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News and Events

January always feels a bit slow following the excitement of Christmas and the New Year. The long dark nights coupled with the recent wet and dismal weather have probably made it even more so for many of us.

It's been a delight therefore to have been able to programme some unique dance and music at The HopBarn through January, helping to alleviate to some extent the feelings of a sombre New Year.

It has also been equally exciting to kick off the New Year with an extended offer for fine artists wishing to engage with the performing arts. This new approach recently introduced to The HopBarn by sound artist Angie Atmadjaja, is helping to bridge the gap between the performing and visual arts.

Having recently been constructed, The HopBarn has been granted access to KKO in order to offer a unique space for fine artists wishing to come together and share artistic ideas, philosophies and extended practice.

Akin to The HopBarn, KKO was recently renovated out of a former shed used by the main farm to house young sows (gilts). As the farm undertook a change of business direction in 2010, the shed became abandoned and disused. Planning permission was recently awarded in order to convert it into a dwelling and now the space serves a dual use. The first as a family home and the second as a calming environment for small group gatherings and artistic workshops.



KKO @ The HopBarn

ShiKKOmo Kurebi or KKO @ The HopBarn is derived from a play on the Japanese characters of Shikkoku (Shi-Ko-ku) meaning Jet-Black and Komorebi (Ko-mo-re-bi) meaning the light that filters through the trees.



KKO @ The HopBarn has been initiated to connect local artists together. An initial gathering of fine artists took place on 9th January 2020 with further gatherings scheduled for later in the Spring. In principle,

the idea of KKO is to allow for artistic discussion, thought and dialogue, although it is hoped that by building a visual arts community, regular workshops and other such opportunities might take place at The HopBarn. Such opportunities might run separately, or in conjunction with further activities that take place in The HopBarn.



As an example The HopBarn recently hosted, Matter of Fact Dance Company and they were delighted to offer time and space to visual artists who would like to draw and sketch them whilst in rehearsal. Susan Isaac, a local artist spent two afternoons with the dancers painting and sketching whilst they rehearsed. Such opportunities will be extended as more theatre and dance companies come to reside at The HopBarn in order to undertake rehearsal periods.

Artist Group Gathering - If you are, or know of any practising artists who would like to join the next gathering, please contact Angie by emailing info@thehopbarn.org.uk



Photos (Clockwise from top right) KKO Space Interior, Artist Susan Isaac recording Matter of Fact Dance Co in Rehearsal, KKO Space Interior, KKO Exterior

www.thehopbarn.org.uk / info@thehopbarn.org.uk / 07880973365

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MATTER OF FACT

Matter of Fact Dance Company – *Era We Are*

Almost a year ago, Matter of Fact Dance came to The HopBarn to initiate a new work entitled *era we are*. Led by Choreographer and dancer Erin Pollitt, with Daisy Howell and Fanny Pouillot; Matter of Fact present quirky and inspiring work that take audiences on a trip back to the 1980's and early 90's.

Era We Are takes a good look at the way that popular trends and fashion in today's society, dictates and controls the minds and soul of young people. Here, Erin is challenging our popular perception that through targeted media, social media platforms and the rise of the celebrity culture; young people are inclined to follow such trends, comply and replicate them rather than formulate their own identity and unique self-realisation. The work pulls apart this idea and looks to question what happens when we rebel and follow our own thoughts and opinions.

The work has been extensively toured across the UK and Europe, being presented at a number of festivals and platforms. Now, having been accepted to include as part of Resolutions Dance Festival at The Place, in London; Matter of Fact Dance returned to The HopBarn in order to refine the work and extend it to meet the festival criteria.

Resolutions take place annually at The Place Theatre in London, considered the home of contemporary dance in the UK. The festival runs from 9th January through to 21st

February and is the main contemporary dance festival in the UK.



Fanny Pouillot and Daisy Howell in *Era We Are* by Matter of Fact Dance Co

Find out more at:

www.theplace.org.uk/whats-on

Sunjay Sings Buddy – Sat 25th January 2020

For those who have not had the experience of listening to Sunjay live, it is certainly a must to do in 2020. This young and enigmatic blues singer has established a huge reputation following his appearance on BBC Introducing in 2013.

Sunjay featured at the Gate to Southwell Festival in 2019 and came to The HopBarn in December last year to play his solo work. He was so good, that the offer of hosting his tour of Buddy Holly in January 2020 was simply too good to turn down.

Having undertaken the role of Buddy Holly for a UK tour, Sunjay along with his band has continued to tour this popular show across the UK for very good reasons. In little more

a couple of hours, and over 40 songs sung, Sunjay had managed to coerce the rather quiet and reserved audience members into a lively bunch of Rock 'n' Rolls dancers, taking the opportunity of the available floor space to get up and let themselves go.

Despite the cold and dark that awaited the audience members following the final song sung, everyone left in high spirits and were extremely complementary of evening and the atmosphere. The build-up to this event was immeasurable, although the joy and excitement experienced was even more so after.



Sunjay Sings Buddy

We look forward to programming Sunjay in the future, as he is truly a unique and gifted musician.

