



New London Barn Playhouse
PO Box 9
84 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

Phone: 603-526-6710
Fax: 603-526-2514
E-mail: info@nlbarn.org
Website: www.nlbarn.org

BARN PRESS RELEASE

Companion Photo: [x] Yes [] No Photo Credit

For Details Contact:

Name: Lillian King

Direct Phone: 617-875-8907

**NEW LONDON BARN PLAYHOUSE announces
The 2010 Summer Season
May 1, 2010**

Kick-off: 53rd Annual Straw Hat Revue

Mainstage Season:

Harvey, Pirates of Penzance, Side by Side by Sondheim, Hello, Dolly!, Sleuth, Hairspray, Carousel, Steve Martin's Picasso at the Lapin Agile

NLBP Children's Theater to present *Let Down Your Hair Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, The Poet and the Rent, To Find a Wonder: A Knight's Journey* and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*

(New London, NH) June 6, 2010 – The New London Barn Playhouse, under the leadership of Artistic Director Carol Dunne, announces the theater's 78th season. Opening the season is the 53rd annual Straw Hat Revue, the theater's beloved introduction to the Acting Intern Company, from June 10-June 13th. The mainstage season begins with the classic comedy *Harvey* about an invisible white rabbit from June 15-20.

The Barn presents the Gilbert and Sullivan romp, *Pirates of Penzance*, a delight for the whole family, from June 22-July 4th. Everyone's favorite matchmaking musical, *Hello, Dolly!* runs from July 6-July 18. Tony award-cat-and-mouse mystery *Sleuth* from July 20-25. The Broadway smash hit *Hairspray* runs from July 27-August 8. Rogers and Hammerstein's timeless romance, *Carousel* from August 10-August 22. The season concludes with Steve Martin's hilarious *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* from August 24-September 5.

The Monday Night Series offers *Side by Side by Sondheim*, from "Comedy Tonight" to "Send in the Clowns." Don't miss this dazzling tribute to Broadway's greatest living composer!

The New London Barn Children's Theater will present *Let Down Your Hair, Rapunzel* on July 1, *Little Red Riding Hood* on July 15, David Mamet's *The Poet and the Rent* on July 23, *To Find a*

New London Barn Playhouse, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Corporation Press Release: Page 1 of 4

Wonder: A Knight's Journey on August 5 and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* on August 19 & 21st.

"The New London Barn Playhouse is embarking on its 78th season with tremendous momentum from last year's record-breaking year. We are so grateful to our audiences for supporting us so strongly in the midst of this economic crisis. Your attendance and your generous donations sent a clear message that this theater is vital to our community and that when times are hard, the arts enhance our lives and uplift us all." Carol Dunne, Artistic Director

THE SEASON

The Playhouse opens with the traditional Straw Hat Revue (June 10-13), a musical offering crafted each year to introduce the Acting Intern Company, 16 immensely talented young people chosen from over 1,200 performers. This year's revue is titled "*Get Happy*" and is directed by Carol Dunne, Barn Playhouse Artistic Director.

Harvey, the classic comedy of Elwood P. Dowd and his imaginary friend Harvey, a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch tall white rabbit, opens the Mainstage season on June 15th and runs until June 20. In the 1950 film version, Jimmy Stewart's portrayal of Elwood got him an Oscar nomination. Robert Sella, director of 2008's record-breaking production of *My Fair Lady*, returns to the Barn to direct this heartwarming play. Sella recently starred in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of *Private Lives* and has acted in most major theaters in the country, including several stops on Broadway. Barn favorite Tom Ford, seen in last year's *She Loves Me* and *The Producers*, stars along with Barn newcomer Julia Gibson (Film: *Michael Clayton*, B'way: *Night, Mother, Uncle Vanya, Stanley*.)

Pirates of Penzance launches the musical offerings for 2010. This raucous and rowdy musical comedy, complete with swordfights, romance, and plot twists, is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most beloved operettas and a joyous evening for all ages. The Barn Company will perform, directed by Carol Dunne, Artistic Director, whose production of *The Producers* was last year's smash hit. Tony Lawson, Tevye from 2008's *Fiddler on the Roof*, returns to play the dashing Pirate King. *Pirates of Penzance* runs from June 22-July 4.

Based on Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker*, *Hello, Dolly!* is a hilarious musical that tells the story of Miss Dolly Levi, professional meddler, as she attempts to make matches for several lovesick young people, and more importantly - herself! When it premiered on Broadway in 1964 with Carol Channing as Dolly, it swept the Tonys that year winning ten awards including Best Musical and Best Lyricist and Composer for Jerry Herman (*La Cage Aux Folles, Mame*). The Barn Playhouse production will star Alison Bevan, of Broadway's *Steel Pier*, as the irrepressible Dolly Levi and Peter Hackett as Horace Vandergelder. Mark Madama, also new to the Barn, will direct. For the past twelve years Mark has served as Resident Director at the Music Theater of Wichita, one of the largest regional musical theaters in the country. He is also an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Michigan. *Hello, Dolly!* runs from July 6 until July 18.

