

Coming up next



8th – 16th February

SUCCESSFUL, STRESSED-OUT THIRTYSOMETHINGS IN SEARCH OF A GOOD TIME CAN MAKE FOR ONE VERY FEARSOME PARTY... AND SOME SURPRISING RESOLUTIONS

Unexpected guests, emotional misalliances and even a whiff of country-house horror – playwright Michael Wynne renders them into a neat tragicomedy that's almost a guilty pleasure.



4th – 9th March

THE VERY BEST OF YOUTH DRAMA FROM HERTFORDSHIRE AND THE HOME COUNTIES

A wonderful week of entertaining, dramatic competition that attracts around 250 young people from Hertfordshire and its adjoining counties. They compete for various awards for junior and senior sections. There are two or three short (one-act) plays each night.



22nd – 30th March

A DELICIOUS FEAST OF COMEDY, AND A HUGE SERVING OF THE UNPREDICTABLE!

An artist, a scientist and a sexpot are coming to dinner. Paige, hostess extraordinaire, has found a silent waiter on an obscure website to help.

Primordial Soup is first on the menu - let the dinner from hell begin...

JAMES GOLDMAN'S

the lion in winter



DIRECTED BY LINDA DYNE

18th - 26th January 2019 £1.50

Cast

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| King Henry II | Richard Llewellyn |
| Queen Eleanor | Jan Palmer Sayer |
| Prince Richard | Andrew Bowden |
| Prince Geoffrey..... | Harry Harding |
| Prince John..... | Toby MacDonald |
| Princess Alais | Katherine Steed |
| King Philip of France | Alfie Hart |

Creative Team

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Director | Linda Dyne |
| Stage Manager..... | Nigel Rive |
| Assistant Stage Manager..... | Ian Bage, Sue Hantke Sue Bakewell, India Palmer |
| Production Manager | Wendy Bage |
| Costumes | Penny Coyston |
| Properties | Sue Bakewell, Max Lewendel, India Palmer |
| Rehearsal Prompt..... | Derek Palmer |
| Sound | James Rowles |
| Lighting..... | Clifton Hoyle, Derek Palmer |
| Set Design | Rosemary Bianchi |
| Set Construction..... | Ian Bage, Bob Cameron, David Fairhurst Eric Farlie, Robert Gill, Keith Lambert Norman Merry, John Sear, Eddie Washington |
| Photography | Simon Wallace |
| Poster & Programme..... | John Cook, Clive Weatherley |

It is Christmas 1183 and the action all takes place in King Henry II of England's hilltop palace in Chinon, France.

Running time: 2 hours 30 minutes - including a 20-minute interval.

From the Chairman

Welcome to our first show of 2019 – and what a great start!

For many of us, I suspect, *The Lion in Winter* is most recognisable because of the 1968 film starring Katharine Hepburn (who won an Academy Award) and Peter O'Toole. However the play was first presented on Broadway in 1966, to great acclaim – perhaps unusually since it deals with a piece of European history that for most of us is probably quite sketchy! Dates and kings were taught to me, but not the fabulous double-dealing and international intrigue that this carefully crafted play brings us.

Although the characters and their eventual destinies are generally believed to be historically accurate, the dialogue and individual events are, of course, fictional, which makes the skill of the writing and the richness of characterisation in the play all the more admirable. Linda Dyne brings us a talented cast, with her usual strong hand at the tiller, and as ever the support of nearly 100 Barn members in myriad roles – my thanks, as ever, to all who have put their energies into the production. I know we are all going to enjoy it.

Next up in Clive Weatherley's rich and varied season is yet another gear change as we visit the possibly haunted *Priory* for a dinner with friends for a New Year's Eve that does not go as planned. We follow that up with the 75th Welwyn Youth Drama Festival, with two entries from our Youth Group, and then it's back round the table for Moira Buffini's *Dinner* – not to be missed! All tickets can be bought through our website.

Not only is the Barn blessed with many talented actors and directors, but we have a thriving group of people who do the vital unseen work behind the scenes. I am especially grateful to all the members who volunteer to run the bar, make coffee, steward and sell tickets. Please speak to any of our members helping at today's performance and they will tell you how to get in touch with our membership secretary or myself, and we will get you involved.

Once again – a very warm welcome to today's performance. I know you are going to have a great time, so grab a drink or an ice cream, sit back and immerse yourselves in this wonderful play.

Simon

Simon Parr
Chairman, Barn Theatre Club



Richard Llewellyn

Richard trained at E15 Acting School and has taught drama throughout Hertfordshire. His recent performances include Bottom / Egeus in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Jacob Marley in A Christmas Carol. Roles at the Barn include Sydney Carton in A Tale of Two Cities, Sherlock Holmes in The Hound of the Baskervilles and Captain Lancey in Translations. He also directed The Real Inspector Hound for the Barn in 2012. Film and TV appearances include Rogue One, King Arthur, Darkest Hour and The Unexplained.



