

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 28: August 2013

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August edition of Footlights.

It's a slightly slimmer issue this month. We've got the full story on our move, the latest news on our latest production and all the usual favourites.

Next month's issue may be slightly late. The week in which I would usually try and write the next issue of the newsletter happens to be the weekend of my holidays.

But worry not; there will be a September issue (probably).

Before we go, Footlights would like to congratulate Joan Breen. Our Costume Mistress and sometime Writer and Director adds to those titles with a hard earned Bachelor of Arts with Honours. Well Done Joan!

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
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2. ON THE MOVE

As I write this, the move into Smiths is almost complete and we have one week left at St Mike's. By the time you read this, we will have said goodbye to the old place and possibly a tentative hello to the new one.

I'm pleased to report that the move went almost perfectly to plan. The move was scheduled for the weekend of the 13-14 July. But we started a little earlier sacrificing the Thursday rehearsal in order to make a start.

The first thing to do was to get the scenery and paint out from under the stage and load it into David Milne's van. It had been decided beforehand that all we needed from under the stage were the 'new' canvas flats that we bought a few years ago.

However, we did find some rostra and some sheets of hardboard. Rostra are useful as on several occasions we've

needed to extend the stage at SATS. And we can *always* use hardboard.

So we took them along too. Everything else – including the stairs to get down the hole that we didn't know we had – got left behind as we no longer need it.

After that we emptied the cupboard. Most of the props and many of the costumes are in boxes or crates and there was still acres of room on the van. Might as well use it.

And use it we did with Dave's van amazingly taking almost the entire contents of the cupboard. It's almost as it's bigger on the inside than it appears on the... I think I've just figured out who's going to be the Twelfth Doctor.

For good measure we also bagged up some of the costumes and loaded them and the few bits that wouldn't fit into Dave's van into cars.

Thanks to the roominess of the van and the large number of people we had helping, the cupboard was emptied very quickly leaving us enough time to run over to Smiths and unload some of the cars.

On Saturday we met back at St Mike's and finished bagging the costumes, which we loaded into cars and took over to Smith's in a couple of shuttle runs. Again thanks to having a lot of people, everything went quickly and smoothly, especially at Smiths where we were able to form a chain to pass things up the stairs rather than trudging up and down one at a time.

Sunday and we again congregated at Smith's as Dave was coming with the van. Once again we had lots of help and the van was efficiently unloaded. It was now time to get the scenery upstairs.

It would have been very hard (probably impossible) to get the scenery around the

turns in the stairway but Mr David Milne had a notion about that

What we did was lift it up the stairwell. Dropping the scenery onto the unlucky person at the bottom of the stairs was undesirable – bloodstains are hard to get out of canvas. This really was where having lots of people available to help paid off as it meant many hands to take the strain. It was quite a sight - people lining the stairs and lifting the scenery straight up as though it were a lift.

This, though is where the *almost perfect* (remember I said that) comes in. It turns out the biggest flats were too big to get up the stairwell. However, said flats have been given over to the custody of Mr Terry He has a notion about that.

During the move everything had been placed in what would be the rehearsal room. This was to save time and make unloading easier. If we'd placed it in the costume room we would have had to put everything where we wanted it to go. However, stuff wasn't necessarily being unloaded in the order we wanted it in the room.

So we allowed another Thursday to move stuff from one room into the other and to get the room organised.

And so we have our new costume, props and scenery cupboard and our new rehearsal room.

If you don't know where it is our new home is on the First Floor above Smiths Restaurant. To gain access, go round to the side door and use the door on the right (the one on the left is for the restaurant itself). Go up the stairs and the rehearsal room is on your right as you get to the head of the stairs

For the store turn left at the top and left again. To the right is a small corridor that leads to the ladies and gents toilets.

As for parking, the station car park next door is currently closed. We think it will reopen when the building work is finished (mid August). However it may be smaller and in any case it is also frequently full. As an alternative there several car parks and parking bays in the area, all of which are free after 6pm.

