

NEW VENTURE THEATRE

newsletter
november 2021

[Preview: Consent 1](#)
[2021/22 Season 2](#)
[NVT 2021 AGM 4](#)
[Welcome Back Gala 4](#)
[Reviews: Di and Viv and Rose 5](#)
[NVT Calendar 8](#)
[Renewal at New Venture 11](#)
[Volunteering Update 12](#)
[Artistic Update 13](#)
[NVT Information 13](#)
[Contacting the NVT 14](#)
[Booking Tickets 15](#)

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

Preview

5–13 November 2021

CONSENT

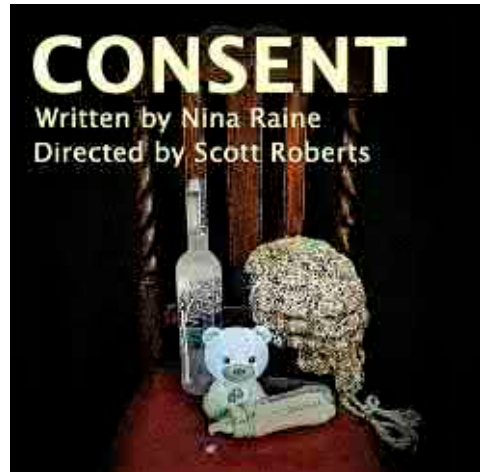
by Nina Raine

directed by Scott Roberts

It's a real honour to be directing one of the first shows to welcome everyone back to the NVT after such a long hiatus. Anyone who was lucky enough to see *Di and Viv and Rose* will know that this season is already off to a flier. Congratulations to Claire and her team for a wonderfully successful production.

Having been one of the postponed productions from the 2019–2020 season, the original cast of *Consent* had already started rehearsals when the pandemic hit. But we're back now at last, and after some necessary re-casting we're finally getting a chance to show you this fantastic play.

Consent is a modern classic, written in 2017 and described by Michael Billington as “a play of fierce moral intelligence”. It was pre-emptively topical, debuting at the National Theatre a few



months before the #MeToo movement erupted.

At first reading I loved Nina Raine's energetic text full of dark, unapologetic humour. You question yourself for finding it funny. During rehearsals, I'm constantly laughing with my hand over my mouth. It was also refreshing to read so many well written, female roles.

In the play, Raine attacks the legal system and highlights its failure to bring justice

continued on page 3

October 1-9

Studio

Di and Viv and Rose

by Amelia Bullmore • directed by Claire Lewis

November 5-13

Main Theatre

Consent

by Nina Raine • directed by Scott Roberts

December dates TBC

Studio

Christmas Bag Lady (newly added – see below)

by Sarah Davies

January 21-29

Main Theatre

The Lieutenant of Inishmore

by Martin McDonagh • directed by Steven O'Shea

February 18-26

Main Theatre

The Herd

by Rory Kinnear • directed by Charly Sommers

March 18-26

Studio

Unsanctioned (double bill)

by Sam Chittenden • directed by Sam Chittenden

Measure 2 Measure (double bill)

by Shakespeare • adapted by Sam Chittenden

April 22-30

Main Theatre

Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh • directed by Pat Boxall

May 20-28

Studio

Cock

by Mike Bartlett • directed by Richard Lindfield

June 17-25

Studio

Turpin

by Barry Purchase • directed by Mark Lester

July 15-23

Main Theatre

Communicating Doors

by Alan Ayckbourn • directed by Ian Black

THREE TALL WOMEN CANCELLED

Unfortunately it is with regret that I inform you that, after many discussions in an attempt to solve the problems we were facing with getting a full cast, the December production of *Three Tall Women* has been cancelled. Rest assured this decision was not taken lightly and the director and myself are saddened to have had to take this step.

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY

On a much more positive and festive note Sarah Davies is bringing *Bag Lady* back to enchant us in December. More details to follow.

