

'The Steamie'  
by  
Tony Roper  
Directed by  
Leanne McKenzie  
4-11 December

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NEW VENTURE  
T H E A T R E

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# 'Gaby Goes Global'

By Judy Upton  
Directed by Ian Black  
6-13 November 2010

Gaby Goes Global is a new comedy by local award winning playwright Judy Upton; it was written last year and performed for 3 nights at Wimbledon Theatre. As it is set in Brighton it seemed appropriate for a production to happen here.

Gaby is an employment advisor in Worthing who gets transferred to the Brighton Job Centre to cover for sickness. She is surprised that so many of her claimants are unemployed artists. This leads her to an idea that could be mutually beneficial to her and the unemployed artists she has met and a new meaning for the role of Job Club. However she doesn't plan for the full deviant nature and entrepreneurial extremes of some of the group and without her knowledge she becomes an overnight worldwide celebrity.

This play has been an enjoyable and fun experience from the development side and we hope it will be at least equally fun and enjoyable for the audience. The play is based around adult themes, but should not be too shocking for most people, more tongue-in-cheek comments on some aspects of society and the way people are viewed.

The cast heralds some new faces to the NVT, as well as welcome returns and some new to our stage. Hannah Liebeskind

takes on her first role with New Venture as Gaby ably supported by Imogen Miller-Porter - returning after a



Moog as Matt, Hannah Liebeskind as Gaby

Photo by Strat Mastoris

short break - Moog and Nick Green - both new to the New Venture - Janet Hewlett-Davies - bravely working with me again after Three Tall Women - Sarah Lauridsen and Dan Walker - following their last non-speaking roles in A View from the Bridge - and Sarah Garbutt in her first stage role. Sarah has also taken on the role of Assistant Director, with Lou Preecy as Stage Manager and Tom Kitch keeping us all in check as Production manager. A big thank you to all cast and crew - especially those still not mentioned.

Judy Upton will be participating in a Q&A session after the Thursday evening performance.

**Ian Black - Director**

Page 2: Main Theatre:  
licence variation granted

AGM - Wednesday 17 November at 19.30

GREAT NEWS!

# NVT's Main Theatre

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## VARIATION TO OUR LICENCE

The good news is that we have been granted the variation to our licence. It means we can now stage public performances again in our Upstairs (Main) Theatre. We intend to create an attractive flexible space. We will be able to keep the proscenium arch principle, but keep the performance and audience areas flexible. So with the seating movable, use of differing levels, we can create an exciting performance area.

The space is available now to use and with a bit of imagination and hard work we could stage events there now.

However we are forming a little team to get the refurbishment started.

## MAIN THEATRE FUND RAISING PROJECT

Following on the success of the fund raising for the Fire Detection and Emergency Lighting Project,

which was instrumental in the success of our licence variation application, Mike Stubbs our fund raiser is about to launch a fund raising campaign (see page 6) to support the purchase of seating, lights, sound, electrics and refurbishment. This is a major project and we are looking for as much support as possible. Details soon and at the AGM on 17th November.

**Jerry Lyne**  
on behalf of the Committee



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## What's going on behind the Green Door: Rebirth of the Main Theatre

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Our much loved New Venture Theatre has played an important role in the creative and artistic life of Brighton and Hove since it started in the 1940s. In 1953 NVT opened the Main Theatre. Many will remember happy evenings in the theatre, which had a very special atmosphere.

In 2005 it was closed because of fire regulations and since then NVT has performed all its shows in the studio theatre on the ground floor. You will have heard the great news that a performance licence has been granted, and the old theatre is being reborn using a flexible and modern design, but retaining the possibility of creating a proscenium arch when required for individual shows.

From rebirth to reopening the theatre will cost around £20,000 to refurbish (and that's just phase 1). A small planning team has been set up to help raise the funds needed.

At the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> November there will be an opportunity for members to give their views on this project.

And at our Christmas party on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December** we will be using the occasion to launch the rebirth and show you the initial plans.

**So save that date and come dressed to impress!**

We are also planning a special gala event on **Saturday 9 April 2011** to help encourage other potential

benefactors to give individual or corporate sponsorship. We will be looking for 'Angels' to help our dream take flight. Our Angels will be able to put their names on a theatre seat in perpetuity for £100, More details will follow but save that date too - which will include 1950s entertainment.

Please contact me if you would like to donate an auction or raffle item or to provide any other sort of support for either of these events.

Thanks for your support

**Mike Stubbs**

# FUTURE EVENTS

by Ulrike Schilling, Artistic Director

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## January Production confirmed – Speed the Plow by David Mamet

As we had to change our Christmas production, due to the loss of "Gaslight", and move "The Steamie" from January to December, I am delighted to announce that Steven O'Shea will be directing "Speed the Plow" by David Mamet.

This will be Steven's first production at NVT, in which he will be drawing on his experience of directing many plays in the London Fringe, at LAMDA and the Munden Theatre Company.

Auditions will be at the end of October, so make sure you don't miss them!

