

COMING
28 March-4 April
'Beauty Within'
devised by
Saskia Ulrike
Schilling
and 'Tower'
devised by David
Richards

Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT
01273 746118 (24hr)
info@newventure.org.uk

NEW VENTURE
T H E A T R E

THEATRE
NEW WRITING
CLASSES

'Five Kinds of Silence'

by Shelagh Stephenson
directed by Kirsty Harbron
21-28 February 2009

" I love my family. They're mine. I love them. What's different about me, see is that I love them more than what you might call normal."

When asked why I wanted to direct a play about such a harrowing and bleak topic, I replied that I was struck by the power, intensity and beauty of the writing. Stephenson has created a compelling tapestry of monologues and interviews which unravel the shocking story of cycles of abuse within a family. Yet this play is not just about abuse; it is about control, madness and despair; themes which, at some point, will resonate with each member the audience.

Originally performed as a radio play, then first staged in 2000, the play contains wonderfully

figurative and descriptive language, which has cultivated many theatrical possibilities during the rehearsal process. The cast have been able to explore beyond the words and work in ways that have been both challenging and rewarding.

Working as an ensemble, they have explored the play's themes as well as characterisation and have developed their own in-

terpretation of the text. I've had the privilege of



Photo by Strat Mastoris

L. to R. Lyn Fernee,
Sarah Charsley, Sandra Ventris

working with an adventurous and committed cast, who have been open to new ideas and

(continued top of page 2)

'Some Kind of Sound' - a second act to 'Five Kinds of Silence'

The New Venture Theatre proudly presents a talented musical duo as a second act to Five Kinds Of Silence. "Some Kind of Sound" will be an hour of guitar, tambourine and vocals provided by Janna Fox and Charlotte Grimes, both NVT members better known for their theatrical and backstage contributions.

Their first ever performance, after few rehearsals, was actually in the studio for the end of season "Shindig" 2008. They then discovered a joint love of music, harmonies and an extraordinary combination of voices. Since then they have been meeting regularly in living rooms across Hove to create their own songs, not without plenty of cups of tea, and cake!



Photo by Strat Mastoris

L. & R. Charlotte Grimes and Janna Fox

They have played at open mic nights at The Juggler and The Bell and been well received at both. 2009 has been very busy for this new all-singing all-song-writing team so far, asked to perform as

(continued top of page 2)

'Five Kinds of Silence' (continued from page 1)

pushed out of their comfort zones on many occasions. They comprise of both established members and newcomers, making this an exciting blend of talent and experience, including Sandra Ventris as Mary, who was recently seen, briefly yet comically, in 'True West', adding to many previous roles at the theatre.

The challenging roles of Susan and Janet are played powerfully by Lyn Fernee and Sarah Charsley, respectively. Darren Cockrill and Amanda Urwin-Mann perform many authority figures who try to deconstruct the women's lives and un-

derstand their silence.

This production uses a striking set and innovative sound design by Janusz Rust and lighting design by Carl Boardman to create a piece of total theatre not to be missed.

Attending this play is not intended to be a miserable experience, but rather a thought-provoking one. Theatre's function is not just to entertain - this play contains a universal, powerful message. Looking at recent news articles should reinforce the contemporary relevance of this play; it reflects a shocking, hidden truth.

Kirsty Harbron
Director

'Some Kind of Sound' (continued from page 1)

one of five acts at the music monthly at The Hope and the Smarty Pants party at The Sanctuary in the same week followed by the first heat for "Brighton's Got Talent" at The Brunswick the week after! It seems things are moving quickly for them and quite right too!

They will be performing their own invigorating live acoustic set in the South Hall after the play following a short interval and are pleased to be performing at the NVT again, the place that originally brought them together.

They have been working on new material inspired by this compelling piece of drama including Charlottes "Five Kinds Of Silence". They will also be responsible for lightening the mood!

This is a unique opportunity to witness some up and coming talent in the studio and bar, theatrical and musical. Come and enjoy the play, wind down afterwards to some soulful, original music and see what the NVT is all about; people, writing, performing, creativity and unity.

Janna Fox and Charlotte Grimes

Ticket request

To: The Box Office Manager, NVT, Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

Please reserve for me _____ tickets for

"Five Kinds of Silence" and "Some Kind of Sound"

Saturday 21 February & Tuesday-Saturday 24-28 February at 7.45 pm

Matinee on Sunday 22 February 2.30 pm

(No performance on Monday)

Tickets: £7.00 (Friends £6.00) Tuesday: all tickets £5

Last Friday & Saturday £8.50 & (£7.50)

NAME: _____ Membership number _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

March newsletter dates

Final copy date

Monday 2 March

Printing

Thursday 12 March

Stuffing & posting

Wednesday 18 March

Message from our Artistic Director

Here's an update:

You'll see, elsewhere in this newsletter, details of a play reading on Friday 13th February. This will be an informal members' get together to read and hear a new play and discuss its merits in the bar afterwards. We hope to hold these regularly, but that depends on the level of interest, so please support this first one!

