

NEW VENTURE THEATRE

newsletter
april 2021

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Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

OPENING UP!

We are at last in a position to confidently [release our new season](#). My thanks goes to the rest of the Artistic Team for their hard work and support. As you can see three of the plays included are those which were either cast or in rehearsal when the first lockdown happened. The first play to open the season, *Di, Viv and Rose*, has been in production before and was extremely well received. We decided to take up Claire Lewis's offer to produce it again because we didn't know how things were going to pan out. This is a play with a small cast which needs minimal rehearsal and is therefore more likely to be able to cope with any changes in regulations.

Prior to the new season we have three productions planned as restrictions are easing.

May 22nd and 23rd

Bag Lady by Sarah Davies

This is exciting because this is going to be the first live performance at NVT for over a year! This is very much a work in progress and tickets will be free but extremely limited because of social distancing regulations. See the [preview](#) on page 4.

June 18th–26th

Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons by Sam Steiner;
directed by Cata Lindegaard

This is Cata's directorial debut at NVT and she has done a fantastic job managing auditions and rehearsals on Zoom. [Tickets available](#).

July 23rd–31st

Miss Julie by August Strindberg; directed by Mark Lester.

We are hopeful that by July, restrictions will all be lifted and a full audience will be able to enjoy this production. [Tickets available](#).

I am really looking forward to being in the theatre again. See you soon!

Katie Brownings

art.dir@newventure.org.uk

NVT
2021/22 SEASON

Di, Viv and Rose

by Moira Buffini

directed by Claire Lewis

October 1–9

Studio

Consent

by Nina Raine

directed by Scott Roberts

November 5–13

Main Theatre

Three Tall Women

by Edward Albee

directed by Ian Amos

December 10–18

Studio

The Lieutenant of Inishmore

by Martin McDonagh

directed by Steven O'Shea

January 21–29

Main Theatre

The Herd

by Rory Kinnear

directed by Charly Sommers

February 18–26

Main Theatre

Unsanctioned + Measure for Measure

by Sam Chittenden

directed by Sam Chittenden

March 18–26

Studio

Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh

directed by Pat Boxall

April 22–30

Main Theatre

Cock

by Mike Bartlett

directed by Richard Lindfield

May 20–28

Studio

Turpin

by Barry Purchase

directed by Mark Lester

June 17–25

Studio

Communicating Doors

by Alan Ayckbourn

directed by Ian Black

July 15–23

Main Theatre

BAG LADY

Scratch Clown Performance

by Sarah Davies

What did you do in Lockdown? I, for one, was propelled to rural isolation on a farm in

Gloucestershire, many miles from my spiritual home of Brighton and Hove.

After walking around in my pyjamas for the first few weeks, drunk on gin and discombobulated at the idea of no longer being able to go to work, I turned myself around by planting a few seeds and baking a decent banana bread.

Before long I was transformed into a part-time shepherdess, an unsuccessful tender of vines and an online course junky. Then I began dreaming of performing in my very own one-woman clown show, and, as if by magic, Brenda and David appeared out of the ether.

A pair of wonderfully wise clown directors, B + D came into my life as if by magic. Alacazam! And we were away! Well not exactly away, as they were in Lewes, I was in Gloucestershire and this was Lockdown. So . . . off we headed to Zoomland!

Over many subsequent months we explored clowning and connecting via this hitherto unknown platform. Could clowning even work online? Could we find the human connection which is at the very heart of clown via this alienating technology?

Somehow, by hook or by crook, we coaxed *Bag Lady* into existence.

Each of us safely bunkered in our lozenger-shaped spaces, Brenda and David urged me on to fly clown-solo in my virtual world miles away.

Quite soon we discovered my vagabond-like clown liked to be busy; and was actually a big fan of tidy spaces. She loved folding and refolding her belongings into neat piles. Little by little, characters appeared to be played with. One week I was a gymnast, the next a goofy horse, the next a daredevil stuntwoman hanging from high imaginary ledges and winning virtual chariot races.

Props, costumes and music were trialled, and gradually we began to realise my clown didn't need to do too much, other than play, connect and transmit her infectious joy for life. It turned out my clown was really rather delightful – like an old friend who never grew up. Who knew?

Out of this work we bring you . . . *Bag Lady*.

A work (and a title) in progress, this is not a show about Lockdown or Covid or even sheep. In fact, *Bag Lady* isn't even a

fully-fledged show yet. 'Tis but a scratch.
An airing and sharing of work in
development. A device used by theatre
makers and stand-ups to test their
material in a real space with a live
audience.

