



The HopBarn

centre for music and creative performance

Issue: 5
June
2017

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.

What happened in May?

In May, The HopBarn welcomed the opportunity to present 4 local musicians and their repertoire for Compendium. Guy Turner, Harriet Astbury, Helen Askey-Murray and Terry Gill, performed a collection of works featuring Benjamin Britten, Vaughan Williams, Gabriel Faure, Michael Head, Thomas Arne and Mozart amongst others.

The concert drew its inspiration from English Literature and was arranged to convey both the ideal as well as the unusual combinations that could be presented between the varying instruments that were played. The performance which featured Voice, Flute, Oboe, Cor Anglais, Recorder and Piano presented a number of unlikely partnerships between the instruments. Despite this considered juxtaposition of instruments, the evening presented both an original and a fresh concert arrangement of work.

The varied programme delighted the audience whilst Harriet Astbury's voice and crystal clear diction filled the studio.



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Guy Turner's *The Lady of Shallot*, which featured during Southwell Music Festival in the summer of 2016, demonstrated the skill and complexity of the local composer's compositional arrangement. Narrated by Terry Gill to the haunting sound of Helen Askey-Murray's flute, we were privileged to hear the essence of the work in a small and intimate space.

Departure Lounge Festival 2017 Package Holiday Recipients

We are delighted that following the call out for submissions for Derby Theatre's Departure Lounge Festival - Package Holiday, there were two submissions that have each been awarded a week at The HopBarn in order to develop the work.

The first is by a young choreographer and theatre practitioner who recently graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Vanessa Macaulay undertook an MA in Dance Theatre and was specially focusing on The Body in Performance for her MA studies. The work which is entitled '*How to Make an Enticement Machine*' draws heavily on her own personal experiences whilst studying at one of the country's most distinguished dance schools.

As a dancer, your instrument and tool is your body, and whilst for many dancers this can often be extremely liberating, the stigmas associated with body image in the dance world can cut very raw and through Vanessa's own experience, this notion is challenged within her work.

In her initial submission Vanessa describes her personal journey in order to create this work.

It was in January 2016 through my research and development module that my practice became a more consolidated and focused for me. I had something to say about my lived experiences and no way to say it. At this time, I was able to take my theoretical research - in which I was very passionate about - and use my practical explorations as form to extend the discussions around race, gender and performativity... Ultimately as an artist, I want to continue to make work that interrogates the ways in which the female body is talked about, labelled, categorised, invaded and decorated.



Compendium: from left to right, Guy Turner, Harriet Astbury, Helen Askey-Murray and Terry Gill.

The concert was arranged with all proceeds being donated to Awards for Young Musicians, an organisation that specifically supports and helps children and young people from lower income families. By helping to provide support to children and young people who need additional support with their music studies, AFYM aims to ensure that such beneficiaries reach their full potential in music.

The HopBarn is grateful to the musicians of Compendium for giving this concert and to all who attended and helped to donate to AFYM.

We hope to programme a further concert in 2018 due to the quality and musicianship presented.

Vanessa's concept looks at current stereo-types and depictions of how the female body is portrayed in the media, in particular the female black body. The belief is that there is (as with others) a uniformed expectation of how she should appear, behave and perform. This is in Vanessa's view a fetish, one that has been commodified by society according to popular tastes in music, fashion and ultimately identity.

For Vanessa, she wants to challenge and 'out-fetish the fetish', to enable the visible female black body and her presence to appear in ways that are contrary to popular depictions.

These popular depictions which are conveyed mainly in music, are for Vanessa extremely damaging as they are often exploited and over exaggerated. As such, the general assumption becomes reality and there is the 'assumption that all black bodies can be unified in this way'.

Vanessa will be in residence at The HopBarn in July preparing her work and developing it further for Derby Theatre's Departure Lounge Festival which will take place from Thursday 20th July until Sunday 23rd July.

In all there were 6 submissions that were shortlisted for interview for the Package Holiday offer and whilst Vanessa was awarded the week's development opportunity, a second theatre maker was also offered a week at The HopBarn in order to develop her work for future performances.

