

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company
Issue 31:November 2013

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to your November issue of Footlights.

This issue has been slightly delayed as I've been on holiday. But Barton being up to lots of things this month translates to lots of things to put in the newsletter. So I hope you'll think it's been worth the wait

Enjoy the read and join us again next month. You won't have to wait as long for the next one

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
nevillandrew@gmail.com

2. BABES IN THE WOOD

Work continues apace on this year's pantomime. Thanks to an influx of new members due to our recent recruitment efforts, the pantomime is now fully cast. Indeed, writer and director, Elaine McCann has even written in some new characters to take advantage of the larger cast.

Rehearsals seem to be going smoothly for the most part although recently Elaine had to miss a couple – with Dave Milne standing in for her - as she was working on

another production. Though in a way, the fact our director is in demand demonstrates what a good one we've got.

The news on ticket sales is also encouraging. The Sunday matinee is apparently almost sold out but we still need to sell tickets for the other performances. Salford Arts Theatres' panto is almost sold which is an encouraging sign for us as it demonstrates there is an audience out there. And if they can do it so can we.

3. RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY

Following on from our stand at the last Farmer's Market, we held a Recruitment Open Day on Sunday afternoon on 6 October at our new rehearsal venue.

The intrepid team of Elly, Brian, Mags, Joan, Kiel, Paul and myself gathered beforehand to set up. Brian raided the archives and his wig and make up collections whilst Joan pulled out the pick of the props and the cream of the costumes. We had some brilliant displays of old posters and programs, photos from past productions, wigs, costumes and props. The rehearsal room looked wonderful.



Who knew we had so many photos? This was just a small number from the archive

Then we waited for the crowds to come. Well actually, we sent people out onto Church Street with ~~eattle~~ ~~prods~~ leaflets, smiles and encouraging words to bring them. And they did come. It was a lovely coupe of hours showing people the displays, talking to them about the group and, of course, encouraging them to join.



Colourful Costumes

I am really pleased to be able to report that many of the people who turned up on the Sunday came back on Monday or Thursday to join us for the pantomime, which as reported above, has now been expanded due to the influx of members.

It helped tremendously that we were able to tell people that there would be soemthing for them to do. Quite often in the past people have come to rehearsal then drifted away because they weren't able to do anything immediately as the play in production was fully cast.



Wondrous Wigs

Another encouraging factor is that it only took us about 45 minutes to set up and about half an hour to 'strike the set' so to speak. So this is something we could easily repeat – and that appears to work.



4. QUIZ

I've recently been in Ireland for a celebration of the work of my favourite author, Terry Pratchett.

Whilst Terry may not be Irish, Ireland has its own rich literary heritage. So it seems appropriate to celebrate that in this month's quiz. Each question gives two works by an Irish writer. Can you identify the author?

Answers as always at the end of the newsletter.

1. Which playwright wrote 'Philadelphia, Here I come!' and 'Translations'?
 - a) Seamus Heaney
 - b) William Butler Yeats
 - c) Seamus Deane
 - d) Brian Friel
2. Which poet wrote 'Easter, 1916' and 'The Wild Swans At Coole'?
 - a) William Butler Yeats
 - b) Seamus Deane
 - c) Seamus Heaney
 - d) Patrick McCabe
3. Which poet wrote 'Digging' and 'Bogland'?
 - a) Seamus Deane
 - b) Sean O'Casey
 - c) John Millington Synge
 - d) Seamus Heaney
4. Which playwright wrote 'Playboy of the Western World' and 'Riders to the Sea'?
 - a) William Butler Yeats
 - b) Sean O'Casey
 - c) John Millington Synge
 - d) James Joyce
5. Which playwright wrote 'The Plough and the Stars' and 'Juno and the Paycock'?
 - a) Brian McCabe
 - b) John Millington Synge
 - c) Sean O'Casey
 - d) Seamus Deane

I should mention that I found this quiz at <http://www.funtrivia.com/trivia-quiz/Literature/Irish-Literary-Figures-68332.html>. If you take the quiz online, there are more questions and some fascinating facts accompanying the answers

5. THE WINTON WITCHES

The Friends of Winton Park approached us to participate in a Halloween event at Winton Park. Cara of F.O.W.P came along to a Committee meeting to tell us all about it. It was immediately obvious how enthusiastic she was about the whole thing.

