



# The HopBarn

centre for music and creative performance

## News and Events

Welcome to the The HopBarn's newsletter, which provides information and insights into The HopBarn, as well as offering further notification of up coming events and performances.

We hope that such information proves to be useful and informative to our readers, but if you would like to offer feedback and suggestions as to what to include or what to focus on, please feel free to e-mail or write in with your suggestions and we will try to accommodate them where best we can.

### Looking back over August & September

Firstly, huge apologies to our readers for not issuing a news and events publication in August, The HopBarn was overwhelmed by the amount of activity that took place over the past couple of months by some amazing musicians, artists and companies. This period has also involved a rather eclectic mix of artistry, one that has featured classical musicians rehearsing for one of Southwell's main festivals, a new wave, digital and electronic composition and performance work, contemporary dance with digital animation and a group of musicians and theatre makers wishing to fly. Its been exceptionally entertaining witnessing the behind the scenes shenanigans although the continuous change over from one company to another has certainly tested The HopBarn's laundry procedure.

Aside from hosting the various residency periods, The HopBarn also programmed three exceptional music events in September and

again it was rewarding to welcome a number of audience members to The HopBarn for the first time as well as greet some old faces already familiar with the venue.

In addition to the continuous cycle of artist creation and practice at The HopBarn, the main farm needed to prioritise harvest season along with some essential maintenance work. Fortunately, and despite the rather unsettled weather conditions that persisted in August, the harvest was achieved and with some very positive outcomes. The important maintenance work undertaken has also improved the farms standing allowing it to meet a number of key priorities set down by the UK government



summer harvest season under grey skies

[www.thehopbarn.org.uk](http://www.thehopbarn.org.uk) / [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk) / 07880973365

The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane Upton Road Southwell Notts NG25 0PZ





The continuing relationship with Southwell Music Festival provided additional rehearsal space for the *Festival Voices Choir* whilst the main venues were being prepared for the full festival which ran from the 24th to 28th August. During the 3 days running up

the start of the festival, The HopBarn's main studio rang out with some exquisite choral work making the usually quiet and secluded location a haven for anyone who appreciates choir and voice.

The Host Evening, which took place at The HopBarn on Monday 21st August, paid tribute to the offer of overnight accommodation for many of the festival's musicians by a number of local residents living in or around Southwell.

This was an exceptional and exclusive evening for the musician's hosts as they enjoyed fine wine and food whilst receiving devout recognition by the festival committee for offering their own hospitality in accommodating the festival musicians. An offer for which Southwell Music Festival's Director Marcus Farnsworth decreed *we could not programme the festival without the host support.*

Such was the return offer of gratitude given by Marcus, that a private recital took place for the hosts and in which Marcus was joined by a number of musicians to perform solely for the festival hosts.

Their very own private concert ... what a privilege!

Immediately following Southwell Music Festival, The HopBarn was excited to welcome back Brink Dance Company as they rehearsed new work to be featured as part of two dance platforms in Manchester and Leeds. This month there is a focus on BDC and you can read more about the company, their development and new work later in this publication.

Testing the The HopBarn's technical capabilities as well as the professional expertise of two staff members at The HopBarn, Xavier Velastin embarked on a two-day research period for a digital sound design and composition performance entitled *Me and My Whale.*

Xavier's work focuses on the range of whale songs in sound MHz and transcends through computer technology live performance into abstract recordings. The conception of the work featured as part of an MA study into digital sound composition and performance, although following Xavier's submission to Derby Theatre's In Good Company residency opportunity, it was decided that the work was too intriguing and ambitious not to turn down.

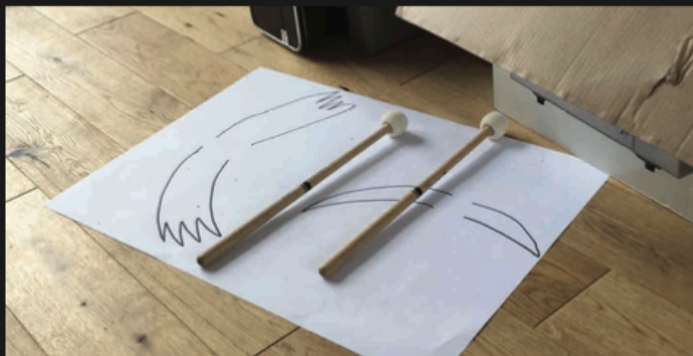
Xavier was therefore invited to The HopBarn to spend two days working on ideas with technical support by Angie Atmadjaja, a sound artist who specialises in psychoacoustic phenomena. The work is still in its raw stages of development, although the abstract and surreal world with which Xavier creates offers a tantalising and intriguing performance work. We look forward to seeing how the work evolves and hopefully bringing the final performance to The HopBarn in 2018.



Brink Dance Company rehearse whilst Xavier Velastin uses digital sound and light technology for *Me and My Whale*



***The Wild and The Innocent - potential flying drum sticks***



Finally, in relation to the residency opportunity for musician and theatre makers advertised in early summer, **The Wild and The Innocent** embarked on their week long research and development period for their new production ***The Flight***. The company is unusual amongst theatre makers as each of the company members are competent musicians, and the work combines live musical performance alongside theatre to tell the story.

