

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 Month of Dance

February was all about dance with two very special residencies taking place at The HopBarn and featuring some exceptional young dancers.

Matter of Fact – led by dance artist and choreographer Erin Pollitt undertook a period of creation and artistic development from 4th to 9th February. During this period Erin and her dancers Daisy Howell and Fanny Pouillot worked on a production entitled *Era We Are*.

Era We Are harks back to the 1980's, an era of liberation and looks to question the progress since then. Erin considers the need to block out external noises and focus on our inner selves in order to ensure that we follow our own path and not become dictated by society.

Within the cleverly crafted duet, a single dancer wrestles with her conscience, imagination and the influence of the outside world, whilst a second dancer represents a



Matter of Fact: Dancers Fanny Pouillot, Erin Pollitt & Daisy Howell

reminder of how popular society influences our decisions and traps us in, holding us to a constant need to remain connected to each other, sharing a common goal or interest where individuality is not accepted.

Using popular Music choices such as Kim Carnes – *Bettie Davies Eyes*; Erin crafts this duet with the precision and clarity so often neglected by current choreographers. The choreography is intricate at times, allowing for exquisite subtlety with perfectly timed moments of connection between the two dancers. Without warning however, the dancers suddenly burst out and explode into expansive choreography taking the audience with them before reverting back to intricate and more personalised moments in response.

Whilst the dancers perform this work with such technical brilliance and personal interpretation, Erin requests that no emotions are expressed within the faces of the dancers. In doing So, the effect in what Erin is trying to achieve is exemplified to the

extreme. Whilst the language is dance and movement, captured by precise choreographic timing, this lack of emotion captured between the dancers as they perform the duet enables the work to offer further elements of mystery.

This is a short piece of work although there has clearly been a lot of thought and effort in ensuring that it stands alone as a finished piece of work.



Video still of Era We Are filmed by J Buchanan Moving Image

A video of the work, filmed by J Buchanan Moving Image has been uploaded to The HopBarn's Facebook Page for public viewing is definitely worth a look.

Era We Are will be performed as part of SlapDash by Ludus Dance on 1st March 2019 in Lancaster.

The Lowry CAT Alumni Project

The second of the two dance residencies that took place at The HopBarn from Friday 15th to Monday 18th February was an initial research and development phase for a commissioned piece of choreography that will feature as part of a 10-year anniversary celebration at The Lowry, Salford Quays in July 2019.

This is truly a special opportunity for The HopBarn and one that it is hoped will generate much interest whilst the creation period takes place.

The opportunity has arisen due to the previous roll that Jonathan Poole (who now works at The HopBarn) held from 2009 to 2015 at The Lowry, Salford Quays.

As Centre for Advanced Training Manager at The Lowry, Jonathan was tasked with establishing a new pre-vocational dance training scheme for young dancers in the North West of England. Funded by The Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme, The Centre for Advanced Training in Dance (CAT) offers important access to high quality training and nurturing for young people aged 12 to 18 years of age, regardless of their social backgrounds or family circumstances.



Dancers Jo Delaney and Blair Moore

The Lowry CAT was established in 2009, and joined 8 existing CAT programmes throughout England as well as similar schemes for musicians. This year marks 10 years since the first CAT students began their pre-vocational training at The Lowry and this commissioned work features 6 dancers who began their formal dance training as part of the North West CAT, and who have now progressed through professional training into the dance sector.

The HopBarn was approached in the summer of 2018 with Jonathan being asked if he would lead on the choreographic direction for this new work. Jonathan is joined by former

dance students Jo Delaney, Erin Pollitt and Daisy Howell who all went on to train at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. Holly Rush who studied at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Alex De La Bastide who is currently training at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance and Blair Moore who is also in professional training at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Whilst the first weekend intensive that took place in February laid the choreographic foundations for Jonathan and the dancers, a full week will take place at The Lowry in April before a second weekend intensive at The HopBarn in June. A final production week will then be held at The Lowry in July prior to the performances on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July.



Erin Pollitt, Blair Moore, Holly Rush & Alex De La Bastide



Erin Pollitt & Alex De La Bastide

This is truly a unique opportunity and one that The HopBarn is indebted to The Lowry CAT for commissioning the work and also agreeing to have some of the rehearsals take place at The HopBarn.

