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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.

A quick look back over April...

April has certainly been a little busier than usual at The HopBarn. Our staff and volunteer members were once again tested in their capacity to be versatile and accommodating, so this month has been a really useful exercise in exploring alternative events that perhaps step outside of The HopBarn's main performance offer.

The Spring Craft Fair, that was held on Saturday 1st April presented a number of challenges that in normal performance situations would not be seen to be too much of a logistical problem. The main issue and one of the biggest concerns being the single file lane leading from the main A612 to The HopBarn. In a normal performance situation, it is generally true that audience members arrive and depart more or less at the same time, ensuring that the traffic flow is always in one direction. As the Spring Craft Fair took place over the course of several hours, concerns were raised about the prospect of

traffic jams as public members came and went, meeting each other on the lane as though they were the North and South Going Zax from Dr Seuss's classic story. Fortunately, thanks to logistical planning and the help of volunteers, such a travesty was avoided.



North and South Going Zax / Dr Seuss

We are also indebted to the artisans who displayed their work as part of the craft fair and the army of volunteers who supported the event by ensuring refreshments were available and plentiful. Additional entertainment was supplied by the Rattlejag Morris Dancers who danced and performed in the crew yard throughout the day as public members browsed the array of displays.

We were delighted with the turn out and support for this event and the generosity of public members attending which helped to raise over £400. This collection will go to The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Susan Isaac - Craft Fair Artisan



Katherine Edge - Craft Fair Artisan



Susan J Morton - Craft Fair Artisan



Following the craft fair The HopBarn was transformed once again, this time to cater for the dancing feet of public members who joined us for a taste of traditional Scottish Music and Dance. Reel Good Times, Scottish Ceilidh Band provided a dynamic and energetic evening on the 8th April, encouraging active audience participation as they led participants through the intricate weaving and threading of traditional Scottish dances.

Again, this event tested The HopBarn's capability to offer something a little different as the offer of a traditional Scottish supper or Stovies, meant that an extra team of caterers was needed to be brought in to help prepare and serve. Once again The HopBarn is indebted to the volunteers who graciously gave their time for this event to help ensure that the evening went ahead smoothly.



Reel Good Times

Sam Carter on Saturday 22nd April saw a return to a more normalised evening programme, although the quality and musicianship of Sam is anything but normal. For a musician who has performed on Later With Jools Holland as well as at international festivals both in the UK and abroad, it is humbling perhaps that he was just as eager to play at The HopBarn.



Sam Carter

His exquisite guitar playing and poignant lyrics that reflect his personal experiences of living in London, clearly demonstrate why he offers an important contribution to the UK Music scene. Sam captures a real sense of the spirit of London within his lyrics and voice. It was certainly an exciting evening and we hope that that we can invite Sam back in the future.

Sam will also be playing at the Gate to Southwell Festival from the 8th to 11th June 2017

Departure Lounge Festival – Package Holiday

Celebrating Diversity

We're at time when future national priorities remain uncertain. The whirlwind of political and economic movements over the past few years, along with more recent political events has re-confirmed the fragility of our modern society. We have perhaps, been reminded that we should not become complacent in our relationship with the status quo. Things can change... they have and will continue to do so in a big way.

But whilst much of the political rhetoric threatens to divide us, the arts continue to promote unity and socio-economic cohesion between us. Whilst a few political messages communicated recently by prominent figures expose the country's social divisions, the arts advocate and celebrate the richness in our diverse society, offering us a unique cultural identity. This cultural identity is not only witnessed at home, but is seen as an important and key advocate in helping to raise the country's profile internationally. Our arts are celebrated worldwide precisely because they encompass an ecology that contains a multitude of diverse and creative communities. For the Arts Council of England, our cultural economy is strengthened when we champion the diversity of arts and culture.

This optimistic view forms a corner stone of the Arts Council of England's key priorities and gives cause for celebrating further the richness of a diverse cultural offer in our modern society. This is seen to go further than simply acknowledging that the use of public money for arts and culture must benefit *all* in our society, not just the privileged few; rather that as detailed in the publication *The Creative Case for Diversity* there is also the combination of social, moral and economic reasons for why we should continue to support a more diverse investment in the arts. The arts are not only seen to reflect the world around us, but they can also anticipate change and help shape the world that is evolving.

