



TURPIN

BY BARRY PURCHASE

DIRECTED BY MARK LESTER

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Northford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 17th - Saturday 25th June 2022 at 7.45 pm
Matinee: Sunday 19th June at 2.30pm

www.newventure.org.uk
www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton

Registered Charity No. 30882

TURPIN

BY BARRY PURCHASE

Richard Turpin: son of a butcher, and a man with the possibility of a career and a reasonable life. The legendary highwayman had choices, and yet he chose the open road and a life of crime. Since then, many have continued to be fascinated by the man behind the mask and a brace of flintlocks. And not just Turpin, but other charismatic gangsters and villains that followed him — somehow, we're ready to overlook the fact that criminals like Dick are prepared to go to any lengths to get what they want.

Largely set in the highwayman's condemned cell in York, Turpin explores his life through a series of flashbacks. We meet a variety of characters along the way, including his best friend Tom King and other criminal associates, "onlookers, well-wishers and gawpers" to his confinement, and the priest trying to save Dick's soul.

Barry Purchase's fantastic reputation as a writer is unquestioned, and when he approached me to direct Turpin, I was both delighted and nervous. As a play, Turpin makes an interesting read, with its great attention to detail and extensive research into Dick's life evident throughout. However, when placed in the hands of an extremely talented cast, the real quality of the writing shines through, as the story lifts from the page and the characters come to life. We get the reason why we go to the theatre: a drama. We get an incredible story that is in turn funny, moving, frightening and thought-provoking. A story where sometimes life is stranger than fiction.

It's not just in the writing where I've been lucky — I'm profoundly blessed to have assembled a fantastic cast, with each member contributing their creative talent to the work with absolute commitment and energy. As ever, the team behind the scenes are the unsung heroes, without whom I'd be unable to do my job. I'm proud of every single one of the cast and crew, and my sincerest gratitude goes to them, and to Barry for inviting me to direct this amazing piece.

On behalf of everyone involved, thank you for your continued support of the NVT, we're immensely grateful and hope that Turpin will give you plenty to talk about in the bar afterwards!

Mark Lester

TURPIN - Culann Smyth
PRIEST - Andy Hutchinson
TOM KING - Mickey Knighton
JAILER - Jerry Lyne
BOB - John Everett
MARY - Amanda Harman
EARL / MAN - Simon Messingham
COUNTESS / WOMAN - Sophie Hartley
GEORGE / PAMPHLETEER - Jason Lever
JACK / TAILOR - Thomas Dee

DIRECTOR: Mark Lester
PLAYWRIGHT: Barry Purchase
PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER: Gabrielle Bowring
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER: Bryony Weaver
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Marion Drew
COSTUME DESIGN: Alice Clark
MAKEUP: Emese Csoma
SET DESIGN: Gabrielle Bowring
SET CONSTRUCTION: Simon Glazier & George Walter
SET PAINTING: Jean Parker & Simon Glazier
LIGHTING DESIGN: Dan Walker
LIGHTING OPERATOR: Esme Bird
SOUND DESIGN: Ian Black
SOUND OPERATOR: Alice J Crouch & Carol Croft
PROPS: Gabrielle Bowring & Bryony Weaver
POSTER & PROGRAMME: Tamsin & Strat Mastoris
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: Tom Kitch
REHEARSAL/HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA: James Maltby
PHOTOGRAPHY: Strat Mastoris
PUBLICITY & MARKETING: Ceiri O'Douglas
HEALTH & SAFETY: Ian Black

To Alice, Vania and Saskia at Gladrags for their wonderful help with the costumes, Stafford House for the rehearsal space, the Wick Theatre Company for the additional props and, as always, to the Front of House and Box Office teams, without whom no show would ever go on.

Culann Smyth - Turpin

Culann has been involved in productions for the NVT since 2012, most recently appearing in 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore', 'Pickwick and Weller', 'The Language Archive', 'The Messiah', 'The Real Inspector Hound' and 'The Homecoming'. He has also performed at the Brighton Little Theatre in 'The Thrill of Love', while his appearances in the Brighton Fringe Festival include 'A Steady Rain' and 'Blue Sky Thinking'. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with such a great cast and crew on Turpin.



Andy Hutchinson - Priest

Andy has performed in several productions at the NVT, most recently in this year's 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore'; his previous notable appearances have been in 'Richard III', 'Breaking the Code' and 'Of Mice and Men'. Other work has seen him performing on stage at The Edinburgh and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, and his TV work has most recently included a portrayal of the serial killer Dennis Nilsen in 'Voice of a Serial Killer' for CBS Reality.



Mickey Knighton - Tom King

Mickey hails from Sheffield and is of Irish descent, and came to acting later than most. He has a BA in film and sociology, and has been fascinated and entertained by the craft of acting since youth. A former career in the restaurant industry, as well as stints living in London, Spain, Newcastle and Brighton, mean he brings a varied life experience to his character research, rehearsal and performance, which he approaches with energy and empathy. Darkly comic, dry, witty comedy are his driving characteristics; however, via his training, he's also found himself at home playing strong characters in contemporary drama, as well as relishing the challenge of classical or historical text.



Jerry Lyne - Jailer

Jerry is an actor and director. He has acted and directed for the NVT, and a number of companies over the years, gaining a couple of awards along the way. Next season, he's directing 'Not Talking' by Mike Bartlett.



