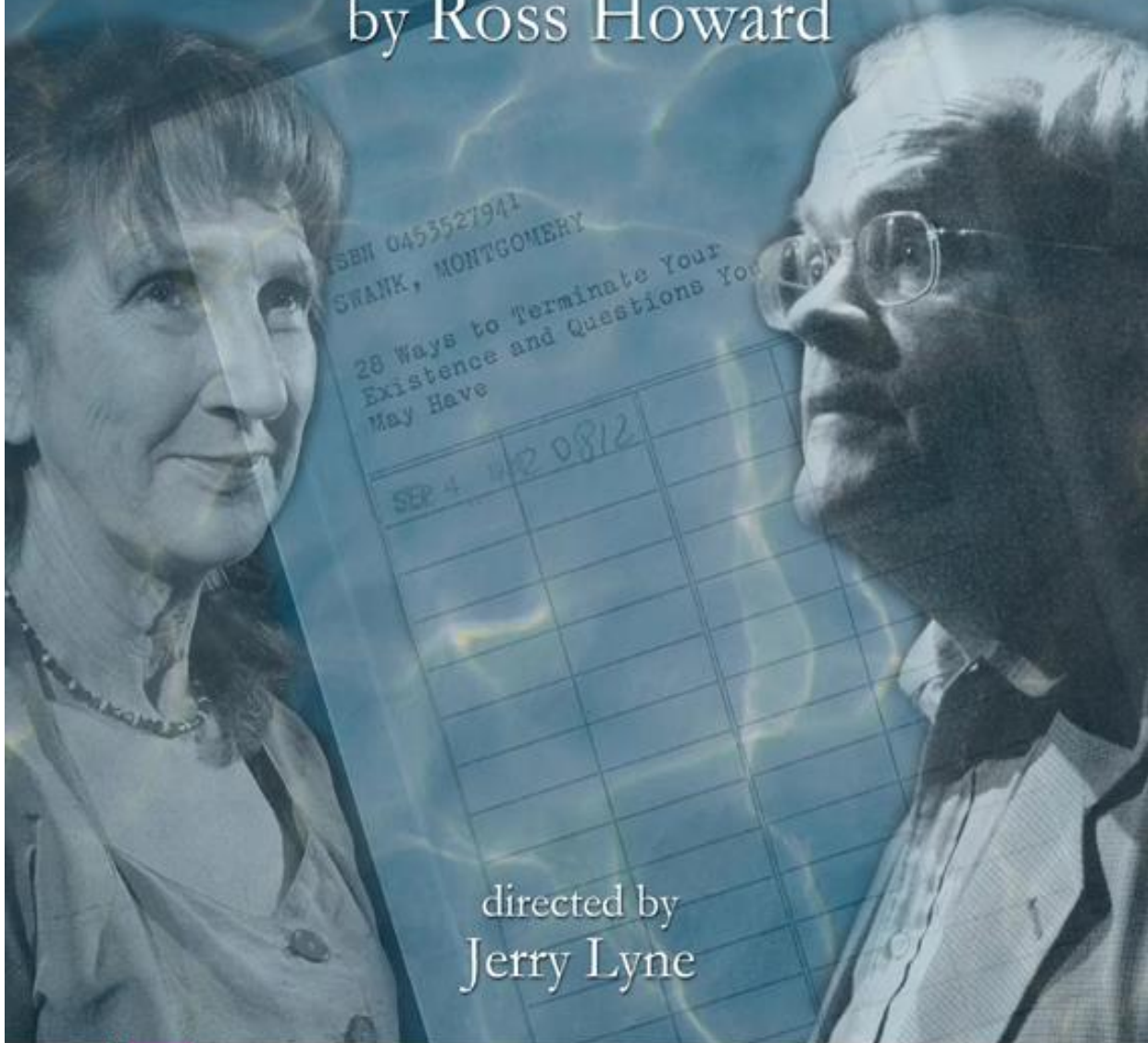


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Arthur and Esther

by Ross Howard



directed by
Jerry Lyne

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

NVT VIRTUAL SEASON - ONLINE PERFORMANCES ONLY
Tue 12th - Sat 16th January 2021 - 7.45 pm
Tickets £2.50 With an option to donate to our Support Fund

FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO WATCH THE SHOW, GO TO OUR WEB SITE
CLICK ON BOOK TICKETS. AND YOU WILL BE SENT A LINK WHICH
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE DAY & TIME.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 268607

ARTHUR & ESTHER by Ross Howard.

