

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.



Catch up on recent activity:
Whats been happening at The HopBarn

Whilst there were no scheduled public events at The HopBarn in March, that does not mean to say that we went dark (tech talk for non-scheduled performances or events).

The HopYards have three new band members and have been busy preparing for their next gig on the 22nd July 2017.

Bringing another sound element into the mix is Saxophonist Juan Pino, along with drummer Kip and lead vocalist Leona Ashley. Together with Mike Mellor and Stuart Poole, they are confident this new make up will add new pieces to their pre-existing repertoire.



We are also excited by the release of Alec Bowman's new album *GONE*, which was recorded at The HopBarn in early 2017.

GONE features 8 beautifully arranged songs that speak volumes of the sadness of love and loss.

If you haven't yet heard it, you can listen online by following the link below as well as downloading the album for a small price.

The album is extremely poignant and beautifully composed.

<https://alecbowman.bandcamp.com/album/gone>

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Out of the public eye:

In the March 2017 newsletter, a focus was placed on the how the long term vision of The HopBarn would place a strong emphasis on creating opportunities for new and emerging artists, groups and companies, alongside the regular offer of scheduled music and performance events. It is incredibly exciting therefore that two distinct opportunities have recently arisen, enabling The HopBarn to fulfill such ambitions.

Departure Lounge Festival
Package Holiday
26th June to 1st July 2017

The first offer provides an important transitional link or bridge between graduate theatre artists and more established theatre companies seeking to raise their artistic profile. Supported by *In Good Company*, Derby Theatre's artist development programme, The HopBarn is again able to host a unique opportunity for an emerging theatre company and/or group whilst they prepare a new piece of theatre for the Departure Lounge Festival which will be held from 20th to 23rd July 2017.



In Good Company provides invaluable support to emerging theatre artists and companies living and working in the East Midlands. The provision was formed out of a consultation with Derby Theatre's community artists in 2014 following which, *In Good Company* became a consortium of 5 partnership venues working in the East Midlands. This included the Attenborough Arts Centre, Burton Brewery, Lincolnshire One Venues and Mansfield Library alongside Derby Theatre.

The offer provides associate artists, companies and groups with an array of invaluable knowledge, expertise and mentorship. In addition to such support, regular performance events, workshops, talks and further developmental opportunities provide crucial platforms for associate members to test their work and receive crucial feedback. The Departure Lounge Festival is one such opportunity. Over 4-days, the festival will profile innovative work that aims to showcase new writing and young voices. Seen as a prequel to Edinburgh Fringe festival, Departure Lounge is a crucial stepping stone for many who wish to refine their artistic skills and test the audience response before performing to more critical reviewers at the Edinburgh Fringe.



In addition to important opportunities afforded to devising and refining theatre, a further element of *In Good Company* helps to inform the associate artists of the business and management skills required by theatre makers. For many young associates it can be construed that the bureaucratic process required to sustain an arts venture can seem daunting. Whilst many emerging graduates who have completed their professional training understand the process of applying for arts funding, the actual undertaking of completing funding applications and convincing theatre producers that the work is of integrity, can often be a long drawn out and arduous process. Last year over 10 applications were received from emerging theatre companies for the Departure Lounge Package Holiday. The need for programmes such as *In Good Company* is therefore seen as a detrimental and necessary step towards achieving the long term ambitions of the artists and their work.



The HopBarn is therefore thrilled to be able support Derby Theatre and the *In Good Company* artist programme and look forward to welcoming the chosen company in June.

Summer Dance Intensive (SDI)
Monday 31st July to Saturday 5th August

In addition to supporting graduate artists and emerging theatre makers, The HopBarn is also delighted to be able to offer a unique opportunity for a younger age group.

This year we are offering a Summer Dance Intensive (SDI) aimed at young people from 12 to 18 years of age who may have little or no dance experience alongside more established performers.

Working to devise and create a new piece of contemporary dance repertoire, the SDI aims to introduce participants to the unique process of artistic creation when collaborating together on a given theme or concept. Reflecting the process undertaken in the professional sector, the SDI will provide an invaluable insight into how a professional dance company, working in collaboration with a chosen choreographer, takes an initial concept or idea and re-interprets it within movement and dance performance.

