

FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company
Issue 34: February 2014

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the February issue of Footlights. I thought this issue might be a little slimmer than last month's but it turns out there's loadsa stuff going on which means the News section is looking positively obese! (So much for the New Years resolution)

There's also a theatre review of Wanted! Robin Hood and a Robin Hood themed quiz just for good measure. (We can't just can't get away from him, can we?)

With Dates for your Diary - which sees the return of Smiths' popular Bite Size Theatre – it's looking like Footlights needs to start attending Weight Watchers!

Enjoy the read, avoid the diet and we'll see you again next month.

Andrew Nevill (Editor)
nevillandrew@gmail.com

2. NEWS

SHAKERS

Last month we announced that the next play would be John Godber's 'Bouncers' and 'Shakers' which would be performed together. Unfortunately, we are unable to stage Bouncers. Instead, the full version of Shakers will be staged.

We has also originally planned to put the show on in April; however Salford Arts Theatre had no dates available so Shakers will now be performed in May.

The script reading on Monday 13 January was well attended and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, finding the play itself to be very funny.

The play has now been fully cast and rehearsals are underway.

Shakers will be performed at Salford Arts Theatre from 8-10 May 2014. We are currently looking at the possibility of adding an extra performance. There is also an **Early Saver Offer**. Buy your ticket

before the end of February and it'll only cost you a FIVER! So what are you waiting for?

CLUB NIGHTS

One problem we've had in the past is that when we're rehearsing a play – particularly one that doesn't have great huge cast, those people not directly involved in said play tend to drift away as there's nothing for them to do.

So we've come up with the idea of Club Nights. This is where we meet up at least once a week for a drink or a chat – and possibly to work on an idea or two or three for the next show!

So if you're not involved in Shakers then this is to let you know that you can still get your drama fix on Thursdays from 7:45.

Do come along and join in the fun. This is something we would really like to see work and it will only work if people come and get involved.

WORLD WAR ONE

No doubt you'll be aware that this year marks 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. Throughout the year there will extensive coverage in the media and many events marking the centenary.

I believe that it's important that we remember. The First World War was possibly the first modern war as we now think of them, the first to involve the use air power, the first to use the bombing of civilian targets.

It was a war that virtually wiped out a generation and now 100 years later, all those survive have now died themselves. Now with no-one left to act as a living reminder, it's more important than ever

that we continue to remember in other ways.

We've talking about marking the centenary ourselves at Barton for some time.

Currently Joan Breen and Elaine McCann are putting together performance pieces. This will be combined into a whole production which we can then perform. The idea is that it will be modular so depending on the type of event, time available, cast availability etc. different parts of the piece may be put in or taken out or the running order altered.

In keeping with our proud record of taking performance out into the world, we hope to perform the piece at community events. Some of these may be as part of larger events organised by other organisations (for example was the Imperial War Museum North). The piece may also be performed at some of the local drama festivals, such as the Wilmslow Guild, and could even be performed for one or two nights at Salford Arts Theatre. The whole idea is that the format will be very flexible so we can do whatever we like with

The piece is currently being worked on at the Club Nights and everyone is welcome to go along to see what is happening, and of course get involved.

Talking of which, Joan has already got a script for one of the pieces well in the works and is holding a Reading/Audition Night next Thursday. She would be thrilled to see as many people as possible turning up to take part.

We also need help with props and costumes. As we're going back to 1914, it's a period piece so if you may be able to

help out with costumes, especially uniforms (they don't have to be genuine as long as they look the part) or props, Joan would love to hear from you

AUCTION

Our traditional post-Christmas auction was held on 6 January. It was a well-attended night with many folks taking the opportunity to find loving homes for Christmas gifts – or general stuff just lying around – that was surplus to requirements.

There was the usual assortment of unusual lots, amongst them a complete calligraphy magazine collection. As always there were bidding wars aplenty for the more desirable items. And also the not-so desirable as people 'kindly' made bids to compel their friends to take them away whilst the 'lucky beneficiaries' bid just as enthusiastically in their attempts not to.

It was a wonderfully fun night. It must be admitted that I did particularly well scoring an almost mint copy of a favourite

book and a book token – along with a 'donation' of a motley collection of photo frames.

A successful night too, raising £50.00 towards Barton's funds.

CASTING CALL

Barton have been contacted by Opera dell Luna who are staging 'The Gondoliers' at the Lowry in May.

They are holding Open Auditions for the production at the Lowry on 16 February from 5-8pm. To apply you need to complete the application form at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12_6hTJbNI7oYXOGaOf3nBkgK3G6a7f14-jMhH4Hg9Tg/viewform.

