

# A Barn by Any Other

*The O'Neill Farm.  
Fabian's.  
The Lakeview Barn Dance.  
The LAB.*

Whatever name you know it by 'The Barn' has been a staple in the Bobcaygeon community for many years and this year celebrates the 50-year anniversary of its transformation from cattle barn to dance hall.

The Lakeview Barn Dance had its grand opening on June 10th, 1967 to celebrate Canada's Centennial. The Barn quickly became the place to go on a Saturday night: admission was \$3 per couple, and there would be live music until 1am- usually provided by Don Imrie and The Ramblers. There are some discrepancies as to what song would traditionally end the night. Some say it was the Carl Smith country classic "I Overlooked an Orchid (While Searching for a Rose)" followed by "God Save the Queen"; others maintain it was Charlie Pride's "Crystal Chandelier"...and there are others for whom the last song of the evening was always going to be a hazy memory!

As a dance hall, The Barn became a gathering place for the community. It has been used for weddings, birthday parties, proms and much more and continues to be used as such today. However the conversion of the barn in 2006 and the introduction of Globus Theatre as theatre-in-residence at the LAB has allowed the space to contribute to the community in a whole new way. I had the opportunity to speak with **Sarah**

**Quick** (Artistic Director) and **James Barrett** (Artistic Producer) about their repurposing of the building as a Performing Arts Centre and home to Bobcaygeon's first professional theatre company.



**MY: How did Globus Theatre end up in the Lakeview Arts Barn?**

**SQ:** Well, James and I founded the company in 2003 and for two years we rented a theatre in Lindsay...as our audiences grew we realized that, in the long term, if we were going to invest our time and effort into having a theatre company that we needed a space that was 100% ours, and conducive to the theatre that we

were doing, and so we started looking. We knew that we wanted to be in the city of Kawartha Lakes. We started going around all sorts of buildings...we looked at an antique store in Coboconk-  
**JB:** An old cheese factory in Bobcaygeon, then a barn in Fenlon Falls, all kinds of places...

**MY: And you decided upon The Barn! What was the process of turning an event hall into a theatrical space?**

**SQ:** We had to do a lot of renovations; it was just a big room so we needed to add the blackbox

theatre - that was the style of theatre we wanted: people being very close to the action. We wanted to make sure that it was comfortable from day one, nice theatre seats, air conditioning, a really comfortable contemporary cozy space so that if we managed to get people through the door for our first season they would continue coming back. There was one problem with the tin roof-

**JB:** It's an old barn, it has a tin roof, and whenever it rained you couldn't hear or even have a conversation.

**SQ:** Literally every time it rained, you would have had to stop the performance. So, we had the spray foam acoustic insulation sprayed...and when they sprayed it up there, there was so much nicotine in the beams- because this had been a dance hall that allowed smoking for years- that it started seeping through this beautiful white spray foam. Not the image we were looking for!

**JB:** No. So, we had to have the beams sealed and painted- except for the ones that were still exposed, and then insulated over that. We wanted to preserve some elements of the barn - not rewrite history but rather give it an element of comfort conducive to people enjoying a show.



# er Name....

**A History**  
 by **Matthew Yipchuck**  
 Archivist

**MY: What drew you to The Barn as a space to grow Globus Theatre?**

**SQ:** While we didn't really know this building before we came across it, as soon as we came in here it had the right vibe for the type of theatre we wanted to do: a very friendly, convivial sort of meeting place. This was the place where people in the local area got married, where they came for dances, where they socialized and it definitely has that feel about it and that's what we wanted from the theatre: no level of pretention, no level of 'this isn't for you'. This is theatre for everyone. If you want to dress up to the nines and come and have a fancy night out then that's awesome, if you want to come off your tractor in your

innovative or provoke debate, alongside ones that purely entertain.

**JB:** If our patrons can delight in the theatre as a place to socialize; to enjoy laughter, discourse and a great night out; then we've done our job.



wellies and come and see a show: awesome. That's what I love about looking out at our audiences: there really are people from all walks of life.

**JB:** We actually had to hold one man's meal last year because he was birthing a cow.

**MY: What are some highlights of the past twelve seasons operating out of the LAB?**

**SQ:** Well, we've produced over 100 plays now including 7 world premieres and 14 Canadian premieres, and that's important to us: putting stories onstage that our audiences haven't necessarily seen before. Different plays – ones that can be theatrically



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