Katie Brownings

art.dir@newventure.org.uk

Preview continued

5-13 November 2021

CONSENT

to the victims it was designed to protect. Barristers joke with little empathy about their cases, whilst their own personal lives are disintegrating. Their living rooms become the courtroom.

Each character in *Consent* is at their most raw. Their vivid emotions provoke difficult conversations. The play asks you more questions than it answers. This is a messy, confusing and uncomfortable realism, all of which the actors and myself adore discussing and exploring. I should also warn you that the themes are powerful and emotional, some of which you may find upsetting. We do. But we also feel that this is no reason to avoid *Consent*.

The cast are all amazing. Firstly, we have a couple of familiar faces; Victoria Storm (playing Kitty) and Nik Balfe (Tim) return after their recent electric performances in *Miss Julie*. Some of you may also be familiar with Maya Katherine (Gayle), who last trod the boards here when she was a student within the New Venture Youth Theatre Group.

As well as these three wonderful actors, I feel very privileged to introduce you to five brand new NVT members – Will Mytum (Ed), Aoife Bradley (Rachel), Brad Glen (Jake), Karina Mills (Zara)



ABOVE Will Mytum and Victoria Storm (Photo by James Michael Maltby)

and Erin McHugh (Laura). I have no doubt that they'll all knock your socks off. Their commitment and dedication to this production has been more than I could ever hope for. They are a great group of people; we've had a lot of laughter and a few tears during rehearsals and I'm very proud to call them all my friends.

I hope you decide to join me in the audience and reward the team for their amazing work in this fantastic play – it thoroughly deserves your attention. It's been my privilege to be brought along for the ride. And if you do join us for one of our performances, I look forward to hearing you talking about *Consent* afterwards.

Scott Roberts (director)

Consent is an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

NVT 2021 AGM

The NVT AGM will be held on Friday 19 November at 7:30pm. This meeting is your chance to find out how things have gone during the past year, ask any questions you may have and discuss and formulate the way the NVT develops over the coming year(s).

All trustee roles (except Artistic Director, which is a 2-year appointment) and role holder positions are up for election as usual. Some of the current post holders may well be interested in standing for re-election, but that does not preclude anyone else standing for those roles. Also, there are several roles that are or will become vacant after the AGM, so now is

your chance to step forward and play a part in helping to keep the NVT running for many years to come.

Role that are currently or potentially vacant include: Volunteer Coordinator, Front of House Coordinator, Social Secretary, Archivist, Diary Manager and Company Stage Manager.

Nomination forms should be completed and sent to the Secretary, Jerry Lyne. A copy of the forms and the AGM agenda was sent to you with this newsletter.

Ian Black
chairman@newventure.org.uk

Looking Back

4 September 2021

WELCOME BACK GALA

Fundraising and Feather Boas at the NVT Gala

“Thank you for sticking with us. We can’t wait to welcome you back soon.” So said the National Theatre, and on Saturday 4th September the New Venture Theatre opened its famous green door for our welcome-back gala.

There was a joyful atmosphere as guests collected their welcome drinks, from longstanding members embracing each other after an 18-month absence to new faces enticed to the NVT for the first

time by the flurry of publicity. The prosecco continued to flow whilst guests enjoyed a range of delicious meat, vegetarian and vegan canapes supplied by Laura Scobie of Button Nose Bakery.

Gerry McCrudden announced the official start of the “Renewal at New Venture” five-year plan to raise £80,000 for much-needed building repairs, with Peter Meeking’s cleverly illuminated Green Door Fundraising Tracker monitoring our progress from the South Hall mantelpiece. Entertainment was provided in the beautifully lit Studio by the fab-



LEFT AND BELOW
 Photos by Jack Lynn;
 for enquiries contact



ulous LaLa Band from London (David Roper, Lynn Sutcliffe and Shamil Sharshek) and our equally talented NVT singers (Jack Lynn, Aaron Coomer, Helen Betty Ann, Tom Slater-Hydmán, Tristan Wolfe, Fintan Shevlin). With sequins sparkling and feather boas flying, they performed three sets of feel-good songs, from show tunes to Abba to German leder. Between the sets, there were refreshments to be had and raffle tickets to be bought, and the prize draw took place without a single fix!

