

Coming in November

'God of Carnage'
by Yasmina Reza

directed by
Ulrike Schilling

1-9 November

Box Office (24hr)
01273 746118
Other enquiries
01273 808353

NEW VENTURE
T H E A T R E

Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT
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www.newventure.org.uk

'SEAGULLS' and 'HEARTS DESIRE' - a Caryl Churchill double bill

4-12 October 2013

'Seagulls' Directed by Felicity Clements

Valery Blair has discovered that she has an unusual gift - she is able to move objects using the power of thought. From her safe but dull existence looking after the home and working in a shop, Valery is thrust into the limelight and Harvard University is interested to find out more. Will the US authorities hijack her 'psychic' powers? Will the pressure of fame overwhelm her?

In 'Seagulls', Churchill has written a profound play about faith and self-belief. First published in 1978, initially the play wasn't staged because Caryl Churchill said that she 'felt too much as if it was about not being able to write, for me to want it done at the time'.

This is Felicity's first production at NVT. She has acted in, and stage managed, a wide variety of productions and directed at Brighton Little Theatre - the Daphne Du Maurier classic 'Rebecca' in 2011, 'GamePlan' by Alan

Ayckbourn in 2012 and Bryony Lavery's powerful drama 'Frozen' in 2013.

'Heart's Desire' Directed by Ian Black

Heart's Desire was first performed in 1997 in combination with 'Blue Kettle'. Although the two are often played together, they are both complete entities in their own right.

At 30 pages of text, 'Heart's Desire' may appear a standard one act play; however due to its format and complexity it contains a lot more than may initially be anticipated. Linear story telling is abandoned as we follow the long-anticipated return of a daughter from Australia. The narrative is shown in the form of multiple

versions of the same event. The play constantly 'resets itself' like 'Groundhog Day', so that we witness 25 re-windings of the action - varying from the mundane to the totally surreal. Many are hilarious - some are poignant; all of them challenge our assumptions of what is to follow, as the characters experience ever-wilder fears and fantasies.

Ian Black has previously directed at the New Venture Theatre - 'How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found' by Fin Kennedy earlier this year, and 'Gaby Goes Global' in 2010, 'The Lying Kind' in 2009 and 'Three Tall Women' in 2008. He has also directed in other local theatres such as Upstairs at Three & Ten and The Priory Playhouse in Arundel.

A very talented set of actors and creative production team are on board, several of who are new to the NVT. 'Heart's Desire' in particular has been a very different experience to previous plays that Ian has directed, as "the use of repeating sections of dialogue has required a more detailed approach to delivery and actions - that said, it has been a fun experience too and a great learning one".

Photo by Strat Mastoris



We look forward to seeing you at the one of the performances between 4 and 12 October - don't forget we now open on a Friday, with tickets at the same lower price as Tuesdays.

NVT Youth Theatre

Things are getting exciting as the New Venture Youth Theatre prepares to launch this autumn.

Are you aged 12-17 and interested in theatre, performing, writing and creating your own work, learning new skills, and working as a team towards a shared goal? Or perhaps you are keen to develop backstage skills in lighting and sound design, or set design and construction? Structured around school term times, the group will meet on Friday afternoons from 4.30 – 6.30pm at the NVT, Bedford Place.

Headed by Sarah Davies - local Drama teacher, director, writer and performer (award winning for 'most innovative production' with her devised mask and puppet piece 'Talking Dog') - and her small team of talented and experienced performers and trainers, the Youth Theatre will cover a range of performance skills including mask work, improvisation, slapstick skills, physical and vocal work. The intention is to look at devising techniques and a range of stimuli to use as a springboard for ideas, to explore issues decided upon by youngsters themselves.

The first term is an 8-week structure and begins on the 27th of September.

Fridays 4.30-6.30pm

Cost - £75 per term

Places are limited - so please contact

youththeatre@newventure.org.uk for further details and to book a place.

We hope to have an invited audience at the end of each term to show what we've been working on to friends and family, leading to a more formalised performance later in the year. It is our intention to offer a varied curriculum, which will also include opportunities to view theatre in a range of settings and eventually to participate in local festivals. We also hope to be able to offer Art Award - bronze - in future terms (recognised qualification by the Arts Council and Trinity University), which follows a similar structure to Duke of Edinburgh awards but linked to the creative industries.

