

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Media Open House Details, Q&A**

**Local media and journalists are invited to a Media Open House the day our Box Office opens for our 75th Season!** We have created a digital media kit for you here <https://barntheatreschool.org/news-2/media-kit/>you can download a few past performance photos, view anniversary shout outs from Famous Barnies and more.

 **Please Join Us! Tuesday, May 25, 2021, from 10am to 12pm**

The Box Office opens Tuesday, May 25 at 10am. We anticipate many patrons will be in line to purchase tickets to this seasons shows. You’re invited to a special Media Open House to talk with our owners, Brendan and Penelope Ragotzy, take tours of the Barn Theatre including the theatre, recently added second bar, updated Rehearsal Shed and more.

**What shows will be on stage for this 75th Anniversary Season**

Films Recorded on the Barn Theatre Stage during 2020 will be shown either in the theatre or in the rehearsal shed. These films are

* IN HOT WATER, a comedy written by Patrick Hunter. Showing June 8 -13
* THE WHISTLE PIG’S REVENGE, farce written by Brendan Ragotzy. Showing June 15-20

The 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala Celebration will be held June 25, 26 & 27. This is over 3 nights to allow more people to attend safely. Each night will include a 75Year movie presentation, live performances, special guest stars, live and silent auctions and the chance to meet the 2021 company. We’ll also honor new Wall of Fame Inductees!

**Mainstage Live Shows.** Mainstage shows are Tuesday – Saturday at 8pm, Sundays at 5pm. The Rehearsal Shed Bar is open 1 hour before shows AND the nightly Bar Shows are immediately following the mainstage performances.

* July 6 – 18, Dolly Parton’s 9 to 5 THE MUSICAL!
* July 20 – August 1, MAMMA MIA!
* August 3 – 15, SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
* August 17 – 29, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
* August 31 – September 12, Double 0 69, written by Brendan Ragotzy
* September 14-19, BEN HUR (A Comedy)
* September 21 – 26, A SLIPPERY SLOPE, written by Patrick Hunter
* October 22 – 31, THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

**What Did the Barn Theatre do Last Year to Survive?**

We were blessed with incredible support from our season ticket holders, many who donated their purchases for the year. The community and our patrons supported us with donations and purchases of our creative souvenir items we offered last year – from face masks, pet bandanas, paintings and more. A generous donor also matched our individual donors up to $25,000.

There were many organizations who supported us with grants and donations too. [Read that article here (link).](https://barntheatreschool.org/2021/05/moving-forward-in-planning-our-75th-anniversary-thanks-outstanding-support-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/)

**What Updates Have Been Made at the Barn Recently?**

While we were “off” last year from live performances, we invested a lot of time in improvements and updates to the Theatre and the grounds.

* We expanded our liquor license so there will be bar stations on the grounds as people arrive for shows.
* Added a second bar on the back side of the Barn where patrons can get a beverage before the shows, during intermission.
* We replaced the lobby entrance
* We’re adding a silo to house our souvenir’s available for sale, along with additional Barn memorabilia. The foundation is already poured, and the silo should arrive in late June.
* Refreshed the Rehearsal Shed with new paint, some updated lighting

**Will you have other special performances or events this year?**

Absolutely! Traditionally our seasons are around Memorial Day through Labor Day. We’re starting the season a little later this year, but extended it longer into the fall, too! We’ll have many Diamon Jubilee Celebrations throughout the year. Some include:

* July 11 & 12, the movie, Raunch and Roll will premier here. This is the only theatrical presentation in Michigan after the national release on June 1st. Most of the filming was done in Michigan and some of the cast & crew will be here in attendance.
* October 22 – 31 we’re bringing back The Rocky Horror Show this October. This is a favorite of our patrons every time we have it on stage.
* November 4-7, Tom Wopat and his band will perform on our mainstage.
* December 10 – 21, our Christmas Cabaret returns.

**Does the Barn Theatre offer Season Tickets?**

We do offer our Coupon Booklets which allow patrons to purchase tickets for shows of their choosing. Some range from opening night specials to attend all opening night performances

**Where can people buy tickets?**

The box office opens Monday, May 25 at 10am. Patrons can purchase tickets in person.

Tickets can also be purchased online at barntheatreschool.org

or Call Phone: 269-731-4121

**How much are tickets?**

We offer 3 ticket price options at $41, $45, & $49

**What is a Professional Equity Theatre & what is its role?**

Equity, or an equity theatre, is short for the Actors’ Equity Association, or the labor union that represents professional actors and stage managers. As an Equity theatre, every year we hire and train Apprentices to learn the trade of theatre and the craft of theatre production.

As a union theatre, our Equity members come from Broadway and Hollywood, and our Apprentices play a huge role in the success of The Barn.

To formalize the education of these Apprentices, Betty Ragotzy took steps to create The Barn Theatre School for Advanced Theatre Training in 1992. We have been an Equity theatre since 1955, and since then have always been teaching apprentice actors alongside professionals. When we formalized the **Barn Theatre School,** it formalized the Apprentices’ education here even more. These Equity Membership Candidates earn points toward joining the union all while their Apprenticeship studies are dedicated to all aspects of professional theatre production.

**About the Barn Theatre School**The Barn Theatre School for Advanced Theatre Training was created to administer to Apprentice Actors through a program of instruction, training, and practical experience in the preparation and presentation of theatrical productions. The School also brings Theatre to disadvantaged and underutilized youth through their Backstage Xperience, welcoming hundreds of children each year to explore behind the scenes tours with our Actors and attend a show, thus providing the possibility of creating the stars of the future by encouraging the youth of today. One of our 2021 Backstage Xperince shows is SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS THE MUSICAL.

The Barn Theatre holds performances every summer with mainstage shows and cabaret style shows in their Rehearsal Shed Bar. Many famous actors were once Barnies, and the Barn is where they got their start. Learn more about [Famous Barnies](https://barntheatreschool.org/actors-equity-theatre/famous-barnies/), The [Backstage Xperience](https://barntheatreschool.org/actors-equity-theatre/backstage-xperience-kids-performing-arts/) and the 75th Season’s events at [www.barntheatreschool.org](http://www.barntheatreschool.org).