



BACKSTAGE PASS

The Barnstormers Theatre, Tamworth, NH

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Interim Artistic Director



The Barnstormers Theatre board of directors is pleased and excited to welcome Joe Longthorne as Interim Artistic Director. Joe plans to honor the fine heritage of the theatre and bring a fresh perspective with diverse, socially relevant pro-

ductions to our stage. The Barnstormers will be celebrating its 91st season this summer with an exciting lineup of performances, and patron health and safety in mind.

Joe's infectious enthusiasm, energy and extensive entrepreneurial background in theatrical management were the key drivers in the board's selection process. In addition, Joe's background in finance and experience in production, marketing, strategic planning, acting and equity negotiations bring a robust skill set to the theatre, ensuring The Barnstormers is positioned to be artistically relevant as we move forward.

"I am so very humbled and thrilled to be appointed interim artistic director of this historic American theater." said Joe. "I made my professional debut onstage at The Barnstormers Theatre in 2010 in a summer production of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, a production which also featured former artistic director, Cope Murray. I have quite literally grown up at BST over the years, personally and professionally. My predecessor Bob Shea, cast me in that first production of *Forum*, and my great task ahead is continuing the strong traditions of his wonderful stewardship, while envisioning a new path forward for the future of live theater in Tamworth and the White Mountains of New Hampshire."

Our 91st Season

OUR TOWN

Thornton Wilder
July 27-31

FAR FROM CANTERBURY

Danny K. Bernstein
August 11-21

POPCORN FALLS

James Hindman
August 31-September 4

NEW WORKS

September 3

Tickets available June 7. The Barnstormers Theatre follows State of New Hampshire and Actors Equity Union COVID safety guidelines. For more information, visit barnstormerstheatre.org or call 603-323-8500





Theatre Renovation Update

The Board of Directors established a fund to make significant repairs to the theatre in the fall of 2020. Given building maintenance is an ongoing challenge, the board also established a comprehensive maintenance plan listing specific repairs needed, prioritizing each repair, estimating cost and defining a projected timetable.

The facilities committee received quotes for roofing, electrical upgrades, structural and cosmetic repairs and after an in-depth review, awarded the bids to local contractors Addison Mason Builders and DW Electrical.

They removed the crumbling asphalt shingles and replaced them with metal roofing which will last about 40 years. They repaired and updated the electrical components, loading doors and walls on the east side of the building, and made some cosmetic improvements on the north east and southeast sides.

The electrical upgrades involved Eversource (their pole to the building) which should eliminate flickering onstage during performances and bring us into compliance with current electrical codes. The roof replacement will eliminate leaking in the box office, bathroom, lobby and stage areas — which will also eliminate the need to make annual repairs to the inside of the theatre. Ultimately, we went approximately 25% over budget due to some old-structural surprises.

We anticipate painting the exterior of the theatre after the summer season.

In partnership with the Tamworth History Center, we are building an outdoor stage for the first two shows. We are excited to bring live theatre back to the Village and are looking forward to creating a summertime buzz which will hopefully benefit the Tamworth business community as well.



• THE BARNSTORMERS •

Theatre at its best!

Volunteer at The Barnstormers

Become part of The Barnstormers family and support your theatre by becoming a volunteer. Help out in the theatre before shows, at the concession stand or other positions that get you close to the excitement that is live professional theatre. Contact us at office@barnstormerstheatre.org or call 603-323-8661 for more information.

Our Barnstormers

Brendan Proal: It was in the high school theatre program that I met Abby, and we had multiple opportunities to perform together, including scenes that would be nominated for national festivals and competitions. After high school I enrolled in the theatre program at Dean College and through them I was introduced to The Barnstormers. I had enough tech experience to spend the summer of 2018 in Tamworth as a carpenter. I returned in 2019, and Abby came as well. These two years became my most formative as a member of the theatre. I got to work with amazing directors and designers from all over, have conversations with actors from all types. I also had the opportunity to take small roles in shows such as *Damn Yankees* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, while taking larger roles at college such as Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* and The Stage Manager in *Our Town*.



afternoons at Lake Chocorua, late night rehearsals in the Gilman, post-show bonfires, and learning from so many talented company members. One of my favorite shows at The Barnstormers was *The Producers*. In any Mel Brooks show, there is a constant theme of pure laughter from the moment you start rehearsal to the end of the run.

