

# F TLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company  
Issue 7: November 2011

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### 1. EDITORIAL

A pale and lank figure shambles towards you. Its lifeless eyes rimmed with red, its cheeks sunken. Inhuman sounds drop from its dried cracked lips as it moans incoherently. The abomination advances slowly, inexorably, arms outstretched in front of it. Instinctively, you cower, drawing away from the Undead. Suddenly, it speaks.

“CofffeEEEE!!”

And you realise it’s just your humble Editor, first thing in the morning!

Welcome, one and all to a slightly scary edition of Footlights. Yes, this is the November issue, but as I’m going to

Ireland next week, you should be receiving this on or before Halloween.

So once again, I have been organised. And that should scare you if you aren’t already.

Before we get to the news, please note that I have changed my email address. (See below) As it is new, I haven’t received a lot of email to it yet and I have new Inbox just waiting to be filled up. So c’mon send your comments stories, anecdotes; jokes - or any type of contribution. Not only will you help me fill the newsletter, you’ll also to make my Inbox feel loved.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)  
[nevillandrew@gmail.com](mailto:nevillandrew@gmail.com)

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### 2. RAPUNZEL

If Joan, our director, or anyone else in the cast, is reading this they probably won’t like me mentioning that performances of Rapunzel are just over a month away.

Rehearsals continue to be great fun. Everyone is enjoying themselves so much and that sense of fun is really showing

through in the performances coming out in rehearsal Joan seems to be really pleased with how things are coming along. Best of all we finally have a full cast with Kate (Prince Alex), Albert (King Albert) and Dinah (Queen Eleanor) being recruited as our Royal Family

The main problem now is that Rapunzel can only rehearse Mondays, and the Prince, Thursday so we are having some difficulties bringing our two lovebirds together. But Unrequited Love is the most romantic kind. Be in no doubt, however, that we will actually get them together before the First Night. Apparently the Fairy Queen\* owes the Director a favour or two.

What that all adds up to is that Rapunzel should be a fantastic show. So if you

haven't got your tickets yet, get a move on. Or we'll send the Evil Witch round!

And if you can't wait until December, well you don't have to. We are thrilled to have been asked to take part in switching on the Eccles Christmas Lights.

As many of the cast as can make it will be at Eccles Shopping Centre on Saturday 19 November from 4pm. We'll be performing a short scene from the Pinto as a taster of what to expect.

It would be wonderful if as many of you as possible could come down and support us. Obviously as it's the Christmas Lights switch on there'll be loads of things to see and do and probably things to buy.

\*We have no comment whether this refers to Brian or Iris.

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### 3. QUIZ

There are a surprising number of musicals which aren't out of place at Halloween Most of these have been filmed or if not there's a Cast Album. So this Halloween, why not be evil? Lock the door, turn off the lights, curl up with the treats that were

1. A Little Priest
2. Fresh Blood
3. For Good
4. Hot Patootie – Bless My Soul
5. Skid Row
6. The Jitterbug

supposed to be for the kids and watch and/or listen to a morbid musical.

Talking of which, try matching the song to the show. But if you can't, don't let it send you batty because as always, the answers are at the end.

- a) Dracula: The Musical
- b) Little Shop of Horrors
- c) Rocky Horror Show
- d) Sweeny Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
- e) The Wizard of Oz
- f) Wicked

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### 4. SMITHS BITE SIZE THEATRE

I wouldn't normally do this as what follows amounts to free advertising. However, because it is in keeping with the Halloween theme, and Smiths is our

'unofficial official' restaurant, and because I know this will be good, I've decided to make an exception. You can do that when you're the Editor.

Smith's always popular Bite Size Theatre returns with Halloween treat for all the family.

'Travels with my Boggart' tells the story of a young girl from Guernsey evacuated to the desolate Lancashire Pennines where a helpful Boggart befriends her and takes her on an amazing journey.

The play has been specially written for Smiths by Louise Nulty and Jackie Pilton. You may have seen Lou and Jackie when they were last at Smiths back in April with their improvised comedy night 'On The Spot'. It was a fantastic evening. On past history this should be a real Halloween treat!

By the time this goes out, you may be a little late for the show tomorrow, Sunday

30th October - tables at 3 - 3.30pm.  
Performance at 5pm. But you never know your luck!

Failing that you may still get in on Wednesday 2nd November Tables 6 - 6.30pm Performance at 8pm

Prices are £20 for performance plus a tapas style meal (a selection of small dishes - not as in 'tapas spicy!') For Children eating from the Children's Menu, its £12 for the performance and a meal from the children's menu

On Sunday you can have either the tapas meal OR the Sunday Roast Main Course.

Full details are in Dates For Your Diary below and I promise a review in next month's issue.

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## 5. RAISING THE ROOF

My first show with Barton Theatre Company was Love On The Dole in 2003. The theatre we performed that show in was dingy and run down. It was unwelcoming too; you walked in and wanted to walk back out again.

Most of all, it felt unloved. It seemed hardly anyone knew this theatre was there – and those who did, didn't value it.

Love On The Dole was a success. But that was despite all the headaches that arose from being in that theatre. We resolved not to us it again.

That flea pit was called Salford Arts Theatre!

But, you may ask, isn't that the theatre we currently use? And I answer: Yes it is

We were being priced out of the Robert Powell Theatre at Salford University, the venue we were using and we needed to move. Having little success finding anywhere else – and learning that it was under new management – we reluctantly gave Salford Arts Theatre one more try

The new management were Roni & Scott. And in them, that unloved old theatre finally found someone to love it. They were determined to put it back on its feet and so were thrilled to have us back. After all, if more groups perform at the theatre, more people see a show there, which goes a long way to making it a success.

