

NEW VENTURE

T H E A T R E

COMING SOON | HOLES by Tom Basden | directed by Nicholas Richards | 7 - 15 October

LOVE & INFORMATION

by Caryl Churchill | directed by Kirsty Elmer | 15 - 23 July



Daniel King, Elsa Noad, Amanda Harman, Amy Onyett, Tom Robinson, Dottie Martin

Photo by Jez Bowden

'because I wouldn't remember all this if without the video
I wouldn't remember hardly anything at all about it
because I can't remember anything about that day that's not
on the video not clearly'

Someone shares a secret. Someone can't get a signal. Someone has never felt like this before. Someone remembers everything. Someone is in love. Someone's not ready to talk. Someone can't sleep. Someone's been fired. Someone loves him more than you do.

Written by Caryl Churchill and originally staged at the Royal Court in 2012, the play is a piece of Brechtian Epic Theatre, exploring what it means to love and form relationships in the modern, technological world. In a rapid quick-fire succession of scenes, where the audience are bombarded by information, the play shows a kaleidoscope of snapshot conversations, at times funny; at times, poignant. It explores the private as well as public consequences of living in the digital age, where access to information is both instant and changeable; where we are often socially-isolated in the way we connect with each other and the world. How do we

negotiate love within information which is overpowering us every day?

This presents a number of challenges when staging the play, not least creating numerous worlds in which the characters exist. Churchill's language is sparse and some scenes only a few lines long. There is no punctuation, no pauses or character indications, which has created infinite possibilities for interpretation and meaning in rehearsal.

Yet again, I've been blessed by the talented cast I am working with, who have relished these challenges and opportunities. Not only have they been prepared to take creative risks, but they've also been at the heart of the rehearsal process when deciphering the text. We have also frequently utilised modern technology within the rehearsal room, recording and sharing our progress in order to master difficult fragmented dialogue and physical ensemble work. There's been a great sense of camaraderie and I'm very grateful for their humour, generosity and determination.

My design team have also been essential in the creative process, enabling us to tell the myriad stories woven together and to create a world of immediate digital communication. I'm thankful for their great support and problem-solving skills.

I'm proud of what we've crafted together in rehearsals and welcome our audiences into the lives of the many characters we've discovered, shaped and given life to.

Kirsty Elmer

WANTED! Team Members

Many of the roles within the NVT structure are significant and time consuming. This means they are difficult to fill and maintain, which potentially leads to a lack of continuity. In an effort to reduce the pressure and make for a more flexible and sustainable structure we have been looking at various ways of developing teams within different

areas. The idea is for various teams to be made up of members who would like to be involved in certain aspects of the theatre and production support, but not have the full responsibility. To do this we need to know that there are members who would like to participate in this way.

There are various areas of the theatre where teams can and are in development – e.g. Publicity, Building maintenance, Volunteer Coordination, Box Office, and many more. If you would like to become involved and help with supporting the theatre and productions as part of a team approach then we would love to hear from you. Please email info@newventure.org.uk or speak to someone involved in the area(s) that interest you.



NVT GARDEN

Did you know that the Theatre has a garden?

Did you know that it isn't just for smokers?!

A revamp has been taking place over some months to make it an outdoor space to be proud of, whether you're rehearsing, working in the theatre, an audience member or visiting.

Do have a look - especially now that the evenings are much lighter!

You may notice that we have a happy palm on our hands (see what I did there?!), which is in flower for the first timeaww

Be sure to make good use of our valuable outside space right in the centre of our city.

Christine Stubbs



First reaction to 'The Accidental Death of an Anarchist' is excitement and pleasure in a play that provokes an active and radical engagement with the political scene. The diminishing potency of the left demands a shot in the arm: once possible from playwrights Wesker or Stoppard, there are few left to provide it on stage. (David Hare, just.)