Stage Direction Jerry Lyne: Film Direction Phil Palmer

In the wake of public spending cuts, resulting in closing his beloved library and turning it into an 'info lounge' Arthur wrestles with the methods set out in Montgomery Swank's *28 Ways to Terminate your Existence and Questions you Might Have*, the one book he has salvaged from the closure of his beloved library.

We follow Arthur in his humorous attempts to find a way to 'end it all' but learn of his deep sadness, passion and frustration.

With Esther, his wife, in the wake of her tragic drowning we find her looking back on her life, going over the mistakes she made and seeking understanding and forgiveness.

A play of two worlds. This amusing, elemental and affecting two hander explores love, its loss, and the lives we inherit and impose on others.

Author **Ross Howard's** work has been seen in London, Cork, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, San Francisco, New York City and developed at Last Frontier Conference, Great Plains Theatre Conference and at Western Carolina University.

In 2002, he was invited to join the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Group. In 2008, he received a Fellowship from the Edward F. Albee Foundation. **Arthur and Esther** was awarded "Best of Fringe" at Las Vegas Fringe Festival 2010 while **No One Loves Us Here** was a finalist for the New York Stage and Film Founders Award 2012. **Frisky & The Panda Man** was a winning finalist in the 38th Samuel French Off Broadway Short Play Festival in 2013 and **Picture Ourselves In Latvia** was listed in New York's L Magazine's "Best of theatre 2014". **Arthur and Esther, No One Loves Us Here, Picture Ourselves in Latvia** and his evening of short plays **Our Walk through the World** are published by Samuel French. In October 2016, his play **Two of Us** (Listed as one of the 5 Out-of-the-Box shows to see Off-Broadway from Playbill.com) showcased Off-Broadway, alongside **Arthur and Esther** and **Our Walk through the World**.

The Ross Howard Festival was in recognition for the three years spent as the Resident Playwright of New Light theatre Project (As featured in American Theatre Magazine in "Know a Theatre") of New York. He regularly tutors at the

Actor's Centre in London, the city in which he currently resides. He holds an M.F.A in Playwriting from UNLV (2006) and is a member of New Play Exchange and The Finborough Theatre's Writers Group. In April 2018, his new play **The Amazing Always** received a public reading at The Drama Book Shop in New York. Excerpts from **No One Loves Us Here** can be found in **The Best Men's Stage Monologues 2018** published by Smith and Kraus. **Two of Us** was published in November 2018 by Samuel French.

This play is the first of our New Virtual Season. Due to the many Covid restrictions it was important to put together a small team not only to comply with social distancing but one that has the experience and knowhow to construct a successful production in difficult circumstances. Sadly this meant we could not use our usual route of auditions.

However I am delighted we can feature two of our most prominent actors. **Diane Robinson** playing Esther and **John Tolputt** playing Arthur. Coupled with sound design by **Ian Black** and filmed and lit by a man of many years' experience in the industry. **Phil Palmer**.

Also a vital part of our small but very experienced team is **Carol Croft** our SM and PA to our Film Director **Phil**, and **Tamsin Mastoris** for our programme and poster design and lighting operator.

Thanks also go to **Ian Amos** our Box Office Manager for managing our online Box Office systems and **Strat Mastoris** for lighting assistance plus those people involved in making our Theatre Covid Secure.

Some notes on the creation of this production: We started work in October 2020 as the Covid crisis gathered speed again. Then the lockdown in November came and it was 'will we won't we finish this' until finally we were cleared to complete rehearsal, rig, tech and film over the middle week of December 2020. We just made it as Tier 2 then Tier 4 restriction followed.

A lot of work has been undertaken to film, edit and compile the finished production. A big thank you to all those involved.

It has been exciting and challenging to offer our first full length piece on screen to you our valued audience and we all hope you will find this a moving and rewarding experience.

Theatre is not dead!

ARTHUR & ESTHER	by Ross Howard
<u>CAST</u>	
Arthur	John Tolputt
Esther	Diane Robinson
<u>CREW</u>	
Film Director	Phil Palmer
Stage Director	Jerry Lyne
Production Manager	Jerry Lyne
Film Editor	Phil Palmer
Lighting Design	Phil Palmer
Camera Operator	Phil Palmer
Stage Manager	Carol Croft
Film Director PA	Carol Croft
Props	Carol Croft/Cast
Sound Design/ Editing	Ian Black
Lighting Operation	Tamsin Mastoris
Rigging	Cast and Crew
Set Design	Cast & Crew
Costumes, Hair & Make Up	Cast
Publicity	NVT Publicity Team
Poster Design	Tamsin Mastoris
Health & Safety COVID	Jerry Lyne
Health & Safety Production	Ian Black

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