It proved a hugely popular event, and putting it together truly was a team effort. Gerry and I would like to thank Tom Slater-Hydmán, Carol Croft, Naomi Horsfall, Strat Mastoris, Peter Meekings,

Aldo Henriquez, Jack Lynn, Ian Amos, Ian Black, Katie Brownings, Alison McMillan-Puri and Kris Page for all of their hard work. Many thanks also to the bar staff, raffle prize donors (Purezza Hove, Be Chocolat Brighton, Waitrose and Partners Brighton, Natural Balance Therapies, Alive Gym and City Books) and ticket holders, all of whom were essential in making the evening a success. Together, our efforts raised £1,889 towards keeping the green door open for many years to come.

Online donations can be made at:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/renewalatnewventure

Carrie Hynds

DI AND VIV AND ROSE

by Amelia Bullmore

directed by Claire Lewis



REVIEW 1

First produced at the Hampstead Theatre in 2012, *Di and Viv and Rose* tells the story of three University friends and the development of their relationships from the first days of their living together in 1983 through to 2010.

In the wrong hands, this production could so easily have sunk into stereotypical interpretation. The bubbly, middle-class, Rose; the angry feminist, Viv, and the sporty lesbian, Di, are clear character traps for lazy actors and unimaginative

directors. Within minutes, however, we knew that we were very definitely in the right hands.

The show's pace and the skill and subtlety brought to their characterisation by Sophie Dearlove (Di), Emmie Spencer (Viv) and Mandy Jane Jackson (Rose) clearly demonstrated the care and deep understanding they and director, Claire Lewis, had so obviously invested in creating beautifully layered personalities, rich with vulnerabilities and strengths.

They gave us moments of hilarity such as Di's terrible awkwardness as she appeared in the outfit her mother had bought her for Freshers' Week. They gave us rage and despair. They gave us the love and tenderness they felt for each other as when Rose fed soup to the traumatised Di. They gave us the uncluttered joy of being young and being together as they danced to Prince's 'Let's Go Crazy'. None of it overplayed. None of it self-conscious. Three actors totally immersed in the moment.

And in just under two hours, they created for us a sense of the passing of almost thirty years. The audience was helped to recognise this transition with a montage of projected news images. In so doing, we



ABOVE Emmie Spencer, Mandy-Jane Jackson and Sophie Dearlove, (Photos by Miles Davies)

were cleverly 'included' as it enabled a resonance with our own stories. It was the actors' subtle changes of vocal tone and physicality that gave us a sense of the impact upon them of their passing years. The successful creation of that arc is testament to the skill and thoughtful direction – that 'big picture' perspective – that Claire Lewis demonstrates.



The very best of theatre gently and often without us even realising it, leads us to turn and look at our own lives and usually at the level of feeling rather than with words. This was the very best of theatre.

Mark Wilson

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

November

Acting class 7:30pm **1**

2

3

4

CONSENT 7:45pm
NVYT **5**

CONSENT 7:45pm **6**

CONSENT 2:30pm
Sussex Playwrights 6pm **7**

Acting class 7:30pm **8**

CONSENT 7:45pm **9**

CONSENT 7:45pm **10**

CONSENT 7:45pm **11**

CONSENT 7:45pm
NVYT **12**

CONSENT 7:45pm **13**

14

Acting class 7:30pm **15**

16

17

18

NVT AGM
NVYT **19**

20

21

Acting class 7:30pm **22**

23

24

25

26

27

28

Acting class 7:30pm **29**

30

December

1

2

NVYT **3**

4

Sussex Playwrights 6pm **5**

Acting class 7:30pm **6**

7

8

9

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **10**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **11**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **12**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC
Acting class 7:30pm **13**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **14**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **15**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **16**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **17**