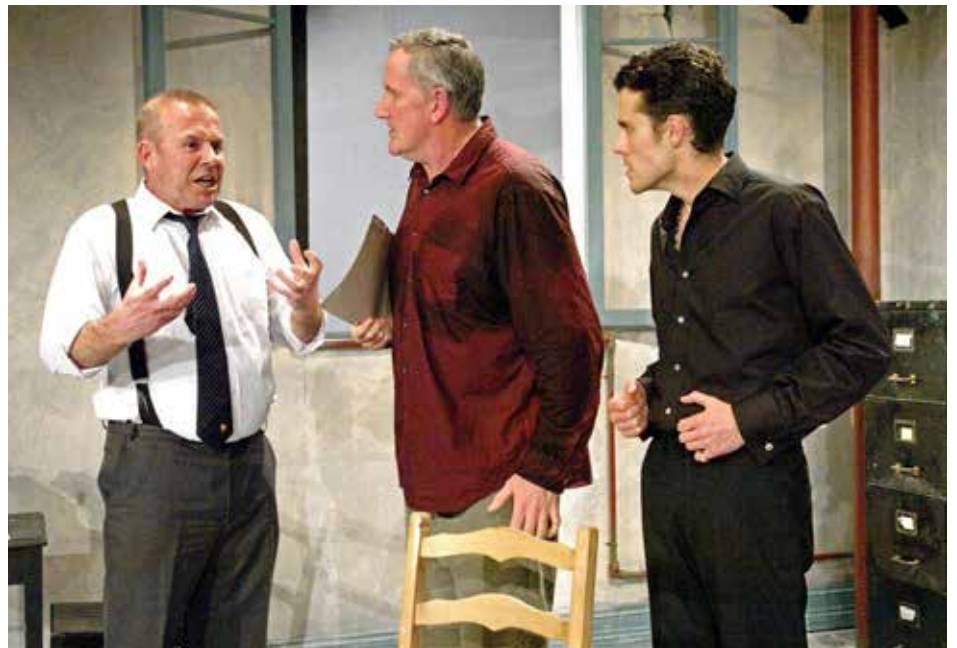
Dario Fo's play is set in the doldrums of the recent past. Although written as a response to actual events in Milan during the 1970's, Fo sanctioned constant updating and adaptation to reflect current political mores – some of which remain unchanging. We know that political corruption is endemic, that many a true word is spoken in jest – and that you could probably never trust an Italian.

The story, like life, is unclear to start with and remains a mystery. Characters are limitlessly fluid as they attempt to grapple with the unknowable. Four bent coppers, one beautiful journalist and one lunatic impersonator (with papers to prove his psychotic identity) ask one central question: did the anarchist jump or was he pushed? The fourth wall disappears as the cast desperately look for the answer and perhaps the audience can help? The play becomes a play within a play, as characters shift identity and rush about the stage with the violent energy of a farce, occasionally singing loudly in Italian and dancing together along the way.

Des Potton proved comic genius with his portrayal of Darry Burrill in Sean O'Casey's 'End of the Beginning' for the NVT in 2014 : his 'Harpagon' in Moliere's ' Miser' (2015) went to the opposite end of the scale. As ' Maniac' he was the central character, the Fool of the commedia dell' Arte and no one could have been more brilliantly over the top. Bouncing around in fright wigs with an occasional glass eye and removable wooden prostheses, he was exhilarating to watch with a performance which raised the entire cast to stunning levels of acting ability. Nick Richards, tormentor in chief, aided and abetted by the perfectly sinister Pissani of Robert Purchase, bloke-bonded Culann Smyth and Jack Lewellyn Roberts, sweetly naïve as Constable. Heather Andrews gives a wonderful, feisty performance as the only woman on stage.

Director Rod Lewis knew the play from

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST by Dario Fo | directed by Rod Lewis | review



its London run in the 1980's and it stayed in his mind – I can see why.

Louise Schweitzer



1. Robert Purchase, Nicholas Richards & Heather Andrews
2. Culann Smyth, Des Potton & Robert Purchase
3. Heather Andrews
4. Jack Llewellyn Roberts, Culann Smyth, Robert Purchase & Des Potton
5. Des Potton
6. Nicholas Richards & Des Potton
7. Robert Purchase, Des Potton, Culann Smyth & Jack Llewellyn Roberts

Photos by Strat Mastoris

This year NVT will be taking part for the first time in the annual national Heritage Open Day scheme, where historic and unusual buildings across the country open up to the public for free, inviting them to explore their unique architecture and histories. It's a once a year chance for hidden or forgotten historic buildings to fling open their doors and show off their unique history and charm which, as we all know, the NVT has in spades!