For further information please see the covering email to which this issue of Footlights was attached as I've copied the email we received into it. An information sheet is also attached

3. REVIEW: WANTED! ROBIN HOOD

The Lowry, 11 January 2014

The Library Theatre Company boasts that its Christmas show is 'always something special'. They've earned a reputation for taking a traditional tale and giving it a new twist. For 2013 they turned their attention to Robin Hood. Fresh from our own foray into Sherwood Forest, I was curious to see what the Library Theatre Company would do with one of England's greatest legends.

The answer was to make him less than legendary. For here there wasn't a hint of Lincoln green; this Robin Hood was more like Robin Hoodie, just another leader of another grungy gang. All that starts to change when Robin and his outlaws meet and attempt to hold-up a certain Marion of York. Thanks to her influence, Robin and

his gang begin fighting back against the cruel Walter Fitzwarren (High Sheriff of Nottingham) and, as their fame spreads through song and story, become legend.

Much of the play is presented through Marion's viewpoint and Marion here is no damsel in distress. Amelia Donkor's performance was suitably strong and spirited and she ably carried the play. Ciaran Kellgreen was a roguish Robin Hood which all that implies - a little rough and uncultured with plenty of swash and buckle but with a charmer's smile that made you believe Marion could fall for him. Emilo Doorgasingh enjoyed himself as Fitzwarren, commanding the stage, all pride and power as a High Sheriff should

be. The remainder of the ensemble, many of them doubling up, all gave value for money.

The set was dynamic and offered many exciting opportunities for staging with a multi-level, many-entranced castle and chains hanging from the ceiling that saw many various uses, such as ropes (for swinging swashbuckler and restraints (for pinioned prisoners). The depiction of the forest was achieved with a lighting effect which saw a forest projected onto the

castle. However, the lighting was a little subtle and not immediately obvious requiring the audience to exercise some imagination.

Wanted! Robin Hood was an action packed, thoroughly entertaining piece of theatre that embraced the spirit of the Robin Hood legend yet, true to the Library Theatre Company's reputation made it feel with enough differences that it was never slavish, making it feel contemporary and relevant to today's world.

4. QUIZ:

This month's quiz is inspired by my trip to see Wanted! Robin Hood.

Answers as always at the end of the newsletter.

Below are the names of some well know characters from the Robin Hood story BUT I've only left the vowels in. Can you work out who they are?

1. _AI_ _A_IO_
2. _I_ _ _E_ _O_ _
3. _I_ _ _ _A_ _E_ _
4. _ _IA_ _U_ _
5. _U_ _O_ _I_ _O_ _E

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: 8-10 May 2014, 7:30pm

Tickets: **Early Saver Offer:** £5.00, £4.50 concession **before 28 February.** £7.00, £6.50.

Club Nights: Thursdays, from 7:45. First Floor, Smith's Restaurant, 1-3 Church Road, Eccles, M30 ODL

World War One: Ongoing at Club Nights (see above)

Reading/Auditions: Thursday 6 February, 7:45 . First Floor, Smith's Restaurant, 1-3 Church Road, Eccles, M30 ODL

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)

Smiths Bite Size Theatre:

2014 New Writing Nights: Two nights of New Writing. 6 new short plays from local writers - 3 each night

Thursday 27th February: Meals 6.00pm - 6.30pm. Performances 8.15pm. Sunday

2nd March: Meals from 4.15pm /4.30pm.

Performance 6.15 / 6.30pm

Tickets: £8.50 plus menu prices

PREMIER: An Extraordinary Light by Rob Johnston.

A one woman play based on the life of Rosalind Franklin who worked with Watson & Crick, cracking the DNA code, but whose contribution was largely overlooked in favour of her male colleagues

Wed 26 & Thurs 27th March. Meals 6.00pm - 6.30pm. Performances 8.15pm
Tickets: £8.50 plus menu prices

Smith's Restaurant

1-3 Church Road

Eccles

M30 ODL

Bookings: 0161 788 7343

Salford Arts Theatre

Theatre of the Senses presents **Romeo & Juliet**. Thursday 20 February, 7:00pm

Tickets: £5.00, £4.50

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

Opera della Lune

The Gondoliers

Open Auditions: Sunday 16 Feb, 5-8pm

Studio 3, The Lowry, Pier 8, Salford

Quays, M50 3AZ

Rehearsals:

6-8pm every Sunday 23rd Feb to 18th May
and 7-9pm 6th May & 13th May

Performances: 20-24 May, 7:30pm,

2:30pm (Thurs & Sat)

6. THE FINAL CURTAIN

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

Thank Yous: Elaine Hayton for passing on the Opera della Lune email

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.

Subscription information: If you know someone who would like to receive Footlights, please send their email address to me (with their permission) or ask them to email me at the address below

Quiz Answers:

1. Maid Marion
2. Little John
3. Will Scarlett
4. Friar Tuck
5. Guy of Gisborne

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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

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