## New Season Opening Social – Review

To open the season 2010/2011 we had a Social evening on September 11<sup>th</sup>, which saw a varied programme. Acts included traditional folk songs performed by Jo Mortimer and Mark Price, a short sketch "The Audition" written and performed by Isabelle Mackenzie and Ben Pritchard, an excerpt of "Licence" written and performed by Jonathan Brown, folk and blues music performed by Tom Robinson and Isabelle Mackenzie singing whilst accompanying herself on the piano. New and established members as well as ex-members supported the bar and had a good time throughout the night. Another highlight was the Raffle of wine boxes and Cava to support our Fundraising.

Many thanks to Lou Preecy and Ian Black for manning the bar all night and Chris Pugh and Daniel Stevens for technical support as well to all the acts.

If you missed this one, make sure you don't miss the next social on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2010!

## Members Meet

Another good opportunity to catch up with other members and find out what's going on, where help is needed and how you can get actively involved are Members Meet evenings. For more than two years we are holding these evenings for new members and potential members to find out about the theatre and best ways of getting involved. This normally includes a tour of the theatre and some drinks at the bar.

The next Members Meet is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Feel free to tell your friends about it and come along yourself!

Ideally we would like to offer some theatrical experience at these meetings, e.g. a play reading, scratch nights, acoustic live music etc. If you would like to contribute to such an evening or would like to chat about some ideas, please get in touch - [ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk](mailto:ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk)

## Upcoming Acting Classes and Workshops

**11, 18, 25 October and 1 November**

### ***Creation and Development of Character and Plot through Improvisation -- Steve Coulson***

Learn how to invent a character from scratch, and build that character up into a fully realised, living, breathing personality that feels very comfortable to inhabit. Using emotional development, movement, and exploration of differing acting techniques your

character can then improvise naturally with other characters to create a short, scripted scene!

**8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November and 6th December**

### **Characterisation and Text into Performance - Becoming an exquisite actor in five easy sessions -- Mark Wilson**

This set of five sessions will take participants through the processes of communicating a character's situation to an audience, both physically and vocally, by looking at 'story' and how the writer's story might then be told by actors. Each class will be run in a way that fits all levels of experience and as a discrete unit – perfect for those able to attend all or just one or two of the sessions. You will be working on your own and in small groups. There will be opportunities to present work and gain feedback on performance but there will be no pressure to perform – process being more important than product. The intention is that it should be a learning, skills-based process, ideal for the 'beginner' as well as those with more experience. It is my intention that all of us shall leave the session with more than we came in with.

## Physical Theatre Workshop - Touch and Go Theatre

**13 November 2010 10am - 3pm £15 (£10 members)**

Somerset-based Touch and Go Theatre visit to explore some of the physical theatre tools necessary to help dig "The Well". "The Well" by Jonathan Brown will be performed at the NVT 5 - 12 March 2011. (Part of a weekend of workshops/performances in Sussex. F.f.i.

**[www.touchandgotheatre.co.uk](http://www.touchandgotheatre.co.uk)**

To book a space please contact [ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk](mailto:ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk)

# SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED

## Seven Characters in Search of a Production

A Guest Review: 'Of Mice and Men' by Barry Hewlett-Davies

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The original title of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* was "Something That Happened" and something unexpected happened with this production. The director, Tim McQuillen-Wright, decided to have seven characters played by one man – Carl Boardman. It's a bold decision, brought about, perhaps, because it's easier to find one first-rate actor than seven. If I'm wrong about that, I apologise. The decision is valid artistically as well.

It works. More or less.

Carl is the entire staff of the Californian ranch in the American Depression of the 30s which is the setting for the action.

He is in the position (does anyone envy him?) of having to talk to himself, has to help himself up off the ground, and finally rounds himself up into a lynch mob. He does this by changing gloves, hats, walks and voices, and, thanks to his being brilliantly confident, he doesn't come over at all like a quick-change artist in old time music hall.

Whether the audience kept up with him at the performance I saw, is another matter. It is asking a lot, after all.

*Of Mice and Men* is one of those plays where disaster is inevitable. You know from the onset that no-one is going to win. This is its strength and the reason why it has lived and breathed so healthily for more than 70 years. George and Lennie's talk (George's mostly) about the good life just round the corner is not going to happen. It is the dream that keeps them alive. A dream that keeps us all alive, at the moment, come to think of it.

When I told a friend I was going to see the show, she sighed. "I couldn't bring myself to go," she said. "It's heartbreaking!" She's right. It is. But the grief is not depressing.

Andy Hutchison and Andy Bell are the two leads, Andy Hutchison the "tough" one. The thing about his performance is that he isn't tough. His relationship with his feeble (autistic?) mate is tender, supportive, generous,

and not looking for gain. When he kills Andy Bell to save him from the lynch mob, you accept there is nothing else he can do. It is the ultimate gift. His performance has genuine beauty and a remarkable stillness. You know exactly what he is thinking.

Andy Bell, big, blubbery and rabbit-fixated, does not go out of his way to ask for sympathy. He attracts it naturally and deserves it.