Alternatively, if you would like to get involved in helping bring it all together (administration helpers needed) please contact

volunteering@newventure.org.uk

Photo by Strat Mastoris



Thoughts from a South Hall chair

Here we are at the beginning of a new season at the NVT. Our 66th season looks as though it will be quite historic with the re-opening of the Main Theatre. As you will see in this issue we have a Grand Opening of the Main Theatre Event on Saturday 19 October. Tickets are limited, so don't delay when they become available – they will not be sold through our usual box office system.

We all owe a massive thank you to the small group of members who have spent many hours of their time working on the refurbishment of the main theatre. We should also thank those who have donated the funds necessary to pay for the equipment and materials required for the work to be undertaken.

Also we have our new look website up and running for the new season - if you haven't seen it yet please have a look. Changes will continue on the site with additional information being added now and again. Much of this will be in the Archive section. Talking of this we now have a new champion of our archives – Gerry McCruden has taken on the massive job of collating and digitising all archive material we have. If you have some old programmes, posters, etc, please contact Gerry in case we don't have a filed copy as yet.

We can now look forward to a great season of productions, two of them in the main theatre.

Ian Black

'THE BUILDING'

An original promenade production

Directed by Sarah Davies

What the Argus said.... review by Louise Schweitzer

What do you get if you cross an Edward Hopper painting with WH Davis, Shakespeare, a theatrical company and a block of flats? You get The Building, a piece of promenade theatre devised by Sarah Davies.



Purposeful tour guides - an investment agent, council operative and historian - direct the audience through the backstage maze of the New Venture Theatre, sorry, a derelict clutch of ramshackle flats, briefly interacting with the variously dysfunctional residents: a tipsy trustafarian (with a, like, permanent rising inflection), a camp transvestite, mad writer, autistic boy, thieving Irish knave, lonely widow and cross young mother.

Stereotypes, perhaps, but glimpsed with such liveliness and humour as to be totally engaging. The au-



dience, arrayed around the rooms, occasionally improvise dialogue. Would the heat wave back? Were we interrupting tea? This way, ladies and gentlemen, that wall is coming down, we're keeping the oak beams, mind the stairs. The curtain never comes down.

This is brilliant, creative and unusual theatre from a wonderful cast and production team who beautifully blur the



boundaries between the real and the imaginary.

A final chorus parodies "all the world's a stage" but perhaps The Building is a stage for all the world.



Photos by Jeff Driver

Can you help out on the NVT box office?

We are always looking for volunteers to man the box office on performance nights - particularly now, as our team of regular helpers has become a little smaller in recent months!

It's a role ideal for anyone who likes to meet lots of people and who can offer a friendly and professional presence as the person who first greets the audience as they enter the building.

It certainly helps if you can be organised and have some basic experience using a computer. We'll meet up beforehand to go over the few easy tasks; as it can take a go or two to settle into the role, we look for volunteers who are able to come back and cover a night every one or two productions. You need only stay an hour and a half each time!

Most of all, helping out on the box office is a lovely way to meet lots of other members and find out what goes on backstage! It's a great opportunity to chat to directors and actors about upcoming projects to get involved in, and find out a bit more about how the theatre is run.

If you think you could offer a little support, please email boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

Waitrose and NVT

In October it's our turn to raise money through the Waitrose "Community Matters" scheme run by the Brighton store. Waitrose pay out £1,000 a month between three local charities and we'll be one of them.

The way it works is that customers are given a green token at the checkout (sometimes you have to ask for it) and put it in one of three boxes representing each charity. So the more tokens put in our box, the more money we'll raise.

The funds raised will help pay for the refurbishment of the Main Theatre, for which we still need a substantial sum.

Please visit Waitrose during October and put your tokens in the NVT box!

...and ask your friends and family to do the same.

We're very grateful to Waitrose for this opportunity and pleased the NVT has the support of such a major national company.

Mike Stubbs

This year the AGM will be held on Saturday 16th November at 7:30pm.

More details in the next newsletter!

The re-opening of the Main Theatre!

To All Our Members,

I am delighted to tell you that you are invited to a Grand Re-opening Night on 7p.m. Saturday 19th October 2013.

Please send in your ticket application form (see below) with your payment of £10 per person to The Box Office address as shown below. We can only accept payment with advance bookings due to the expected high demand. No tickets will be on sale on the Door. All applications and payments to be received by Friday 18th October 2013.

