

OCTOBER 2020

# newsletter

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We're writing this month to tell you about two important events: **our AGM**, and what will hopefully be our **first live performances** in the Barn since February. Read on for more details.

## *Live performance returns to The Sewell Barn Theatre*

### **Put Your Shorts On!**

*Evenings of 2, 3, 4 and 5 December (Wed-Sat) with a matinee on 5 December 2020*

We are very excited to announce our intention to stage our first live performances at the Sewell Barn Theatre since February, staged with an audience under Covid-secure conditions.

Many of you will know, and as mentioned in our previous newsletter, that in July we launched our first Zoom playreading, having appealed for original work in the form of monologues, duologues and play extracts. We received such a good response from writers and actors keen to perform that we held another session in August, and on Tuesday 6 October we will run our third session. Altogether it's been wonderful to get back to creating drama!

Now we want to make live theatre happen again by choosing ten pieces from the three Zoom sessions to be performed at the Barn in December, with the following arrangements:

- The theatre will become a Covid-secure building. A socially-distanced audience will be limited to **25 for each performance**, with tickets bought in advance online. Further details will be given nearer the time.
- A total of **eight actors** will be cast, to be divided into two groups of four. Each group will perform a set of **five pieces**, working with a director (Cassie Tillett or Clare Williamson) and a stage manager. The first group of actors will perform their set of five pieces, followed by an interval to allow the acting space to be cleaned and rearranged as required for the next set of pieces, performed by the second group of actors. In this way the two groups of cast, director and SM will remain separate, following the Government's 'rule of six' guidelines.
- Auditions will be held during **week beginning 19 October** with rehearsals starting the **week beginning Monday 2 November**. The six people involved in each set of five pieces will remain separate at all times, with the rehearsal room being used as a dressing room for one set of actors during performances.
- Should Covid restrictions become tighter, preventing rehearsals and/or performances, we would put these arrangements on hold until such time as we are free to resume with them.
- **Please note that tickets are not yet available to purchase:** we will notify you as soon as they are.

What we need to know from all our actors is:

- Are you interested and able to commit to auditioning for roles?
- If so, are you available for the dates required?

If the answer is YES to both those questions, please contact Cassie and Clare, by email on [artisticdirector@sewellbarn.org](mailto:artisticdirector@sewellbarn.org), by **Friday 9 October**.

**We are also looking for additional stewards for our performances. If you are willing, able and available to assist in that role, please volunteer. Covid-secure training will be given.**

We are very excited to be launching this strange new season with a showcase of local writers' work. So if you can help to make this happen - roll up your sleeves and ***Put Your Shorts On!***

Cassie Tillett & Clare Williamson, *Artistic Directors: Sewell Barn Theatre*

## Annual General Meeting

As explained in our last newsletter, we have decided to hold this using Zoom. We would very much welcome as many members as possible to attend. This will take place on **Sunday 18th October, at 3:00pm**. This is when the meeting will start, so please 'log on' a few minutes early if possible.

To access the meeting, please click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84185211415?pwd=a0dQd2o5R08zUnMwaDNRRXZXNjcwUT09>

or use one of the following methods:

- visit zoom.us (on a **computer**), click on Join a Meeting, and if prompted, download the Zoom plugin
- use the Zoom app (on **tablet or smartphone**)
- use your **landline** to telephone 0131 460 1196 or 0203 051 2874

and in all these cases, enter the following information when prompted:

- **Meeting ID: 841 8521 1415**
- **Passcode: 626553**

Please follow the links below to view, download or print all relevant paperwork (PDF format):

- [Agenda: AGM 2020](#)
- [Minutes: AGM 2019](#)
- [Accounts: financial year ending 31 August 2020](#)
- [Committee List](#)
- [Buildings Manager job description](#)

In such challenging times, your support and help is needed more than ever. Please come!