

OCTOBER 2019

# newsletter

Editor Jill Fuller [newsletter@sewellbarn.org](mailto:newsletter@sewellbarn.org) | Design Cassie Tillett [admin@sewellbarn.org](mailto:admin@sewellbarn.org)

**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

Constitution Hill  
Norwich NR3 4BB

Box Office: 01603 626414

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

**Welcome back!** We hope that all our friends, members and supporters have had a wonderful summer. We're looking forward to providing you with more quality entertainment for our fortieth season.

## Our Next Production

### The Tempest

by William Shakespeare | Directed by Clare Williamson

17-19, 23-26 October 2019 at 7.30pm (matinée 26 October at 2.30pm)



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

We're starting our new season by whipping up a storm on an island ruled by Prospero, magician and ousted Duke of Milan. Categorized as one of Shakespeare's comedies, *The Tempest* is a rich and complex work, a revenge play with lots of comic moments and a happy ending which also explores colonisation and the use and abuse of power. In my interpretation, this island is no tropical paradise but rather one abandoned and ruined after weapons testing. I was inspired by a visit to Orford Ness and the rusting military structures abandoned there. Continuing the East Anglian theme, we are using Benjamin Britten's *Storm Interlude* from *Peter Grimes* to help create the great storm that opens the play.

"The isle is full of noises" and, alongside a talented cast of twelve actors - some old hands and some new to the Barn - we have a character who may well upstage all the others. Our set designer has created and built the most amazing Heath Robinson style sound tower. This includes the innards of an old piano, a cymbal and wind chimes all moving in their own strange and idiosyncratic way - audiences may well be mesmerised!

The actors are using the Sewell Barn's performance space to its full capacity - the gallery becomes the deck of the ship and the high ridges of the island; the stairs are the slopes whereby they descend onto the shore of the stage. Rehearsals are keeping them all fit as they travel around backstage to reach their next entrance. Working with these actors is a real pleasure and we are all very excited about the show we are creating which, together with a wonderfully creative set, a stunning soundscape and terrific lighting effects, we hope you'll find both entertaining and thought provoking.

*Clare Williamson - 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](http://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

# Waiting in the Wings

by Noël Coward | Directed by Cassie Tillet

11-13, 17-20 July 2019



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

We gathered a cast of 18, with a total age well in excess of 1,000 years, and the majority of whom were over 60; we had one actress who was imported from London and who was able to attend just two rehearsals before the dress rehearsals (and did so triumphantly); we coaxed people back onto the stage after an absence of (in some cases) many years; we needed a set that could fit at least 9 people seated at any one time, and a modern keyboard disguised as a 1930s upright piano; we needed around 100 costumes; and all this took place in a heatwave!

The Wings family – onstage and backstage - had an almost indecent amount of fun, and the audience responded accordingly. We were thrilled by the positive feedback, and by the most successful ticket sales that the Barn has seen for some years. Our huge and grateful thanks to all who made this such a happy and memorable production.

**"This show is as perfect as live performance gets.** I am so glad I got there!" *Clare H*

**"What a lovely, warm, truly ensemble performance,** where the 18-strong cast fully inhabit an array of wonderful, eccentric, and yet wholly relatable characters. I was entirely drawn into their world, laughing and crying along with them, relishing in the gossip and scandals, the rivalries and reconciliations...and most of all praying for that solarium! Congratulations all on a touching and thoroughly enjoyable evening of theatre!" *Sarah J*

"This show has a delightful warmth about it and truly honest performances which was a joy to behold, and by the end I was quite emotional which is highly unusual for a Noel Coward! **It was wonderful spending an evening with these characters and I didn't want it to end!**" *Barnaby M*

For more reviews of this and previous shows, please visit our blog at <http://sewellbarntheatre.blogspot.com>.

# An important fundraising project

**The Sewell Barn Theatre needs your help with an urgent upgrade for its lighting system.**

**Our target is £5,000 to improve our lighting stock.**

We have been presenting quality, affordable local theatre at the Sewell Barn for forty years, and a key part of our productions is our technical equipment. However, technology has changed in those four decades and our lighting equipment is no longer fit for purpose. After extensive consultation with skilled and knowledgeable personnel, we have decided that the most appropriate action is to move over to **LED lights**.

These have the advantages of

- being fully controllable remotely from the lighting box in terms of brightness and colour
- having a far longer bulb life (around 15-20 years) than our present stock
- being more environmentally friendly, having a much lower electricity consumption which will reduce our carbon footprint
- being operated directly from the box, rather than via the aging 'dimmer packs' – two of which have recently failed and would either need repair or replacement at considerable expense
- reducing substantially the need for personnel to 'work at height'

**For £5,000 we can purchase 14 LED lights – enough to provide opportunities for creative and artistic lighting to enhance all our shows throughout each season.**

The project of replacement will be overseen by Robert Little, founder member of the Sewell Barn Theatre and twice Artistic Director. Rob also has many years' technical experience as Senior Drama Studio Technician at the University of East Anglia.