CHRISTMAS BAG LADY
dates TBC **18**

19

Acting class 7:30pm **20**

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31



**REVIEW 2;
PLEASE NOTE
THERE ARE
SPOILERS IN
THE SECOND
PARAGRAPH**

There was a confident exuberance to Sophie Dearlove, Emmie Spencer and Mandy-Jane Jackson's performances as the eponymous Di, Viv and Rose respectively: three disparate women thrown together, learning to become mates. Each captured the individual essence of her character – Viv who filters life through her Sociology studies, but is emotionally closed, Rose, lighter on intellect, brazenly plunging into a pool of men, and Di exploring her sexuality. Director, Claire Lewis had teased-out from her actors a true bond.

Amelia Bullmore does not choose to write an easy path, introducing rape to what could have been a 'Liver Birds'-type comedy, killing off Rose (the dynamo of the trio) and then exploring the uncomfortable gap that it leaves between Di and Viv. As the play introduces these heavier subjects, the structure fractures, increasing the demands on director, actors and staging to make smaller, sometimes snatched, scenes still resonate. Mostly the production succeeded with this more challenging second half.

Scene changes were slickly handled by the actors themselves (perhaps some



could have been a little quicker if they had involved stage management as well). The production was a little too forward-facing, not always succeeding in including audience members seated at the far ends. The sound design and video montages were impressive and essential to the time-travelling of the play. The lighting was warm and moody with effective 'time' flashes. If the all-black set seemed a little austere for the student flat (even if dressed with posters and postcards), stripped it allowed the space to be a railway station, a funeral chapel, a New York apartment.

This was a strong opening production for the NVT 2021/22 season. Together, Claire, her cast and crew created something rather special. And the most haunting moment was perhaps also the simplest – the arresting image of the three women huddled close on their 'den' mattress.

Ian Amos

Renewal at New Venture

Year One of our 5 Year Plan

The conclusion of our 2020/21 financial year at the end of August saw us successfully meet our year one target of raising sufficient funds for the renovation and improvement of our cherished listed theatre. This enabled us to carry out important repair and repointing of the brickwork on the south wall of the building plus other urgent external repairs such as the reconstruction of a brick lintel above a window to the South Hall (bar). The 'before' and 'after' photos below show how essential the work was!

Your contributions to help get this work done has been greatly appreciated by everyone at the theatre.

During 2021/22 we hope to raise a further £17,000 to enable air conditioning to be installed in the upstairs theatre, with further fundraising and improvements to the theatre in subsequent years. But of course we need your continuing assistance!



Please give whatever you are able to secure the long term future of our wonderful theatre for members, audiences and the wider community. You can do this by the following means:

Via our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/campaign/renewalatnewventure

Using collection boxes and Gift Aid envelopes in the theatre

Emailing fundraising@newventure.org.uk

Becoming an NVT Angel
angels@newventure.org.uk



Volunteering Update

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, and we are looking for more volunteers, with roles available to suit all levels of commitment. As well as backstage roles for our productions, we are also looking for:

BAR

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

So, if you are interested please contact Ian Black ian.black@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):

FRONT OF HOUSE COORDINATOR

Manage the bar and front of house services; working with the Front of House team to ensure the bar is adequately stocked; and ensure the bar has adequate cover by organising volunteers into shifts for each live performance and other events in liaison with the Volunteer Coordinator. The person undertaking this role should be a Personal License holder or be willing to obtain one, and bar experience would be an advantage.

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. 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

Artistic Update

To those of you who managed to get a ticket I am sure that you will agree that the season started in magnificent fashion with *Di and Viv and Rose*. Thank you to Claire Lewis, the cast and the entire team involved in bringing this stunning pro-

duction to fruition. I am now looking forward to *Consent* in November.