Abby Dwyer: I was that kid that was always fascinated by live performances. The choreography, the lights, the costumes, and the stories themselves drew me in so quickly I was taking dance classes from four years old and in theatrical performances as soon as I hit the fourth grade. I actually met Brendan in high school through the after school theatre program! From there I went on to study Theatre education at Bridgewater State university. While there, I performed in three musicals, a few straight plays, and three immersive productions, I was on the stage management team for two shows, and costume designed one. All the while, I was working in the scenic, prop, and costume shops, learning as much as possible. The summer after my junior year, I worked with the Weston Playhouse on six different shows as a costumes and wardrobe intern, and the next summer I worked at The Barnstormers Theatre!

The pandemic greatly affected my life this year, but I am so grateful that I was healthy and able to be a part of The Barnstormers community...even if it was over Zoom. I was lucky enough to escape NYC and come up to New Hampshire to spend the summer with my family. Although I was spending time at Lake Chocorua without my normal Barnstormers community, it was so refreshing to connect with the community through our online "Love Letters to The Barnstormers" series. I got to meet and work with company members that I have never performed with. I felt immediately connected to the entire community.

Becca Gottlieb: I have so many fond memories of my summers in Tamworth filled with joyous opening nights,

Madeleine Maby: Getting to work with Jordan has been another gift The Barnstormers has given me. Getting to do what you love the most with the person you love the most is a rare opportunity. Plus, it's nice to be on the same schedule. Picking up coffees at The Other Store, running lines behind the barn, rehearsing, and then spending the evening making food at Gilman and talking about rehearsals and the play. That's pretty much my perfect day.



Jordan Reeves: Working with Madeleine at The Barnstormers has been a joy and blessing in our relationship. I'm also a director, mostly in New York City, and have directed my wife numerous times over the years. However, we had not had many opportunities to act on stage together. I am so thankful that The Barnstormers gave Madeleine and me a place to come together and perform with other artists and friends, for a community we truly care about. Over the last decade Tamworth, and the theatre, has been our summer home away from home.

Exerpts of Barnstormers profiles. Go to barnstormerstheatre.org/news to read full articles and other Barnstormers news.

SUPPORT THE BARNSTORMERS!

Advertise In our 2021 Program Book
Become a Season or Show Sponsor

Your business will be featured on our website, in our print and online advertising, and curtain announcements.



CALL 603-323-8661 FOR DETAILS AND PRICING

Many thanks for helping to make our creative work possible

The Haynes Family Foundation

The Tamworth Foundation

Federal funds distributed by the State
of NH Governor's Office Of Emergency
Relief and Recovery

Federal funds distributed by the
NH State Council For the Arts

Generous contributions from The
Barnstormers Theatre Board of Directors

Donors and Patrons like you!

Spring Appeal

Help us raise the curtain once again on uplifting, engaging theater during the summer of 2021. Thanks to generous donors like you, The Barnstormers has weathered the worst of the storm. But we still need your help!

While we are looking forward to live performances soon, hurdles remain. We face financial challenges we could never have anticipated after cancelling our entire 2020 season. With your support today, we know we will have the opportunity to gather this year—and for years to come—to enjoy The Barnstormers that we all love.

Whether you attend one show a season or never miss a production, we know you believe, as we do, in the power of live theater. We are excited that we will once again have the opportunity to experience The Barnstormers in a few months, albeit in a modified fashion. But we need your help to get there.

Please consider a gift today to support The Barnstormers. Your contribution will help assure vibrant theater in Tamworth—for 2021 and beyond!

Mail your check to PO Box 434, Tamworth, NH 03886 or use your credit card or PayPal at barnstormerstheatre.org



SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, August 15
Jazz and Swing Dance
at The Preserve

THE TALL GRANITE BIG BAND

Dancing, cash bar, hors d'oeuvres

