, love and letting go.

Director Clare Williamson says: "Ideas for my version of The Tempest have been brewing since the new year. It's exciting to have completed the audition process and we start rehearsals in September. I'm looking forward to making my island a reality and inviting you all to visit when the play opens in October."

Auditions were very well attended and the standard was high, so decisions were difficult, but this is the final lineup:

Prospero: John Holden

Ariel: Zachary Burbridge

Caliban: James Thomson

Miranda: Jessica Hutchings

Ferdinand: Michelle Moore

Alonso: Peter Wood

Gonzalo: Kevin Oelrichs

Antonio/Iris: Glenda Gardiner

Sebastian/Juno: Paula Meir

Trinculo: Alexandra Evans

Stephano: Diane Webb

Boatswain/Ceres: Janet Morrison

SM: Anne Giles

ASM: Janet Morrison

Summer Barn 'Clear-Up'

We are holding our annual clear-up of the Barn on the weekend of **10-11 August**. Could you spare some time on either or both of these days between 9 am and 4 pm? Just an hour or two would be a great help and it is actually great fun! Old clothes are needed though as it could be dusty!!

This year it will involve tidying and cleaning, and disposing of the 'junk' accumulated during the year .. we have organised a skip.

At the end of the Sunday session, Cassie and Selwyn have invited participants to go to their house for a glass of wine and some nibbles (they live in Crome Road, about three-quarters of a mile from the theatre).

Please let us know on admin@sewellbarn.org if you can spare us some time - and if so, when - so we know who to expect. We hope to see you there!

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, together with our other official policies, on our website at www.sewellbarn.org/policies.html. If you have some experience in this area, and can spare some time, or if you would like more details of what this would entail, please contact Jill Fuller, Chair of Management Committee, on chair@sewellbarn.org.

Front of House social and training evening : 2 October

Important notice for stewards, bar helpers and everyone who would like to join our team!

You are of vital importance to the Barn productions. We cannot perform without you! So on **Wednesday 2 October** we will be holding our annual Front of House get-together. It is very important that we have as many of you there as possible so you can be totally up to date on procedures and the health and safety guidelines. It's also a chance to socialise with other members. The bar will be open and nibbles will be provided.

If you have not helped front of house before and would like more details, please feel free to contact me with any questions. However, whether you're new to the role or not, **please let me know you are coming** so we can cater appropriately. RSVP chair@sewellbarn.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jill Fuller

Membership

Annual membership, as a Friend of the Sewell Barn, is due for renewal this month. If this applies to you, there will be a form attached to this mailing (or if you receive this by post, it will be included). Membership costs £10 for one person, £15 for a couple living at the same address, or £50 a person for Life membership. Details of how to pay are on the form. Please also consider Gift Aiding your subscription as this is financially beneficial to the society.

Your membership entitles you to a free drink at all first night performances; to voting rights at our AGM and therefore input to the running of the Society; and makes a regular supportive contribution to our work in maintaining a high standard of affordable entertainment in our unique venue. If you do not do so already, please consider helping us in this way. Further details can be found at www.sewellbarn.org/membership.html.

Money money money...

On the same subject, we have been reviewing our payment processes. See below for some ways that you can help us.

DIRECT DEBIT If you wish, you can now pay your membership by Direct Debit – it's easy to set up and once in place means it is automatic every year – we don't have to remember to send out reminders and you don't have to remember to send a cheque! Simply send an email to treasurer@sewellbarn.org giving your name, preferred email address and membership level and we will email you a mandate.

GIFT AID If you are a taxpayer we can claim Gift Aid on your subscription and any donations you may make to us. There is a form with the membership renewal letter – or you can email treasurer@sewellbarn.org and we will send you a copy – which can be completed online and emailed back.

ONE-OFF DONATIONS If you would like to make a one-off donation quickly and easily, simply text SEWELLBARN and the amount to donate to 70085.

Alternatively, you can donate via JustGiving (www.justgiving.com/sewellbarntheatretrust).

Thank you for your support!

Kate Anetts - Treasurer

Lizzie Vaughan: RIP

As you may have seen from recent messages, we were devastated to learn of the death of Lizzie Vaughan last month. Lizzie was a much loved, brave and enthusiastic member of our theatre. She had taken part in several productions over the last few years, mostly Shakespeare, but had also supported many shows, enjoyed many auditions, and was often to be found helping out backstage or behind the bar. In recent years her transformation from Matt (as many will have known her) was a courageous step to be the person she wanted to be. She was an enthusiastic part of Norwich Pride and the LGBT+ community. Her generous and helpful spirit, huge smile and loyal affection for our theatre, as well as her enormous courage, will be greatly missed. The Sewell Barn Theatre sends much love to Lizzie's friends and family and remembers her with tremendous affection.

Details of Lizzie's funeral (**Monday 15 July at 1pm**) have now been published on her Facebook page (www.facebook.com/elizabeth.vaughan.1291). The family welcomes anyone who wishes to pay her tribute, and only asks that comment is left on that post so they know roughly what numbers to expect. If you're not a Facebook user please drop an email to us at admin@sewellbarn.org and we'll ensure notification gets through. The family says:

"The service and burial will be at Colney Woods, Norwich followed by lots of memory sharing and maybe some dancing at The Space, Roundtree Way, Norwich. It is going to be a celebration of Lizzie's life so lots of colour please! Rainbow positively encouraged. Absolutely anyone that wants to pay tribute to Lizzie is welcome. There will be an opportunity to place a flower with her when she is buried. We ask that you bring a single flower that represents Lizzie to you. There will be some roses available there."

Finally, we've received details of the charity to which donations can be made in Lizzie's memory: MAP (Mancroft Advice Project - www.map.uk.net/), which supports "young people finding their way" in many areas of life, including gender transition. Full details and donation links are here: <https://lizzie-vaughan.muchloved.com/>.



What else is on in the area?

Maddermarket Theatre

www.maddermarket.co.uk

St. John's Alley, Norwich NR2 1DR

A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller **19-27 July**

Great Hall Theatre Company

www.greathalltheatre.org.uk

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

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

