

# NEW VENTURE THEATRE

newsletter  
June 2021

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

Preview

18 to 26 June 2021

## Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons

by Sam Steiner

directed by Cata Lindegaard



The average person will speak about 123,205,750 words in a lifetime. But what if there were a limit?

How do you communicate? How do you argue? Could you ever truly know someone in just 140 words?

A typical opposites-attract story, set in the background of free speech, democracy, and the preciousness of language. A world where we're forced to say less. A world where it's about what we say, and how we say it. About dead cats, activism, eye contact, and lemons, lemons, lemons, lemons, lemons.

### Cast

Bernadette - *Paris Nethercott-Cable*

Oliver - *Rhys Wilson-Plant*



### Auditions for Consent

Consent by Nina Raine  
Directed by Scott Roberts

**Auditions - 10 & 11 July**  
Production dates - 5 to 13 November

See Website for details

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## Welcome Back Jollification : 8pm Saturday 4 September

***“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 interested in singing why not contact Tom Slater Hyndman who will sort. Have a look at Tom’s invitation elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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. [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)*

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*



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## Building Update



None of us are getting any younger' is a much used expression that is, of course, equally true of our wonderful old listed building at New Venture. After 120 years it's entitled to develop some cracks and wrinkles, just like the rest of us, and just before last Christmas one such crack resulted in a fist sized piece of brickwork falling from near the very top of the south external wall. Fortunately it did no damage to people or property but emergency scaffolding was

erected along our south passage to protect us and our immediate neighbour from any further falls.

We then had a full professional survey done of the outside of the building which identified necessary remedial work, including repointing and lintel repairs, some of which must be done now and some over the next few years. We are pressing ahead now with the urgent work and you will notice full scaffolding has been erected on the south side of the building and some part of the front. Brickwork repairs etc started in May and we'll take the opportunity to repaint some windows and re-lay the south passage path.

Although this work is maintenance that will not be noticed by the casual observer it is obviously expensive and has come at a time when we have been receiving virtually no income due to COVID restrictions. So your support of the theatre is particularly welcome to keep a grand old dame of the arts in continued good health.

*Peter Meekings - Buildings Manger*

## Volunteering Update

Here at the NVT, we are already getting back to what we do best: making great live productions theatre!

However, we are in need of more volunteers, in the last newsletter I did ask for volunteers to step forward to help. These volunteers are important to support our front and back of house support to run our productions. So please approach us for more information.

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

Helping in the Box Office is just one way to help.

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

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 Manager; Ian Amos [boxoffice@newventure.org.uk]

Helping in the Bar is also another way to help.

We need bar staff for our thirsty audiences and that is another area where we need volunteers. So, if you are interested, please contact the Front of House Manager; cata.lindegaard@newventure.org.uk or the Artistic Director; katie.brownings@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] 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 & 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](mailto:volunteering@newventure.org.uk),**

In addition, June 1 to 7 was the week of volunteering organised by the National Council of Volunteering Organisations. The theme for this year's Volunteers' Week is 'A time to say thanks'.

Clearly, we rely on our volunteers to support all that makes us a working Theatre,

So drop me a line and I will guide you through our vacancies and then put you in touch with the appropriate person who will talk you through the detail.

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

*Michael Prince - Volunteer Co-ordinator*

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## Artistic Update

Firstly I want to say thank you to Sarah Davies for her wonderful Bag Lady. What a brilliant way for us to bring live theatre back to NVT. It was quite emotional to be an audience member again. I loved it and the measures we have taken to keep everyone safe worked well, which allows us to look confidently ahead to our next production : Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons.

### Diary Date

**2021/2022 Official Season Launch - Fri August 6th at 8pm**

We hope that as many members as possible will be able to come, have a drink and a chat and hear the directors talk about their plays. This is their chance to recruit their teams, for you to offer your services, get involved in the new season and for us all to finally see each other again.

*Katie Brownings*

### Our July Production - Miss Julie

**Miss Julie** by August Strindberg - directed by Mark Lester  
*Tickets available now on our website*

## Virtual Acting Class

Acting class continues into June in its current virtual home via Zoom. Thanks to Sarah Davies who continuing to manage this virtual version of Acting Class.

## Creative Development with Kaz Luckins 7, 14, 21 & 28 June

Kaz Luckins is a professional actress, singer, an accomplished director and drama practitioner. Her acting credits are diverse, ranging from Shakespeare to pantomime villains, princes and fairies with bag ladies and tarts in between. As a drama practitioner, she has taught numerous people from nursery age up to OAPs over the course of many years.

1. Tell Me A Story - Using imagination and in character narration to create weird and wacky stories.
2. It's All in the Body - Let's get physical in the way we create and portray characters and situations.
3. What's in a Voice? - Exploring how versatile and useful an actor's voice can be.
4. What's my Object-ive? - Using objects and props to explore elements of Stanislavski's System.

