

NEW VENTURE THEATRE

newsletter
july 2021

[Preview: Miss Julie 1](#)
[2021/22 Season 2](#)
[Preview: Welcome Back Gala 4](#)
[Artistic Update 5](#)
[Membership Update 5](#)
[Volunteering Update 6](#)
[Audition Notice:](#)
[Three Tall Women 8](#)
[Virtual Acting Classes 8](#)
[Contacting the NVT 9](#)
[NVT Information 10](#)
[Our Sponsors 10](#)

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

Preview

23–31 July 2021

MISS JULIE

by August Strindberg

directed by Mark Lester

Written in 1888, *Miss Julie* caused outrage when it opened and was banned by the censors – yet over 130 years later, it's no surprise that this powerful drama still retains its shock factor.

It's Midsummer's Eve on a country estate and Miss Julie is ready to let her hair down while her father is away, and desperate to escape the responsibilities of being a Count's daughter. Fresh out of her engagement to a lawyer, a dance is just the remedy. Jean is the Count's valet and dreams of escaping the drudgery of a below-stairs existence. Despite his lack of formal education, Jean has travelled abroad, acquired languages, and has a wealth of work and life experience. He believes he's destined for bigger and better things, while Kristin, the cook and his fiancée, lovingly tolerates the working-class chip on Jean's shoulder and his disdain for the upper classes.



ABOVE Nik Balfe and Cata Lindegaard. (Photo by PkSyArt / pksyart@gmail.com / @pk_sy_art)

Kristin aspires to be like her masters, and her own dreams extend only to marrying Jean and having children. As the summer festivities get underway, it's the intoxicating cocktail of alcohol and a chance for all to relax away from the Count's watchful eye, which topples the first domino.

continued overleaf

NVT
2021/22 SEASON

- October 1–9** **Di and Viv and Rose**
Studio *by Amelia Bullmore • directed by Claire Lewis*
- November 5–13** **Consent**
Main Theatre *by Nina Raine • directed by Scott Roberts*
- December 10–18** **Three Tall Women**
Studio *by Edward Albee • directed by Ian Amos*
- January 21–29** **The Lieutenant of Inishmore**
Main Theatre *by Martin McDonagh • directed by Steven O’Shea*
- February 18–26** **The Herd**
Main Theatre *by Rory Kinnear • directed by Charly Sommers*
- March 18–26** **Unsanctioned + Measure for Measure**
Studio *by Sam Chittenden • directed by Sam Chittenden*
- April 22–30** **Hangmen**
Main Theatre *by Martin McDonagh • directed by Pat Boxall*
- May 20–28** **Cock**
Studio *by Mike Bartlett • directed by Richard Lindfield*
- June 17–25** **Turpin**
Studio *by Barry Purchase • directed by Mark Lester*
- July 15–23** **Communicating Doors**
Main Theatre *by Alan Ayckbourn • directed by Ian Black*

RIGHT Nik Balfe and Victoria Storm. (Photo by PkSyArt)

August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* was very much at the forefront of the naturalism movement in European theatre in the late 19th century, which not only sought more realistic performances, but writing that carefully studied human behaviour and put its underlying forces under the microscope. A scandal in its time, *Miss Julie* was undoubtedly effective in exposing the harsher realities of life, yet to see it as no more than a battle of the sexes and class war, does the play a great disservice. It was ahead of its time in so many ways, exploring childhood trauma, mental health, the effects of class structure, faith, relationships and, most strikingly, female emancipation. These issues are just as relevant today as they were then, and it's for this that I think *Miss Julie*'s popularity is unwavering, inspiring numerous productions on stage and screen, each bringing a fresh take on this well-known story.

When directing *Miss Julie*, the challenge was to ensure that such complex characters would come to life in a way that allowed their story to unfold naturally. Throughout the play, I think we root for Jean, Kristin and Julie at different times, often in different ways – they're provocative; each character appears both appealing and unlikeable, and our sympathies constant shift



between them until the play reaches its shocking conclusion. It's this ability to keep the audience on the edge of their seats, and the discussions I'm sure it will incite, which made me want to direct such a confronting play.

As always, our talented team of actors and backstage crew never cease to excite and amaze me. This year has robbed us all of so many of the things and people that are important to us; however, the passion, talent and commitment to the theatre burn as brightly as ever, and I am so grateful to everyone for their support and hard work.

On behalf of everyone involved, I hope you have as much fun watching *Miss Julie* as we've had creating the production. We hope you know how much we value your support to the NVT, and look forward to seeing you there!