Katie Brownings

art.dir@newventure.org.uk

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

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.

NVT membership

If you are already an NVT member and if you haven't done so already, can I encourage you to sign in to the membership database and check your personal details. Our new on-line data base is now fully operational and you will receive an email when your membership is due for renewal but it is important that we have your correct details. If you are not a member and want to join NVT the annual membership is £15.

To join, renew or check your membership details just go to our website:

www.newventure.org.uk/join-us

Raymond Tongue

membership@newventure.org.uk



Contacting the NVT

The New Venture Theatre
Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT



[@NewVentureTheatreBrighton](#)

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

VACANT
frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk

Company Stage Manager

VACANT

Box Office Info

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



[@nvt_brighton](#)

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

Apollo Videaux
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

Guy Dixon

General Enquiries

01273 808353
info@newventure.org.uk



[@brightonnewventuretheatre](#)

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

Andrew Allen
youththeatre@newventure.org.uk

Angels / Archives

Gerry McCrudden
angels@newventure.org.uk

Acting Class Coordinator

VACANT
actingclass@newventure.org.uk

Social Media Coordinator

VACANT

*Asterisks indicate trustee
committee members.



Booking tickets

TICKET PRICES AND PERFORMANCES

Members £9 / Non-Members £10
Evening performances at 7:45pm
Sundays are matinees only at 2:30pm
and will have reduced seating to allow
the audience to socially distance
There are no performances on Mondays

HOW TO BOOK TICKETS

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

CONTACTING BOX OFFICE

Box Office (answerphone only):
01273 746118
For all ticketing enquiries, please email:
boxoffice@newventure.org.uk

STUDIO THEATRE SEATING AND ACCESS

The Studio has unallocated seating.
There is one step at the entrance.

THEATRE UPSTAIRS SEATING AND ACCESS

The Theatre Upstairs has allocated seat-
ing; please use the seating chart overleaf
and indicate your first, second and third
choice seats using 1s, 2s and 3s respect-
ively, and fill out your contact details be-
low. Access to the Theatre Upstairs is
only possible by 4 flights of stairs and
therefore may not be suitable for those
with limited mobility.

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

CUT ALONG THE LINE, AND RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SLIP
TOGETHER WITH A CHEQUE TO: NEW VENTURE THEATRE,
BEDFORD PLACE, BRIGHTON BN1 2PT

your name:

address:

email:

phone number:

NVT Covid Precautions for the 2021–22 Season

While we are very pleased to be open for the 2021–22 season, we want to do our very best to minimise the risk of infection for our audiences and volunteers. For this reason, our current policy is as follow:

WEARING MASKS

We request that all members of the audience wear masks at all times other than when seated in the South Hall bar unless exempt from doing so.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED SUNDAY MATINEES

All Sunday matinees will be at reduced capacities and the seating will be unallocated to allow for social distancing.

DOUBLE JABS & TESTING FOR CAST AND CREW

All cast and crew should be double-jabbed if they will be in direct contact with other cast and crew in the theatre and will need to self-test twice per week any week they are in the theatre.



BRAMBLE COTTAGE
Retirement Home

Production	Date	# Members tickets (£9)	# Non-member tickets (£10)	Total cost
CONSENT (5–13 November) Theatre upstairs – mark seat preference below *				
CHRISTMAS BAG LADY (dates to be confirmed) Studio theatre – unreserved seating				
THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE (21–29 January) Theatre upstairs – mark seat preference below *				
THE HERD (18–26 February) Theatre upstairs – mark seat preference below *				

	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11	F12	* Seating for Sunday matinees in the Theatre Upstairs will be unallocated, so don't indicate a seat preference	
Write '1', '2' or '3' for your first, second and third choice seats. Seat F1 is normally unavailable.	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10			
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11	D12	D13
	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13
	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	B10	B11	B12	B13
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13
STAGE													

EXIT