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newsletter

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Our next production: *Di and Viv and Rose*

by Amelia Bullmore | directed by Emma Kirkham

13-15 & 19-22 April | matinee 2:30pm on 22 April



Photography: Sean Owen

Starting out at a northern university in the early 1980s, three very different young women join forces to share a student flat. *Di and Viv and Rose* is a bittersweet comedy that follows the trio's experiences over the next thirty years, showing how their lives affect their friendship, and their friendship affects their lives. We meet Rose, a promiscuous yet naïve and vulnerable art history student, Di a sports-loving business studies student and Viv a serious sociology student who has a fierce work ethic. On the surface they seem unlikely friends, yet their bonding rings true - and their contrasting characters deftly illustrate the humour and insights arising from female friendship.

Emma Kirkham, the director of the Sewell Barn Theatre's production, commented: "This is an intimate play that works particularly well on the Barn's unusual stage. I discovered it through a friend who had performed the role of Di in Nottingham. When reading the play, the themes of female friendship and solidarity really shone through and appealed to me. We've had great fun in rehearsals, with an awful lot of laughter as well as some sad moments as we've moved through time and life with these three girls."

Contains strong language and adult themes.

Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/sewellbarn or on 0333 666 3366.

Our previous production: Still Life and Red Peppers

by Noel Coward | directed by Cassie Tillett



Photography: Barry Parsons

"...[**Still Life**] Jonathan and Kiera give a **touching, warm and very credible** account of the affair and its brutal conclusion, while the other eight cast members give a gently humorous context to their dialogue. Jan Farrar's Myrtle is the key figure in this. We see her as first a battle-axe and apparent misanthrope but she settles into a rather charming routine walking out with Albert... [**Red Peppers**] Portraying actors being a bit rubbish is a hard thing to do deliberately, as opposed to just being a bit rubbish as an actor. I am pleased to say that **Andy and Dawn get it right**, giving us a laughably grumpy pair of monsters who are getting fed up with their routine and with each other... Overall a well balanced and nicely presented pair of short dramas that remind us why Noël Coward was, and still is, one of the most popular writers for the English stage." *Julian Swainson - Norwich Eye*

[Click here for more reviews of this and previous shows.](#)

Coming soon (1): Almost the Music House

An evening of acoustic music hosted by Chad Mason
Saturday 29 April at 7.30 pm

In the wake of the sad closure of popular Norwich music venue Jurnet's Bar, musician and long-time Barn member Chad Mason (right) is bringing an evening of free music to the Sewell Barn. Chad comments: "It's called Almost the Music House because basically nowhere could be the same as Jurnet's Bar. However, we are carrying on what we can of the Music House by continuing to offer music for free - there's no entrance fee to this night. It also hosts our favourite acoustic acts of course, but we'll be offering more of a digest really - a couple of nights a year to start off with." [Click here for full press release](#) about the event.



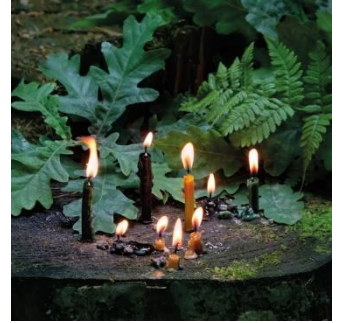
Featuring **The Doddie Bees** (effortless vocal harmonies while juggling banjo, fiddle, bodhrán and guitar), **Ervin Munir** (a stalwart of the North Norfolk scene, launching his new single *Fall Apart*), **Simon Tall** (host of the Music House at Jurnet's Bar, King's Street, now sadly closed) and **Chad Mason** himself.

Coming soon (2): A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare | directed by Clare Williamson

1-3 & 7-10 June

Director Clare Williamson writes: "Rehearsals for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are well under way and we are having a joyous time creating magic and mayhem. The lovers are falling head over heels (literally at times) in and out of love with each other; the mechanicals are learning how to rehearse their play, as instructed by Bottom, "most obscenely and courageously" and the fairies are busy causing chaos for those foolish mortals and for themselves. We can't wait to get into the Barn to transform the theatre into our moonlit, midsummer wood and we look forward to you joining us on the journey."



Coming soon (3): The Welkin

by Lucy Kirkwood

3-5 and 7-8 July (please note: NO performance on Thursday 6 July)

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to restage this show, after the devastating cancellation due to an outbreak of COVID among several members of the cast last autumn. Sadly the original director, Jez Pike, is unavailable to recreate the show, but cast member (and joint artistic director in waiting!), Sabrina Poole, will take up the reins with support from long-standing Barn members and Trustee John Holden, and the reforming of the whole of the original cast. This powerful production was [much praised in its original incarnation](#), and we know that many of our audience were disappointed to have missed the two performances that took place – so do book your tickets soon for the six performances that are taking place as shown above.

Coming Soon (4): The Cemetery Club

by Ivan Menchell | directed by Claire Stretton

3-5 & 9-12 August 2023*

**please note new performance dates due to the re-staging of The Welkin in July*

Director Claire Stretton is delighted to announce the cast for our final show of the season:

Mandy Kiley – Ida | **Julie Benfield** – Lucille | **Gill Tichborne** – Doris
David White – Sam | **Ros Swetman** - Mildred



Local theatre family will recognise what a strong cast this is - put it in your diary now!

Our 2023/24 Season: launch date

We are excited to be close to finalising our new season, which will run from October 2023 to July 2024. Joint Artistic Directors Sabrina Poole (from 23/24 onwards) and Cassie Tillett have been working hard to assemble a wide variety of entertainment, which as always includes many shades of light and dark, large and small casts, classical and contemporary, as well as both established and new directors.

Come along to the Barn on **Sunday 21 May at 2:00pm** to hear about the shows, meet the directors, ask questions, express your interest, and socialise with your theatrical colleagues (the bar will, of course, be open, and a few nibbles will be around!).

Membership: subscription rates

After keeping the membership subscription at the current rate for many years, it was decided at the AGM that an increase is due. From July, when the year starts, the new rates will be: £15 individual membership, £25 for a couple living at the same address and £75 for life membership.

Don't forget if you buy a ticket for the first night of any production, and bring your membership card, you can claim a free drink at the bar.

Jill Fuller – Membership Secretary

What's on in Norwich

The Hollow by Agatha Christie | directed by Steven Scase

The Norwich Players at the Maddermarket Theatre

Wednesday 17 to Sunday 21 May: 6 performances (inc matinée)



An unhappy game of romantic follow-the-leader explodes into murder one weekend at *The Hollow*, home of Sir Henry and Lucy Angkatell (arguably Christie's finest comic grande dame). Dr. Cristow, the Harley Street lothario, is at the centre of the trouble when, assembled in one place, we find his dull but devoted wife, Gerda, his mistress, Henrietta and his former lover and Hollywood film star, Veronica. Also visiting are love rival Edward, and disheartened cousin Midge. As the romantic associations grow, so does the list of potential suspects, as a shot rings out across the grounds and house. Nearly everyone has a motive, but only one of them did the deed. A Christie classic that leaves you guessing until the very last moment.

Several members of the Sewell Barn family are taking part in this production, including some of the cast of *The Welkin* - Hollie Harrington-Ball, Alison Utting, David Newham, Sabrina Poole - and also Verity Roat and John Davis, both of whom were seen (forming a trio with director Steven Scase) in our acclaimed production of *Betrayal* last November.