The Songs of Nick Drake - Sat 9th February 2020

Last April, The HopBarn was privileged to have had Keith James present the songs of Leonard Cohen in a special evening dedicated to Cohen's iconic image and cult following.

Without knowing Keith James before, the event was a masterful and enchanting rendition, showcasing Keith James's extraordinary musical talent and profound understanding of Cohen's work. Despite Leonard Cohen being a bit like Marmite, you either love or loath his work; Keith managed to do justice to his legacy, reflecting on his ideas, principles and

philosophies in order to make connections to the songs being sung and Cohen's slightly infamous character.

Keith James returns to The HopBarn on 8th February with another slightly obscure offer with the Songs of Nick Drake.

Reading into Nick Drake's history, and having experienced Keith James last April, it becomes clear why there is so much attraction to this young artist who sadly passed away in 1974 at the age of 26. Drake's work is sombre and poignant, evoking an undeniable sense of wonder and

bewilderment of life. There is tragedy and sadness in his lyrics, even more so in his voice, but, there is also a strong overarching sense of hope and belonging to which Drake gives us a warm and comforting feeling.

For many, Drake's life and musical contribution was cut short by the tragic circumstances surrounding his personal attributes. It has often been cited that due to his reluctance to perform live and be interviewed, he never made a success commercially

of his work. Perhaps this was his intention, to remain in the background and allow people to appreciate his work in their own time.

Following his release of the 1972 track *Pink Moon*, Drake retreated to the isolation of his family home in Warwickshire where on the 25th November 1974, he overdosed on prescribed anti-depressants.

The circumstances surrounding his death have though for many, questioned whether it was meant to be. In order for his music to live on and gain wider appeal, the few albums and songs that he did release have been acknowledged since his death as being truly important in shaping song-writing and the music since. He has since become almost a cult figure akin to Cohen and acknowledged in wider circles as contributing immensely to the folk-rock music scene.

It is now the responsibility of artists such as Keith James to ensure that his music and legacy lives on. Having listened to Nick Drake's work and reflecting on Keith James from April 2019, it is almost certain that this concert will offer a unique experience for everyone.

If you don't know Nick Drake's work, it is really worth taking the time to listen online through platforms like Youtube and Vimeo. You may find yourself being swept along unknowingly; it's like sitting by the river bank watching the water slowly flow past whilst the sunlight sparkles of the surface and through the trees. Calm, reflective and Serene on the surface, but perhaps a little more turbulent underneath.



Nick Drake

Nick Drake - Fly

*Please give me a second grace,
Please give me a second face,
I've fallen far down, the first time around,
Now I just sit on the ground in your way*

*Now, if it's time for recompense for what's done,
Come, come sit down on the fence in the sun,
And the clouds will roll by and we'll never deny,
It's really too hard for the fly*

*Please tell me your second name,
Please play me your second game,
I've fallen so far, of the people you are,
I just need your star for a day*

*So come, come ride in my street-car by the bay,
For now, I must know how fine you are in your way,
And the sea she will sigh but she'll never deny,
For it's really too hard for the fly*

Keith James



Nick Drake - Cello Song

*Strange face
With your eyes
So pale and sincere
Underneath you know well
You have nothing to fear
For the dreams that came
To you when so young
Told of a life
Where spring is sprung*

*You would seem so frail
In the cold of the night
When the armies of emotion
Go out to fight
But while the earth
Sinks to it's grave
You sail to the sky
On the crest of a wave*

*So forget this cruel world
Where I belong
I'll just sit and wait
And sing my song
And if one day you should see me in the crowd
Lend a hand and lift me
To your place in the cloud*

Whats On: February 2020

www.thehopbarn.org.uk

Keith James (Songs of Nick Drake)

08 Feb 2020

£14 (+ booking fee)



Songs of Love for a Valentine

Featuring The HopYards

14th February 2020

£13 adv. (+ booking fee)



Come and join The HopYards as they scale down and un-plug for this special evening event dedicated to love in celebration of Valentine's Day.

The Hopyards bring together a relaxed 3-piece set with Leona Ashley (Vocals) Stuart Poole (Piano) and Mike Mellor (Double Bass), to warm your hearts and put you in a romantic mood.

Proceeds from tonight's event will go towards the Lincolnshire Refugee Doctors Project

www.lincsrefugeedoctors.co.uk

Nick Drake is the most revered and loved of all this country's singer/songwriters. He recorded three cherished Albums between 1969 and 1972 but was almost entirely unknown in his day. After his tragic death in 1974, aged only 26, his music almost disappeared into obscurity. Now, thanks to a massive resurgence of interest and a worldwide re-evaluation of his genius, Nick Drake has become a National treasure.

'Meticulous dissection of Nick Drake's idiosyncratic guitar techniques handled with surgical precision'

Northern Sky

Joe Newberry & April Verch

A Gate to Southwell Event

15 Feb 2020 / £13



Born in Missouri Joe Newberry is a top notch banjoist, guitarist, singer and songwriter, a charismatic performer who charms audiences wherever he goes.

April Verch is a world class fiddle player, step dancer and singer from Canada's Ottawa Valley, who started step dancing at age three and playing the fiddle at age six! April has countless awards, ten albums and sixteen years of touring around the world under her belt with her own trio the April Verch Band.