John Everett - Bob

John has appeared in 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore' for the NVT, 'Coronologues', 'Bertolt Wrecked' and 'Aladinsane' for Cascade Creative Recovery Productions and 'The Washing Up' for Small Performance Adventures. He's worked as a director for Brighton's Got The Y Factor and Aladinsane for CCR Productions, as well as a designer for 'About a Revolution' and 'Everywhere' for Windmill Young Actors, 'Galaxy Quest' for Infinite Jest Theatre and 'The Washing Up' for Small Performance Adventures.



Amanda Harman - Mary

Amanda has been with the NVT since 2012, making her debut as the Nurse in 'Medea', and this will be her 10th production. She is happy to be back at the NVT, having last appeared on the stage as Margaret Lake in its production of 'Gabriel' in 2019.



Simon Messingham - Earl / Man

Simon has appeared in a number of plays at the NVT, including 'The Winslow Boy', 'Hughie', 'The Father' and 'The Herbal Bed'. He is currently at an age where he is cast as Dads or Toffs. Or Toff Dads.



Sophie Hartley - Countess / Woman

Sophie is thrilled to be returning to the NVT stage, having last appeared in the original production of 'Elephant's Graveyard'. She has most recently been involved in a local performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Stanmer House. Prior to her move to Brighton, she acted in numerous plays including 'Our Country's Good' and 'The Threepenny Opera'.

Jason Lever – George/Pamphleteer

Jason is excited to act in his second play at the NVT, following his debut as Bill in 'Hangmen' this year. He has also had his work, 'An Usher Pushed Too Far', filmed for the NVT's Monologue Series as part of its Virtual Season in 2020. He has acted in several Brighton Little Theatre productions, and at the Lantern Theatre during his foundation year at ACT.



Thomas Dee – Jack/Tailor

Thomas is delighted to return to the stage, after a long hiatus, in his first production with the NVT. He previously wrote for the stage during university, and won national awards for his efforts.

Mark Lester - Director

Mark has been back at the NVT for five years, and is proud to be part of its Artistic Director team. He has appeared in *The Deep Blue Sea*, NVT's award-winning *Anna Christie*, *Jumpy*, *The Father*, *Gabriel*, *The Wintering*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and *Measure for Measure*, and has directed James McLure's *Laundry* and *Bourbon/Lone Star* and August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. Mark is very excited to be directing *Turpin*, and working with an extremely talented cast, crew and design team.



Barry Purchase - Playwright

Barry was a television scriptwriter for over 30 years. During this time he wrote original drama, adapted novels for the screen, was lead writer on *'Grange Hill'* for 11 years and worked on many series, including *'Casualty'*, *'Minder'*, *'Boon'*, *'The Bill'*, *'Paradise Club'* and *'Midsomer Murders'*. He's won a Broadcast and two BAFTA awards. His play *'Pickwick & Weller'* was performed at the NVT in 2019, and *'Turpin'* is his second play for the theatre.



Communicating Doors

by Alan Ayckbourn

directed by Ian Black

15th - 23rd July 2022
In the Theatre Upstairs

"dazzlingly ingenious" Guardian/Billington

Poopy, a Specialist Sexual Consultant, arrives at a hotel room for an appointment. This is no ordinary booking and one that will change her life and that of others who have previously died 'accidentally'.

A time-travelling comedy thriller

D
COMMUNICATING
O
R
S

BY
ALAN
AYCKBOURN





Renewal at New Venture - Year Two of our 5 Year Plan

Hopefully you are aware that we are trying to raise money to carry out some important renovations and improvements to our wonderful Grade II listed theatre. Although recent relaxations in the COVID rules mean we can now put on shows again, the pandemic has already reduced our anticipated income for 2021/22. Additionally we have recently discovered significant repairs are needed to the large windows on south side of the building. The need to raise funds is therefore even more important as the Committee

has decided to proceed with these urgent repairs to the building; a decision which has, sadly, meant the postponement of the installation of Air Conditioning in the Upstairs Theatre which had originally been planned for this summer. More work is planned through to 2025 – see details on www.newventure.org.uk.

Your contributions so far towards our 'Renewal at New Venture' appeal are greatly appreciated but much more is needed! Please help secure the long term future of our cherished theatre for members, audiences and the wider community by making a donation as follows:

*Via our Just Giving page 'Renewal at New Venture' accessible via our website www.newventure.org.uk

*Using donation boxes and Gift Aid Envelopes at the theatre

*Emailing fundraising@newventure.org.uk

*Becoming an NVT Angel – angels@newventure.org.uk

Contacting the NVT

For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118. To book tickets or for other information check our website at www.newventure.org.uk. All other enquiries 01273 808353

NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVT welcomes all young people (12-17) with a passion for or an interest in theatre. Fridays 4.30-6.30pm. £50 per 10 week term, first session is FREE!

NVT Acting Class

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2.50 for NVT members) First visit is FREE! See website for details.

Become a Sponsor

£250. Advertise on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for one year. Plus two free tickets per show. Contact fundraising@newventure.org.uk for details.

Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels. Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: angels@newventure.org.uk.

Membership

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £10 a year. As above... Proof of status is required.



Constantinople
Bistro

Tasting the tastes of the MiddleEast, the Balkans, Greece, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

11 Northch Church, BN1 2BA Brighton, Hove, East Sussex
Tel: 01273 727222

Est 1994

silverado

contemporary jewellery

11 North Street, Brighton

MBE MAIL BOXES ETC.

Print & Copy	Packing & Shipping
Office Services	Packing Materials
Stationery	Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 86 28 • www.zaborghton.co.uk
Email: print@zaborghton.co.uk • 91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2RW