

## 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.

### *Preparing for the year ahead!*

Welcome to 2018, we hope that you had a pleasant New Year and feel fully re-charged to tackle the year ahead, its certainly going to prove a significant one for many of us!

At The HopBarn we've been busy talking to a number of external artists and companies who have approached us for support towards new artistic ventures. Since The HopBarn provides an ideal rural retreat for the creation of artistic practice, many such artists, companies and groups that work in theatre, music and dance often approach The HopBarn in order to gather initial support for future projects. This has to be done prior to the submission of a funding application to one or more of the public bodies that financially support the arts as it demonstrates the level of support accrued for each project and informs each funding provider that there is potential interest in the work.

For all company producers, directors or solo artists working in theatre or dance, building interest in a proposed project is an absolute priority prior to submitting a funding application. Often the extremely hard part of any artistic venture, is not the creation period

itself or even the actual performance, but the length of time and constant negotiations needed with potential venues and providers to win their support prior to the funding bid being submitted.

Upon submitting a funding proposal to a public body responsible for supporting the arts, the content of the proposal does not only include the creative concept and performance intention, but it also details the level of support and backing (either in financial terms, or through physical offers such as studio space and marketing support for example) such partners may offer in support. It can be a long drawn out and arduous process, requiring a lot of patience and perseverance. So whilst very little appears to be happening on the outside, there is a hive of activity taking place internally in order to meet the needs of such artists and companies prior to them applying for public funding for their work.

submitted as official funding applications. There is then another period of waiting before the outcome of the funding application is received.

One artist that has already undertaken such a process and has received public funding for his work is Xavier Velastin. Following his initial Research and Development period in early September 2017, Xavier was awarded development funds from the Arts Council of England to further develop his production *Me & My Whale*. The production was premiered in Leeds at Live Arts Bistro on 2nd December and a further performance will take place in Manchester on 4th February at Partisan, an Arts and Social Space situated on Cheetham Hill Road.

Immediately following this event, Xavier hopes to develop the work further into a full scale production that can be toured nationally.

Again Xavier is seeking further Arts Council Funding in order to realise his ambition and The HopBarn is keen to support Xavier in his application. We hope that in the next few months, further news can be given towards this funding outcome



Hannah Mook in Xavier Velastin's production *Me and My Whale*

The agreed negotiations between The HopBarn and each company or artist will vary accordingly to the particular needs and requirements of each case scenario, although importantly, The HopBarn will be a feature of their funding bid along with other similar partners who have been approached to support the development of the work.

as well as the other artists we have looked to offer support.

### *Catch Xavier Velastin's Sound Play:*

***Me and My Whale***  
**Sunday 4th February 2018**

***Partisan, Manchester M4 4FY / 7pm***

**Tickets £4 / [meandmywhale.eventbrite.co.uk](http://meandmywhale.eventbrite.co.uk)**

Over the course of the next few months, the current flurry of negotiations and offers of support will eventually be documented and



**Me & My Whale**  
a sound play in development  
by X Velastin & Hannah Mook

End of R&D ~ Sharing Performance  
Partisan (Basement), Manchester, M4 4FY  
Sunday 4 February 2018  
Dooits @ 7pm  
Tickets at [meandmywhale.eventbrite.com](http://meandmywhale.eventbrite.com)

a performance project on  
voice, whalesong,  
power, choice,  
and our impending doom

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**The HopBarn Live Art Bistro**  
centre for music and creative performance

LOTTERY FUNDED

[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

*Calling all Crafters ...  
we're having another craft fair!*

The HopBarn does not often venture into the visual arts or into arts & crafts although in April 2017 we hosted a Craft Fair with the proceeds being offered to The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Over 10 artisans displayed their works ranging from Photography, Oil and Water Colour's to Ceramics, Textiles, Woodworking and Silk Painting.

We were delighted further when the Rattle Jag Morris Dancers performed during the day in the courtyard.

The event helped to raise over £400 towards the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The HopBarn is delighted to announce that we have scheduled a further Craft Fair for **Saturday 12th May 2017.**



a day of arts & crafts created and presented by highly skilled artisans



Entrance fee £2, with all money raised from raffles, refreshments and entry going to:



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



Ross Reese Watercolours



Claire Brown Jewellery

Whilst we already have a number of artisans who have confirmed their attendance at this event, there are still some vacant stalls and we would therefore be delighted to hear from any crafters who specialise in *visual arts, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewellery making, woodworking* or any other equivalent artistic medium, and who would like to exhibit their work at this scheduled event.

If you, or if you know of anyone who would be interested in taking part, please get in contact either by phone **07880 973 365** or e-mail [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk) to express interest.

## February Focus: Ray (Chopper) Cooper

On the 10th February we welcome back Ray Cooper to The HopBarn, a truly gifted musician who has profound musical expertise and 3 very poignant solo albums to his name.