Haven't we all missed connecting?

My desire to give *Bag Lady* a stage
coincided with NVT's intention to
practise meeting H&S Covid guidance
with a small performance to a perfectly
formed audience of 18 as a precursor to
the opening of its season with a full-scale
show (*Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons,*
Lemons).

So, what is clowning? Clowning is
joyous, silly, in-the-moment fun. *Bag*
Lady is a simple soul, full of curiosity,
and blessed with a daft heart.

Come see for yourself. Bag Lady can't
wait to see you! Book online:

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
newventuretheatre/e-vblaeg](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre/e-vblaeg)

Tickets are free and extremely limited –
only 18 per show.

Suitable for children, but not designed
for them specifically. This is theatrical
clowning; not children's party or circus.

Fundraising Update

When the lights go on again

As I write it looks as if a return to normality of sorts might not be too far distant. Hallelujah. During the lockdown much good work, both artistically and administratively, continued to prepare the theatre to reopen. It has been a testing time for us all, but hopefully there will soon be the opportunity to gather again, enjoy each other's company and support lots of fine theatre.

We appreciate the interest and support for our fundraising efforts. Lockdown has created financial strains as we looked at ways to keep the building in good order. Not always an easy task for this listed building in need of constant TLC. For instance we have recently learned that the external brickwork on parts of the building needs urgent attention and we have find £20k to pay for that. There are a host of long term issues and projects so we will be investigating various other avenues and initiatives to raise funds. Every penny helps.

We have had generous donations to the Reopening Fund and to our Angels scheme. These are greatly appreciated. I know others are considering donations or upgrading their Angelic status. Our audiences have also kindly donated when they purchase tickets.

GIFT AID

As you may know the GiftAid scheme allows us to benefit from an additional contribution from HMRC. This provides us with an additional 25 pence for every pound donated. Do let me know if this appeals to you.

AMAZONSMILE

Something I was not previously aware of is the AmazonSmile initiative. If you order goods from Amazon, think about nominating New Venture Productions as your charity. Amazon will not charge you any more for the goods but will donate a small amount to NVT each time you purchase via AmazonSmile.

Basically, all you need to do is go to smile.amazon.co.uk. If you are not already registered with them you will be asked to select a charity. Enter 'New Venture Productions' in the search box and then press 'Select' when New Venture Productions appears. You can then make purchases as normal via Amazon/Amazon Prime.

Perhaps you already use AmazonSmile. If so you may like to consider nominating us as your charity. Again all you need to do is to log on as above. In the top right hand corner next to the Union Jack you will see Hello and your name with 'Account & Lists' underneath.

- Click 'Account & Lists'
- Click 'Your Account'
- Go to 'Shopping Programs' at bottom right and select 'Change your Charity'
- Enter 'New Venture Productions' in the search box and then press 'Select' when New Venture Productions appears.

Once you have linked your account, all future purchases via smile.amazon.co.uk will generate a donation to the theatre.

Gerry McCrudden

fundraising@newventure.org.uk

Volunteering Update

Here at the NVT, we are trying to get back to what we do best: making great theatre!

And even though it might seem a little way off, we're getting things in place ready to reopen. And with something to suit all levels of commitment, we are now looking for more volunteers. This could be in set design, costumes, electrical, sound, assisting in the bar, painting, etc.

In addition we have the following non trustee roles where giving a few hours a month or a few hours per week [depending on which role] as either the;

SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Organise planned events, arranging entertainment, bar and publicity. Once we reopen we imagine around 2 to 3 events each year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSISTANT

Assist the Chairman with overall health and safety activities, including H&S risks in productions.

PROPS COORDINATOR

Manage the properties safely and give advice to each production, identify when props are due for replacement by keeping a record.

COMPANY STAGE MANAGER

Help deliver a successful season of plays by overseeing the backstage and technical work of the Theatre. Including coordination of other members/actors and set design & construction, lighting, sound, props, wardrobe and stage management.

If so, please drop me a line via volunteering@newventure.org.uk

I am more than happy to answer any questions and chat things through.

Finally, a huge thank you for the help by volunteers for putting monologues and other plays via zoom and YouTube, including the recent *Arthur and Esther* production.

It was amazing how many volunteers, committee members, cast and crew were ready to create new ideas and give thought to alternative ways of producing theatre online.

Michael Prince

volunteering@newventure.org.uk

The Box Office: Volunteers Needed

Helping on the Box Office? It's just the ticket! When you arrive at New Venture to watch a show and are greeted through the hole in the door by a member of the box office team, have you ever been tempted to have a go yourself?