Pat Boxall had a great response to her auditions for "Festen" and now has a very strong cast for this fine play, which is our first Festival production this year.

Our second Festival show will be a hugely entertaining Tom Stoppard double bill, "The Real Inspector Hound" and "After Magritte" from 19th-24th May and directed by Mark Wilson and Martin Nichols.

Strat Mastoris is directing a powerful Genet double bill ("The Maids" and "Deathwatch") in the June slot instead of "Madame Rousseau" which was scheduled for July. We decided that this new play needed more time for development before being ready for performance and hope we can work with the writer on this.

This leaves the July production vacant, so ideas from directors would be welcome.

I've been talking to various directors regarding the 2009/10 Season and I'm pleased to say there's a lot of exciting ideas floating around. I'm going to try to finalise the programme by May so that means I need proposals during February. In the first instance just talk to me about plays you're passionate about so I can discuss them with my support team. Those that are short listed will need a full submission by the directors concerned and approval by the committee.

My objectives for next season are to have a popular and balanced programme of high quality scripts. What do I mean by "balanced"? Well, I could write a book, but I'd rather talk about it, so come and see me on Saturday mornings 10-12 at the theatre.

All the best and here's hoping I've not missed anything!

Mike Stubbs

New Venture Theatre readings

On Friday February 13th (**THIS Friday**) we will be having a reading of new writing (work in progress). The reading will take place in the South Hall and the bar will be open.

This will be the first of regular readings to take place at NVT. To become regular it will need the support of all members, including friends. The readings will be for new writing and estab-

lished scripts, Wilde, Shaw, Pinter, Churchill et al. It will be an informal setting for everyone to join in. Scripts will be supplied and there will be no entrance charge. The first reading is taking place on Friday 13th, future events will be taking place on Monday Members Meeting night, March 2nd and April 20th.

We can use the event for a read through of plays for next season

or plays we cannot do, just a suggestion. If **you** have any suggestions of plays you would like to have read please let me know via the newsletter or my e-mail moss80@hotmail.com

These readings will only run with your support so come along meet friends, new members and have a luvvies night out.

Susan Moss

Notices

'The Therapists' postponed

Dear Members,

We are sorry that January's double reading event of the Therapists had to be postponed. This was due to ill health. We hope that later in the year it will be re-scheduled,

Yours,

Andy Thomas and the team

Audition Notice

'The Maids' and 'Deathwatch' by Jean Genet

Directed by Strat Mastoris

Both 'The Maids' and 'Deathwatch' are plays about people who are trapped, and who try to find ways to overcome their imprisonment. Physical escape is not possible, so the characters employ psychological means to assert their existence.

In 'The Maids', two housemaids, sisters in their thirties, have been forced by economic and class reasons into the employ of Madame, a bourgeois woman in her twenties. They are dependent on Madame, they envy and hate her, and they hate themselves both for envying and for wanting to **be** her. The maids have arranged the imprisonment of Madame's lover and prepare to poison Madame herself. The plot begins to unravel, however, and so one sister prepares her own ultimate escape ...

The protagonists in 'Deathwatch' are physically imprisoned inside the stone blocks of a gaol cell. Status is conferred by the severity of a man's crime, and Green Eyes is a condemned murderer awaiting execution. Tensions mount as the other two cell-mates jockey for position and attempt to usurp Green Eyes' authority within the cell.

The action of both plays is very constrained: a bedroom and (even more limited) a prison cell. Characters circle round each other in a confined space, and the emotional pressure cooker heats up. Genet was fascinated by the ritualistic struggles of outcasts and their oppressors, and this pair of plays will make for a gripping evening at the NVT. YOU can make it happen.

We are looking for cast and crew for the Genet double bill.

We need:

The Maids	Solange / Claire	Two housemaids, sisters, 30-45 Solange is the elder
	Madame	Their mistress. She is younger, 20-30
Deathwatch	Green Eyes	30-45
	Lefranc	Slightly older (a couple of years or so)
	Maurice	Younger than the others by some years
	The Guard	Could be any age

It's the age balance among the characters that will make the play work, not their exact ages, so don't worry if you are not in the specified age range, someone else may not be either.

We also need crew for this production: **Stage Manager, Set Designer, Set Builders, Costume Designer, Costume Liaison, Props, Sound Designer, Lighting and Sound Operators, Et Cetera .**

Auditions will take place on **Sunday 1 March** at NVT, from 2 - 6 pm in the South Hall, with call-backs Tuesday 3 March 7-9 pm. Please contact Strat or Tamsin to arrange times, as we are splitting the afternoon between auditions for the two plays.