Over the weekend, NVT will be offering tours of the building, fun activities exploring all aspects of life at NVT, and the chance to delve into the archives of our theatrical history. There will also be an opportunity for members to find out about and enrol in the behind-the-scenes work at NVT, from production management to press and publicity. Look out for updates on the NVT website and Facebook page of our full list of activities and how to get involved.

Alex Epps

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR In homage to our wonderful 'International Brigade'!



July 2016

NVT HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 2016



I have always seen the NVT as a community, a company of like minded folk. We are blessed with members of all backgrounds, nationalities, skills and talents who consistently enhance our work, helping to make our theatre buzz with creativity and vitality.

Many of our most energetic members hail from other EU countries and indeed beyond; From the edges of the Atlantic to the Urals; from northern climes to the Mediterranean.

The fallout from the Referendum result has unsettled many of us and we're now faced with the prospect of a dauntingly long road to travel.

To all our highly valued friends from the rest of Europe and overseas, I want to emphasise, on behalf of everyone at NVT, that your companionship, commitment, your talents, your friendship and laughter, and all that you have contributed and will continue to contribute to our theatre family is so very, very much appreciated.

Thank you for all you do.

"Good-night? ah! no; the hour is ill
Which severs those it should unite;
Let us remain together still,
Then it will be *good* night."

- Shelley

Rod Lewis

The NVT archiving team still has a small collection of photographs and material which remains unidentified, and we'd love to hear from anyone who recognises any of the productions.

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY WERE?

Do you recognise any of the fantastic costumes here? The production? Who do you think they were?



NVT ACTING CLASSES

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Please arrive in good time to begin promptly at 7:30 PM

COST: £5 (NVT members £2.50)

In these drop in sessions you will be working with various teachers and cover acting techniques as well as theatre skills. We will be looking at audition techniques, working with text, movement, comedy and stage presence amongst other themes. The classes are mixed levels and open to anyone 18+, no previous experience needed. Attending the acting class is the best way to get involved with what we do and find out about auditions and productions. We encourage all our members as well as those who want to get involved in the theatre in anyway to come along.

To find out more, come along to a class or to request more information about a particular block of sessions, have a look at our website at www.newventure.org.uk, where you can sign up to our mailing list, or email: actingclass@newventure.org.uk.

NVT TICKET BOOKING INFORMATION

book online at www.newventure.org.uk or by post using the form below

• Ticket prices: £9 (£8 members) Final Fri/Sat £10 (£9 members) First Fri/Tue £8 (£7 members) • Evening performances 7:45pm
Sundays are Matinees only 2:30pm • No performances on Mondays • Please note that access to the Theatre Upstairs is only possible by 4 flights of stairs, and therefore may not be suitable for those with mobility difficulties.

Cut along the line, and return your completed slip together with a cheque to: New Venture Theatre, Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

	date	member	standard	total cost
'Love and Information' by Caryl Churchill 15 - 23 July <i>Studio</i>				
'Holes' by Tom Basden 7-15 October <i>Studio</i>				
'The Clean House' by Sarah Ruhl 4-12 November <i>*Theatre Upstairs</i>				

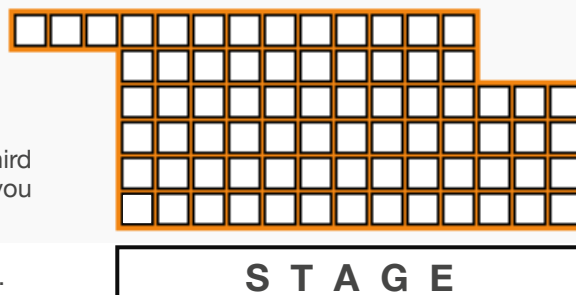
It is important you provide your name, phone number and address, and email address where possible

*THEATRE UPSTAIRS ALLOCATED SEATING

Allocated seating is available for productions taking place in the Theatre Upstairs.

Please mark your preferred seat(s) with 1's, and a second and third option with 2's and 3's, in case your first choice is unavailable. If you leave this blank, seats will be allocated for you.

Allocated seating remains unavailable for productions in the Studio.



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Why not become an Angel, Fallen Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. Our Angels have proven to be generous in the assistance they give us.

For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: angels@newventure.org.uk. If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.

THE PEBBLE TRUST

We'd love to hear from you!

Please write in with any comments, articles or reviews of our productions and events to Natasha Borg, Newsletter Editor: newsletter@newventure.org.uk - or by post if you prefer.

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