

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*

ARTHUR MILLER'S

# THE CRUCIBLE

*Directed by Max Lewndel*

AN IMAGINATIVE RE-TELLING OF A CLASSIC TRUE STORY

SEASON 2019/20 £1.50

# Cast

Betty Parris .....	Olivia Breeze
Rev. Samuel Parris .....	Divyesh Thakerar
Tituba .....	Jaysica Marvell
Abigail Williams .....	Kizzie Hopkinson
Susannah Walcott .....	Katherine Steed
Ann Putnam .....	Adrienne Perry
Thomas Putnam .....	Colin Macleod
Mercy Lewis .....	Georgia Burgess
Mary Warren .....	Esther Bishop
John Proctor .....	Peter Bryans
Rebecca Nurse .....	Anne Woolmington
Giles Corey .....	Keith Thompson
Rev. John Hale .....	Matt Hughes-Short
Elizabeth Proctor .....	Alice Smithson
Francis Nurse .....	Keith Macdougall
Judge John Hathorne .....	Mark Skrebels
George Herrick .....	Joey Butcher
Judge George Danforth .....	Simon Parr

## ACT I

A bedroom in Reverend Samuel Parris's house, Salem, Massachusetts, in the spring of the year 1692.

## ACT III

The vestry of Salem Meeting House, seven weeks later.

## ACT II

The common room of Proctor's house, eight days later.

## ACT IV

A cell in Salem jail, three months later.

### Running time:

Approximately 2 hours 10 minutes – including a 20-minute interval between Acts II & III.



# From the chairman

Welcome to the Barn Theatre for the first production of our 50th anniversary season.

I can think of no better play to mark this anniversary than *The Crucible* – one of the most iconic plays written in the English language in the 20th century.

Written in 1953 by American playwright Arthur Miller, it is a dramatised and partially fictionalised story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1692 to 1693. Miller wrote the play as an allegory for McCarthyism, when the United States government persecuted people accused of being communists. Miller was questioned by the House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956 and convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to identify others present at meetings he had attended.

As the starter piece for our anniversary season it combines many things that make us such a lovely community. The cast is made up of a number of old and new faces, and we offer a warm welcome to our new director, Max Lewendel. The actors range in age from young teens to more senior members, with many more decades' experience. Our committed backstage team have worked over the summer to bring the Barn a play that we all love. Often performed in amateur theatre, *The Crucible* has just as much relevance now as it ever did. Themes of love, politics, lies, delusion and religious fervour are carefully woven together in a piece that is as intricate and beautiful as the finest lace.

As a community of volunteers, we are always looking for new faces to get involved, even if it's only in a small way. If acting's not for you there are lots of backstage roles where you can become part of the team and enjoy putting together a production for everyone. We don't expect anyone to walk straight in as a stage manager – we'll ease you in, with lots of opportunities to learn the ropes and try a few things out and see what you enjoy. If the idea appeals to you, have a chat to one of the Barn members helping out this evening, and they'll put you in touch with someone to find out more.

I hope you enjoy this powerful, moving and relevant play. It's been a delight to prepare it, and cast and crew are proud to bring it to you – I hope you agree we've done it justice.

Simon

Simon Parr  
Chairman, Barn Theatre Club



### *Esther Bishop* - MARY WARREN

This is Esther's third production at the Barn, following close on the heels of last season's final show, *The Red Shoes*. In the 10 years since her first performance as Woozy the Dwarf in a Campus West pantomime, she has played a wide variety of parts, from Doc Brown to a Bond girl; Robinson Crusoe to Scheherazade. Currently in Year 13 at Dame Alice Owen's School, she hopes to continue to study drama after A-levels.

### *Peter Bryans* - JOHN PROCTOR

Peter studied drama at the Oxford School of Drama and has since done lots of shows around Sheffield, Oxford, London and St Albans. Favourite roles include Draper in *Ten Dilemmas*, Hippolytus in *Phaedra's Love*, Berardi/Agnelli in *Trumpets and Raspberries*, Teddy in *House & Garden* and Benedick in *Much Ado*. This is Peter's first appearance with the Barn and he's loving working with such a talented and committed cast and crew!

### *Divyesh Thakrar* - REV. SAMUEL PARRIS

When not teaching Arthur Miller, Divyesh enjoys acting in his plays. Having played the angry Marco in *A View from the Bridge*, he's now playing the angry Parris in *The Crucible*, demonstrating his full range! He has recently performed in *The Red Shoes* at the Barn and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin.

