

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 27: July 2013

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1. EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to your July issue of Footlights

Firstly, a Correction and an Apology. Last month I attributed the lighting on Iron to Derek Ridings. However, the Lighting Design was by Terry. The lights were supplied by Derek Ridings and Tom Ridings climbed up and down the ladder installing (and later uninstalling) them.

I am sorry that I got this wrong and that I didn't properly credit everyone for all their hard work.

Coming up this issue, we have the latest news on the proposed move from St Mike's. Basically it's not a proposal anymore. The full story follows directly after this Editorial

We also have the latest on our current production 'That's Entertainment' together with the usual quiz and the ever present Dates For Your Diary.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
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2. ON THE MOVE

Last month Footlights reported that St Mikes had increased the room hire fee whilst also requiring us to vacate the cupboard we use to store our props and costumes. As a result there was a strong feeling that it was time to move.

Footlights can confirm that a decision was taken at the June committee meeting and from 13 July 2013, St Michael's Community Centre will no longer be Barton Theatre Company's home. The Committee unanimously decided to move

to two upstairs rooms at Smith's Restaurant.

One of these is the large room that we have used occasionally to rehearse in. This now becomes our new rehearsal space. The room next door will be our new props and costume store.

The rooms are nominally offices that Smiths have rented out in the past. However, with the current state of the economy they're empty so Smiths have



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rented one of the offices to us as storage space for a reduced rent – and thrown in the use of the rehearsal space for free. We are very grateful to Smiths for this offer and equally pleased to take them up on it.

The arrangement has several advantages. Smiths is a business so they don't want rooms going empty that could be generating some income for them. This way they get some money for the rooms. We get a bigger storage space than we currently enjoy at St Mikes and a sizeable rehearsal room, all in a more central location. As the rooms are ours and not a community space we know they'll always be tidy, well lit and heated. Perhaps most importantly we'll be somewhere we'll be made to feel welcome.

Another option considered was the Town Hall. There is a room off the main hall that would be suitable to rehearse in. ECHO,

the organisation that runs the Town Hall, seemed very keen to have us there. However it was felt that the Town Hall rehearsal space was less usable than the space at Smiths. Crucially, the Town Hall had nowhere we could immediately store the props and costumes

Now we know that we are moving and where we're moving we need to plan how. The current plan is to move over the weekend of 13-14 July 2013. This will minimise any disruption to rehearsals for the current show. However, we may use some or all of the Thursday rehearsal beforehand to sort through some of the costumes and load up ready for the move so that all we have to do on Saturday morning is get them into Smiths. We would be most grateful to see as many people at Smiths as possible in order to help unload.

3. FILM REVIEW: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Josh Whedon is probably most well known as the director of last year's superhero blockbuster *Avengers Assemble* and as the writer/co-producer of horror smash, *The Cabin In The Woods*. To thousands of his fans (Like myself. I admit to bias here) he's also the creator of several cult shows including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel* and *Firefly*.

What's less well known is that his secret love is Shakespeare. He socialises with his cast members by holding readings at his house. In order to relax after the hectic shooting schedule for *Avengers Assemble* he decided to assemble some of those same actors and make a movie version of *Much ADO About Nothing*.

The plot, should you not know, revolves around Beatrice and Benedick, a couple who love to hate each other – and we all

know what that means. So their friends scheme to make them fall in love with each other. However at the same time others are also scheming, in their case to break apart another couple, the soon-to-be-wed Claudio and Hero.

Joss is known for the verbal sparring and snark he tends to put in his own scripts. So *Much ADO...* - with Beatrice & Benedicks' verbal duelling is the perfect match for Whedon. His confident adaptation keeps the original language but uses a contemporary setting

The splendid cast are clearly having far too much fun and the whole piece sparkles with Whedon's trademark wit and energy. This is a true ensemble piece but mention must be made of the two leads, Alexis Denisof (Benedick) and Amy Acker (Beatrice) who are both perfectly cast.

Also Nathan Fillion (Dogberry) almost steals the entire movie - he is that funny!

The whole film is by turns tender, moving and frequently hilarious. I've never heard a cinema audience laugh so loud and so often. I cannot recommend this too highly

As it is an independent film, it's only had a limited cinema release so by now you've probably missed it. However, it'll probably be on Netflix and other online film rental sites in the near future and of course it will be released on DVD. The sooner the better as this is one I will definitely buy.

4. THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Good progress is being made on our next production, 'That's Entertainment' a revue of entertainment through the decades.

Directors Brian and Joan (whom Footlights has christened BriJo) now have a firm running order for the evening. Joan has written many of the sketches and scenes that will contribute to the evening and these have mainly been cast.

Rehearsals are well underway and already the various sketches seem to be taking shape and coming together. All involved certainly seem to be enjoying themselves.

We've also just heard that Salford Arts Theatre will be taking part as well, with Scott Berry being the compere for the

evening and the theatre's own company contributing a sketch.

With the show being a series of sketches and different items, if you want to take part, it's not too late as BriJo will almost certainly find something you can do. If you are interested in taking part just come down to a rehearsal.

And if you want to watch it, we'd love to see you in the audience. The performance date has now been confirmed as Saturday 14 July 2013, 7:30pm at Salford Arts Theatre. That's Entertainment is strictly For One Night Only. So get your tickets before they're all gone.

5. QUIZ

I'm really excited about the Abba medley – one of the features in That's Entertainment. Where else would I get the chance to wear a pink shirt with a collar bigger than a jumbo jet's wingspan?

Therefore I'm treating you to an Abba themed quiz. Below you will find the first lines of the **second** verses of Abba songs. Name the songs - if you can.

By the way, Googling for the lyrics is cheating. Listening to the songs is research – and fun!

Answers as always at the end of the newsletter

1. You're a teaser, you turn them on
2. My, my, I tried to hold you back but you were stronger
3. Mother says I was a dancer before I could walk
4. I've been angry and sad about things that you do
5. As all good friends we talk all night, and we fly wing to wing

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

That's Entertainment

Rehearsals: Mondays & Thursdays: St Michaels' Community Centre **until 13 July 2013**. Smith's Restaurant **from 17 July 2013**

Performance: 14 September 2013, 7:30pm
Salford Arts Theatre

Pantomime: The Babes in the Woods

Performance: 1-8 December 2013. Salford Arts Theatre

Move to Smiths: Saturday 13 July,
Approx 10am (To be confirmed)

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

Ghost: 2-20 July 2013, 7:30pm, 2:30pm
(Thur & Sat)

Tickets: £17.90-£48.09

Midnight Tango: 23-27 July 2013,
7.30pm, 2.30pm (Wed & Sat)

Tickets: £17.90-£43.90

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.

Back Issues: Terry maintains an archive of back issues on our website.



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Quiz Answers:

1. Dancing Queen
2. Waterloo

3. Thank You For The Music
4. Mama Mia
5. Eagle

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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