Mark Lester (director)

WELCOME BACK GALA

*“Thank you for sticking with us.
We can’t wait to welcome you
back soon.”*

So said The National Theatre.

We agree and it’s great to be on the move after these momentous and testing months. With the welcome relaxation of Covid rules and the return to some sort of normality we thought it would be a good idea to organise a wee get-together to say hello again and have a bit of well-deserved craic. At the beginning of September we will be hosting an event to celebrate the reopening of the theatre to live performances and all else. We also wanted to thank our members and supporters for hanging in there with us; to give a glimpse of our upcoming plans and help raise a few quid. There’s lots of work to do.

So pencil in Saturday 4 September at 8pm. The evenings fun entertainment will be lead by the talented David Roper (of Four Poofs and a Piano and telly fame) and his glamorous side kick Lynn, the divine Lady LaLa. There are of course many talented entertainers amongst our NVT members and some will hopefully want to sing as well. If you are interested in singing, then why not contact Tom Slater Hyndman who will arrange it.

You will be offered a free glass of bubbly on arrival. Thereafter it will be a cash bar. And as you know we offer one of the cheapest friendliest bars in town. Tasty nibbles will circulate. The excellent Naomi Horsfall will be organising a raffle on the night with some jolly nice prizes on offer. She is open to prize ideas.

I know some are hoping come along dressed in best bib and tucker. A good excuse to dust off glam frocks and dinner jackets if that is your thing and they still fit. But whatever you chose to wear you are more than welcome.

Tickets available via our website in the usual way:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre/t-gvjja>

As this is also a fundraising event tickets will cost £15. A bargain and a great evening for a grand cause. Obviously the plans presuppose that Covid rules will allow.

In Ireland there is a term *Céad míle fáilte* – ‘A hundred thousand welcomes’. Welcome back.

Gerry McCrudden

Artistic Update

Reminder! Two dates to add to your diary.

23–31 JULY: Miss JULIE

I have recently been watching rehearsals for Miss Julie which is already looking extremely good. We are hoping to increase the seating for this production if the restrictions relax and I recommend getting your ticket early. It is going to be a fabulous production.

Membership Update

It was way back in March 2020 that the advent of Covid forced us to suspend live theatre and to close our doors to our members. A decision was made then to freeze NVT membership but now with the virus hopefully in retreat we are looking forward to a time when we can once more have auditions, stage productions, hold live acting classes, and open the bar; all the things that make NVT what it is.

Membership will become active once more as from 1 September 2021 (some 18 months after it was suspended). For all of you who had an active membership in March 2020 the date of your membership renewal will be adjusted to compensate for the period of enforced closure. As an example; if you were due to renew in June 2020 you will now be asked to renew in December 2021.

All those whose membership had expired in the three months prior to March 2020 will be invited to renew their membership this September whilst the small number who did renew their

6 AUGUST: OFFICIAL SEASON LAUNCH

Here is a reminder of the official season launch on Friday August 6th at 8pm. I hope that as many of you as possible can pop into the theatre during the evening. Have a drink, meet the directors of the plays in our next season and find out how you can get involved again.

Katie Brownings

art.dir@newventure.org.uk

membership during the period of the freeze will have their renewal date put back to compensate for the 18-month period of closure; for example if membership was renewed in November 2020, then you would have been entitled to renew in May 2022 and having paid your subscription your next renewal will now be May 2023.

There were a number of people who joined the theatre during the period of closure and all these members will have their renewal date moved back to September 2022 as though they had become a member on 1 September 2021. Life members of course will see no change.

During the period of lockdown we have been looking at various software packages that could be used to automate our membership procedures and I am pleased to say that NVT has now acquired a software package developed by Membermojo, a firm based in Dorking. The software will be linked to the NVT website and will process new

continued overleaf

applications and membership renewals. In future we will collect your name, email address and telephone contact only and there will be the opportunity for members to tell us which aspects of the theatre interest them (for example: acting, directing, set design) and the ways they would like to help support the activities of the theatre (for example: helping with publicity, the bar and front of house). As a member you will have online access to view and amend personal information and you will be able to print your own membership card.

Being a member of NTV provides you with access to a diverse range of theatrical experience but also gives you the opportunity to see our productions at a reduced cost. To enable the Box Office to operate the discount system and you to obtain the discount we need you to use your membership number when you book tickets. If you have forgotten your number you will be

able to find it by signing into the database.

