

# SEPTEMBER 2021 newsletter

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**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

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Welcome to our September newsletter as we begin our 2021/22 season. Read on for details of our first two shows, the next auditions, our AGM, news about ticket prices and membership, other local shows, and key areas where we need your help urgently!

## Our next production: Love, Love, Love

by Mike Bartlett | directed by Clare Williamson

14-16, 20-23 October 2021 at 7:30pm | matinée Saturday 23 October at 2:30pm



Photography: Barry Parsons

It is wonderful to be back in the swing of creating theatre at the Sewell Barn again - and *Love, Love, Love* is certainly keeping us all on our toes! In three acts it takes us from 1967 to 1990 and finally lands us in 2011, the year the play was first performed.

All this time travelling presents our cast of five with the challenge of age-blind acting. Jonathan Redding and Ayshea Christian take the lead roles as the rebellious student couple, Kenneth and Sandra, both aged 19 in Act 1, with Kevin Oelrichs joining them as Kenneth's 23 year old brother, Henry. In Act 2 they have settled into conventional middle class life and we meet their two teenage children, Rose (Emma Kirkham) and Jamie (Jose Tarouca). Act 3 brings us more up to date with our actors able to play closer to their ages.

Set designer and builder Phil Williamson has had the task of creating three different sets including making a working 1960s TV which turns into a 1990s TV in Act 2! We've also had to source a 60s record player, a cassette player and an iPod and dock. Rehearsals have included lively discussions on baby boomers versus generation X, parental responsibility and idealism versus practicality.

*Love, Love, Love* is sharp and funny, its characters and ideas are abrasive and challenging. You may find, as we have done, that you don't always agree with them, but we hope, as you journey through the concerns of the late twentieth century and into the twenty-first, that you not only enjoy the ride but also that your post show discussions will be as stimulating as ours.

Clare Williamson, Director

**Contains strong language and adult themes**

## Audition notice: Woman in Mind

by Alan Ayckbourn

Director: Peter Wood: [peterdwood@hotmail.com](mailto:peterdwood@hotmail.com)

Performance dates: 20-22, 26-29 January (matinee January 29) 2022



Premiered in Scarborough in 1985 and drawing upon autobiographical experiences, Ayckbourn's work centres on Susan, a middle-aged wife and mother who has devoted much time and emotional energy to her marriage and family. Her efforts, however, have failed to bring her happiness and satisfaction; in fact, she has been left feeling undervalued and unappreciated by her family members who treat her with both condescension and some disdain. She is, in effect, trapped in relationships that, in the end, will overwhelm and destroy her. In order to cope with her increasingly desperate situation, Susan has created in her mind a fantasy family that dresses in white, quaffs champagne at every opportunity, lives in a stately home and who adores and respects her.

As her level of disillusionment increases, Susan turns more and more to her family of the imagination but, crucially, is less able to control the characters she has created for herself. It is the blurring of the worlds of fantasy and reality that will ultimately have dire consequences for her. From the outset of the play, when Susan comes to after being knocked unconscious by accidentally standing on a garden rake, all the things that happen are seen and heard from her perspective: the audience are compelled to look at the world through the eyes of a woman whose mental health is failing.

Director Peter Wood is looking for eight actors: 5M and 3F, across a range of ages from 20s to 50s. Please visit <https://www.sewellbarn.org/womaninmind.html> for full details.

**Auditions: Sunday 3 October at 7.00 pm and Thursday 7 October at 7.15pm** in the Barn. Audition pieces will be provided on the night. There is no need to prepare anything in advance though it would be beneficial for those auditioning to be acquainted with the play. **Please note that audition slots have been allocated; if you're interested in taking part, please contact the director as above to book your place.**

## Coming Soon: Three Russian Encounters

THE YALTA GAME & AFTERPLAY by Brian Friel (after Chekhov)

THE SWANSONG by Anton Chekhov translated by Marian Fell

Performance dates: 25-27 November, 1-4 December

(matinee 4 December) 2021

We are delighted to announce the cast of this delightful show, which includes many familiar faces from across the Norwich theatre family.



### ***The Yalta Game***

Gurov - Steven Scase | Anna - Poppy Hiscox

### ***Afterplay***

Sonya - Dawn Brindle | Andrey - Jen Alexander

### ***Swansong***

Svietlovidoff - David White | Nikita - Kevin Oelrichs

Director: Tony Fullwood | Stage Manager: Anne Giles

## New season: capacity, ticket prices and booking

We have decided, due to the continuing uncertainty of the pandemic, to limit our audience sizes. For the time being, therefore, **ticket sales will be capped at a maximum of 60 per performance** (our normal maximum is 100). As such, advance booking is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.

