

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company
Issue 6: October 2011

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the October issue of Footlights.

If things go as planned, this newsletter will not just be on time, it'll be early. Actually, yes I have been ill. But that's not the reason. Quite simply, the first of the month when I'd usually send this out is this weekend. I have plans this weekend.

So with a degree of forethought, preparedness, responsibility and organisation that quite simply frightens me, I have sat down in front of the computer for a couple of hours for a couple of evenings and written this newsletter.

I've just looked up at the top of the newsletter and it says Issue 6. Six? Has this been going six months? It really doesn't feel like it. It's been hard work but it's been a lot of fun and those six months have really just flown by. I'd like to thank all of you for your support and for all the positive comments I've received.

This month I was really pleased to be contacted by Elaine McCann who sent me a wonderful article. Thanks Elaine It is much appreciated

Terry McKnight, who runs our website, also got in touch. He's currently updating the website but doesn't have many pictures from our recent productions. If anyone has any, which they wouldn't mind Terry using then he'd really appreciate it if you could email them to him. Terry's email is

. Terry also emailed me to say that he has published the back issues of Footlights on our website. (Oh no, there's evidence) So if you'd like to relive the last six months simply visit <http://www.bartontheatre.co.uk> and click on the Footlights link at the bottom of the page. Wow, this got long. I'll shut up and let you get to the news.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
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2. BRIDGEWATER 250 – ECCLES FESTIVAL

Barton's involvement with the celebrations of the Bridgewater Canal's 250th birthday ended on a (more than) slightly damp note at the Eccles Festival on 17th September.

The Festival is an annual event that takes place on the Recreation Ground. We've usually had a stall there as it tends to come around just as we're rehearsing the pantomime so it's an opportunity to generate some publicity which maybe converts into some ticket sales.

This year, it was also tied in with the Bridgewater 25 with Barton pencilled in to perform the Eccles Wakes piece we did for the Right Royal Regatta at Worsley.

We learnt about a week before the Festival that we hadn't actually been allocated a performance spot. We'd also found ourselves double booked as we'd been asked to perform at the Eccles Town Hall Open Day.

So we had a cunning plan. Set the stall up at the Festival at usual. Leave one person there to fly the flag whilst everyone else performs at Eccles Town Hall. In between performances, drop into the Festival and do an impromptu performance and then head back the second show at the Town Hall.

Sadly though, the weather had other plans. Heavy showers throughout the day making it really quite miserable for the lone ranger (that'd be yours truly by the way) minding the stall. They also kept the crowds away so not a lot of hope of generating any publicity. On the positive side the kids from the stall next door loved the skittles game!

When the rest of the group arrived, none of them relished the prospect of performing in the rain in a muddy field. The weather had also kept away the crowds so there

were very few people there to see a performance even if we did one.

So given all that, we took the decision to pack away the stall, and all head over to Eccles Town Hall. At least it was warm and dry there!

As a personal bonus, I got to see the Eccles Wakes Show. It was a wonderful 10 minutes entertainment that captured some of the spirit of the Victorian Wakes fairs. Elly's confident portrayal of a lady of negotiable affection made one wonder about her previous incarnations. Iris as the Temperance Society (boo) lady made Mary Whitehouse look cuddly. But the highlight had to be John's strongman. That man belongs in the circus.

The Town Hall was a brilliant pick me up after the weather depressed Festival. It seemed, understandably, that they'd picked up the crowd that might otherwise have gone to the Festival. And better still, it was an appreciative crowd, loudly applauding the Eccles Wakes.

After the performance, we all went back to Smiths to change and for a well deserved coffee.

So now we're done with the Bridgewater 250, the question that naturally presents itself is, "Was it worth it?"

Having been involved in most of it, my answer would be 'Yes'.

True, it took us out of our comfort zone. Street theatre is not something we usually do but it was fun to get out in the community rather than just be stuck in the theatre and it was brilliant to do something a little bit different.

We also got to perform two wonderful yet different little pieces of theatre written by our very own Elaine McCann.

We were also given a grant to cover our costs. However, we have bought and made things, which were chargeable under the grant, that we've been able to keep and will get further use out of. So it's almost as if those things have been bought for us

The negatives, and let's be honest there were some, mainly came from having to deal with so many people. There was the Council to deal with as well as the organisers of the various festivals.

Frequently, they seemed not to be talking to each other - telling us different things or at times, seeming to expecting us to tell thing we didn't know. That was frustrating especially when it meant that at some points we didn't know what they wanted or expected us to do or where or when they wanted or didn't want us to do it.

What ever else it may have done, more people will now know the name Barton Theatre Company than did before we started all this. Our profile has been raised enormously, which should ultimately be the best benefit to come of this

3. PLAYS WITH ONE LETTER MISSING

This month, I'm thrilled to be able to feature our first reader contribution. And it's brilliant. It comes from Elaine McCann who has simply taken a number of popular works and removed one letter from the title to create something entirely different.