To find out more about about the Centre's for Advanced Training in Dance please visit:

www.nationaldancecats.co.uk

For information about the North West Centre for Advanced Training based at The Lowry please visit:

www.northwestdance.org.uk/cat

SHOWFEST 19

Showfest 2019
Mansfield Palace Theatre
Thursday 21st February 2019
Inspire Youth Arts

Continuing with providing fantastic creative opportunities for Young People, The HopBarn was delighted to be invited to SHOWFEST 2019 at Mansfield Palace Theatre on Thursday 21st February 2019.

Organised by Inspire Youth Arts (IYA), part of Inspire Culture / Learning and Libraries; IYA works across Nottinghamshire developing and delivering exciting arts programmes with and for young people.

Two performers, Betsey Bircumshaw and Sam Barker who both took part in *Plug In Tune Up* in September 2018, have been involved in IYA for a number of years and the connection to such a influential organisation for The HopBarn has recently proved invaluable.

The evening brought together dance in all forms, alternative rock, home-grown singer songwriters and visual designers, demonstrating the wealth and abundance of artistic creativity in young people throughout Nottinghamshire.

This was an exceptional evening that left you feeling extremely positive and inspired by the work presented and how hard young people work to achieve such high standards.

To find out more about Inspire Youth Arts please visit inspireculture.org.uk

Coming to The HopBarn in March

Keith James in Concert
The Songs of Leonard Cohen
16 Mar 2019
£14

Keith James in Concert - The Songs of Leonard Cohen, his wonderful Tower of Songs - stripped back, desolate, naked and sensual

Enigmatic, mysterious and sub textural, songwriter Leonard Cohen was an unflinching character, with an exact sense of prose, a wry humour and courage to wrestle with the unspoken, forgiving human frailty with the stroke of each line.



The chilling announcement of Leonard's passing marked the end of an era. His music befriended an entire generation. Within every line of his writing, he has been challenging us to listen more carefully, speak more thoughtfully, think more deeply and recognize our own fragility. A Man of Grace. This World will miss him very much!

With a lifetime reputation of performing in this exact way and an undying love of the 'pure song' Keith James gives you a concert of Cohen's amazing material in the most intimate and sensitive way imaginable, exposing the solitary inner strength of his greatest songs in their original perfect form.

To Book Tickets visit:

thehopbarn.org.uk

Maria Dziedzan - Book Reading
28 Mar 2019 / 2pm
£4 (including refreshments)



MARIA DZIEDZAN was born in Grimsby in 1951. She studied Philosophy at Nottingham University before becoming an English teacher. She taught for several decades in Nottinghamshire and then retired from teaching to focus on her writing.

My Lost Country series is largely fictional although draws inspiration from real life events that took place during the 1940's and 1950's in Eastern Europe.

Having a Ukrainian father who witnessed devastating events inflicted upon many small communities in Ukraine, Maria has never forgotten the distant family that her father left behind and the 3 novels that form the series *My Lost Country*, depict the struggles the Ukrainian people faced from both the Bolsheviks and Fascists when war broke out in Europe.

Maria will present and read from her 3rd novel *Bread and Salt* at this planned event, introducing the conflicts that feature in her work whilst relating back to real life events that took place in Ukraine during the 1940's and 1950's.

This is an opportunity to discover more about events that took place in Eastern Europe during and after the 2nd World War, those that are largely forgotten or ignored by western society.

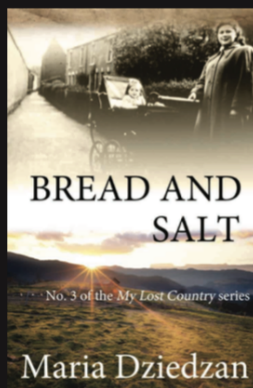


When Sorrows Come was Maria's first novel.

It won The Big Bingham Book Read in 2015 and was one of the finalists for the Historical Novel Society Indie Award 2016.



Driven Into Exile is the second book in Maria's *My Lost Country* series and is linked to the first novel by its minor characters.



Maria has recently completed the sequel to *Driven Into Exile*, *Bread and Salt*, which was launched on 23 November 2018.

To Book Tickets visit: thehopbarn.org.uk



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