

# JANUARY 2024 newsletter

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**sewellbarn**  
THEATRE

Constitution Hill  
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Box Office: 0333 666 3366

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

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Wishing a very happy and peaceful 2024 to all our members, supporters and friends!

## Our next production: **Comic Potential**

by Alan Ayckbourn / directed by Joe Flatt

18-20, 24-27 January 7.30pm, matinée 27 January 2.30pm



Photography: Andrew Evans

Is it humour that makes us human? Can you fall in love with a robot? Alan Ayckbourn asks those questions in his prescient – yet strangely retro – 53rd drama, *Comic Potential*. Part science fiction, part traditional romance, but mostly riotous farce, the play introduces us to robot actoids in a TV studio in the not-so-distant future. First performed in 1998, *Comic Potential* not only explores the implications of our relationship with technology, but also provides a “tremulously exquisite love story, a superb satire on television and other human follies, a wise and serious drama full of playfully tossed-off profundities about sundry aspects of life and art, and an irresistible evening in the theatre” (*John Simon, New York magazine*).

Director Joe Flatt was attracted by its weird and wacky nature. “*Comic Potential* offers a quirky angle to life that allows us to be creative with boundaries that beg to be pushed. Set in a future that perhaps mirrors the past in more ways than expected, each actor has thrown their own ideas and originality into the mix – with a protagonist we can cheer for and a villain we can boo.”

Hannah Wood plays the lead role of Jacie Triplethree; Lewis Garvey is the budding creative, Adam Trainsmith, who she takes a liking to. Harry Quirk is the Hollywood has-been, Chandler Tate, now director

of banal TV soaps. Ayshea Christian-Roxby plays our antagonist, Carla Pepperbloom, who (satisfyingly to the audience) gets her just desserts. Rebeka Ignezi and Abi Tacon perform as the enthusiastic couple, Prim and Trudi, whilst Christopher Whitley is TV mogul, Lester Trainsmith. Last but in no way least, Melanie Peter, Amy Beven and Shem Jacobs bring a range of other characters to life on our stage.

Tickets available online at £12 and £13 from TicketSource via [www.sewellbarn.org](http://www.sewellbarn.org), also by phone via 0333 6663366. Booking fees are included in the ticket prices. Includes strong language and adult themes.

## Our previous production: *Immaculate*

by Oliver Lansley | directed by Sabrina Poole

23-25 November and 29 November-2 December



Photography: Sean Owen of Reflective Arts

"OUTRAGEOUSLY funny. Great ensemble. OUTRAGEOUSLY blasphemous too, for those of a sensitive disposition. But that probably excludes my Facebook friends. I'm obviously destined for the "other place". In fact, this Lucifer puts up a very good case." *David*

"Absolutely brilliant... never stopped laughing from start to finish... excellent." *Jamie*

"This extremely irreverent take on the second coming is **enormously enjoyable**, both for its sharp script and some spot-on performances." *James Goffin - Cultivated* [[click here for full review](#)]

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

## Coming next : *Amy's View*

by David Hare / directed by Pip Sessions

Performance dates: 29 February-2 March, 6-9 March 7.30pm

Matinée 9 March 2.30pm

As our friends and members will have heard by now, we were very sad that we needed to cancel our production of *The Clearing*, planned for our February/March slot. However, we fully intend to return to this production in a future season, with director Chris Bealey at the helm. We are delighted to be replacing this show with one of the casualties of the COVID pandemic. *Amy's View* had been fully cast and was well into rehearsals when the first lockdown was imposed in March 2020. We have been able to obtain the rights to the show for this new set of performance dates; Pip has rebuilt her cast and crew with existing team and some new additions to the mix.





Amy - Hollie Harrington-Ball / Esme - Mel Sessions / Evelyn - Joy Davidson  
Dominic - Joe Seeney / Frank - Kevin Oelrichs / Toby - Wesley Burgess

Here's a quick reminder of what the play is about.