I would just like to thank everyone who was involved. Everyone gave up lots of their time. Everyone worked hard and so well together. Special mentions must go to Brian and Joan for masterminding it all, Dave for letting us use his van and for his notion about unloading, Terry who has worked very hard to make his notion (folding flats) reality, Alfie who turned up and volunteered to go under the stage and finally Kiel who, despite having one arm in a sling, carried one-handed as much as anyone did with two.

3. NEWS

RECRUITMENT

We really do need to recruit some new members. To help us do this a working group has been formed to bring together some ideas for recruiting and for celebrating our move to Smiths – which it's hoped we can sue as sprigboard to launch a recruitment drive Lots of ideas including were suggested a recruiting day in October. Mags Riding is pulling the ideas together and will soon reveal them to the rest of the group and committee.

I don't want to put any pressure on Mags but I personally think this is really positive as Mags has a qualification in Events Management. In the past, (and meaning no disrespect to anyone) whilst we've done our best, we were really just willing amateurs. It's a tremendous boost to have someone who knows what she's doing.

Nicely linking in with this is the following email we've received about grants being offered by the BBC.

“The BBC is looking for community theatre groups who are ambitious and willing to take on a challenge, and who are looking for ways to increase their group's confidence and motivation and raise their profile in the local community. Eligible

groups can apply for grants between £500 and £5000 to be used on one-off projects. Grants awarded through this scheme will allow groups to carry out training, attract new audiences, encourage new members and raise their profile in their communities. The BBC wants to encourage groups to take on more challenging projects through commissions, and are encouraging collaboration with professional theatre makers and other local organisations. For more information, visit the BBC Performing Arts Fund website” [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund/grants/community-theatre>]

So if you've any ideas for recruiting that we might be able to get a grant for, please get in touch. You can send your ideas to any of the Committe members (I'm Secretary so you could send them to me – I'd love to get them). Contact details are at the end of the newsletter. The deadline is September to apply for a grant for next year.

SALFORD ARTS THEATRE

Pendleton is currently being regenerated. At the moment houses are being built on the derelict plot opposite the theatre. As a

result the road outside the theatre has been blocked off so there's no parking available. Worse still, there is no signage to tell people that the theatre is even there

This has had a major impact on the theatre. Their last two shows did not attract big audiences and the fact that people can't park and may not even know the theatre is there can't be helping matters.

The theatre has also been told that as part of the regeneration the roof, which has long needed replacing, will be done. However, this and other repairs promised have not yet happened.

Elaine Hayton has emailed the Councillor for the area raising these worries. She has received a reply stating that Pendleton Together strongly support the theatre and are planning on spending money on the roof/fabric of the building. They point out that street around the construction site have had to be closed off for Health and Safety reasons. They apologise for any inconvenience but state that are signs on the hoardings promoting the businesses and advising of alternative parking. They state that construction work is planned in the Autumn (subject to planning

permission) to improve the frontage to the theatre and put in 16 new parking spaces.

Roni at the theatre has advised that the parking spaces have approval off the Highways department (but necessarily off Planning yet). The PFI looks as it will be signed off. The signs that had been put on the hoardings were really small but these have now been changed for larger ones. The theatre itself has ordered new signage which they hope to have up in a couple of weeks.

You might think this means job done. It doesn't! The email says all this is going to happen but there are a couple of caveats. The improvements to the theatre will happen when the Creating a New Pendleton PFI (Private Finance Initiative) project starts but no date is given this and they're subject to planning permission. So there are actually no guarantees.

We need to keep the pressure up. This is one time people power can actually work. Let the powers that be know that people care about the theatre and support it. The best way to do is to go the Pendleton Together website (<http://www.pendletontogether.co.uk/>) and leave a comment expressing your concern.

4. QUIZ

I've taken my inspiration for this month's quiz from the recent heatwave. There are a number of show tunes which have a summer theme. Recently, the website Broadway.com conducted a poll to find the most popular tunes.

The numbers listed below were those voted as the Top Five. But can you work out their order in the rankings

Answers as always at the end of the newsletter.

