

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue1: April 2011

CONTENTS

1. Editorial
2. Ladies Down Under
3. Bridgewater Canal 250
4. Quiz
5. RSC Open Stages
6. Review: On the Spot
7. Phil Clarke
8. Dates for your Diary
9. The Curtain Falls

1. EDITORIAL

I'm delighted to welcome you to the first issue of Footlights, a newsletter for Barton Theatre Company.

Barton is a wonderful group, welcoming and friendly, but sometimes we're not too great about communication. If you're not involved in the current play and down at St Mike's every Monday and Thursday then it can feel like you don't know what's going on. I've believed for a long time that a newsletter for members might help with this. I've suggested it a few times over the years but the idea wasn't taken up.

At the last committee meeting it was pointed out how much was going on at the moment and wouldn't it be great to tell everyone about it. A suggestion was made that we should put out... a newsletter. All we needed was someone to write it. So I've put my money where my mouth is.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you like it, tell me – and the Committee so they'll let me keep doing this. If you have any comments, news, or ideas for an article for future issues (and I hope there will be) please get in touch.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)

anevill@ntlworld.com

2. LADIES DOWN UNDER

Do you remember Ladies Day, a very successful production which we staged in March 2009? A comedy by Amanda Whittington, it told the hilarious yet poignant story of four fish factory workers who go to Royal Ascot.

It was an enjoyable production too. So when we found out there was a sequel – it was inevitable

that we'd revisit the ladies eventually. In Ladies Down Under they're on the trip of a lifetime to Australia – Oz better watch out!

Rehearsals are in full swing under the expert eye of director David Milne. Elaine Hayton, Val Ridings and Katherine Howard reprise their roles

of Pearl, Jan and Shelley. Mags Ridings takes the role of Linda.

Some of the cast have commented in this writer's hearing that they reckon the script for Ladies Down Under is even better than Ladies Day. David has mentioned some interesting ideas for staging. So we're expecting good things (Wasn't that a play too? Ed)

If you'd like to see what's going on, you're encouraged to drop into rehearsals on Monday and Thursday at St Mikes from around 7:45pm.

Although the show may be cast, you can still be a part of it. We're always on the lookout for people to help out Front of House. If you're interested please contact Janet Johnston. Also we always need people to help put up the set and take it back down again. If you're available on Sunday 8th May or after the matinee on Sunday 15th May, you would be very welcome and appreciated.

The play itself runs from Thurs 12th to Saturday 14th May 2011 at 7:30pm with a matinee on Sunday 15th May 2011 at 2pm at Salford Arts, Theatre Kemsing Walk, Off Liverpool Street Salford, M5 4BS. Tickets are £7.00 (waged) and £5.50 concessions and can be ordered by telephoning 0161-799 4685 or 0161 925 0111 (Theatre)

****STOP PRESS****

Unfortunately a member of the cast has had to drop out. There's a role available for a young male in their 20s – 30s. If you'd like to take part please drop into a rehearsal or get in touch with the director, David Milne.

3. BRIDGEWATER CANAL 250

Conceived to carry coal from his mines in Worsley to industrial areas in Manchester by Francis Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater and designed by James Brindley, the Bridgewater canal opened on 17 July 1761. It was one of the key events of the Industrial Revolution. Well, that's what I was taught in GCSE History.

Joking aside though the canal has played and continues to play an important role in Salford. It's only right that we celebrate it. So throughout the year Salford City Council is running a series of events to celebrate the 'Duke's Cut' – and Barton Theatre Company is helping them do it.

The events kicked off in February with a Launch Dinner at Worsley Court House. The guests were treated to a slap up meal and entertainment themed around the canal. Amongst others performance poet, Jo Bell read out her specially commissioned poem, 'Dukes Cut' and the evening was bought to a close by a brass band

BTC kicked off the night by reading out some quotes about the canal. Later we performed a short piece written especially for us by Elaine McCann, 'A-Z of the Bridgewater Canal'; a 10(ish) minute play about the history and use of the canal through its 250 years.

Everyone involved really enjoyed the night and we've received some excellent feedback.

But it's not over yet. We've received funding to enable us to take part in more events throughout the year. The latest news is that we'll be involved in the following:

Monton Festival – 2 July 2011 – Monton Green
Right Royal Regatta – 16 July 2011 – On or by the canal

Eccles Festival – 17 September 2011 – Eccles Recreation Ground.

At the moment, we're not quite sure what we'll be doing. Elaine McCann has agreed to write another short play for us to perform at the Festivals.

The Regatta is being organised by Walk the Plank (in the past they've organised public events such as Salford's bonfire night fireworks) and we're still waiting to find out what part they'd like us to play. However, a regatta suggests that it might be a floating pageant so we may very well find ourselves afloat.

More details when we find out more.

It's not too late to get involved. We had a wonderful night at the Court House and these events to come sound no less exciting. If you'd like to take part in any of the events then get in touch with the group. If you can't take part then why not come along and watch.

For more information on the 250th anniversary celebrations go to <http://www.visitsalford.info/bridgewater250.htm>

4. QUIZ

All of the below of the first lines of Shakespeare plays. You simply have to identify the play. If you get all five, you may even impress Dave Milne.