The aim of the week is to not only to create a short piece of contemporary dance that can be performed to an invited audience, but also place a strong focus on the process of creation when re-interpreting an abstract idea or concept. In this situation, the process will focus on task based choreographic ideas, a process whereby the dancers work within the confounds of a choreographer's instructions to offer their own unique interpretation. This is akin to the working methodologies of professional choreographers working today, and the emphasis is aligned more as a collaborative process, rather than the dancer's simply re-creating and performing set work devised solely by the choreographer.

For many dancers and choreographers working today, the time spent in the studio environment whilst undertaking the process of creation is often considered to be the most insightful. It is here that the skill of a choreographer undergoes important transformations, learning new techniques and choreographic language whilst translating the chosen concept through movement. The process is the work

undertaken to foster learning and discovery through collaboration in answer to the questions posed. Importantly for the choreographer, the dancer's offer them an array of interpretations and ideas that may not have been conceived if the choreographer acted independently. The process becomes a dialogue between the initial idea, the dancer's response and the choreographer's final movement structure. It is important to note therefore that the dancer's, through their own thoughts, ideas and movement interpretations offer the choreographer a profound artistic vision for their work.

In addition to the choreographic techniques and tools encountered by the participants when working on the dance repertoire, the SDI will also introduce the participants to contemporary dance technique as they are led through a morning technique class prior to the daily rehearsals.

Utilizing contemporary dance techniques pioneered by leading American choreographers Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and José Limón, it is intended that the SDI offers a true representation of what it is like to work in a professional contemporary dance company, (although pitched at a level intended to support and accommodate young dancers).

The SDI is seen as a first step towards a much more ambitious offer of dance provision at The HopBarn, one that aligns itself to national frameworks that support children and young people's dance, as well as opportunities akin to the Departure Lounge Festival for theatre practitioners.



Image courtesy of The Lowry Centre for Advanced Training in Dance

Departure Lounge Festival - Package Holiday
Monday 26th June to Saturday 1st July

More information about Derby Theatre's Departure Lounge Festival can be found under the **News and Opportunities** section of **The HopBarn's** website; or please visit derbytheatre.ac.uk and look for **Artistic Development** in the page menu.

Summer Dance Intensive (SDI)
Monday 31st July to Saturday 5th August

For more information about the SDI please contact The HopBarn directly by phone or e-mail or go to the News and Opportunities section of The HopBarn's website.

Forthcoming Events - April 2017

Reel Good Times: Scottish Ceilidh Band
Saturday 8th April 2017 / 7.30pm
£10 (+ booking Fee)

Fancy an evening of Scottish Music and Dance! Reel Good Times will be at The HopBarn in April celebrating the unique combination of Scottish music and feet tapping rhythms. This special event encourages active participation from audience members as the musicians guide you through the basics, helping you to gain confidence towards more complex and energetic dances.

All proceeds from this event will be in support of Diabetes UK, the national charity that not only supports people living with Diabetes, but undertakes important research to understand the condition and how best to treat it.

Tickets also include a traditional Scottish Supper.

Sam Carter: The finest English-style finger-picking guitarist of his generation
Saturday 22nd April 2017 / 7.30pm
£13.33 (Incl booking Fee)

Since being named Best Newcomer at the 2010 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Sam Carter has been stirring audiences from Camden to Canada, via an attention grabbing appearance on *Later...* with Jools Holland and a dreams-really-do-come-true performance in a specially assembled band to back Richard Thompson at Shrewsbury Folk Festival



The HopBarn is offering a Summer Dance Intensive (SDI) for young people aged from 12-18 years of age. Previous dance experience not essential, just a passion to dance and a willingness to try!

More info at www.thehopbarn.org.uk

Each day will consist of a theoretical class and practical dance development, with the opportunity to work on the development of the idea to be performed.

Let by Jonathan Pugh (former Centre for Advanced Training Manager at The City School) Queen's the SDI will focus on contemporary dance technique and composition.

Image courtesy of The Centre for Advanced Training in Dance, Hullaving Hill Centre

£50 participation fee To book a place or find out more contact: info@thehopbarn.org.uk 07880973365

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