

# BARNSTORM 2009

Jordans Place – May Hill – Longhope – Gloucestershire – GL170NL

## About Barnstorm

**Since 1995 Barnstorm**, a seven day drama and music camp for young people, has been running on May Hill. It takes place at the home of Celia and Gordon Holt who have been organising and hosting Barnstorm for the last 12 years. Tragically Celia died in November 2008, but Celia has taught us well and Barnstorm will continue, just as she would have wanted.

Each year 30 young people aged between 12-18 years arrive to camp and work with professional theatre directors, musical directors and artists, who throw out their usual fee to be part of this magical event.

For just one week of the year, a cottage garden, a track, a field and a village hall are transformed into a performing arts venue and the Gloucestershire countryside is filled with beautiful harmonies and a fair amount of screaming and shouting!

Barnstorm is truly unique event. The price of the week is kept to an absolute minimum and no profit is made. To help keep costs down participants' parents are asked to help out before or during the week. Many do this by preparing some bulk cooking. (Bolognese for ten?) Some help out with the costumes and scenery, others may turn up on the last day with their gloves, brooms and screwdrivers to help with the big clear up. One favourite peculiarity is that each actor is asked to bring a cake for ten and these are devoured during the afternoon tea breaks.

As Barnstorm's reputation has grown, so has the size of the audience. The final night has become the exclusive preserve of the families of the actors. They arrive at 6pm and set up their picnic in the gardens which they share with the actors before their call for the show at 8pm.

This year Barnstorm will run From August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> To gain a place you need to download a form from the Barnstorm website [www.barnstorm.org.uk](http://www.barnstorm.org.uk). The forms will be available from midnight on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. You then need to print out the form and send it off with your deposit to: Barnstorm, The Bank House, 11 Long Street, Dursley, Glos. GL11 4HL.

Barnstorm has become very popular, so please return your form straight away to secure your place. Before you sign the form be sure you know what you are signing up for – Barnstorm could change your life!

Please note: Barnstorm is very hard work. The working day is often from 9am – 9pm. All participants have to take part in the whole week including the clearing up on the last day. If you feel your child is not ready for this kind of commitment please give it another year.

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**Barnstorm 2009** is a seven day drama and music camp for young people aged 12 to 18. Led by **Jo Bousfield**, **Tessa Kemp** (directors), **Jez Taylor** (musical director) and a professional team of designers and technicians, participants will devise and rehearse an entirely original musical that will be performed twice on the final afternoon and evening. This year I (**Tessa Kemp**) will be doing the administration and **Sue Smee** will be running the catering. Every participant will get the chance to write lyrics, influence the storyline, develop interesting characters, choreograph movement and a whole lot more! Everyone is guaranteed a speaking part. There are no auditions. Remember Barnstorm is hard work, the days are from 9am – 9pm!

## Dates

### Devising day

**Saturday 18th July** from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

At May Hill Hall - Attendance will be optional, but do your utmost to attend. It is hoped that enough material will be gathered to enable the team to develop a scenario before the week proper begins.

### The Week

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Sunday 9th August**

The Barnstorm week will commence at 10am on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** and finish, after clearing up, at 12.00 noon on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**. All participants will go home on the Tuesday evening and return at 10.00am on Wednesday. No one, apart from the team will be allowed to stay on the Barnstorm site on Tuesday night; if you think this might be a problem please mention it in good time so that arrangements can be made for you to stay with other participants.

Please note: Only in exceptional circumstances will participants be allowed to arrive late, leave early or take time off in the week. You must talk to Jo Bousfield or Tessa Kemp if you feel this may apply to you. Anyone who assumes it is alright to take time off without pre- arranged permission will jeopardise their chance to take part in Barnstorm in the future.

## Location

As usual, Jordans Place will be the nerve centre and Management bolthole. This is the home of Gordon Holt (my father) and hopefully by summer my family will have moved there too. Some activities and the performances will happen in May Hill Village Hall which has toilets, shower and kitchen. Participants will camp, in their own tents, in the nearby scout field where there is a loo for overnight use. All meals will be provided.

## Cost

The cost this year will be £150 per participant. A deposit of £50 per participant is required at the time of booking. The balance of £100 must be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> July. For convenience this may be paid in the form of a post-dated cheque at the time of booking. You may of course send the total amount with your booking. All cheques should be made payable to 'Barnstorm'.

## Help

The cost of the week can only be kept down if parents provide assistance with such things as helping with cooking during the week, costumes, scenery or clearing up on the last day. Parents who do help usually enjoy seeing how the week works and being part of such an exciting event. All participants will be asked to supply specific food items (in addition to the usual cake).

## Book Early

Numbers will be strictly limited to 35 with an initial maximum of 20 girls. In the past, places have been filled very quickly so it is essential to book early. To secure a place, print out and post the completed form with the deposit.

As well as returning your form by post please email your child's name and age to: [barnstorm@thebankhouse.org](mailto:barnstorm@thebankhouse.org). This enables me to have a valid working email address and to send a confirmation of your application status. If you have any queries about your booking or the week please phone (01453 549611) or email me at the address above.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please return the forms to – Barnstorm 09, The Bank House, 11 Long Street, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL114HL

*Best wishes*

*Tessa and all the Barnstorm team*

***Barnstorm is a 'no alcohol' week for all the cast, whatever your age. We are asking all actors and their parents to sign a form saying they support this policy. This will be sent out with the second letter in July.***