The hit Tony Award-winning whodunit, *Sleuth*, will be presented for one week only from July 20-25. This mystery will star Jeffries Thaiss, 2008's delightful Henry Higgins, as Milo, the part made famous in the 70's by Michael Caine, though more recently reprised in the 2007 film by Jude Law. This ultimate game of cat-and-mouse is played out in a cozy English country house when a celebrated mystery writer seeks revenge on his wife's young lover. Jim Petosa, Director of Theater at Boston University and Artistic Director at the Olney Theater in Maryland, will direct. Full of brilliant suspense, *Sleuth* won the Tony and Drama Critics Circle awards as Best Play of the Season.

Broadway smash hit, *Hairspray* runs from July 27 until August 8. *Hairspray* sweeps audiences away to 1960's Baltimore, where lovable plus-size heroine Tracy Turnblad has a passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program. Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can she manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess and find true love without mussing her hair? Based on the 1988 film by John Waters, this ebullient musical ran for almost seven years on Broadway and was made into a new film starring Zac Efron and John Travolta. Richard Roland returns to the the Barn, after 2008's *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, to direct along with choreographer Gregory Daniels of 2009's *The Producers*. Tom Ford takes on the role, originated by Harvey Fierstein, of the outrageous Edna Turnblad. Anne Torsiglieri (B'way: *Miss Saigon*, *Blood Brothers*, *Parade*, 1stNational Tours: *Fantine* in *Les Miserables*, TV: *Law and Order*, *Gossip Girl*) is featured as the stage mother from hell, Velma!

The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *Carousel* follows from August 10-22. Directed by Hans Friedrichs, NLBP Resident Director and director of last season's *Anything Goes*, *Carousel* is the story of true love overcoming life's challenges. Friedrichs will team with choreographer Jesse Factor, a member of The Martha Graham Dance Company. This musical was the personal favorite of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and was named the best musical of the 20th century by Time Magazine. Charles Massey makes return to the Barn stage as the Starkeeper, and Carol Dunne is featured as the scheming *Carousel* owner, Mrs. Mullins. Julie Jordan and Billy Bigelow will delight you with their songs of love featuring timeless classics including, "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone."

The final show of the 2010 Mainstage season is Steve Martin's *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile. His first comedy for the stage, the popular actor and screenwriter Steve Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame and fortune, as Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso spend a hilarious evening discussing life and art in one of Paris' oldest and most eccentric bohemian cafes. Gordon Clapp (last year's *Art*, TV: *NYPD: Blue*) Thom Miller (Barn: *Leading Ladies*) and Artistic Director Carol Dunne are featured in the cast of barflies. Malcolm Morrison, former Dean of the North Carolina School of the Arts, recently retired Dean of the Hartt School of Music, and director of last year's *Leading Ladies*, directs this hilarious play. Morrison recently directed the critically acclaimed productions of *Noises Off* at the Hartford Stage and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Hartt School. *Picasso* runs from August 31-September 5.

MONDAY NIGHT SERIES

The Barn Playhouse has traditionally presented a musical revue on select Monday nights throughout the summer. This summer's offering is *Side by Side* by Sondheim. The sophistication, wit, insight, heart and genius of Broadway's most innovative and influential artist is at the center of this tribute to composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim. This gorgeous and fast-paced evening features such hits as "Broadway Baby", "Send in the Clowns" and the brilliant opening number, "Comedy Tonight." Lillian King, director of the '08 and '09 Junior Intern Company, directs this dazzling tribute to Broadway's greatest living composer!. *Side by Side* By Sondheim is presented on Mondays June 28th, July 12, August 2, and 16.

BARN PLAYHOUSE is continuing its popular ONLINE TICKETING AND LOWER TICKET PRICES FOR YOUTH UNDER 16

"One of our greatest recent improvements is our offering of online ticketing. This new system enables us to serve our audiences much more efficiently and has been extremely successful since its inception last season," says Dunne.

"We are not raising any ticket prices this season and we are continuing to offer our reduced price for children 16 and under. It is part of our vision for the Barn that live theater remains accessible and affordable!"

Tickets for the general public are on sale now at www.nlbarn.org or at 603-526-6710. FlexPass tickets are currently available as are full season subscriptions.

History

The New London Barn Playhouse, a professional theater located in New London, NH, was founded in 1933 and is the oldest continually operating summer theater in New Hampshire. The legendary Norman Leger purchased the theater in 1955 and ran it until his retirement in 2005. At that time, a group of trustees led by Tom DeMille transformed the theater into its current not-for-profit status. In 2008, Carol Dunne was hired as Artistic Director and worked with the Board of Directors to define the theater's mission: to present vibrant theater created by emerging artists in collaboration with accomplished professionals. A plethora of successful theater artists got their start at the Barn including Tony-winning composer Stephen Schwartz, Broadway and film star Taye Diggs, and Matt Cavanaugh, current star of West Side Story on Broadway.