Ray joined Oysterband following their 1987 release *Wide Blue Yonder* replacing founding member Ian Keary. This legendary band, renowned for the contribution made to the genre of *folk rock* and *folk Punk* celebrated their 40th Anniversary in 2017 and took 4th and 5th place in the fRoots *Best of The Best Albums 1985 – 2015*. They recently headlined the first night of the Shrewsbury Folk Festival in 2017, playing a special rendition of Put Out the Lights.

Ray stayed and performed with Oysterband until 2013 performing on 19 albums and touring to 27 countries, a remarkable accolade that surely must have helped to shape and influence his own personal style and musicianship.

Whilst with Oysterband, Ray released his first solo album entitled *Tales of Love and War and Death by Hanging* (2010). This album clearly launched Ray's solo career as it was recognised by Spiral Earth as 'a *big proud record that bares its chest and grips you all the way through*'. Roots dubbed the album akin to 'Ennio Morricone galloping through the brooding grandeur of the Nordic forests with a trusty cello as sword and emblem. *Compelling stuff*'. I'm not sure what Ray made of this comparison, but it certainly endorses his ability to convey meaningful and philosophical thinking through his music and lyrics.

Receiving such high praise and recognition, must have for Ray, ignited a desire to go solo and begin work on his own music. It wasn't until 3 years later however that in 2013, Ray took the courageous step to leave Oysterband although by this time, Ray had already moved



to Sweden citing the pull of winter, the Swedish Fiddle and his love for a women. His debut album was produced out of a small log cabin and in 2014, a year after he left Oysterband, Ray produced his second album *Palace of Tears* (2014).

This second album immediately provided Ray with further accreditation towards his proficiency and uniqueness as a solo artist. *Palace of Tears* was recognised again by fRoots to be 'a *mighty sounding record*'. His third album *Songbook* released in 2015, draws on his first two albums and presents a compilation of his early works.

Having listened to Ray perform live at The HopBarn in 2015 it was immediately obvious why he has established such a following. His work is, as he himself describes it extremely melancholic, drawing perhaps on his own life experience prior to and during his time with Oysterband, and whilst living out in Sweden amongst the remoteness and vastness of the rural landscape.

When learning about his early life before Oysterband, it begins to make sense how his music manifests itself. Ray makes no definitive reference to a home town or place, simply thinking himself to be Northern European. He has moved around and travelled so much, that in many respects it makes it difficult for him perhaps to form a strong identity or association with a particular place. The reasons he explains for his constant moving is to follow where the



the music takes him. Perhaps out of respect, this is the trait of a true musician, one who allows their musical journey to be dictated to by a series of natural coincidences, rather than making concrete decisions about where to go and what to do.

When listening to Ray's music and whilst focussing intently on the lyrics, there is a true sense of longing, as if searching for something more tangible that can bring back and hold onto a distant memory. Ray sees himself as a romantic, looking back on history in order to understand and learn about the present. His music conveys this with both charm and poignancy, invoking a real desire in all of us to revisit past moments that we hold dear and long to experience once again.

Ray Cooper will be at The HopBarn on Saturday 10th February 2018 and is brought to us by True Blue Music.

**Ray Cooper - A True Blue Music Event**  
Saturday 10 Feb 2018  
7.30pm / £14



'Palace of Tears' – a mighty sounding record'  
fRoots, 2014.



Tickets:

eventbrite.co.uk  
thehopbarn.org.uk

## Coming to The HopBarn in February & March

**An Evening of Comic Songs and Humour**  
**In Support of Awards for Young Musicians**  
Saturday 3 Feb 2018  
£12.50 (+booking fee)



Guy Turner, with accompaniment by Ed Turner (no relation) present an evening of Comic Songs, including several of Guy's own, and a selection by the inimitable Flanders and Swann.

To give Ed the odd rest here and there, there will also be some readings from humorous writers such as Jerome K Jerome, Terry Pratchett and Bill Bryson.

Take a glass of wine, pull up a chair in the beautiful HopBarn and be ready to meet Gasmen, Armadillos, Pigeons, Floods, Pizzas, Horns, Hangovers, Trains and Pillar Boxes!

**Tickets:**

eventbrite.co.uk  
thehopbarn.org.uk

Proceeds in Support of:



The HopBarn is extremely excited to invite back Mimika Theatre and their enchanting production **Landscapes**, an award winning 50 minute theatre experience.

Originally created for children aged 6 to 9 Mimika Theatre soon discovered that there were in fact no real upper or lower age limits.

The non verbal base and the narrative accessibility also means that the work is appropriate for children where English is not their first language and for children with moderate and severe learning difficulties.



*It is theatre for all!*

Mimika Theatre  
**Landscapes**  
Sunday 4th March 2018  
11am / 12.30pm / 2pm / 3.30pm

*The Sun rises over a buzzing desert,  
a chick hatches.*

*The Eagle leaves the nest  
in search of food.*

*Below,  
the Meerkats  
are alert,*

*The journey begins.*



Tickets £8 (adults) £6 Children by contacting 07880 973 365 or [info@thehopbarn.org.uk](mailto:info@thehopbarn.org.uk)

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