

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 18: October 2012

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to your October issue of Footlights, delivered to you uncharacteristically on time.

We have a packed newsletter for you this month reporting on our exploits at the Eccles Mural opening and the latest news on Pinocchio.

Talking of Pinocchio, David Milne who's playing the villain has also found time to moonlight over at that other place on Salford Quays, you know the LOWry. But

we're not snobs; we went along to see how the amateurs do it! I've even deigned to include a review.

We also have a horror-ible Halloween quiz (you'll see what I mean) and a Dates For Your Diary that almost at bursting point

Hope you enjoy reading this month's issue. We'll be back again next month

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2. ECCLES WAKES MURAL

The original Eccles Wakes Mural is a mural that was painted on the side of the Age UK (formerly Help the Aged) shop in Church Street in Eccles town centre by Ed Povey in 1980.

Unfortunately in October 2012, the mural had to be painted over following repair works to the wall which meant the mural couldn't be saved.

However, it was always the intention that the mural would return. Having secured the necessary funding, the Eccles Rotary Club commissioned a new mural. At the end of June graphic artist Chris Butcher and Sarah Yates of Fuanagraphic got to work.

To celebrate the new mural, the Rotary Club held an Opening Ceremony last Saturday on 22 September. The whole affair was presided over by Hazel Blears MP who declared the Mural open and local schoolchildren who also took part in the project attended

And Barton Theatre Company was there too!



The new Wakes Mural.

Picture from <http://www.salfordonline.com>

As the mural depicts the old Eccles Wakes – an annual celebration which became so notorious it was banned – we were asked to present a short piece about the history of the Wakes. As it happened, we already had something which we'd performed last year as part of the Bridgewater Canal's 250th Anniversary celebration.

Elaine McCann performed a minor re-write so it fitted the brief and reassembled

3. PINOCCHIO

Progress continues to be made on Pinocchio.

most of her original cast of were happy to reprise their roles. This time around even I was persuaded to join in.

The event was originally supposed to take place on 1st September but had to be postponed and the delay meant that I was not able to take part. Also forced to drop out was Dave Milne who found the date clashed with rehearsals for his latest role.

Donning Dave's top hat was Nigel Smith who played Duncan in Macbeth and who has also joined us as Gepetto in Pinocchio.

Not being there myself, I must rely on what I've been told by those who were. The overriding consensus seems to be that it was a brilliant afternoon. The rain decided to stop and it was a beautiful late summer's day. The wonderful weather bought out a large crowd of what we believe were at least 40 people, possibly even up to 80.

The play itself went off very well and was well received. The cast had several anecdotes about the feedback they received [1]. Joan Breen's is perhaps the most gratifying. She told Footlight of a gentleman who was enticed out of the pub to watch the show and then later remarked how nice it was to see some street theatre because it's something you don't see anymore.

We also received a letter of thanks from Eccles Rotary Club together with a donation as mark of their appreciation.

[1] The cast would like to apologise to Val Ridings for abandoning her in the Church

Rehearsals are going well with people well on their way to finding their characters. Last rehearsal, we did full a run of the show just to get an idea of how long it runs and were pleased to find that the run time seems about right.

We also now have the full cast. Nigel Smith who played Duncan in Macbeth has joined us to play Gepetto. Vikki Ward has swapped roles to play Cat after reading it in brilliantly, with Alice Orr-Edwards - another Macbeth returnee - coming on board to play Princess Rose.

David Milne rejoins us this week; just in time too. John Orr, who's been reading in the villain, was making a strong bid to replace Dave as Stromboli. Yes John, we heard you practicing the Evil Laugh!

Things have been happening on the tech side too with a Tech Meeting having been held. Joan is keen to use the projector to provide 'virtual scenery' after it was so successful in both Ladies Down Under and Macbeth. Derek Ridings is also keen - to make things go BANG! Discussions on how to make Pinocchio's nose grow continue

If you'd like to see what's going on you'd be extremely welcome to join us at rehearsals on Mondays and Thursday from 6.30pm at St Mikes.

And don't forget to come and see it. It promises to be a great show!

4. QUIZ

It's October which means it'll soon be Halloween. I don't like horror movies myself but a popular Halloween treat is to have a scary night in. Many horror films have become franchises spawning several sequels (The real horror lies in how increasingly awful they become)

So this month can you tell me how many movies there were in the following horror franchises?

The answers are those according to IMDB (Internet Movie Database). Reboots (where a series is restarted with a new movie) and movies currently in production *are* counted. (That might be a clue). As always, the answers are at the end of the newsletter.

- a. Halloween
- b. [Rec]
- c. Friday the 13th
- d. Scary Movie
- e. Final Destination

5. ONIONS CRY TOO

As mentioned above, our own David Milne had to drop out of the Eccles Wakes Mural event as he was rehearsing a play. The play in question was called Onions Cry Too and was being staged in the Studio at the Lowry. So last Friday, a bunch of us went down to Salford Quays

to see what was *so* important that Dave jilted us!

Written by Jayne Marshall, Onions Cry Too is a drama set in what appears to be an old people's home. We follow the interactions of four residents - the

enigmatic Donald, the waspish Charles, Bertie and Alfred.

Right from the beginning, the audience is aware that things are not what they seem but the play deliberately takes no time to scene set; there's no introduction to what's going on or explain who the characters are. The audience are thrown into the situation and it's up to them to try and work out just what is happening

Whilst there are some definite hints dropped, much is left open to the audience's own interpretation and there are several clear themes that are explored throughout the play -the nature of God and religion, death and life.

