

# NEW VENTURE

T H E A T R E

## Where We Are

At NVT our 19/20 season was going well before it was suddenly, and drastically, cut short. With a wide mix of accomplished playwrights we started with Moira Buffini's Gabriel, followed by Fen by Caryl Churchill, an imaginative version of Dickens' Great Expectations for Christmas, The Winterling by Jez Butterworth and Talk, a new work by Mark Wilson. It was when we were midway through our March production of Quartet by Ronald Harwood that disaster suddenly struck...we had lockdown! Theatres worldwide ground to a halt. Our four shows that had been scheduled to follow, fully cast and at various stages of rehearsal, consequently hit the buffers. These were to be The Herd by Rory Kinnear directed by Charly Sommers, Consent by Nina Raine directed by Scott Roberts, Miss Julie by August Strindberg directed by Mark Lester and Hangmen by Martin McDonagh directed by Pat Boxall. Hopefully it will be in the not too distant future that we will be able to get back to mounting these productions once again but in the meantime we have had to rethink, adjust, and try a range of new ideas. There has been a lot of activity!

We have been exploring the viability of creating our own form of New Virtual Theatre!

Under the wing of one of our members, Phil Palmer - an experienced professional cameraman - we are putting together teams that can film a collection of shorts - including home grown monologues and duologues - giving our members creative and technical opportunities to work, act and write for film. The first these are already underway and will soon be made available on our website. Once these are in the can we will be inviting more proposals. We are also working on four much longer plays that we intend to stream - this has also given us the chance to encourage new writing. We also intend putting together some podcasts. However, venturing into such a fresh field for us has meant a big learning curve for all involved. Technical issues inherent with virtual production have had to be overcome, complications arising from getting performance rights for streaming agreed and problems brought about by the continuous uncertainty regarding Government's working restrictions have unfortunately led to delays. Now though, happily, everything is in full flow. More information about these will soon be forthcoming along with a system which will allow us to have auditions again, for future work, which has not been possible during the trialing process because of social distancing rules.

Whilst we have been dark much has also been done to improve our building. Dressing rooms and scene docks have been sorted out and cleared - corridors and doors repainted. Much care has also gone into making theatre spaces as Covid safe as possible for rehearsals - with hand sanitisers, signing in book and notices in place and so on.

Despite these alarming Covid 19 times, NVT has been a very busy, creative place. Our virtual productions are now in the pipeline and, if the circumstances allow, these are shows that can be speedily adjusted to be play live on stage. Although no one can predict when we will be able to open and go back to business as usual - it could be that once we are we'll be in a position to add filming and streaming to our future repertoire!

In the meantime - keep tuning in to New Venture as more specific information about our shows will be coming soon!

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## **NVT Building News**

Although opening up for live performances is still a way off, the building is increasingly being used for rehearsing and filming our 'virtual season', as well as various working parties, committee meetings etc. Following a COVID-19 Risk Assessment, a number of new measures were introduced in the building wef 1 Sept including signing in/out book, a one-way system and restricting numbers in certain rooms. Further controls will no doubt be needed when we re-open the theatre and bar to live audiences.

The last few months has enabled us to clean, tidy up and redecorate large parts of the theatre. Most recently we have been concentrating on the backstage of the theatre upstairs where we have cleared out a great deal of unwanted old scenery, timber, doors etc that have been getting in the way for years! Also the Dressing Rooms and Green Room have been transformed, with piles of clothes, curtains, bedding (!), and fabric of all descriptions sorted through and either properly stored and labelled ... or sent for recycling!



***Dressing Room Before***



***Dressing Room After***

Thanks to all who helped with the sorting of the dressings rooms, back stage area etc. With special thanks to Peter, Pat & Hermione.

## New Front of House/Bar Team

The quiet of the past few months has also given us the opportunity to create a new Front of House/Bar Team comprising a Duty Rota Manager, Stock Control Manager and overall Front of House Manager. We have reviewed everything from the sourcing of our bar stock, through pricing policy, the organising of Front of House and Bar volunteers to till operation and security. Hopefully when we are able to welcome back live audiences we'll be able to serve them a drink in the bar even more efficiently than before!

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## NVT Annual General Meeting 2020

This year the AGM will be held virtually via Zoom. Prior to the meeting you will receive reports from last year and you will have a chance to have your say at the meeting. This will be held at 7pm on 18 November 2020 - a link will be made available to you to enable you to join the meeting.

