

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 23: March 2013

CONTENTS

1. Editorial
2. News
3. **EXCLUSIVE:** Acts of Charity
4. Quiz
5. Dates for your Diary
6. The Final Curtain

1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to your March issue of Footlights. It's a slightly slimmer issue than last month but, from my point of view, that's not a necessarily a bad thing.

I've been away on my hols. I started working on this issue about two hours after getting through my front door (See how dedicated I am!) A smaller issue means less to do so despite being absent from the Editor's Desk I had hoped that this issue would still be delivered on time (My self-imposed 'deadline' being the first weekend of March)

However it's slightly late due to some late breaking news items that I had to wait to get confirmation of.

Hopefully you'll think the slight delay was worth it as one of the items we were waiting for were the final details of a

genuine Exclusive Thanks to Elaine McCann, Footlights has all the news about Smiths' next Bite Size Theatre. It's something pretty special!

One final note. This issue is being typed on my new laptop – the old desktop being past its Sell By date. I'm still getting used to the new keyboard and new version of Office so any mistakes – over and above the usual ones – are probably because of that. So please be more than usually forgiving any errors of you may encounter.

And so onto the small but beautifully formed jewel – with, doubtless, some charming flaws – that is this month's Footlights

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
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2. NEWS

NEXT PRODUCTION

The next production has finally been confirmed.

The play chosen is Iron by Rona Murphy. A psychological drama set in a prison that focuses on the visits between a mother jailed for murder and her estranged daughter.

We were originally going for a comedy or at least a comedy drama but when we read this piece we all felt it was written so strongly that we really wanted to do it.

The play will be directed by Elaine McCann and has four roles which have been cast as follows:

Fay - Val Ridings

Josie - Mags Ridings

Sheila - Vicki Ward

George(ina) - Elly Hayton.

Rehearsals start this Thursday at St Mikes.

Iron will be performed from 13-18 May 2013 at Salford Arts Theatre.

ST MICHAELS

After more than a month the work is finally finished. We're finally back at St Michaels Community Centre.

Last night was our first chance to see why we were temporarily turfed out and I think everyone agreed it was worth it. The corridor from the bar to the hall has been given a fresh coat of paint and is immediately more welcoming. The new loos no longer smell and the cubicle doors close. There is even a dedicated disabled facility

Let's just hope the new improvements stay as they are now and aren't allowed to fall into disrepair – which sadly seems to be

what has happened previously. And let's hope for a few more improvements. Next on Barton's wish list – lights that *all* work.

HAROLD PINTER

Salford Arts Theatre is putting an evening of One Act Plays written by Harold Pinter.

The first play being presented is "The Dumb Waiter"

The second, "A Slight Ache" is being directed by Barton's very own David Milne.

This is a chance to see the work of one of the most influential modern English playwrights.

I've had a quick look on Wikipedia (font of all knowledge) and what interests me is that both plays are relatively early works. "The Dumb Waiter" was written in 1959 and "A Slight Ache" in 1958

I'm sure David would love to see some familiar faces in the audience. Roni & Scott, who run the theatre, will doubtless also be pleased to see you

The Harold Pinter One Act Double Bill runs at the Salford Arts Theatre from Wednesday 17 April to Saturday 20 April.

Anyone wishing to book tickets should see the contact details in Dates for Your Diary

3. **EXCLUSIVE**: ACTS OF CHARITY

Elaine McCann has been extremely charitable to Footlights and has exclusively revealed some exciting news about the next Bite Size Theatre.

On Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 March, Smiths' presents two nights of New Writing under the banner 'Acts of Charity'

Each night will feature performances of 3 completely new short works by six different writers with different plays on each night. So that's six new plays in all.

Each play is inspired by an object brought from a local charity shop.

Footlights can exclusively reveal that several Barton members are heavily involved across both nights

To kick off, one of the plays is being written by Elaine McCann herself. The play is so new that as Elaine told me in confidence (obviously not paying attention to the Levinson enquiry) she hasn't finished even writing it yet!

As well as Elaine there are some familiar names on the writers' rota including Rob Johnston, Anne Neville and Alisdair Jarvie – all of whom have previously had plays successfully performed at Smiths

Elaine is also directing two of the pieces.

As well as familiar names doing the writing and directing, there'll also be some familiar faces on stage. One of the plays on the Thursday is for three females, two of them to be played by Barton stalwarts Iris Sharples and Val Ridings.

David Milne is appearing in another of the plays alongside Carol McGillivray (who played Lady Macduff in Macbeth), who is also performing in a second play.