*'You know Amy's view: you have to love people. You just have to love them. You have to give love without any conditions at all. Just give it.'*

1979 and Esme is at the height of her career as an actress in the West End although life is becoming increasingly difficult for those making a living on the stage. The visit of her daughter, Amy, with her new boyfriend, Dominic, an arts journalist, sets in motion a series of events which only reach their conclusion many years later.

A deeply affecting play from one of the nation's foremost playwrights, *Amy's View* explores marriage, love, fame, fidelity, betrayal and loss through the mother-daughter relationship and makes a case for both personal and artistic integrity and the importance of theatre itself.

## Coming soon: Barbed Wire and Teddy Bears

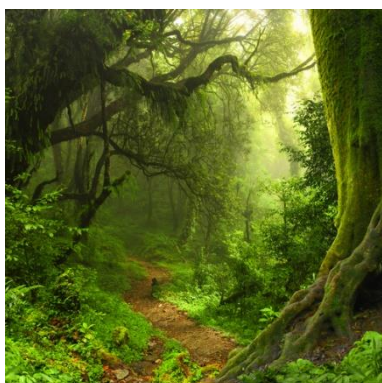
by Karen Forbes  
directed by Robert Little  
**14-16 March 2024**

The play is based on the collected memories of islanders who lived in Jersey during the Occupation years. The stories are all told from the perspective of the children who would have gone to school, got into mischief and played their games in the shadow of the Nazis. The piece is both funny and poignant in equal measure and gives a sense of how those youngest members of society reacted to the Germans, played tricks on them and grew up under their watchful eyes.



Robert and Karen are delighted to be working with a talented ensemble cast of new and familiar faces: Diane Webb, Jenny Belsey, Kate Lord, Emma Wyatt, Lizzie Martin and Ayshea Christian-Roxley.

*Profits from the show will be donated to the Red Cross / Ukraine appeal.*



## Auditions : As You Like It

by William Shakespeare / directed by Carole Lovett  
Performance dates: 30 May - 1 June & 5-8 June 2024 (matinee 8 June)  
**Auditions: 28th January 2024 at 2.00 pm**  
Contact details: [carolelovett@btinternet.com](mailto:carolelovett@btinternet.com)

William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* is a dream-like tale of faithful friends, feuding families, and lovers in disguise. Forced from their homes, Orlando, Duke Senior, his daughter Rosalind and niece Celia, escape to the Forest of Arden, a fantastical place of transformation, where all are welcomed and embraced. The play will be set somewhere within Nazi occupied Europe during WW2.

For full details of characters and casting, please visit [www.sewellbarn.org/asyoulikeitcasting.html](http://www.sewellbarn.org/asyoulikeitcasting.html); and please email director Carole Lovett on the address shown above to express your interest and book your audition slot.

# Front of House Volunteers Party

Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 7.30pm

As a big Thank You for all the wonderful work you do, we're inviting all our volunteers who steward and work behind the bar to come and join us for a glass of bubbly and nibbles at the theatre - and the bar will be open too!

We also welcome new volunteers who'd like to come along and find out how Front of House works.

Looking forward to a sociable evening with maybe a bit of quizzing thrown in!

*Clare Williamson*  
*Front of House Manager*

## What's on in Norwich

**Maddermarket Theatre**

Tuesday 6 - Saturday 10 February

### Pinter Double Bill



A rare opportunity to see two of Harold Pinter's most powerful late plays. In *Ashes to Ashes* two lovers grapple with romance, memory and each other's dark past, where nothing is quite what it seems. In *Party Time* a group of powerful men and women meet to drink and be merry while mayhem reigns in the streets below. Join The Norwich Players for what promises to be by turns an enigmatic, sinister, comic and dangerous evening.

<https://maddermarket.co.uk/event/pinter-double-bill/>

**Assembly House**

Thursday 15 – Saturday 17 February

### Queers

*Selected monologues curated by Mark Gatiss*

*Directed by Michelle Hutchings*

*An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books*

*Presented as part of QueerFest 2024*



A recreation of our own successful Sewell Barn production, originally staged in January 2023, and proud winner of the Norfolk Arts Awards Theatre Award.

<https://queerfestnorwich.uk/queer-fest-presents-2/>