### *Keith Thompson* - GILES COREY

Making his first appearance on the Barn stage in 1964, Keith has acted in or directed nearly 150 productions here, including many Barn festival successes all over the country, and has served three terms as Chairman of the Club. He now also serves as a GoDA Adjudicator.

### *Anne Woolmington* - REBECCA NURSE

Anne first appeared on the Barn stage in 1955 and over the years has enjoyed playing many serious and comedy roles. She also helps backstage, prompting and working with the Barn's wardrobe team.

### *Colin Macleod* - THOMAS PUTNAM

Colin has been a member of the Barn since 2011 and this is his ninth production. He is also co-editor of the monthly Barn News. Prior to joining the Barn he was a member of the Knebworth Amateur Theatrical Society for over 30 years.

### *Adrienne Perry* - ANN PUTNAM

Adrienne has been a Barn member for 11 years. Although she's taken a five-year hiatus from the Barn she's not stopped acting and has performed with the Digswell Players, recently winning an award for her role in *A Bunch of Amateurs*.

### *Mark Skrebels* - JUDGE JOHN HATHORNE

Mark has been a member of the the Barn for around 10 years and also performs with other companies. His last role was Reggie in *Quartet* at CoPs, and before that he played Frank in *84 Charing Cross Road* at the Barn. Mark also does the odd bit of film work and was Michael Keaton's double in Tim Burton's remake of *Dumbo*. Mark's recently been picked up by an acting agency, but to pay the mortgage (until his big break comes!) he's a management consultant.

### *Joey Butcher* - GEORGE HERRICK

Joey has been a Barn member since he was 11 years old. He's performed in a number of productions including *Alice* at the Minack Theatre and last year's Youth Drama Festival entry *Little Wings* which won the anniversary award. Joey is currently at college studying IT and Game Design.



## Keith Macdougall - FRANCIS NURSE

Keith has previously performed in comedy sketches for student revue shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (some decades ago) and more recently in several drama productions 'up North' including once playing the soldier hero Sergius in Shaw's *Arms and the Man*. This is Keith's debut appearance at the Barn.

## Olivia Breeze - BETTY PARRIS

Olivia's acting debut was at the age of 8, playing Flora in *The Innocents* at the Barn. She has since appeared in several Barn shows and has performed twice at the famous Minack Theatre in Cornwall – *Nicholas Nickleby* in 2016 and *Alice* in 2018. Her role in *The Crucible* carries on the family tradition from her dad and grandma who have both been in previous productions of this great play at the Barn.

## Georgia Burgess - MERCY LEWIS

Georgia is currently studying acting at Hitchin College and has ambition to take up acting professionally. This is not only Georgia's debut at the Barn but it is also her first time performing on a public stage having only previously performed in school productions, including playing Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.

## Katherine Steed - SUSANNAH WALCOTT

Having previously trained as a stage manager with the National Youth Theatre, Katherine joined the Barn in 2017 and has recently become the social media officer for the theatre. Her notable roles include Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion*, Alais in *The Lion in Winter* and Alonna in last season's *Boudica*. This year she choreographed for *I, Don Quixote* at the Minack and hopes to do more in future.

## Kizzie Hopkinson - ABIGAIL WILLIAMS

Kizzie returns to the Barn after completing a foundation in acting at the Oxford School of Drama. She has performed in a range of amateur and professional productions, for both stage and screen, including *Macbeth* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the 70th Pendley Shakespeare festival this summer. She's delighted to be back at the Barn in a pivotal role she has long dreamed of playing.

## Alice Smithson - ELIZABETH PROCTOR

Alice normally performs with the Lytton Players and has been in shows such as *Wuthering Heights* and *Twelfth Night*. After a year's break doing her masters in Animation, Alice makes her Barn debut in a challenging and different role for her.

## Simon Parr - JUDGE GEORGE DANTFORTH

Simon was planning on taking a short break after dying twice a night in *Boudica*, but the opportunity to work in this marvellous play was too good to resist. Delighted to get a role he has long coveted, he's even more pleased to have half the play off.

## Matt Hughes-Short - REV. JOHN HALE

Matt trained at the Southern Theatre Arts Centre in Brighton. He performed in a variety of amateur and professional productions across the south coast before moving to Hertfordshire in 2018. Recent credits include *Butterflies are Free* and *Ben-Hur* for Company of Ten and *Modern Dance for Beginners* for Duality Theatre Company. He is delighted to be making his debut at the Barn.

## Jaysica Marvell - TITUBA

Jaysica started performing in amateur productions nine years ago, playing a variety of roles including Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Flavia/Belinda in *Noises Off* and Charlie Cheswick in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Playing Tituba will be the first time she's acted on the Barn stage. Jaysica is a busy mum to her two daughters and has recently completed her Masters Degree in Film and Television Studies.