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## Len Goldman - 1916 to 2021



It was with profound sadness we learned of the death at the age of 104 of Len Goldman our great supporter and Life Member. He died peacefully in his sleep at his care home in Patcham. Len was the last remaining link with our theatre to when it was a school. He was born in Weston-super-Mare. His family moved to Brighton and he was a schoolboy at the then Christchurch Boys school in the 1920s. He and his wife Rita attended many of our productions. I would occasionally get a message from him asking for a copy of the script so that he could read it beforehand. Such was his interest. His love of the NVT was reflected in this poem which he wrote in his 100th year :

*'An Old Building for a New Venture  
It once housed a youthful centre of  
learning;  
Now it's a playhouse to which I'm often  
returning.  
As a boy there I listened to all of my  
teachers,  
Now it's the habitat of quite different  
creatures.  
It's where gifted and talented players  
perform,  
Entertain us royally and keep our hearts  
warm.  
They probe into our souls and stir up our  
feeling,  
The essence of life most clearly  
revealing.*

*Yes, New Venture continues to pry into  
our souls,  
Providing its thespians with challenging  
roles.  
I shall always remember my school  
building of old  
And rejoice that New Venture our hearts  
can enfold.'*

He had fond memories of his time at the school and indeed of the inspirational teachers, one of whom introduced the lads to theatre. A makeshift platform in what is now the bar serving as a stage. His first role was as Mrs Cratchit in 'A Christmas Carol'. Len taught at Dorothy Stringer School from 1965 until his retirement in 1980 and kept in close touch with the school thereafter. He was a passionate campaigner for comprehensive education in Brighton and a vigorous supporter of the arts. His great passion however was politics. Over the years he penned a series of memoirs starting with his early years in Brighton and his life and travels thereafter.

His recall was crystal clear. He was never lost for words and his voice was compelling. Particularly so as a teacher and lecturer at the University in the German city of Leipzig where he taught English for 7 years. This is where Rita met him as a student and the rest was history. A long and loving partnership. I recall once mentioning 'East Germany' to him. With a twinkle in his eye he said 'Surely you mean The German Democratic Republic'. I got the message. When Len celebrated his 100th birthday the Head of the Institute, with whom they had been in regular contact, said ;

"You made an unforgettable impression on the teaching staff and hundreds of

students who admired your spirit and knowledge as well as your attitude to life. This is rare in foreign teachers."

Before the Second World War he was associated with the Unity Theatre in London. An influential left wing theatre group. In the 30s he was in a production with renowned director Andre Van Gyseghem , the father of actress Joanna Van Gyseghem who coincidentally is an NVT Angel. Some later members of the Unity became household names, including Lionel Bart, Michael Gambon, Bob Hoskins and Bill Owen.

Len lived a full and varied life having been a salesman, soldier and teacher. He loved Theatre, Music, Opera, Travel and played an active part in various social organisations, especially after his retirement . He had to spend his last year in a care home. But well into his 104th year he continued to write poems which he loved to recite on special occasions. After the passing of a year and due to Covid rules Rita was only recently allowed to visit him personally in his care home . In his room she noticed the Guardian with a half-completed crossword box. His mind was quite clear until nearly the end.

We will remember Len's penmanship, his warm personality, razor sharp wit and compassion. His striving for a better world.

Len is survived by Rita , their daughter Fleur and family.

*Gerry McCrudden*

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# Contacting the NVT

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The New Venture Theatre  
Bedford Place  
Brighton BN1 2PT



[@NewVentureTheatreBrighton](#)



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[@brightonnewventuretheatre](#)

## Box Office Info

01273 746118  
(answerphone only)  
[boxoffice@newventure.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@newventure.org.uk)

## General Enquiries

01273 808353  
[info@newventure.org.uk](mailto:info@newventure.org.uk)

NVT Website  
[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)

## Chairman

Ian Black\*  
[chairman@newventure.org.uk](mailto:chairman@newventure.org.uk)

## Secretary

Jerry Lyne\*  
[secretary@newventure.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newventure.org.uk)

## Artistic Director

Katie Brownings\*  
[art\\_dir@newventure.org.uk](mailto:art_dir@newventure.org.uk)

## Treasurer

Alison McMillan-Puri\*  
[finance@newventure.org.uk](mailto:finance@newventure.org.uk)

## Production Coordinator

Tom Kitch\*  
[prod\\_mgr@newventure.org.uk](mailto:prod_mgr@newventure.org.uk)

## Buildings Manager

Peter Meekings\*  
[buildings@newventure.org.uk](mailto:buildings@newventure.org.uk)

## Front of House Coordinator

Cata Lindegaard  
[frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk](mailto:frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk)

## Fundraising

Gerry McCrudden  
[fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

## Box Office Manager

Ian Amos  
[boxoffice@newventure.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@newventure.org.uk)

## Volunteer Coordinator

Mike Prince  
[volunteering@newventure.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@newventure.org.uk)

## Technical Coordinator

Tech Team  
[tech@newventure.org.uk](mailto:tech@newventure.org.uk)

## Membership Secretary

Raymond Tongue  
[membership@newventure.org.uk](mailto:membership@newventure.org.uk)

## Newsletter Editor

**VACANT**  
[newsletter@newventure.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@newventure.org.uk)

## Publicity & Marketing Coordinator

Aldo Henriquez  
[publicity@newventure.org.uk](mailto:publicity@newventure.org.uk)

## Little Theatre Guild Rep

Pat Boxall  
[pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk](mailto:pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk)

## Child Protection Officer

Pat Boxall  
[pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk](mailto:pat.boxall@newventure.org.uk)

## Social Events Manager

**VACANT**  
[social@newventure.org.uk](mailto:social@newventure.org.uk)

## NVYT Coordinator

Sarah Davies  
[youththeatre@newventure.org.uk](mailto:youththeatre@newventure.org.uk)

## Angels / Archives

Gerry McCrudden  
[angels@newventure.org.uk](mailto:angels@newventure.org.uk)

## Acting Class Coordinator

Gina Laline  
[actingclass@newventure.org.uk](mailto:actingclass@newventure.org.uk)

\*Asterisks indicate trustee  
committee members.