Footlights is delighted, courtesy of Elaine, to be able to exclusively reveal the full line of plays up for both nights

Wednesday 20th:

'Banbury Buddies' Inspired by the Youth Hostel Association Badge

Written and directed by Alasdair Jarvie
Two childhood friends, a personal request, and an interfering waitress

'Roses in December' Inspired by the Empty Scent Bottle

Written and directed by Elaine McCann.
Performed by Carole McGillivray
Memories are made of what exactly? And should we trust them? When Liz opens an old scent bottle she can't be sure

where imagination and reality start and end.....

'The MacRoberts Reply' Inspired by the Pearl Hatpin

Written and directed by Jayne Marshall
Based on a true story, this is a fictitious account of a meeting held in 1941 between Lady MacRobert and George Davies, Chief Engineer at Metropolitan Vickers, where she privately commissioned four Lancaster Bombers in remembrance of her three sons who lost their lives during WW2

Thursday 21st

'The Human Touch' Inspired by the Etch-a-Sketch

Written and directed by Rob Johnston.
David is being cared for at home by Jake as he adapts to a long-term illness. But who is really caring for who?

'Forever Changes' Inspired by the Old Key

Written by Dave Jones and directed by Elaine McCann.

Performed by Carole McGillivray and David Milne

Eleanor Morrell's husband has died. His death is being treated as suspicious and Eleanor may hold the key to how he died and why. But will Justice and The Law ever converge?

'Viv and Dee' Inspired by the Coronation Tea Caddy

Written by Anne Neville and directed by Nina Smith

Performed by Jenny Hayes, Val Ridings and Iris Sharples

After a lifetime of political campaigning, two women turn to deadly direct action.

Prices and details of how to book your tickets are in Dates for Your Diary

4. QUIZ

This month I have come up with (what I think are) clever cryptic clues to five well known plays.

Can you unravel the clues plucked from my twisted mind and work out what the plays are?

Answers as always at the end of the newsletter

1. Metrolink's latest vehicle given an emotive name
2. Set in a Sheffield Theatre. Stars Ronnie O'Sullivan
3. Takes place on Space Hoppers
4. She had a gent for Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn
5. Metal found in tin of boring paint

4. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

Iron

Rehearsals: Commencing Thursday 7 February,
Monday & Thursday, 7:45, St Michaels Community Centre.
Performance: 13-18 May 2013, Salford Arts Theatre

Pantomime: The Babes in the Woods

Performance: 1-8 December 2013. Salford Arts Theatre

Smith's Bite Size Theatre

Acts of Charity

STOP PRESS Includes new work by Elaine McCann and performances by David Milne, Iris Sharples, Val Ridings and Carol McGillivray
Wednesday 20 – Thursday 21 March 2013.
Tables 6.15 / 6.30pm - Performances from 8.15pm
Meals / drinks at menu prices - theatre tickets £8.50 per night
3 plays per night - each 20 / 25 minutes long

Smith's Restaurant
1-3 Church Road
Eccles
Manchester

M30 0DL

Bookings: 0161 788 7343

<http://www.smithsrestaurant.net/>

Edgefold Players

Outside Edge

Friday 3 – Saturday 4 April 2013, 7:30pm
Walkden Methodist Church
Manchester Road East
Walkden

Bookings: 0161702 8708

Email: edgefoldplayers@yahoo.co.uk

Web:

<http://edgefoldplayers.wix.com/edgefoldplayers>

Salford Arts Theatre:

**The Condition of the Working Class
(Film Screening)**

Friday 5 April, 7:30pm
£3.00

**Harold Pinter One Act Double Bill:
The Dumb Waiter and A Slight Ache**

STOP PRESS A Slight Ache directed by Barton regular David Milne
17- 20 April 2013, 7.00pm
£7.00, £6.00 (concession)

A Visit To Amsterdam

By John Waterhouse

May
Details to follow

Salford Arts Theatre
Kemsing Walk
Off Liverpool St
Salford
M5 4BS
Bookings: Tel: 0161 925 0111
<http://salfordartstheatre.com>

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:
The Lion King
31 January – 20 April 2013
Evenings 7:30pm, Matinees (Wed & Sat)
2:30pm

Palace Theatre
Oxford Street

Manchester
M1 6FT

Opera House
Listings:
<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/opera-house-manchester/>
Click on the Calendar link

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

5. THE FINAL CURTAIN

That's all for this edition of Footlights.
Before we go, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Elaine McCann for giving us the exclusive on Acts of Charity. Hope to see loads of you there.

Footlights will be back again next month.

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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If you no longer wish to receive Footlights please send an email to the address below and I will remove you from the mailing list.

Quiz Answers:

1. A Streetcar Named Desire
2. The Crucible
3. Bouncers
4. A Man For All Seasons
5. Steel Magnolias

Contact Information:

Email: nevillandrew@gmail.com

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>

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

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