# A note from the Director

Welcome to the Barn Theatre's 50th Anniversary production. I'm honoured to be chosen to direct this 1953 Tony award-winning play to mark this seminal occasion in our theatre's history. I've wanted to direct this play since school and am excited to bring this production back to the Barn, with something new – and unsettlingly familiar – to say for our modern times.

The world of Salem in the 17th century was one of Puritan repression and patriarchal dominance. Women had their place. When young girls with minds of their own began exploring their femininity by dancing in the woods – and when their games could not be understood by the men of the town – the only explanation that anyone would accept was witchcraft.

Witchcraft has been found in all cultures, from the ancient Greeks to the modern American South. Witches have delivered our babies, comforted our sick, counselled our fearful and punished our cruel. Throughout history the practices of witches have been precursors to medicine, science and psychology. But in the medieval church the crafts of midwives and healers became demonised. The art of finding, torturing and murdering women (and men) became law and common practice into the 17th century.

Modern witches have beliefs, practices and customs often wildly divergent from each other, but they are united by their love of forbidden lore and their need to forge their own spiritual and ritual traditions. And for this, women (and children) today, in India, Africa, Saudia Arabia and many more, are still hunted, tried and executed as witches.

When *The Crucible* was written, the 'witches' allegory was that of Communism: it was the secret evil lurking in the woods and a mere accusation was enough to destroy lives. Anyone 'different' was labelled a Communist, and this was seen as evil, without any knowledge of what the word actually meant.

Now other groups are seen as evil: immigrants, the LGBT community, the poor, those who identify as BAME, feminists... All suffer repression. All – in one way or another – are told to keep in their place.

And the propaganda – once again – comes from within our own borders.

More than any time since the 1950s, this is a story relevant for now.

Max

Max Lewendel





# *Creative Team*

Director .....	Max Lewendel
Production Manager .....	Lucy Winston
Stage Manager .....	Andy Baker
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Annette Leishman
Sound .....	James Rowles
Lighting .....	Nick Mogg
Sound & Lighting Assistant .....	Paul Levy
Properties .....	Sheelagh Mogg, Sheila Grimmant, Sue Hantke
Wardrobe .....	Tiffany Breeze, Yvonne Bartlett
Set Design .....	Rosemary Bianchi
Set Construction .....	Ian Bage, Bob Cameron, Hannah Cobb David Fairhurst, Keith Lambert, Norman Merry John Sear, Colin Timney, Eddie Washington
Rehearsal Prompt .....	Carolyn Mitchell
Production Photography .....	Simon Wallace
Poster and Programme .....	John Cook, Clive Weatherley

Special thanks to Clare Hendriks of Clare's Calm Cabin and Karen Hillier for their help and advice on witchcraft types and practices and to Ronin Traynor, fight coordinator and choreographer.

As always, a huge vote of thanks goes out to the most enormous, wonderful team of front-of-house and back-office volunteers, who provide a host of fundamental services and facilities for all of our productions. Without them there would be no Bam Theatre.

*We wish to extend our huge thanks and appreciation  
to our local business supporter.*

**The Howard Centre**

Welwyn Garden City Shopping

# COMING UP NEXT



**18<sup>TH</sup> ~ 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**WINNER! 2007 LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD  
BEST NEW COMEDY**

A fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves theatre! Non-stop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a cast of four), an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some romance! A man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. When he takes her home, she's murdered. A riotous blend of virtuoso performances and wildly inventive stagecraft, *The 39 Steps* amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure!



**30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER ~ 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER**

**SHARPLY COMIC. DELICIOUSLY NASTY**

Once close childhood friends, Heather and Carla haven't seen each other since school and their lives have taken very different paths. Carla is leading a hand-to-mouth existence, pregnant with her fifth child. Heather is affluent, successful and childless. But both women are intelligent and resourceful, complicated and damaged. And yet here they are in a café having tea and making awkward conversation. That is, until Heather presents Carla with a bag of cash and an unexpected proposition...



**15<sup>TH</sup> ~ 23<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**A HILARIOUS YET HEARTBREAKING  
PREVIEW OF THE DYSFUNCTIONAL  
ADULTS THEY ARE DESTINED TO BECOME**

A class of seven-year-olds are preparing their nativity play – with the familiar squabbles over parts, diva tantrums and inappropriate on-stage behaviour. The kids are played by adults who later play the kids' parents... Warm, witty, funny, with a smattering of songs sung to carol tunes – an ideally timed slot for a perfect pre-Christmas treat.