Individual donations will be acknowledged publicly and gratefully in the theatre foyer, either anonymously or named as you prefer, and regular updates will be published in our newsletters.

*UPDATE: We have been very fortunate to receive a short-term loan enabling us to get these lights in place for the start of our fortieth season. However, this is a loan, which needs to be paid back, and with your generous help, we would like to be able to do this as soon as possible.*

## How to help us

- Via our **JustGiving** page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sewellbarnlighting>
- Via our **Virgin Money Giving** page [bit.ly/2oZYNPf](http://bit.ly/2oZYNPf)
- **Text:** simply text **SBARNLIGHT** and the **amount to donate** to **70085**
- By **BACS** direct into our bank account: sort code 30 96 17 account number 02167536 – please use your surname followed by **LIGHTS** as a reference
- **Direct Debit:** to make a regular donation (any amount, large or small) to the fund just email to [treasurer@sewellbarn.org](mailto:treasurer@sewellbarn.org) to request a mandate, and indicating your preferred email address, amount to donate to the appeal and how often (eg monthly, yearly)
- **Cheque or postal order:** by post to Kate Anetts 10 Ninhams Court Norwich NR2 1NX. Please do **not** send cash through the post.
- **Cash:** If you would like to make a cash donation please put it in an envelope marked LIGHTING FUND (with your name and address if you would like an acknowledgement) and hand to one of our front of house staff at the Barn during a performance.

Please note: we can reclaim Gift Aid on all donations – if you are eligible (as a taxpayer) please email us ([treasurer@sewellbarn.org](mailto:treasurer@sewellbarn.org)) and we will send you a form.

*Thank you!*

## Membership renewals and Gift Aid

Just a reminder that **membership fees for Friends of the Sewell Barn are now due**. It's an excellent way to support our work at the Sewell Barn, and we very much appreciate it. The Friends are entitled to voting rights at our AGM in the autumn, giving you an active say in the running of your theatre, and receive a free drink on first nights. Please note that our free drinks on the first night of each run are now available to paid-up members only, on production of a valid membership card. If you are an annual member you'll get a new card when you renew; if you're a life member, but have mislaid your card, please email [membership@sewellbarn.org](mailto:membership@sewellbarn.org) or write to me for a replacement.

Many thanks to all those who have already renewed their membership. If you have not yet done so and would like to remain a member, please send £10 (single member) £15 (for a couple living at the same address) or £50 per person (Life membership) to Jill Fuller, 20 Blofield Road, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5NN or pay by bank transfer Lloyds bank: Sewell Barn Theatre Society. a/c no: 02167536 branch sort code: 30-96-17. If you do not renew by the end of October, we will assume you do not wish to renew. Many thanks.

*Jill Fuller*

## Front of House Evening

On October 2nd, we held a very successful gathering of people who have helped front of house and several people who are joining the team. A glass of wine or a soft drink was served to all and nibbles were provided. Jane Page took us through the requirements for being a steward and Phil Williamson talked briefly about the health and safety issues of the Barn. He escorted new members to show them how the safety check needs to be carried out. Rick Fuller, our licensee, challenged us all to a short quiz which gave rise to a discussion of requirements for volunteering in the bar.

If you were unable to come along to that evening, but would like to join the front of house team, please get in touch with Jane Page on [foh@sewellbarn.org](mailto:foh@sewellbarn.org) and she will put you on duty with someone experienced. Many thanks to all who attended and those who contributed to the evening.

## A reminder about the AGM

The Annual General meeting of the Friends of the Sewell Barn will be held on **Sunday 3 November**, 12 f or 12:30. This is a social occasion as well as a business meeting. All are invited but only paid-up members are entitled to vote. The bar will be open from 12 noon and the meeting is scheduled for 12.30pm. There will be a snack lunch provided so please let me know if you are attending so we can cater for the right number: [chair@sewellbarn.org](mailto:chair@sewellbarn.org). Please send apologies to the secretary: Selwyn Tillett [selwyn@tillett.org.uk](mailto:selwyn@tillett.org.uk). We hope to see you there!

*Jill Fuller - Chair*

## 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

***Steel Magnolias*** by Robert Harling **18-26 October**



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

The Assembly Rooms, Theatre Street, Norwich NR2 1RQ

***Murder in Neighbourhood Watch*** by Stewart Burke **29 October-2 November**



**Moco Theatre** [www.mocotheatre.com](http://www.mocotheatre.com)

The Chapel, Norwich School (part of The Hostry Festival)

***Deconstructing Michaelangelo*** **24-26 October**