The production itself runs from **20 - 27 June** 2009

Both plays are available from Amazon, and Audition Extracts will be available in the South Hall and on request. For more information, contact

Director	Strat Mastoris	strat@stratmastoris.com	07950 872230
Production Manager	Tamsin Fraser	tamsin.aidallbery@bt.com	07795 981173

Acting Classes

16 and 23 February - Exploring the non-verbal as a dramatic tool.

Tamar Daly is an experienced improviser and movement based performer, particularly interested in the tension between verbal and non-verbal dramatic devices, and between narrative and abstract performance texts.

2, 9, 16 and 23 March Creating surrealist comedy sketches/plays - **Andy Thomas**.

Examining the inspiration behind the Pythons, Father Ted, Curb your Enthusiasm and Woody Allen. The intention is to create our own show in the fourth.

30 March, 6, 20 and 27 April (Note: there won't be a class Easter Monday)

Denise Evans - Voice for Performance workshops will incorporate diverse techniques; inspired by the work of Grotowski (Poland), Kabuki Theatre (Japan), and the techniques of Patsy Rodenburg (England). Voice work that engages the heart, the mind and the body, aiming to free the voice, connect with the breath, and allowing the actor to speak with clarity and passion.

Participants should wear loose and comfortable clothing.

Denise has worked as a theatre practitioner since 1982, and has worked with numerous companies as an actor, director, and teacher of voice and performance skills. Companies include Kaboodle Productions, Volcano, BAC, Boilerhouse, Komedija, Glasgow Citizen's, The Young Vic and Vital Theatre. Most recently she played the title role in Company: Collisions' *Medea* at the Butrinti Classical Theatre Festival in Albania. Denise is currently directing George Dillon's *The Man Who Was Hamlet*, for Vital Theatre, touring in 2009, and Sarah Leaver's new piece, *Memoirs of a Hermaphrodite*, which premiered in Brighton in December 2008.

Ulrike Schilling

Congratulations to Luci!

Luci, who managed our box office last season, has had a baby girl.



Poppy Ella was born on Thursday 22nd January!

All the best for the parents and Poppy Ella!

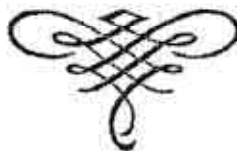
Ulrike representing the committee

Owing to a typo from our Publicity Department - please note that the web address for Acappella Fusion should have previously read **www.acappellafusion.com** (two L's not one).

Profuse apologies

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Website: www.acappellafusion.com

NVT Awards

Reviving an in-house awards event

At the AGM it was suggested and agreed that we should introduce - or for the longer standing members, revive - an in-house awards event. We will have a set of categories and all members will be able to vote. Voting will be limited to NVT productions from this season and will open after the season ends, running over the summer break.

The awards evening will be part of the social event in Septem-

ber to start the 2009/10 season.

Although there may be stiff competition for some categories, we want to maintain an element of fun. So in addition to the expected awards - Best Actor; Best Director; Best Production etc. - we want to have some fun awards as well.

So as a start to the new (revamped) NVT Awards, we would like suggestions for cate-

gories for these awards; serious and silly. But please resist any pointed categories e.g. 'Best Play with Rabbits in the Title'. From these suggestions we will create a list of awards and keep you posted on this.

Towards the end of the season the voting will start, with a reminder of the season's productions.

Ian Black
Admin Director

More Notices

From Mike Stubbs: I wasn't able to be at the theatre on Saturday 31st January, because I was away on holiday, but I will be there the following week and thereafter from 10am-12noon if anyone wants to talk to me.


Mike Stubbs
Artistic Director

Reading – Friday February 13th "Consequences".

An informal 1st reading (work in progress) will be held at the theatre, in the South Hall. There is no

**TO BE
REMOVED?
Awaiting word
from Susan**


charge and the bar will be open. Come and support new writing, bring a friend and socialize. Find out what is going on (or not) at the theatre. We are hoping to have informal 1st readings as a regular slot in the theatre's calendar but it will only happen if members support it. The writer will be present to hear their words spoken and make notes and will be



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POSTPONED: Lighting & Sound Workshop

Due to unforeseen circumstances we had to cancel the **Lighting and Sound Workshop** on Saturday 7th February, and have now rescheduled it for Saturday 7 March instead – 3-6pm.

If you would like to get involved with Lighting and Sound for a theatre production, this is your opportunity! Not only will you learn how sound and lighting works, but you can get involved in forthcoming shows and get hands on experience.

Ulrike