Accompanying this newsletter are copies of the AGM Agenda, Minutes of last years AGM and nomination forms for trustee positions and non-trustee roles should you wish to stand for these. The deadline for returning these forms is one week before the AGM.

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## Coming Soon

**NEW VENTURE THEATRE 2020**  
PRESENTS A NEW VIRTUAL THEATRE AUTUMN SEASON

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY DURING LOCKDOWN SETTING UP A LITTLE HOLLYWOOD BY THE SEA TO FILM AND PRESENT TO YOU, ONLINE SHORT EXTRACTS FROM PLAYS & A SHORT TWO HANDER

EXTRACTS ARE FREE TO ACCESS VIA A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL FROM LATE OCTOBER ONWARDS

**'OBJECTION'**  
Written by Victoria Storm  
Directed by Cata Lindegaard  
Performed by Victoria Storm

**'LITTLE VICTORIES'**  
Written by Lavonne Mueller  
Directed by Katie Brownings  
Performed by Christine Hausechild

**'TAMING OF THE SHREW'**  
Extract from Petruchio's speech  
Written by William Shakespeare  
Directed by Mark Lester  
Performed by Tom Hobart

**'A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE'**  
Alfieri's opening speech  
Written by Arthur Miller  
Directed by Rod Lewis  
Performed by Jerry Lyne

**'NAME IT'**  
Written, Directed & Performed by Steve Hutton

**'JUST POPPED OUT'**  
Written by Sam Chittenden  
Directed by Judey Bignell  
Performed by Sharon Drain

**'AN USHER PUSHED TOO FAR'**  
Written by Jason Lever  
Directed by Steven Hutton  
Performed by Martin Ryan

**'DICK TURPIN'**  
Written by Barry Purchase  
Directed by Mark Lester  
Performed by Bertie Purchase & Culann Smyth

Coming in the New Year...

**'ARTHUR AND ESTHER'**  
by Ross Howard  
Directed by Jerry Lyne

5 performances  
Tickets and access details will be available online

**NVT**  
NEW VENTURE THEATRE

Registered Charity No. 30407

### New Venture Virtual Theatre

#### Monologues

A selection of Monologues are being filmed and will be available very soon. These will be published as an ongoing process on our YouTube Channel and will be available on our website and facebook pages as well. These will remain available.

#### Virtual Productions

Our virtual productions will start in the New Year. These will be streamed via YouTube for a fixed number of performances only. This is due to licensing restrictions.

**Monologues currently being filmed or planned are:**

**Name It**

written, directed and performed by Steve Hutton

**Objection**

written & performed by Victoria Storm - directed by Cata Lindegaard

**Little Victories (excerpt)**

written by Lavonne Mueller directed by Katie Brownings  
and performed by Christine Hauschild

**Just Popped Out**

written by Sam Chittenden, directed by Judey Bignell  
and performed by Sharon Drain

**An Usher Pushed Too Far**

written by Jason Lever, directed by Steve Hutton  
and performed by Martin Ryan

**A View from the Bridge (excerpt)**

written by Arthur Miller, directed by Rod Lewis  
and performed by Jerry Lyne

**Taming of the Shrew (excerpt)**

written by William Shakespeare, directed by Mark Lester  
and performed by Tom Holbart

**Dick Turpin (excerpt)**

written by Barry Purchase, directed by Mark Lester  
and performed by Bertie Purchase & Culann Smyth

*with possibly more to follow*

# Virtual Productions

The NVT Virtual Productions are planned to start in the New Year. Currently there are two productions planned, one is in rehearsal and the other is scheduled to start soon.

## **Arthur & Esther**

written by Ross Howard & directed by Jerry Lyne

## **Hope**

written by Sarah Drew & directed by Mark Wilson

*More details on these including streaming dates will be published soon*

# Acting Class & NVYT are back

***both are online for now***

## **Acting Class**

Monday evenings 7 - 8 pm

online through Zoom

spaces are limited so you need to register each week  
to register email - [virtualactingclass@newventure.org.uk](mailto:virtualactingclass@newventure.org.uk)

*Further details are available on the website*

## **NVYT**

Zoom sessions 5:30 to 6:30 on Friday

Open to 12 - 17 yrs

To register contact Chelsea - [youththeatre@newventure.org.uk](mailto:youththeatre@newventure.org.uk)

*Further details are available on the website*

## Contact Us

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### Our Sponsors

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



### We would love to hear from you!

Please write in with any comments, articles or reviews of our productions and events to the Newsletter Editor - [newsletter@newventure.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@newventure.org.uk) or by post to the New Venture Theatre.