- a) "Summertime" - Porgy And Bess
 - b) "Too Darn Hot" - Kiss Me, Kate
 - c) "The Song Of Purple Summer" - Spring Awakening
 - d) "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" - Carousel
 - e) "Summer Nights" - Grease
-

5. THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Progress continues on our next production, 'That's Entertainment'

Directors Brian and Joan have probably found it challenging over the last couple of weeks as rehearsal time has inevitably been lost due to the move to Smiths'.

With the schools breaking up now is also the time when people tend to take their holidays and already this has meant people taking time off from rehearsal. Though, why they would want to lie on a beach somewhere sunny rather than working hard in a church hall in Salford is something I just don't understand.

However, one advantage of the format of our show is that if someone is unavailable, you can easily work around them by rehearsing the sketches or programme items that they're not involved in.

As such, once we settle into Smith's there's no reason why we shouldn't make up for the lost time caused by these disruptions.

That's Entertainment will be performed Saturday 14 July 2013, 7:30pm at Salford Arts Theatre. Tickets: £7.00 or £6.00 for concessions. Get your tickets before they're all gone as it's strictly For One Night Only!

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

That's Entertainment

Rehearsals: Mondays & Thursdays,
7:45pm First Floor Smith's Restaurant, 1-3
Church Road, Eccles, M30 0DL

Performance: 14 September 2013, 7:30pm
Salford Arts Theatre. Tickets: £7.00 £6.00
(Concessions)

Salford Arts Theatre
Kemsing Walk
Off Liverpool Street
Salford
M5 4BS
Bookings: 0161 925 0111

Pantomime: The Babes in the Woods

Rehearsals: From September
Performance: 5-8 December 2013. Salford
Arts Theatre

The Lowry

Listings:

<http://www.thelowry.com/events/theatre-shows>

The Lowry

Pier 8
Salford Quays
M50 3AZ

Bookings: Tel: 0843 208 6000

Fax: 0161 876 2001

Email: info@thelowry.com

Web:

<https://tickets.thelowry.com/Online/default.asp>

Palace Theatre:

Stage Experience: Grease (Young
Performers): 8-10 August, 7:30pm 2:30pm
(Sat)
Tickets: £16:40

Save The Last Dance For Me: 12-17
August 2013, 7:30pm, 2:30pm (Wed &
Sat)

Tickets: £12:90-£33.40

Palace Theatre
97 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FT

Opera House

Dolly Parton – 9 to 5 The Musical: 20-24

August 2013, 7:30pm, 2:30pm (Thur & Sat)

Tickets: £17.90-£48.90

Opera House
3 Quay Street
Manchester
M3 3HP

Bookings (Palace & Opera House)
Palace Theatre Box Office – address above
Web: <http://www.atgtickets.com/>

Royal Exchange Theatre

Listings:

<http://www.royalexchange.co.uk/page.aspx?page=453>

Royal Exchange Theatre
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7DH

Bookings: In person at Box Office above
Tel: 0161 8339833

Fax 0161 615 6696

In person: 11.00am - 5.00pm

Email: box.office@royalexchange.co.uk

Web:

www.royalexchange.co.uk/bookonline

7. THE FINAL CURTAIN

That's all for this edition of Footlights. We will be back again next month.

Many thanks to Joan Breen and Elaine Hayton for proof reading. Thanks also to Elaine for her contributions to the News section.

Back Issues: Terry maintains an archive of back issues on our website. <http://www.bartontheatre.co.uk/footlights.html>

Contributions: Always welcome. Please submit to the email address below. You will receive full blame credit for anything used in the newsletter.

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Quiz Answers:

1. e
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. d

Source:

<http://www.broadway.com/buzz/polls/what-your-favorite-summer-themed-show-tune/results/0/>

Contact Information:

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Barton Theatre Company Committee

Chair: Brian Cogswill, *Treasurer:* Elaine Hayton, *Secretary:* Andrew Nevill
Officers: Joan Breen, David Milne, Mags Ridings, Val Ridings, Cathy Warburton

Web: <http://www.bartontheatre.co.uk>

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

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