Elly, Summer, Dave, John, Mags and me all failed to run away fast enough when they asked for volunteers. So it was that we gave the panto cast the night off and met up on the Thursday night beforehand to work out what we were doing and acquire some spooky costumes from the wardrobe. We met up again from 4pm at

Elly's on Saturday 26 November to get ready and travel over to the park together.

The event itself was a walk along the park's wooden walkway with various scenes happening along the route. We were populating the first three with Elly and Summer being the Evil Queen and Snow White. Mags and me were looking generally scary by the chocolate fountain on the bird table suitably bedecked in cobwebs (the bird table not us). Finally John and Dave were two witches brewing a potion.

Of all of us perhaps, Dave and John had the best gig as they had a nice warm

campfire and rapidly began encouraging the punters to tell scary stories around it. Mags and I were also popular due to the presence of chocolate and a willingness to let people sample it.

We had a good crowd on the most part who all seemed to be enjoying it, many of whom were dressed in some amazing costumes. Of course you always get a handful of idiots you're not allowed to curse until their blood boils away – but these things are sent to try us.

Thankfully the night wasn't too cold and the weather mainly held off. However, towards the last half hour, the precipitation began to precipitate developing into a torrent by the time the event had ended.

A lovely coda to the evening was the great party that Cara threw at her own house around the corner for all the volunteers. Sadly not all of us were able to go but me, John & Dave had a fine time.



L-R Andrew Nevill, Mags Riding, Elly Hayton & John Orr (Sorry Summer, I didn't manage to get a snap of you on my phone. But trust me she looked beautiful)

6. CHRISTMAS AT ECCLES SHOPPING CENTRE

We are gluttons for punishment aren't we? For the third year running we've been asked by Eccles Shopping Centre to take part in their Christmas Event on 16 November.

This year, there are no lights to switch on. Also this year it's happening in the morning rather than the afternoon

This year, the event is being presided over by Salford Red Devils, our local Super League rugby team.

So instead of parading along Church Street with Santa Claus, we will have a stall at Eccles Shopping Centre.

In addition to us, the Farmer's Market will be taking place, the Community Art Gallery and Book shop will be open and there will also be a choir performing Christmas songs

As you can tell, it's been kept simple this year, one suspects with the intention to ensure everything goes as planned.

The event kicks off at 11am with Barton in attendance from 12 until 1pm.

7. 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 ODL

Performance: 5-8 December 2013.

7:30pm (Thurs-Sat), 2:00pm (Sat & Sun),
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)

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:

Wicked: 12 September – 16 November
2013, 7:30pm 2:30pm (Wed & Sat)

Tickets: £20.00-£75.00

Northern Ballet's A Christmas Carol

19-23 November 2013, 7:30pm 2:30pm
(Thu & Sat) Tickets: £9.40-£42.90

Rent 20th Anniversary Concert: 29

November 2013, 7:30pm. Tickets: £25.40-
£38.90

ABBA Mania: 30 November 2013,

7:30pm. Tickets: £16:40, £21:40

Palace Theatre

97 Oxford Street

Manchester

M1 6FT

Opera House

Singin' In The Rain: 9-30 November
2013, 7:30, 2:30 (Thu & Sat).

Tickets: £15.00-£49.50)

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 FINAL CURTAIN

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

Thank You: Elaine Hayton for proof reading and details of Christmas at Eccles Shopping Centre.

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

Contributions: Always welcome. Please submit any contributions 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 d
- 2 a
- 3 a
- 4 c
- 5 c

Contact Information:

Email: nevillandrew@gmail.com

Barton Theatre Company Committee

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

Email: bartontheatrecompany@gmail.com

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

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