If you have email you will receive email confirmation from the Box Office - it would be most helpful if your application contains your email address so we can confirm your booking. The ticket price of £10 will include a glass of fizz, some snacks and nibbles, an evening of entertainment, a fun raffle and other surprises on the night!

We look forward to seeing you and if you wish, your partner on the 19th of October.

Best wishes,
Jerry Lyne on Behalf NVT Trustees

GRAND RE-OPENING MAIN THEATRE 7 PM SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2013

To The Box Office

MT Grand Re-Opening Event

NVT, Bedford Place, Brighton, BN1 2PT

NAME:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Number of Tickets (2 maximum per application):

Payment Enclosed: £10 / £20 (please tick)

Cheques to be made payable to New Venture Theatre



Acting Classes at NVT

Acting on The Edge

Sam Chittenden

9, 16, 23 and 30 September

This four-week course will explore the role of creative courage and self-expression in acting.

Focusing on emotional intelligence rather than 'technique', it will draw on the approaches developed by Dan Fauci, founder of the Actors' Institute in New York and creator of The Mastery of Self Expression workshops.

The sessions are standalone, but will complement and build on each other. Over the four weeks we will cover the following themes:

Telling the Truth & Being Our 'Selves' - we will explore the line between acting and 'faking it', looking at how we use our individuality within any given role/performance in order to 'behave truthfully in imaginary circumstances'. We will look at techniques, including sub-personality work that can help us to broaden our range.

'Now you see me, now you don't' - using improvisation, mask work and embodied coaching to find out where we hide and what stops us. We will explore spontaneity and play, and look at how we can create greater presence in our acting.

'Making Connections' - great actors have an ability to move us in a way that feels intimate and personal. We will look at ways to create connection with an audience and fellow actors, as well as looking at the fears that stop us connecting.

'Drawing from the well' - we will exercise our emotional muscles, practising ways to bring strong emotions into our acting without allowing them to take over. We will look at how vulnerability and emotional courage can bring authenticity and a new edge to performances.

Note: Participants may wish to bring a short piece or scenario that they would like to work on over the course. A monologue, song or poem known off by heart would be especially helpful, but is not essential.

Sam Chittenden is a coach and facilitator, and runs the creative company Different Development based in Brighton. She is a published poet and is currently writing a book about creative leadership. She is an accredited leader of The Mastery of Self Expression workshop and has also trained with Trestle theatre company, Keith Johnstone and Steve Jarand.

Characterisation and Text into Performance / Becoming an exquisite actor in four easy sessions

Mark Wilson

7, 14, 21 and 28 October

This set of four 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.

New Season Social Saturday 21 September 7.30pm

It's time to launch the new season! There will be live music, announcements and your chance to vote for the NVT awards for the shows of 2012-2013. To refresh your memory, here are the shows you can vote for on the night:

Biloxi Blues
Three Kinds of Me
The Price
Hansel & Gretel
Far Away / Seven Jewish Children
How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found
Boston Marriage
Underneath the Lintel
No Exit
A Beginning, A Muddle and An End
The Lover / Celebration
The Building.

See you there!



Tickets for next NVT production

Please note: Performances on Sundays are matinee only.

Evening performances at 7.45 pm

Sunday Matinees at 2.30 pm

4-12 October
 'Seagulls' & 'Heart's Desire' by Caryl Churchill

Performance date?

How many?	
Member?	Non-Member?

Total Cost?
£

1-9 November
 'God of Carnage' by Yasmina Reza

Performance date?

How many?	
Member?	Non-Member?

Total Cost?
£

6-14 December
 10-Minute Play Competition

Performance date?

How many?	
Member?	Non-Member?

Total Cost?
£

Seats £9 (£8 members) except final Friday/Saturday : £10 (£9 members): Tuesday and first Friday evening £7

Name, Address, Postal code & phone number:

Membership Number(s)

* PLEASE SEND or DELIVER YOUR CHEQUE and this coupon to:
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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.

MANAGEMENT: Who we are and how to reach us

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Why not be an Angel or a Cherub, £100 or more to be an Angel or £5 or more to be a Cherub. Pick up a leaflet at the theatre or send your donation to Angel / Cherub Appeal, NVT Bedford Place Brighton BN1 2 PT

If you are a tax payer please let us know if you will Gift Aid your donation.