With live performances planned from mid-June, careful planning is underway to keep both NVT volunteers and our audiences safe while social distancing advice remains in place.

The box office volunteers are the welcoming first face of NVT; checking

audience members in, selling tickets to those who show-up on the night, proffering programmes and answering questions (How long is the performance? Is there an interval? Where are the toilets?).

And that is where you can help...by joining our small team of Box Office volunteers. Full training will be given. So, if you are interested please contact the Box Office

Ian Amos

boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

The Bar: Seeking a Core Team of Staff

The bar is something we all enjoy and I am looking to change the way in which we staff it. Instead of asking the cast from the pending play, I would like to create a fixed team of people who work the bar one evening per show. I think that it would be a more enjoyable experience if we all had a fixed night with the same people. I am also encouraging you to sign up in pairs. So join up with a friend – maybe even bring someone new along who would just enjoy to do a bar shift once a month. This is an opportunity to become more involved in the theatre, to meet new people, to expand your social circle and have fun.

The commitment is not huge –one evening per month during the season. If you feel unable to commit to a regular evening I also need to have a pool of 'temps' – people who I could call on on an adhoc basis. I would therefore be extremely interested to hear from you; please email me using the address below.

Tell me your preferred day, your name and the name of the person you would like to be paired with.

Thank you

Katie Brownings

katie.brownings@newventure.org.uk

Contacting the NVT

The New Venture Theatre
Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT



[@NewVentureTheatreBrighton](https://www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton)



[@nvt_brighton](https://twitter.com/nvt_brighton)



[@brightonnewventuretheatre](https://www.instagram.com/brightonnewventuretheatre)

Box Office Info

01273 746118
(answerphone only)
boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

General Enquiries

01273 808353
info@newventure.org.uk

Chairman

Ian Black*
chairman@newventure.org.uk

Secretary

Jerry Lyne*
secretary@newventure.org.uk

Artistic Director

Katie Brownings*
art.dir@newventure.org.uk

Treasurer

Alison McMillan-Puri*
finance@newventure.org.uk

Production Coordinator

Tom Kitch*
prod_mgr@newventure.org.uk

Buildings Manager

Peter Meekings*
buildings@newventure.org.uk

Front of House Coordinator

Cata Lindegaard
frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk

Company Stage Manager
VACANT

Fundraising

Gerry McCrudden
fundraising@newventure.org.uk

Box Office Manager

Ian Amos
boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

Volunteer Coordinator

Mike Prince
volunteering@newventure.org.uk

Technical Coordinator

Tech Team
tech@newventure.org.uk

Membership Secretary

Raymond Tongue
membership@newventure.org.uk

Newsletter Editor

Jeremy Crow / Tom Kitch*
newsletter@newventure.org.uk

Publicity & Marketing Coordinator

Aldo Oliver Henriquez
publicity@newventure.org.uk

Props Coordinator
VACANT

Little Theatre Guild Rep

Pat Boxall
pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk

Child Protection Officer

Pat Boxall
pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk

Social Events Manager

VACANT
social@newventure.org.uk

NVYT Coordinator

Sarah Davies
youththeatre@newventure.org.uk

Angels / Archives

Gerry McCrudden
angels@newventure.org.uk

Acting Class Coordinator

Gina Laline / Sarah Davies
actingclass@newventure.org.uk

*Asterisks indicate trustee
committee members.

NVT Information

NVT virtual acting classes: It's The Little Things with Sam Chittenden

Mondays in April, 7:00–8:00 PM

Cost: FREE; however donations are very welcome, if you are able to afford it.

In this four week course over the Mondays in April, we will explore the little things that make a big difference in performance, both on stage and on screen, including Zoom.

Using a range of exercises and reflections, games and script work, we will work as a group and in breakouts to explore different themes each week. These will include: creating the gestures and 'tells' that can bring a character to

life, the use of stillness and silence (and beats and pauses!), the importance of tone in delivering a line, and the (not so little) power of intention.

Register your interest by emailing:

virtualactingclass@newventure.org.uk

Download Zoom [here](#) or from the app store / Play store. You will be emailed the login link prior to the class

Our angels

Why not become an angel, Fallen Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support our 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 Angel Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: angels@newventure.org.uk

If you are a UK tax payer your donation may also benefit from Gift Aid.

NVT membership

Membership is £15. To renew, or join if you are not yet a member, just go to our website:

www.newventure.org.uk/join-us

Our sponsors

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

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