The development of the work was supported by The HopBarn's in-house sound engineer Mike Mellor and was again part of Derby Theatre and *In Good Company's* offer for emerging artists. A blog has been written by the company detailing their time at The HopBarn and this will be a feature in November's News and Events Publication



***The Wild and The Innocent rehearsing - The Flight***

In turning to the programmed music events that took place, The HopBarn welcomed back singer and songwriter **Luke Paul Jackson** on Friday 8th September and classical artists **AJAC Trio** on Saturday 9th September.



***Luke Jackson performing at The HopBarn***

Luke Jackson, who's acclaimed reputation as a young blues and roots musician has secured him another Fatea Male Artist of the Year award for 2017, the same award he received in 2014. It was an absolute thrill to hear Luke perform at The HopBarn as part of his solo UK tour.

The evening, which was produced by True Blue Music included songs from his third studio album *Tall Tales and Rumours*, an album that has been credited as being described as a brilliant, thoughtful album by *Maverick*, whilst *Acoustic Magazine* has suggested distinct comparisons between Luke Jackson and Richard Thompson.

A beautifully presented evening and we hope to invite Luke back to The HopBarn in 2018.

Immediately following Luke, **AJAC Trio** presented another *Late Summer Recital* following the successful event in 2016. For the artists, Matt Glendening, Stephanie Childress and Kumi Matsuo, this was a chance to introduce the audience to lesser known works that might be considered quite challenging to listen to.

Whilst the programme included compositions by Debussy and Liszt, further contemporary works by Alban Berg, Paul Schoenfield and Darius Milhaud were featured.





**AJAC Trio: Kumi Matsuo, Matt Glendening & Stephanie Childress**

In addition to AJAC, the evening also featured young harpist Hannah Barnett who performed works by John Thomas, Loius Concone and Handel amongst others.

Despite the unusual programme, the evening was well received due the high standard of the musicians and their interpretation of the works presented.



**Harpist Hannah Barnett**

Finally, September ended with a return to folk music with the distinct sounds of british bluegrass being played by **The Crocker Brothers**. This is a group of musicians who don't perform that often together, so the opportunity to programme them at The HopBarn seemed too good to miss.



Having been hailed by Tom Travis from Country Music Magazine, as the best in British bluegrass and country fare, The Crocker Brother skilfully demonstrated their knowledge and expertise in this particular genre.

Joining them, The HopBarn welcomed two aspiring young musicians Betsy and Alex who play regulary in Southwell to give support. This event ended September on a high and The HopBarn welcomes a quiet period in October in order to take stock of the events that have occurred since July.

With support by  
**Betsy and Alex**



## The October Focus - Brink Dance Company

A little over 18 months ago at the start of 2016, The HopBarn welcomed 13 young dancers for a weeks long residency period in order to conduct an initial period of research and development (R & D). Their goal was to devise two new pieces of contemporary dance repertoire that could be put forward for future platforms and events in the north of England.

The week offered the company time away from their normal daily lives to focus intently on the work ahead, whilst building strong working relationships and bonds amongst the company members.

Brink was a new company Managed by Jazz Gritt and Directed by Jo Delaney and Daisy Howell. The company was largely formed by students who at the time were studying at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. The opportunity to come together at The HopBarn allowed freedom to experiment and explore without being constrained by the restrictions often imposed by academic environments. This was essentially a fresh approach where they could utilise their skills and expertise acquired from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, but focus intently on creating a vision for Brink's repertoire and individual artistry.

For the company directors Jo Delaney and Daisy Howell, their ambitious new beginnings for the company looked to explore the possibilities of movement language and how dance work is formed. Their repertoire focused on the articulation of the human body through the power of contemporary dance technique. This coupled with the physicality of dance and theatre performance centred on the complex nature of human behaviour and the close relationship that is often generated within dance companies when working in such intense periods.

The company's prime aim is to produce work that not only stimulates and communicates effectively with audiences, but also challenges the dancers to push themselves to new extremes when honing in on dance in both its purest and expressive form.

Knowing how Jo, Daisy and Jazz work, the physicality of Brink's movement vocabulary expected a lot from the dancers and during the earlier residency period in 2016 it was obvious that the technical expertise of the performers would need to be extremely high in order to meet the company's outlined vision.



Following the residency in 2016, Brink created two works *Cenobyte*, created by Daisy Howell and *I carve, I doodle and I inspire* by Jo Delaney.

*I carve, I doodle and I inspire* explored the genius (although often seen as eccentric) ideas of Leonardo Da Vinci and was featured as part of Turn 2016, an annual contemporary dance platform hosted in Manchester for Northern artists. Jo's work featured alongside an eclectic programme of work from Friday 22nd to Saturday 23rd April at Manchester's Contact Theatre.