In two short years, the Salford Arts theatre has been transformed. The old lighting rig has been modernised, the seating rake restored to working order. As well as Barton, other groups now regularly take their shows there. It's become a venue in

the annual NOT Festival (The Fringe of the Manchester International Festival). Barton can proudly say that we've helped them get there

But more than that, the place is welcoming again. You walk in and are greeted with a smile. It's only when you lift your steaming cup of filter coffee to your lips that you notice that some of the paint is peeling. But you have coffee and you know you're going to see a great show. Who cares about the decor?

Roni and Scott have to. They also need to care about the roof because it needs replacing.

That's why they're currently fundraising. They need £15,000 to replace the roof. Oh, and replace the internal and external lights and, yes, redecorate – including a swanky new bar.

Recently they held a boxing themed fundraising night. By all accounts it was a great night, raising over £3000. Sadly, as it was on a rehearsal night, Barton couldn't be there.

There's still a long way to go. And you can help. You could donate directly and I'm sure Roni and Scott would be grateful

But if you bought a ticket, you'd be helping too. The money the theatre makes will go towards the repairs. So you get an evening's entertainment and a lovely warm feeling from knowing you've helped.

The theatre also has a Friends scheme. For £5 a year you get money off tickets - and free cups of that lovely hot filter coffee

You may ask why I am using Barton's newsletter to encourage you to support Salford Arts Theatre. It's a legitimate question.

The answer is that at Salford Arts Theatre, I feel we have found a home. If we were no longer able to perform at the theatre, we'd be hard pressed to find an alternative venue. Being perfectly honest, it's enlightened self-interest. By helping the theatre, we help ourselves

But more than that, I believe Roni and Scott deserve, and the theatre itself deserves, your help and support. I've seen what that theatre was! I see what it is now! And I can see what it could be!

I've performed there and I've assisted backstage. So there are no rose tinted spectacles here. It's not perfect but it is still a great venue to perform in.

Roni and Scott have already done so much, working tirelessly to revive this hidden gem, bringing theatre into the community. They've made it into a place Salfordians can be proud of – even adopted Salfordians like me. In these depressing times of riots, cutbacks, and an imploding Euro, that's something we not only need to hang onto but help make even better

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## 6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### BTC Dates:

Rapunzel

Rehearsals: Monday and Thursday - St

Mike's 7:45

Performance 1-4 December 2011 – Salford Arts Theatre

Doors open 7pm Evening (Thur-Sat) & 1.30pm Matinee (Sat & Sun)

Tickets £7 (waged) £5.50 concession

Family £24 (Max 2 Adults total 5 tickets)

Rapunzel 'Post Mortem' Meeting: 8  
December 2011- 8pm – St Mike's  
Committee Meeting: 13 December 2011 –  
8pm – Ellys's House

Other Dates:

Smiths Bite Size Theatre

Travels With My Boggart written and  
performed by Louise Nulty and Jackie  
Pilton

Sunday 30th October - tables at 3pm /  
3.30pm. Performance at 5pm

Wednesday 2nd November Tables 6pm /  
6.30pm Performance at 8pm

£20 for performance plus tapas style meal  
Children eating from the Children's Menu:  
£12 for the performance and a meal from  
the children's menu

NB Sunday – Tapas or Sunday Roast Main  
Course available

Smiths Restaurant  
1-3 Church Road  
Eccles  
Manchester  
M30 0DL  
0161 788 7343

Edgefold Players

Aladdin (Pantomime) 16-22 January 2012

Methodist Community Hall, Memorial  
Road, Walkden  
Bookings 0161 7028708  
<http://www.edgefoldplayers.co.uk/>

Salford Arts Theatre:

Alice in Wonderland  
Performed by Salford Arts Theatre Young  
Performers Company  
24-26 November 2011.  
Tickets £5.00  
24-25 November at 6:30pm  
26 November at 2:30pm

Aladdin by James Barry  
12-24 December 2011  
Doors open 6.30pm Evening & 1.30pm  
Matinee  
Tickets £7 Full £6 Concession  
Family £26 (Max 2 Adults Total 5 Tickets)

Salford Arts Theatre  
Kensing Walk  
off Liverpool Road  
Salford  
M5 4BS  
Bookings: Phone: 0161 925 0111  
E-mail: [boxoffice@salfordartstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@salfordartstheatre.co.uk)  
<http://salfordartstheatre.co.uk>

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## 7. THE FINAL CURTAIN

And that's it for another month. It's now  
safe to emerge from behind your sofa

# BOO!

Okay, it is safe **now!** I promise.

As mentioned in the Editorial, my new  
Inbox is blank and empty so please do fill  
it up with any stories, photos, jokes or  
anecdotes that you'd like to see in print,  
it'd be great to hear from you.

If you're in the mood for more scariness,  
then allow me to remind you that  
Footlights' back issues can be found on  
Barton's website. They're guaranteed\* to  
give you nightmares

Footlights will return in November!

Contact Information:  
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Barton Theatre Company Committee  
Chair: Brian Cogswill, Treasurer: Elaine  
Hayton, Secretary: Andrew Nevill  
Officers: Joan Breen, Beverley

Greenhalgh, David Milne, Janet Johnston,  
Val Ridings  
Web: <http://www.bartontheatre.co.uk>

Quiz Answers:

- 1 d
- 2 a
- 3 f
- 4 c
- 5 b
- 6 e

All opinions are those of the author and  
not necessarily those of Barton Theatre  
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\*Not a guarantee