

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 32: December 2013

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to your slight early, slightly shorter December issue of Footlights.

The reason for this is that we've received that you need to know. It's so close to the usual publication date, I thought it sensible to do the regular issue now rather than an Extra edition.

With the pantomime almost upon us, I have very little spare time currently so that means this issue is a little cut down. My apologies for that. All the regular stuff will be back next month.

Due to the haste in which this issue been produced, it's not been sent to my proof readers for checking. I typed it and sent it. So further apologies for the inevitable errors.

Just to let you know, January's issue may be late – it always get busy at New Year.

Finally, at this Festive time of year, may I wish all my readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
nevillandrew@gmail.com

2. OUR IRIS

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you that Iris Sharples, for many years a stalwart member of Barton Theatre Company, passed away on Friday November 2013 at St Ann's Hospice .

I first met Iris when I joined the group, about 11 years ago. Iris had already been a member for years.

Iris was a lovely lady, kind, irrepressible with a that broad sense of humour that I always think of as so typically Northern.

With more energy and go about her than some people half her age, Iris was simply unstoppable. It's that which I'll remember most about her.

She had been deaf, and used hearing aids, ever since I knew her, which could be a challenge when acting with other people

trying to hear cue lines but she never let it worry her. During performances, she'd stand at the side of the stage watching the play, listening for her entrance.

Her doctor had also told her no heavy lifting but Iris was always the first person to start moving the chairs and tables about in the rehearsal room – even though we all tried to stop her.

Her doctor wasn't the only person she ignored. She could be a director's nightmare because no matter what you told her, Iris would do it her way. She got away with it too because her way usually worked – and because she was Iris.

A brilliant all-rounder, Iris could turn her hand to drama, comedy, variety (she did some killer numbers -those who saw her Joyce Grenfell are nodding their heads now) and of course she was our Queen of Panto – never happier than when owning the stage as the Wicked Queen, Good Fairy or vice versa.

She was equally happy on screen as well appearing in several shows - Coronation Street amongst them - as an extra and in many well known TV advertisements. She just justly proud of the award she won for the now famous BBC Digital 'face ripping' ad

Most recently she was one of the stars of Off Their Rockers – a hidden camera show where OAPs play pranks on the British public. This too is currently up for an award – Best Entertainment show at the National TV Awards

The show is, I think, a perfect tribute to Iris demonstrating her skill as an actress as

she fools passers by, her up for anything attitude and irrepressible humour (The sketch with Iris in a bikini – that'll stay with you!) and that she just won't stop – Iris kept on filming the series even whilst being treated for cancer.

It was the cancer that finally did what nothing else could do. Stop Iris and bring the curtain down on her

Iris's funeral will be held on Thursday 5 December 2013 at 10:20am at Agecroft Cemetery. It's typical of Iris that she'd have her funeral the same day, the pantomime opens.

It may be goodbye for us that morning but not, I believe, for Iris. She will be there that evening – in spirit – standing as usual on the side of the stage.



She wouldn't want to be anywhere else



3. BABES IN THE WOOD.

We are in the final stages of rehearsal of our pantomime, Babes In The Wood.

Over the last week or so, things really seem to have started to come together and I can see a great show starting to take shape. Which is a good because next week, is when we have to perform it.

Preparations are already under way. On Monday we moved some flats ready to be painted and also transported. It was a lovely surprise to find we had some flats already painted as a forest – with the piece called ‘Babes In The Wood’ there were always going to be some foresty elements – and this means the amount of painting is much reduced.

However, there is still some painting that needs doing and in an effort to reduce the work needed at the theatre, we’re doing as much as we can beforehand at Smiths. If you’re free tomorrow (or at least relatively inexpensive), then Joan Breen would be thrilled to see you from 7:45 onwards (Wear stuff you don’t mind getting ruined).

It’s the final rehearsal at Smiths on Thursday and on Saturday we’re there one last time from about 4:30pm to load up

4. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

Pantomime: The Babes in the Woods

Rehearsals: Monday & Thursday, 7:45pm, First Floor, Smith’s Restaurant, 1-3 Church Road, Eccles, M30 0DL

Painting: Wednesday 27 November, 7:45, First Floor, Smiths Restaurant

Loading: Saturday 30 November, 4:30pm, First Floor, Smiths Restaurant

Set Build: Sunday 1 December, From 10:00am, Salford Arts Theatre

Performance: 5-8 December 2013. 7:30pm (Thurs-Sat), 2:00pm (Sat & Sun),

Dave Milne’s van with all the stuff we need to take to the theatre.

We finally get into the theatre from around 10:00 this Sunday when we shall build the set.

Anyone who can come down to Smith on Saturday or the theatre on Sunday to lend a hand, your help will be much appreciated. (Again, don’t wear your best clothes)

We’re hoping to get the set built and the satge busable by around 6pm ready for a first run on the stage.

We’ll rehearse in the theatre again on Monday, with the Tech Run on Tuesday and the Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday.

First Night is Thursday at 8:30pm with performances on Friday, Saturday afternoon (2pm) and evening and finishing off with a Sunday Matinee.

There are still some tickets left, so you haven’t got one yet, please do. It would be wonderful to sell this one out. Salfors Arts Theatre have done it with their own pantomime, we CAN do it with ours.

Salford Arts Theatre. Tickets: £7.50, £6.00 (Concessions), £25.00 (Family)

Salford Arts Theatre
Kemsing Walk
Off Liverpool Street
Salford
M5 4BS

Bookings: 0161 707 5941 (Box Office)
0161 925 0111 (Theatre)

www.salfordartstheatre.com/whatson
(Online card bookings)

Salford Arts Theatre

Cinderella by James Barry: 12.24
December 2013, 2pm, 7pm
Tickets £7.00, £6.00 (Concession), £26.00
(Family)

SOLD OUT

Salford Arts Theatre
Kemsing Walk
Off Liverpool Street

Salford

M5 4BS

Bookings: 0161 925 0111

www.salfordartstheatre.com/whatson

(Online card bookings)

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:

Listings:

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/palace-theatre-manchester/>

Palace Theatre
97 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FT

Opera House

Dick Whittington: 6 December 2013 – 5
January 2014

Performance times vary – see website

Tickets: £11.90-£37.90

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

8. THE SMALL PRINT

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

Thank You: Elly Hayton & Val Ridings for the updates about Iris.

Iris Sharples for being Iris. You will be missed.

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



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