ABIGAIL'S ARTY

Beverly's beautifully arranged cheesy pineapples – and her taste in Athena prints - bring gasps of admiration from the critics

φ*## KIN' LEAR !

The tragic tale of a man whose daughters didn't have a good word to say about him

O HELLO

Desdemona shows us round her palatial home

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHT DAYS

Life in the fast lane

THE CARTAKER

Pinter's iconic look at twoccing

It's a shame they're all fictional as I'd go and see some of these.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DRAM

21st June....Ben Nevis ... and a bottle of Talisker.... Magic !

PRESET LAUGHTER

Life with the sitcom makers

THE BOY FIEND

Damien returns.....

BRIE ENCOUNTER

An accidental meeting in the cheese shop leads to romance

HA ... LET !!

A young man returns home to find his father dead, his mother remarried and his apartment rented out

THE FORSYTHE SAG

Soames joins a gym

FUR COAT AND NO NICKERS
....even the looters are anti fur these days

THE WIN IN THE WILLOWS
Salford's finest hour

THE ION THE WITCH AND THE
WARDROBE
Faraday's explanation of Narnia.....

OLIVERTWIT
Not everyone likes celebrity chefs

THE MOUSE RAP
Mickey and his homies make beats

ONE WITH THE WIND
OR ' No more pickled eggs for me !'

BEDROOM FACE
You know the one Bleary eyes,
smudged mascara and pillow hair....

FRENCH WITHOUT EARS
M. Hulot latest madcap adventure in the
winter cornfields of Provence

THE TURN OF THE CREW
That awful moment on a cruise ship when
the officers 'entertain'

WAITING FOR GODO...!
What David Milne's been trying to tell us
all along !

What's impressed me so much with these
is Elaine hasn't pulled these off a website;
she's sat down come up with them. So can
you lot do as well – or better?

4. RAPUNZEL

Rehearsals are now in full swing for this year's pantomime, Rapunzel, written and directed by Joan and Breen. So far things seem to be going okay and we're all having a lot of fun. It looks like we've got a good show as already the ad-libs are in full flow. We're either comedy geniuses – or desperately covering up the fact that we don't know the lines?

However, there is a slight problem, well a pretty big one actually. We are still THREE cast members short. We urgently need a King, a Queen and our hero, the Prince.

We did have a Prince but he broke his leg climbing from Rapunzel's Tower (or it might have been a tree. Reports are conflicting.)

The King and Queen roles may suit an older man or woman. The Prince can be either male or female as with panto, boys are frequently played by girls

So if you would like to act and be in our pantomime, or if you know anybody who would, we would love to see them at Rehearsal.

Rehearsals are on Monday and Thursday at St Michaels' Community Centre, Peel Green at approximately 7:45pm.

The play itself runs from Thursday 1 December to Sunday 4 December at our now customary home, Salford Arts Theatre. Performances are at 7:30 on Thursday – Saturday evenings with a Matinee at 2pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Terry, as always, has designed a brilliant poster for the show and you should have received one along with this newsletter. Now you've no excuse for forgetting.

But don't just use the poster as a reminder. How about using it to spread the word? Print it out and put in your window – or

why not your car. A travelling billboard would be great! Print out a few and get your local shops to put them up. Joan has

written a smashing script that should be a wonderful show that deserves a big audience.

5. QUIZ

This month's quiz is inspired by Elaine's Plays With One Letter Missing. I've gone a little further; I present to you Plays Without Vowels. Just identify the plays

below where all the vowels have been removed from the title. To help you, (I am not totally evil*) I've given you the actual number of letters in each word

1. LV N TH DL (4,2,34)
2. BNCRS (8)
3. TH MPRTNC F BNG RNST (3, 10,2,5,7)

4. NTNY ND CLPTR (7,3,9)
5. TH CRCBL (3,8)

*just mostly evil

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)

Committee Meeting: 25 October 2011 – 8pm – Ellys's House

Other Dates:

Edgefold Players

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn

19-22 October 2011 at 7:30pm

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

Kemsing Walk

off Liverpool Road

Salford

M5 4BS

Bookings: Phone: 0161 925 0111

E-mail: boxoffice@salfordartstheatre.co.uk

<http://salfordartstheatre.co.uk>

7. THE FINAL CURTAIN

And that's it for another month. I hope you enjoyed this issue.

My thanks go to Elaine McCann for her contribution to the newsletter

If any of you lot have any stories, photos, jokes or anecdotes that you'd like to see in print, it'd be great to hear from you.

Before we go a quick reminder about Terry's appeal for photos of recent productions for the website. I urge you to forget that Footlights' back issues are also on the same website. (Some of my proof reading errors made me wince)

And a final reminder of our appeal for actors for the pantomime to play the Prince, King and Queen.

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 Love On The Dole
- 2 Bouncers
- 3 The Importance of Being Earnest
- 4 Antony and Cleopatra
- 5 The Crucible

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