Jan Palmer Sawyer

Jan is director of Shattered Windscreen Theatre Company and Chairman of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators. She last directed for the Barn in 2015 (The Innocents), for Shattered Windscreen at the Barn in 2016 (The Frontier Trilogy), for Shattered Windscreen at the Minack Theatre in 2017 (The Wicked Lady), and for CoPs in 2017 (Our Man in Havana). Recent stage appearances include Mary Stuart and Dr Scroggy's War for CoPs and Double Acts at the Barn.



Andrew Bowden

Andy has been acting on the Barn stage for the last eight years. This will be his first show of 2019 but he performed in several shows last season. Most notably he played Valentine in Arcadia and Mike Barnaby in the Studio production Double Acts. He's planning on auditioning for other forthcoming plays and is looking forward to a busy year in the theatre.



Harry Harding

The Lion in Winter marks Harry's 18th production at the Barn and his second collaboration with director Linda Dyne after playing Bystander no. 3 in her production of Pygmalion for which he earned rave reviews and an Olivier nomination. Other Barn credits include: Geoff in A Taste of Honey, John in After Miss Julie, Andy in Brassed Off, Jeremy in Spider's Web, Rooster in Annie, Joel in Red Handed, Branwell in Brontë, Ezra in Arcadia, and Mark in Things I Know To Be True. Away from The Barn, Harry works as a professional actor and a professional drinker.



Toby MacDonald

Toby MacDonald has been acting with the Barn since 2015, beginning with Through the Looking Glass. He went on to put in a 'ragged' performance the following year in Annie, before becoming a cockney docker in The Matchgirls. Toby is also actively involved in the Scout Association, and is currently training for a three-week-long expedition to West Virginia in the summer of 2019. The Lion in Winter is Toby's fifth appearance on the Barn stage, and with any luck it won't be the last!



Katherine Steed

The Lion in Winter is Katherine's third appearance at the Barn since joining in 2016. Her debut was as Charles II's mistress Louise de Kéroualle in Nell Gwynn, so Alais marks her second role as the French mistress of an English monarch! She's hoping not to be typecast forever, as she enjoyed playing Eliza Doolittle in Pygmalion, also directed by Linda Dyne. A member of the National Youth Theatre, Katherine trained as a stage manager and was involved in many productions, most notably Rock of Ages at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Away from the Barn, Katherine works as an optician.



Alfie Hart

Alfie is excited to be playing the part of King Philip in The Lion in Winter, a role that could be considered his biggest yet. This is Alfie's second senior show at the Barn (his other being the part of Micke in Let the Right One In) but he has also been in the last two youth shows as well as the last two youth drama festivals. Alfie is also currently studying acting at North Hertfordshire College.



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 Barn Theatre.

A note from the Director

After more than 50 years of professional acting and directing, in every genre from TV to opera, and in 100- or 1,000-seat theatres, I have only just seen the light! It has just struck me that it makes no difference as to the genre, where you are, how much money is thrown at you, or your own personal enjoyment in the process, it all comes down to three elements:

1. The quality of writing.
2. The quality of the creative team and crew
3. The perfect cast.

I have been blessed in the last six months with three varied genres to direct. All with the above requirements. All of these elements, added together, make for a great feeling when you sit in the dark in the audience on opening night!

This play by James Goldman has always been a favourite of mine. It is a modern piece using witty dialogue to essentially describe a family at war! The way this Plantagenet family interact with each other can still be seen in today's world. The ageing father, feeling he must show the world that he is still virile, by having a relationship with a young woman and sparring with his strong and handsome son. In Henry's case, he dungeons up his wife Eleanor and has an affair with his son's fiancée! The middle child feels unloved and invisible. The youngest son being the baby and refusing to grow up, still relies on his father to fight for him. This wonderful play has it all. In conclusion, I have a wonderful crew, a great venue and a superb cast.

What more could I want! Bring it on!

Linda
x



Would you like to get involved at the Barn?

Acting is not the only thing available to our members. The success of our productions is largely due to the enormous amount of work that goes on by the creative teams backstage and our wonderful front-of-house volunteers. Every show, of course, needs a wealth of talented performers brave enough to play to around 1,000 people over the run of a show – we are delighted if you want to act, but if you are not chosen for a part remember we also need a large, dedicated team of people involved with all manner of other disciplines behind the scenes: from stage management to set building, costumes and props to sound and lighting – sometimes even special effects. There are also the vitally important people involved front-of-house, selling tickets, serving coffee, stewarding, house managing, working behind the bar, overall club administration – the list really does go on and on... and on!

The great thing about these 'off-stage' activities is that you learn to understand the way that side of the Club operates: the fascinating process a production team goes through to stage a show. It also gives you a head-start should you choose to get involved on stage.

If you want to dive straight into a production you would be more than welcome! Rehearsal schedules are planned to try and work around the creative team's and cast's availability. Production teams strive to be as accommodating as possible to help everyone who wants to take part.

One thing for sure is that you'll meet loads of new people and have plenty to do and have loads of fun doing so!

Contact Michal Parr

membership@barntheatre.co.uk

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to our local business supporters.

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