Over the coming weeks members' details will be added to the new database and you will be invited to sign in to view your personal data and to complete the sections relating to your interests and the ways you would be willing to help support the work of the theatre. Access to the database is via the NVT webpage where you will identify yourself by your email address. You will have the option of setting a password if you wish to do so but it is not necessary. You will be sent an email reminding you when your new subscription is due with a link to the database where you can use PayPal to make your payment and at the same time update your personal data.

Welcome back and enjoy the season!

Raymond Tongue

membership@newventure.org.uk

Volunteering Update

Here at the NVT, we are getting back to what we do best: making great theatre.

We are already showing live productions albeit with limited audiences. Soon to return to full working order!

And with something to suit all levels of commitment, we are now looking for more volunteers. As a charity we are heavily reliant upon our volunteers to help make productions and support all the activities behind the scenes that make us good at what we do.

This could be in set design, costumes, lighting, sound, assisting in the bar, assisting in the box office, painting, etc. and in particular:

BAR

On show nights we need people to run the bar. You will take interval drinks orders and lay them out, and sell drinks before the show, in the interval and after the show. We encourage all members to offer themselves for a bar shift.

Again we are happy to give full training.

So, if you are interested please contact the Front of House Manager, Cata Lindegaard:

frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk

or Artistic Director, Katie Brownings:

art.dir@newventure.org.uk

BOX OFFICE

Serving in the Box Office is a great role for being in the centre of what is going on at NVT. You meet lots of people, both the creative types and audience members, and you're doing something which is, of course, critical to the theatre: no box office, no tickets, no money, no theatre!

If you can support the manager one night during a run, we can show you the ropes.

So, if you are interested please contact the Box Office Manager, Ian Amos:

boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

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):

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Provide media support to the theatre through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc to inform the public on productions and other items of interest promoting the theatre.

The theatre is keen to publicise its productions and social media is an ideal vehicle to promote our community supported service.

This role will involve interaction and coordination with other volunteers such as the Artistic Director, Publicity & Marketing Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSISTANT

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

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

Michael Prince

volunteering@newventure.org.uk

Audition Notice

THREE TALL WOMEN

by Edward Albee

directed by by Ian Amos

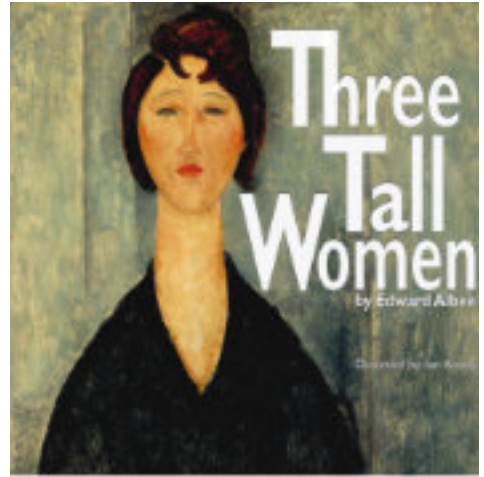
Auditions: Mon 16 / Wed 18 August, 7pm

**Performance dates:
Fri 10 to Sat 18 December**

Rehearsing from early/mid October

A ninety-two year old woman recollects the events of her life, a life that spans the 20th Century. Friends, lovers, sex, marriage, adventure – she attempts to make sense of it all. Her hopes, when young, of what is to come, her middle-aged disillusionment with life's realities, and the frail but still feisty woman she is now . . . looking back.

There is wit and harshness, pain, joy and laughter in Edward Albee's deeply autobiographical play.



The play is a startling tour-de-force for three actresses.

Woman 'A'/playing age 92

Woman 'B'/playing age 52

Woman 'C'/playing age 26

The Boy/playing age 23

Details on the [website](#).

NVT Virtual Acting Classes: Comedy with Kate

Mondays in July, 7:00–8:00 PM

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

Four weeks of comedy writing and performance skills, creating comedy characters that can be used in sketches, online and on stage. We will use improv, writing games and inspiration from famous comedy characters.

Kate McGann has a degree in Theatre Studies and has been performing since she was a child. She is a stand-up

comedian and *So You Think You're Funny* finalist.

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

Contacting the NVT

The New Venture Theatre
Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT



[@NewVentureTheatreBrighton](#)



[@nvt_brighton](#)



[@brightonnewventuretheatre](#)

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Social Media Coordinator

VACANT

*Asterisks indicate trustee
committee members.

NVT Information

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.

Our Sponsors

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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contemporary jewellery



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