A key priority of the Art's Council of England's work therefore is to ensure that access is granted to arts and culture amongst minority communities. Such communities identified by the Arts Council encompass a broad range of socio-economic

representation including Black and Ethnic minorities, inclusive arts practice for disabled people and those of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) orientation. Ensuring that opportunities are available for such communities and for them to feel that they are included in the Arts Council's vision, is the reliance on a strong and independent workforce, one that ensures all members of our society feel that they have access to arts and culture. But the focus on ensuring access, must again go further than simply making it easier for such communities to witness the arts, they must also feel inclined to place a value in it and in order to do so, they need to feel a personal connection and identity to and with the work created, presented and experienced.

Equality, Diversity and the Creative Case



A Data Report, 2015-2016



It is a testament therefore that Derby Theatre's In Good Company, in drafting the criteria for this years Departure Lounge Festival – Package Holiday, acknowledged within their own programming that there was a small representation from minority groups. It was therefore agreed that the call out for submissions should aim to appeal to a wider demographic of theatre makers than had done so previously.

Whilst the final decision has yet to be announced, we were delighted in that 8 submissions were given from a broad range of theatre and dance makers from minority backgrounds. These have yet to be shortlisted for further interviews, but what is clear is the quality of work being offered and the ambitions presented by such highly skilled practitioners. Subject matters ranged from political scandals to more abstract ideas evoking memory loss as well as fun and farcical theatre aimed at children and young people.



When reading through the submissions, many of the themes and concepts brought to our attention had introduced new subject matters that may not have otherwise been known. It is important to acknowledge that when embracing work from a broader and more diverse demographic, we can enrich our own understanding. Such events or concepts maintain a strong resonance within all communities. In doing so, they offer us a completely different view point and perspective from which we can form new opinions and ideas.

The company selected for the package holiday opportunity will add to the rich diversity of In Good Company's Departure Lounge Festival and continue to foster exciting new work and collaborations. In doing so, it is hoped that new voices, new writing and new theatre is created, shared and experienced. An opportunity manifests itself for us to witness important and influential work that may never have been seen or witnessed otherwise. This is why such opportunities are seen to be invaluable, as they are often the catalyst for work that eventually wins popular appeal and becomes recognised nationally and even internationally for the contribution it makes to our personal understanding and enrichment. But again, as with the Arts Council it would be discourteous and disadvantageous if these opportunities were selective in their application process. It is exciting therefore to be able to support the development of such work and we welcome the decision by Derby Theatre and In Good Company to offer the package holiday to a company or artist from such minority backgrounds.



The announcement of the Departure Lounge Package Holiday recipient will be made in June's News and Events Publication.



Forthcoming Events / May & June 2017

Saturday 20th May 2017 / 7.30pm

The HopBarn
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compendium

Well known local musicians Harriet Astbury (Soprano), Helen Askey-Murray (Flute), Terry Gill (Oboe) and Guy Turner (Piano/Composer) present a Compendium of music for the various combinations of their instruments.

Music to include songs by Britten, Arne, Michael Head and Vaughan Williams; Instrumental pieces by Mozart, Fauré and Debussy

Tickets £12.50
eventbrite.co.uk
thehopbarn.org.uk

All proceeds in support of:
AWARDS FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

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info@thehopbarn.org.uk

The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane
Upton Rd Southwell Notts NG25 0PZ

Harriet Astbury – Soprano
Helen Askey Murray – Flute
Terry Gill – Oboe, Cor Anglais, Recorder
Guy Turner - Piano



Compendium presents a programme of music for various (sometimes unusual) combinations – in all there are fifteen different combinations of voice and instruments presented this evening. Much of the music takes its inspiration from English Literature – even the Flute Concertino began life as incidental music to Shakespeare.

Saturday 3rd June 2017 / 7.30pm



Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley

Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley have been bringing their unique sound to audiences across Europe and America since the early 1990s.

Known for their soul stirring songs, exhilarating tunes and a love of the craic, Chris (concertina) and Denny (guitar and vocals) ensure that no two concerts are ever the same. Chris grew up surrounded by folk music of all kinds - his home was a regular haunt for passing folk singers and musicians. Denny, born in Co. Limerick, is drawn to the inheritance of age-old slides, slow airs, slip jigs and wild reels.

Founder members of the band Last Night's Fun which received international acclaim and a loyal fan base over 11 years together, they have now returned to their roots.

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