Hannah Brain has a pretty thankless job, the empty-head whose intrusion wrecks the lads' chances by accident. Hannah, voted Best Newcomer at the end of last season, is obviously an actor to watch.

Tim McQuillen-Wright gets a good atmosphere going in the studio. The final moments of his production are masterful.

John Steinbeck's dog ate the first draft of the play. Not a reliable critic, though he was responsible for Steinbeck's giving it a better title.

## Admin notes . . . . .

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### **NVT AGM - Wednesday 17 November at 19:30**

This year's Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 17 November from 7:30pm. Come along and choose the new committee for next year, hear what has happened over the last year and participate in deciding on what should happen over the coming year.

Enclosed with this newsletter are the nomination forms for the various roles, an explanation of all the roles along with a copy of the agenda and the minutes of last year's meeting. Friend members are very welcome to attend, but will not be able to vote.

### **NVT enters the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

We now have the facility to take card payments at the theatre. So you can pay by credit or debit card for tickets, drinks and even membership renewals. A 50p transaction charge is made to cover the system costs. For those who do not wish to use this facility, fear not, we still take cash or cheques.

### **Front of House Managers**

There have been a number of changes that have affected the way the theatre is managed during performances. Due to this we are planning on a holding a short training session for performance Front of House Managers. If you would be interested in helping in this capacity or would like more information please contact Ian -

***Ian.black@newventure.org.uk***

# Properties needed for 'The Steamie' by Tony Roper

I am stage managing this wonderful play and am currently trying to source various items to bring this Glasgow washhouse to life.

If you have any of the following items and would be willing to lend them to us, please do contact me: -

- Pre 1960s pram . . . . any condition
- Small tin baths
- Wash boards
- Sheets [white] (\*)
- Blankets [grey or cream] (\*)
- Vests [white singlets] (\*)

(\* These items should be non-returnable)



The play is set in the 1950s so everything would have been from an earlier age or have a "period" look to it.

Many thanks,

**Pat Boxall**

01273 770004, 07786 585253  
pat.lyne\_47@btinternet.com

# Box Office Volunteers Required

Hi all,

The new season has begun and we desperately need some fresh faces to operate the box office on performance nights, even if just for one night a month.

Our new online booking system means the task couldn't be easier, simply checking audience members in by name from a printed list, with only a few cash and card transactions to deal with each night.

Shifts are less than two hours in the evening, offer a great opportunity to meet people, and a step-by-step guide and full training will be provided. Please contact Natasha via e-mail at [boxoffice@neweventure.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@neweventure.org.uk) and come and play a part in what already looks to be a hugely successful season of theatre.

**Natasha**  
**Box Office Manager**

31, Bond Street  
Brighton  
BN1 1RD  
[www.silverado.co.uk](http://www.silverado.co.uk)

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Our sponsorship deal is £250 for a year's advertising on our website and in our brochure, newsletter and show programmes, plus 2 free tickets for each production in that year.

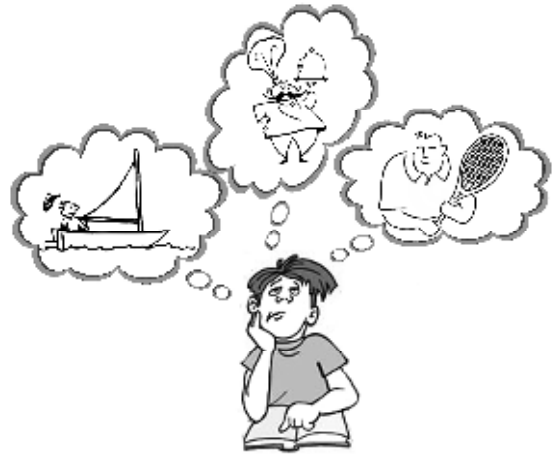
We need more sponsors, so please email **[mikestubbs2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikestubbs2000@yahoo.co.uk)** if you have any ideas in that direction.

**The Meeting Place Cafe**  
Just say: "I'll meet you by the Meeting Place on the seafront" and they're sure to find you. If they don't then they probably weren't worth meeting anyway.  
**GOOD BREAKFASTS, GODDEYE HANGOVERS...**  
Open daily all year: 07:00 am till sunset  
Brighton & Hove Boundary, Kings Road

# Fund raising - Auction of promises

We're planning a fundraising auction on 18th December and thought we'd focus on an auction of **PROMISES**, such as:

- A haircut (if you're a hairdresser)
- Use of a beach hut for a week (if you have one)
- Dinner at home (if you can cook)
- Vouchers for use at restaurants, golf clubs, shops etc (if you have influence)
- Tennis, squash, bowls lesson (if you're good enough)
- Language, music etc lessons ( If that's your bag)
- Dog walking
- ..... and so on.



So if you can offer something valuable or funny, please get in touch by emailing

[mikestubbs2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikestubbs2000@yahoo.co.uk)

## MANAGEMENT: Who we are and how to reach us

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### December NVT newsletter

*Copy deadline* Monday 1 November

*Printer* Thursday 11 November

*Stuffing & posting* Thursday 18 November