Answers at the end of the newsletter

1. Two households, both alike in dignity
2. In sooth, I know not why I am so sad.
3. So shaken as we are, so wan with care
4. Boatswain
5. Tush, never tell me; I take it much unkindly

5. RSC OPEN STAGES

On the subject of Shakespeare, the Royal Shakespeare Company has launched an exciting project that in their words, "aims to embrace, develop and celebrate amateur theatre, re-forging the bond with the world of professional theatre."

cinema. Once you get your head round it, the Bard is very accessible. To help people get their heads round, Dave Milne has offered to run some Shakespeare workshops. He's run these in the past and they were very well received.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, the RSC will be running a programme of events with local amateur groups invited to stage a Shakespeare play or related work with their support

Also bear in mind that it doesn't have to be Shakespeare play – it can be a related work (I vote Terry Pratchett's Wyrds Sisters – a parody of Hamlet and Macbeth. Ed)

Barton Theatre Company has applied to join the programme.

There are no fixed plans yet as to what Barton will be doing. So if you've any ideas... We'll let you know how this develops

Some of you may be thinking that Shakespeare is too hard or that people in Salford won't come out to see Shakespeare. However, Shakespeare isn't written in courtly complicated English. In its day it was entertainment for the masses – Tudor

Further information on Open Stages can be found at: <http://www.rsc.org.uk/explore/projects/open-stages/>

6. REVIEW: ON THE SPOT

Smiths Restaurant has long been our unofficial official restaurant. It's the place we tend to go to for those post-show celebrations, Christmas and birthday dos.

In recent times, Smiths has added entertainment to its menu with the regular and popular Bite Size Theatre productions. You go for a meal and then see a piece of theatre afterwards

The latest offering was somewhat different.

It saw the welcome return of Louise Nulty & Jacky Pilton (who's Last Tram to Starr Gate last year was a wonderful evening's entertainment) with a night of improvised comedy in the vein of Who's Line Is It Anyway.

Taking place between courses, and with audience participation enthusiastically encouraged, Louise and Jacky took us on a rollercoaster ride of comedy – all made up 'on the spot'.

As with all improvisation, some things worked really well, other ideas not so much. Perhaps the most successful idea was Personal Props, which presented sketches using a number of items lent by the audience (one brave person handing over their credit card) but not always using them as they were intended.

However Louise and Jacky's enthusiasm carried the audience along with them, who readily got into the spirit of the evening and joined in with gusto. Even when the improv was not as successful, it still raised a smile. When it worked, there were some moments that were inspired (Holmes and Miss Marple).

It's a shame there weren't more of our members there to see it. You missed a treat.

Smith's next Bite Size Theatre is Two New Plays by Mike Stewart. Our own Les Kinsey is starring in one of the plays, which is also being directed by Elaine McCann, another Barton stalwart. Please support them and get a delicious meal and superb night's entertainment. See Dates for your Diary for further details

7. PHIL CLARKE

It is with sadness that we heard last week about the death of Phil Clarke following a long illness.

Phil was long standing friend of Barton Theatre Company. He was usually to be found riding shotgun with Dave Milne on set build days and at

the end of show runs helping us to load and unload the van and to build and take down the sets

He was a lovely bloke and will be much missed.

The programme for Ladies Day Down Under will be dedicated to Phil

8. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BTC Dates:

Ladies Down Under:

Set build – 15 May 2011 – From 10pm
Performances - 12th -14th May 2011 - 7:30pm,
15th May 2011 - 2pm - Salford Arts, Theatre
Kemsing Walk, Off Liverpool Street, Salford, M5
4BS

Annual General Meeting – To be announced but will be after Ladies Down Under

Other Dates:

Bite Size Theatre at Smiths – Two New Plays by Mike Stewart

The Road to Denshaw's Farm - Performed by Les Kinsey, Directed by Elaine McCann
Carole at Christmas – performed by Liz Titley,
Directed by Alan Titley
13 – 14 April 2011, Tables at 6pm.
Bookings: 0161 788 7343

Edgefold Players – Out of Sight, Out of Murder –
11-14 May 2011 – 7.30pm -Methodist Memorial
Road, Walkden. Bookings: 0161 7028 8708.
<http://www.edgefoldplayers.co.uk/>

Salford Art s Theatre – Love Shy Neighbour – 19-
20 May 2011 – 2pm, 7.30pm - - Salford Arts,
Theatre Kemsing Walk, Off Liverpool Street,
Salford, M5 4BS. Bookings 0161 925 0111
www.salfordartstheatre.co.uk



9. THE FINAL CURTAIN

I hope you've enjoyed this first (of hopefully many) newsletters. I'd like to thank the committee for letting me do this. Thanks also to Elly Hayton for proof reading and fact checking.

Contact Information:

Email: anevill@ntlworld.com

Barton Theatre Company Committee

Chair: Brian Cogswill, Treasurer: Elaine Hayton,

Secretary: Janet Johnston, Officers: Joan Breen,

Beverley Greenhalgh, David Milne, Andrew

Nevill

Quiz Answers:

1. Romeo and Juliet
2. The Merchant of Venice
3. King Henry IV, Part 1
4. The Tempest
5. Othello, The Moor of Venice

All views of those of the author and not necessarily those of Barton Theatre Company, its associates and affiliates

Copyright Andrew Nevill 2011. All Rights Reserved. All Wrongs Revenged.