Bushra Laskar is a practising British Asian Playwright who is based in Buckinghamshire. Unlike Vanessa who is in the very early stages of her career and therefore fits the profile of Departure Lounge, Bushra has already established herself amongst the theatre community as an important voice representing Asian and ethnic theatre makers.

Bushra's work has been developed at The Royal Court Theatre, Plaines Plough and Kall Theatre Company. Whilst in New York, Bushra was awarded an Emerging Artist of Colour Theatre as part of Kall's giving voice festival.

Her current work *Sanguine Night* focuses on an industrial catastrophe that happened in India in 1984 resulting in the loss of local lives. The Bhopal Gas disaster is according to Bushra largely unknown in the west despite the American



Bushra Laskar

company Union Carbide owning the plant. The pesticide factory suffered a major leak which not only killed approximately 3 to 4000 people, but left many with severe disabilities.

For Bushra, the horror and scale of the disaster is rarely discussed and the American Company nor those responsible for ensuring the safety of the plant have ever been held to account.

In turning to the Bhopal Disaster as a source of inspiration for her new work, Bushra focuses on the determination of five women as they survive in the aftermath of the catastrophe whilst drawing on parallels from other disasters that share similar resonance.

According to Bushra, the show creates a surreal world which resonates with all cultures affected by globalization, combining Western science and music with Indian folkore and dance.

Whilst the submission by Bushra wasn't quite suited to the criteria given for the Departure Lounge Package Holiday, Ruby Glasnik - Producer for Derby Theatre's In Good Company felt the scale and ambition of the work warranted further support. Bushra already has plans to take the production to Edinburgh Fringe Festival and there was a sharing of the production in May given at The Ovalhouse Theatre in Kennington, London.

Bushra Laskar and her company will be in residence at The HopBarn in June finalizing the production before presenting it at The RADA festival in July.

The HopBarn is delighted to be able to offer support to both Vanessa and Bushra in order that they can develop their work for future performances.

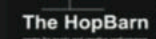
Whats on June & July



Saturday 8 July / 7.30pm

Apple of My Eye are the strongest contenders left under the microscope. Their music blends traditional English folk and modern song writing, using vocal harmonies and traditional instruments.

They play regularly around London and are fast becoming a regular highlight of the folk scene including South Green, Whitmore and localities such as Eborac and Eke Hall.



Summer Blues & Jazz Saturday 22nd July 2017 / 7.30pm / E8

The HopYards relaunch themselves for this summers gig celebrating the unique sounds of blues, roots and jazz.

from Adele to the Rolling Stones, from Etta James to the Jacksons and from Brubeck to Ramsey Lewis...it's only Rock and Roll, you will love it...

Tickets:
eventbrite.co.uk (search summer blues & jazz)
thehopbarn.org.uk (whats on Music and Performance)
Woodlanders (14 King Street Southwell)
info@thehopbarn.org.uk
07880 973 365

The HopBarn Hockerwood Lane
Upton Road
Southwell
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info@thehopbarn.org.uk / 07880 973 365

Apple of My Eye - The Beast Below Tour Saturday 8th July 2017 / 7.30pm / E12

The Beast Below's twelve distinct tracks tell twelve distinct stories - some sad, some light-hearted and some riotous. The recurring theme of small characters facing insurmountable odds and occasionally surviving, forms the narrative backbone of the album.

The album opens with the titular track *The Beast Below*, a vignette of nameless and timeless fishing vessel being torn apart by a squid-monster of impossible proportions.

The sweet harmonies of violin and cello are washed away with a rousing, defiant chorus as the helpless crew vow to 'not go down without a fight'. It's a brainstorming introduction to the groups evolved sound and storytelling that seeks joy in the misfortune and tragedy.

The HopBarn is extremely excited to be able to host Apple of My Eye as they tour *The Beast Below* to venues across the UK.

The work is exciting, fresh and innovative, presenting a unique experience for audience members attending.

Tickets: eventbrite.co.uk / thehopbarn.org.uk

summer blues & jazz saturday 22nd July / 7.30pm

The HopYards present an evening of classic and popular blues, roots & jazz



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