

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company
Issue 36: April 2014

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April edition of Footlights.

This month we have the latest news on our ongoing productions, a theatre review and quiz with a scientific bent and course the ever present Dates For Your Diary.

This issue is a little bit delayed as I've been away on my holidays I hope you think it's been worth the short wait.

Due to the delay, I've not had time to get this month's letter proof read - although I have run it through the spillchucker. Please forgive any mistakes which doubtless remain.

Enjoy.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
nevillandrew@gmail.com

2. NEWS

SHAKERS

I was fortunate enough to share a meal with director Dave Milne and also Elaine McCann who'd gone along to see a rehearsal.

Well, as a responsible journalist, I couldn't resist doing a little digging.

Dave told me that rehearsals for Shakers were going really well and that he had a great cast. "This production should soar," he said. "Or they're [the cast] in trouble!"

Elaine had been impressed by what she'd seen - but as a director herself wasn't above offering a few suggestions.

Elaine has also offered to help Dave look into the use of music within the play.

The resulting chat over dinner was a fascinating insight into the directorial thought process. Yes, there is one!

And the most important thing about directing. "Being able to say I don't know or admit to being wrong."

Shakers is performed at Salford Arts Theatre from 7- 10 May. Unfortunately, if you've not got your ticket yet, you've missed out on the Early Bird Offer but you can still buy your ticket at the full price.

From what Elaine & Dave said, this is fast shaping up to be a play worth seeing.

We also have a brilliant poster that's been done for by Anthony Cook. A copy of it is attached. It would be great if people could print a couple out and put them up in your window or on the work's noticeboard. Spread the word, people. Spread the word.

WORLD WAR ONE

Rehearsals for "All the Kings Men" are now well underway. Before we got down to business at the last Committee meeting, director Joan Breen updated us on the production's progress. She seemed really pleased with how things are going and made particular mention of her talented cast and the characters that they all seem to be discovering.

We also have a bit more news on when the piece might be performed. We're zeroing in on a firm date for the Wilmslow

Festival, either 10 or 11 June. In addition, there's a World War One Festival being held at Princes Park, Irlam on 2 August. The organisers of this appear keen to have us participate. Finally, a Family Day is being planned at Eccles Town Hall on 1 June, in which we may be asked to take part.

It's important to stress that none of these dates are fixed yet, but it does show that our World War One piece is generating quite a bit of interest

PUBLICITY

One area in which we have a lot of difficulty is Publicity. It seems to be getting more and more difficult to get the word about our latest productions. Everyone in the group does what they can but none of us are experts at this.

So this is an appeal for anyone with an interest in publicity or marketing who can help us publicise our productions more effectively.

If you're interested please contact us on the Barton theatre Company email bartontheatrecompany@gmail.com.

3. REVIEW: AN EXTRAORDINARY LIGHT

Smiths Restaurant, 27 March 2014

Writer/Director Rob Johnston's latest play received its World Premiere over at Smiths Restaurant as part of its Bite Size Theatre before it going on tour culminating in a run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

I wanted to see this as I've really enjoyed Rob's previous plays and the subject of this one particularly appealed to me. It's the true story of scientist Rosalind Franklin whose early experimental work

on DNA enabled Francis Crick & James Watson to make the leap that unlocked the double helix. This contribution was unrecognised during her own life and – because it can't be awarded posthumously – she was excluded from the Nobel Prize they went on to receive.

This was a one-woman show; Rosalind's show - as she told her story in monologue directly to the audience, giving us an

insight into the character and achievements of a remarkable yet often overlooked figure.

Katherine Godfrey as Rosalind gave a contained, controlled performance perfectly capturing Franklin's logical and analytical scientist – but also shot through with a dry wit and deadpan humour that made an otherwise prickly character likeable. This was maintained throughout the piece so that Rosalind's one moment of anger at being overlooked was all the more palpable when it came. Always engaging, Godfrey held the audience's attention throughout the piece.

The set was simple but integral to the play, a scientist's office with desk, microscope, and Bakelite phone and a model of the DNA double helix. The excellent use of

the set and various props is worth a mention. The simple costume of white blouse, black skirt and the obligatory lab coat screamed scientist.

I was able to chat to Rob after the play and he said that he'd tried to play fair with History. Indeed during the play, Franklin admits that Crick & Watson were geniuses. However, this is drama and it's from Rosalind's viewpoint so there was always going to a little bias.

Raising themes such as sexism and the virtues of pure analysis versus a little intuitive thinking, the play provoked an enthusiastic after-show discussion amongst the audience – in which Rob and Katherine happily participated. Any play that leaves you talking about it must be a considered a success. In this case, a resounding one.

4. QUIZ

Following on from our theatre review, this month's quiz tests your knowledge of DNA.

Answers as always at the end of the Newsletter

1. Which of your body's cells contain DNA?
 - a. Only your reproductive genes
 - b. Only your blood cells
 - c. Only your bone cells
 - d. Virtually all your cells
2. DNA can be compared to:
 - a. The bricks that make up a building
 - b. An architectural blueprint of a building
 - c. The tenants that live in the building
 - d. The offices and apartments in the building
3. Which trait is determined completely by your DNA?
 - a. Personality

- b. Intelligence
- c. Hair colour
- d. Weight

4. Place the following in order of size, from largest to smallest

- a. DNA molecule, Chromosome, Base pair
- b. Chromosome, DNA molecule Base pair
- c. Base pair, DNA molecule, Chromosome
- d. Chromosome, Base pair, DNA molecule

5. In the term, "nucleic acid", what does the word "nucleic" indicate?

- a. The energy from DNA can be used in nuclear power
- b. The DNA is found in cell nuclei
- c. That DNA molecules are held together by nuclear forces
- d. That splitting DNA molecules causes nuclear reactions

5. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barton Theatre Company:

Shakers by John Godber

Rehearsals: Monday & Wednesday,
7:45pm, First Floor, Smith's Restaurant, 1-
3 Church Road, Eccles, M30 ODL

Performance: 7-10 May 2014, 8PM

Tickets: £7.00, £6.50.

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)

World War One: *Rehearsals:* Thursdays,
from 7:45. First Floor, Smith's Restaurant,
1-3 Church Road, Eccles, M30 ODL

Smiths Bite Size Theatre:

Smith's Restaurant

1-3 Church Road

Eccles

M30 ODL

Bookings: 0161 788 7343

Salford Arts Theatre

Salford Theatre Company presents **What**

A Performance – Music Hall Night of
Times Gone By. Fri 4 – Sat 5 April 2014,
7:30

Tickets: £5.00 (until 14 March), £7.00,
£6.00

Salford Theatre Company presents

Smashed Eggs by Phil Porter. Wed 9

April – Sun 13 April, 7pm (Wed-Fri), 2pm
(Sat & Sun), 6pm (Sat)

Tickets: £5.00 (until 14 March), £7.00,
£6.00

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

Listings:

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/opera-house-manchester/>

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

6. THE FINAL CURTAIN

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

Back Issues: Terry McKnight 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. a
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. b

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Barton Theatre Company Committee

Chair: Brian Cogswell, *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>

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

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