*Cenobyte* was performed at BURST in May 2016 at similar platform for emerging artists held by Yorkshire Dance in Leeds. The piece was also invited to be performed at The Lowry, Salford Quays as part of U.Dance North West, the annual platform for the regions youth dance companies. Both Jo and Daisy began their dance careers at The Lowry whilst training on the North West Centre for Advanced Training Scheme in Dance. This was a fitting platform therefore to demonstrate the progression roots that they had taken since training at The Lowry.

The aspirations for Brink were high, with the determination by the company members to carve out a niche within the contemporary dance sector through exhibiting two highly emotive and physically demanding works. Both *I carve, I doodle and I inspire* and *Cenobyte* cemented the company's initial reputation for creating technically demanding works, but with subtle and skilful elements of comic interaction alongside a distinct choreographic vocabulary.

Following the debut of the company, Jo and Jazz upon graduating from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance received apprenticeship roles



within two already well established contemporary dance company's, Whilst Jo undertook his apprenticeship with Motionhouse Dance Theatre based in Lemmington Spa, Jazz worked with 2Faced Dance Company in Hereford. During this period, Brink took a break in order that both Jazz and Jo could focus on their apprenticeship roles, whilst Daisy completed her undergraduate training.

In 2017, Brink under the guidance of Daisy and Jazz received funding from SHINE Emerging Artists Programme, an opportunity created by Light Night in Leeds and Salford Quays based consortium Quays Culture. The aim of the programme is to nurture and develop new talent whilst giving emerging artists the opportunity to showcase their work at two existing platforms in Leeds and Manchester.

One of the pre-selection criteria for the SHINE programme is that the work must feature either in the production itself or as archived material, digital technology. Here Brink have teamed up with Howl Creative, another young and emerging company that utilises digital imagery to animate active participation into film and animation. The choreography is therefore superimposed, essentially enabling it to become transcended into other areas of artistic imagination. In addition to working with Howl Creative, musician and sound designer LS Marley brings a unique opportunity for the company to collaborate with new and original sound compositions.

To enable the company to begin the process of artistic creation an initial period of R & D took place at The HopBarn from Wednesday 30th August to Sunday 3rd September. Once again, the company was brought together to experiment on initial movement ideas, whilst original sound scores were devised in collaboration with the company. The 5-day period witnessed an explosion of dance, music and film creation as the dedication and



Aaron Howell of Howl Creative



Brink Dance Company in rehearsals at The HopBarn, this page and preceding page - photo credits by Howl Creative



commitment of the dancers allowed themselves little rest throughout the process. For the company, what made the whole experience even more worthwhile, was transition received and felt from students to professional dancers. The opportunity to work at The HopBarn in essence gave the dance artists another taste of working alone in a professional context. Keeping motivated in this scenario can often be the biggest challenge although for Brink, this opportunity certainly wasn't wasted.

Following their time at The HopBarn the company spent a few days exploring the digital animation that would accompany the work under the direction of Howl Creative. Further elements such costumes, lighting designs and the final sound score composed specially by LS Marley were all attended to in preparation for the technical rehearsals that would take place in Leeds on Sunday 24th September prior to Light Night Leeds. The main festival takes place from Thursday 5th to Friday 6th October and is definitely worth visiting if you have the chance. This annual festival which takes place annually across Leeds City Centre offers an exciting programme of live performance, digital sound and visual technology, exhibitions, street performances and much more all under the cover of darkness.

Have a look at the programme by searching for [www.whatson.leeds.gov/lightnight](http://www.whatson.leeds.gov/lightnight)

If you get a chance to see **Brink Dance Company** in performance, do go and see them as you won't be disappointed and you will be witnessing the beginnings of a very special and unique collaboration.



*Brink Dance Company Director Daisy Howell and Company Manager Jazz Gritt.*

## Whats on in November

### Red Dirt Skinners

Sat 4th November 2017

7.30pm



Widely regarded as one of the most innovative acts to come out of the UK in recent years, the sublime genre-defying sound of the Red Dirt Skinners is created by husband and wife team, Rob and Sarah Skinner.

In 2013 the Red Dirt Skinners became the first band in history to succeed at both the British Blues and the British Country Music awards. Don't let these accolades pigeonhole the Skinners though; their audiences always describe them as 'refreshingly different'.

Drawing on influences from folk, country, blues, americana, jazz and everything between, the Red Dirt Skinners' sound is instantly recognisable.

Comfortably blending exceptional, almost telepathic, harmonies with the unique instrumentation of soprano saxophone and acoustic guitar, audiences fall in love with the Skinners sound.

Hailing from the South East of England, Rob and Sarah have both been musicians for the majority of their lives. Sarah; classically trained on the clarinet from about the age of 6, progressed through the grades before switching to the saxophone. After winning Instrumentalist of the Year at the British Blues Awards in 2014, Sarah became the first female artist to be endorsed by Trevor James Saxophones.

Tickets £15.56 (including booking fee)  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

[www.thehopbarn.org.uk](http://www.thehopbarn.org.uk) / [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk) / 07880973365

The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane Upton Road Southwell Notts NG25 0PZ