We haven't put up our ticket prices since 2018. With increasing costs – not to mention the loss of income, for obvious reasons, in the last two years – we have made a small increase to our prices for the 2021/22 season: **£11 for standard tickets, £10 for concessions**. This is an increase of just £1 per ticket; however, please note that the actual benefit to the Barn will only be in the region of 20p, as we have decided to absorb all booking fee costs – so you will now only pay the above rates, whether booking online or by telephone. If you'd like to support us further, there's the option on TicketSource for an extra donation.

Tickets can be booked via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn) or by phone on **0333 666 3366**. We will also be selling tickets on the door, but as mentioned above, do remember that availability is limited.

## Membership

Thank you to all our annual members who have renewed their membership. If you're an annual member and wish to continue, please send your subscription (£10 for a single person, £15 for a couple living at the same address) as below.

Payments can be sent by BACs transfer to Sewell Barn Theatre, sort code 30 96 17, account 02167536 (please use your surname followed by MEMBERSHIP as a reference, and drop an email to [membership@sewellbarn.org](mailto:membership@sewellbarn.org) to notify us of the payment); or by cheque to 20 Blofield Road, Brundall, Norwich NR13 5NN.

if we do not hear from you before 15 October, we will take you off the list and stop clogging your post/emails with unwanted messages. Many thanks!

*Jill Fuller*

## Help needed - in many areas...

As we return to the theatre, hopefully with a season of seven plays, we are in urgent need of some key roles. If you would like to see us continue to present quality entertainment in Norwich, do consider being part of the support team that are every bit as vital as those on stage!

### Technical Operators

For our forthcoming 2021-22 season, we need to recruit more operators and programmers/riggers to the 'box'. Our technical co-ordinator, Chris Jones, does a wonderful job of programming and designing, using our QLab software and our new LED lights; but as we move (hopefully) back to several shows each year, and eight performances plus tech and dress for each show, we need to spread the load. Please contact Chris on [technical@sewellbarn.org](mailto:technical@sewellbarn.org) if you'd like to make use of your existing skills or learn some new ones.

### Front of House

For our new season, the role of FOH will be particularly important. We are still maintaining a reduced audience size and paying close attention to COVID measures, and the staff that welcome our public are vital in this. You may wish to work either on the ticket selling / administration side, and/or to staff the bar area. Full training can be provided in both areas. It's a great way to get to know the community and to support us at the same time. Please contact Jane on [foh@sewellbarn.org](mailto:foh@sewellbarn.org) to volunteer and let her know your availability and experience.

## Prompts

While we don't use prompts during performances, it's very important during the rehearsal period, and allows the director and SM to concentrate on other jobs. If you are able to help in this way, it's likely to be during a period of three weeks or so as opening night approaches. Please contact Peter Wood on [prompt@sewellbarn.org](mailto:prompt@sewellbarn.org) to register your interest.

## Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Sewell Barn Theatre will take place in the theatre on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, starting at 4.00 pm. The bar will be open beforehand and afterwards, and edible goodies will also be available. All are welcome, but only paid-up members are entitled to vote.

The agenda, financial statement and other reports will be sent to all paid-up members shortly and will be available on request if required by anyone else.

Do please come along and support us!

*Selwyn Tillett - Secretary*

## What's on in Norwich

Our colleagues at the Maddermarket and the Great Hall are also preparing to entertain you once more. Do support our local theatre community as we take steps out of such challenging times.

### Les Liaisons Dangereuses

by Christopher Hampton | directed by John Holden

Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 November: 5 performances (inc matinee)

<https://maddermarket.co.uk/event/les-liaisons-dangereuses-2/>

### A Lady Misland

by Kenneth Horne | directed by Julie Benfield

Wednesday 3 – Saturday 6 November: 5 performances (inc matinee)

at the Assembly House

<https://www.greathalltheatre.org.uk/>

We are also delighted to report that our friend Mark Kitto (Daffyd ap Llewellyn in *A Chorus of Disapproval*, 2017) is touring his unique one-man show 'Chinese Boxing', and is performing at the Maddermarket Theatre on 3 November. Visit <https://maddermarket.co.uk/event/chinese-boxing/> for full details and booking information.