

JANUARY 2021 newsletter

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sewellbarn
THEATRE

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Happy New Year – we hope!

We hope – despite the extraordinary and difficult circumstances – that our friends and colleagues have had an enjoyable festive season, and have kept well and safe. We continue to hope for better times to come.

Between You & Me

An evening of Zoomed monologues & duologues

7.30pm Thursday 18 February 2021

Fancy performing or watching a performance? In these oh-so-quiet days of lockdown let's give ourselves something to look forward to! Following on from the success of our Barn Shorts performances on Zoom in the Summer, we're organising an **evening of monologues and duologues**.

Performers: please email Cassie and Clare (artisticdirector@sewellbarn.org) by **Thursday 28 January** with at least TWO choices of either monos or duos taken from published plays*. We're looking at monos which are approximately 5 minutes long and duos should be about 10 minutes. Please scan and attach your choices to the email. If you'd like to perform a duo, you can either suggest your own team or ask us to link you up with another performer – just let us know. Or if you're a two-performer household, look for something to suit you!

*(If you're one of our much valued 'shorts' authors, fear not: we intend to hold another session a little later in the spring, so please keep your creations ready for another time in the near future.)

We'll put together a programme for the evening and our aim is to create a microcosm of a typical Barn season with comedy and tragedy, classic and modern, and a range of interesting genres.

Once you know what you're doing, we'll leave you to rehearse your piece, bearing in mind that you will be performing via Zoom. However, we'd love to see you in costume and with appropriate props.

Audience: we're throwing open the metaphorical doors of our Zoomed performance! We'll publish the programme in advance and all you have to do is let us know if you're interested in watching (artisticdirector@sewellbarn.org) and we'll send you a link. And if you'd like to support the Barn with a donation, then that would be very welcome indeed.

So, actors, get rifling through those bookshelves or search the internet and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Clare & Cassie

The Barn is ready for Put Your Shorts On

A little bittersweet encouragement... we thought you'd like to see the beautiful job that Phil Williamson has done in creating the set for what will be our first show back in the Barn whenever it happens. The relevant furniture has also been painted in a matching colour scheme, and it's all ready for our actors to return when circumstances permit. Thank you so much to everyone – including actors, technicians, and especially Stage Managers Anne Giles and Selwyn Tillett - who have continued to support us keeping this project 'bubbling' as we await that happy time.



Inspiration for authors

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we enjoyed our 'shorts' from local playwrights so much that we'll definitely be holding another evening (or more) further into the year.

Meantime, this link crossed Clare's path, and she thought that some of our authors might enjoy it: a new creative writing challenge every day for 28 days. Check out the link below and see if it appeals to you!

<https://www.theliteralchallenge.com/28playslater>

'Us' by Barnaby Matley

We were delighted to read a play by Barnaby, a long-time supporter of and performer at the Sewell Barn, during our initial 'Shorts' work. A section from his play 'Us' was included in our first session, the two roles being played by Jess Hutchings and Sam Todd. Since then, Barnaby has been hard at work creating a short film of the whole play; Sam is this time joined by Rebekah Oelrichs, also very familiar to Norwich theatre audiences.



You can view two short extracts or the whole play on YouTube: Star Crossed Productions can be found on the link below. Very well done to all our good friends on their creativity during recent challenging times. Please note that the full version of the film contains discussions concerning suicide and self-harm, as well as strong language.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrgA8SVUY_Fdl0k06a0dnNw

A published author

Many of the Barn family will know Judi Daykin, who has performed and directed many times at the Barn and the Maddermarket over the years, as well as running her own theatre company Broad Horizons. Judi has recently published her first book, **Under Violent Skies**, which is available in Kindle and paperback format from Amazon, and which has been receiving excellent reviews.



A note from the Chair

Happy New Year All... it has to be better than most of 2020!

I would like to say a huge thank you to Clare and Cassie for their imaginative and inspirational sorties into the digital theatre world; also to the teams they have assembled to bring theatre experiences to our members. It has been fun, exciting and very creative. And they haven't run out of ideas yet! Please keep up the good work, ladies.

Jill Fuller