It's the kind of play that polarises people. You'll either 'get it' and like the play or think 'what the hell is this?' To be honest, this isn't the kind of play I would usually go and see. However, on this occasion, I went in not knowing anything; I was there because someone I knew was in it.

This turned out to be a good thing because whilst I did find the play confusing and slightly bewildering, it was also an absorbing and fantastic piece of theatre. This was entirely due to the four actors who all attacked the piece with masses of energy that made the whole thing compelling.

Arthur Bostrom as Charles was a million miles from the bumbling policeman Crabtree in 'Allo, Allo. Here his humour was sarcastic, sometimes cruelly so. His character was by turns wheedling and petulant and always manipulative. For someone who has only seen in him in that famous role, this was one heck an eye-opener.

Bob Young as Donald had the same energy as his three fellows but it was of a quieter and self-contained nature lending

enigmatic air to his part that entirely suited it

Eryl Lloyd Parry played Albert with verve and vigour, at times anger, at other regretful but with an increasing sense of vulnerability that couldn't help but win the audience's sympathy.

And then there was David Milne as Bertie. He more than held his own. We all know Dave never does anything by halves and that was definitely the case with his performance. But Dave also showed he does have a sensitive side (well, who knew?) with the heartbreaking pathos of the final scene.

The set was pragmatic. There just one flat with decorated with fade old fashioned wallpaper and a practical door, the rest of the stage screened by blacks. Furnished with a table and chairs some terrible old armchairs and standard lamps, the set did what it had to do, perfectly evoking the forgotten lonely care home that no one ever visits helping the actors' performances rather than distracting from them.

Lighting too was what was needed. The whole play was set in one room so not any fancy effects were needed. However, the light was used at various degrees of brightness to accentuate and create mood. It was particularly nice to see the standard lamps actually being used as part of the lighting and not just as set dressing. Sound too was similar being used sparingly and as needed.

So all in all, a good night out. A play I wouldn't normally have chosen to see but which I nevertheless enjoyed. Getting to hobnob with Arthur, Eryl, Bob, the writer and director in the bar later was a bonus. (Dave was there too)

And although, you may have missed this play, New Attitude Theatre Company, who put on Onions Cry Too are staging a

Christmas play at Smiths at the end of November. Based on this, they put on a

good - if unusual - show. So go on, book those tickets.

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

Pinocchio

Rehearsals: Mondays & Thursdays – St Mike's – 7:45 pm

Set Build: Sunday 2 December 2012, Salford Arts Theatre

Performances:

Evenings: 6 – 8 December 2012, 7:30pm

Matinees: 8 – 9 December 2012, 2:00pm

Tickets: £7.00, £5.50 (Concessions)

Venue: Salford Arts Theatre

Bookings: 0161 7999 4685 (Barton)

0161 925 0111 (Theatre Box Office)

Committee Meeting:

16 October 2012, 8pm, Elly's house

Smiths Bite Size Theatre

New Attitude Theatre Company presents

Life In A Bubble

28-29 November 2012

Meals: 6pm Performance: 8.15pm.

Theatre Tickets: £8.50.

Meals and drinks as menu prices

As well as the Fixed Price Menu & Chefs' Specials, the 'Rapid Lunch' menu will be available - dishes from £4.75

Bookings: 0161 788 7343

Smiths Restaurant

1-3 Church Road

Eccles

Manchester, M30 0DL

<http://www.smithsrestaurant.net>

Salford Arts Theatre:

The Story of Gary Oscar Davidson

8-10 November 2012

Tickets: £5.00 (Early Bird), £7.00, £6.00 (Concession)

Dick Whittington

13-24 December 2012, 2.00pm & 7.00pm

Tickets: **SPECIAL EARLY BIRD £5.00 per ticket until October 13**

£7.00 Full, £6.00 Concession,

£26.00 Family Ticket

Salford Arts Theatre

Kensing Walk

Off Liverpool St

Salford

M5 4BS

Bookings: Tel: 0161 925 0111

<http://salfordartstheatre.com>

Edgefold Players

One For The Road by Willy Russell

Friday and Saturday 2 - 3 November, 7.30pm

Walkden Methodist Church,

Manchester Rd East

Walkden

Bookings: 0161 702 8708

<http://www.edgefoldplayers.co.uk/>

6. THE FINAL CURTAIN

That's all for this edition of Footlights.

will receive full blame credit for anything used in the newsletter.

Contributions: Always welcome. Please submit to the email address below. You

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Quiz Answers:

- a. 9
 - b. 4
 - c. 12
 - d. 5
 - e. 5
- (Take a ½ point if you said 4. No.5 is currently in production)

For those who may be interested a complete title listing appears as a footnote at the very end of the newsletter.

Quiz Movie Listing:

Halloween:

Halloween, Halloween II, Halloween III: Season of the Witch, Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers, Halloween 5, Halloween: the Curse of Michael Myers, Halloween H20: 20 Years Later. Halloween: Resurrection, Halloween (2007 Reboot)

[Rec]:

[Rec], [REC] Apocalypse, [Rec]², [Rec]³ Genesis

Friday the 13th:

Friday the 13th, Friday the 13th Part 2,

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

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Friday the 13th Part III, Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter, Friday the 13th: A New Beginning, Jason Lives: Friday the 13th Part VI, Friday the 13th Part VII: The New Blood, Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan, Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday, Jason X, Freddy vs. Jason, Friday the 13th (Reboot 2009)

Scary Movie:

Scary Movie, Scary Movie 2, Scary Movie3, Scary Movie 4, Scary Movie 5 (in production))

Final Destination:

Final Destination, Final Destination 2, Final Destination 3, The Final Destination, Final Destination 5