

Beginning

by David Eldridge



NVT
NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE

Friday 17th - Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30pm
Matinee: Sunday 19th March at 2.30pm

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

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

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Beginning

I have directed shows in all shapes and sizes of venues from school halls to cliff-top theatres and from two-thousand-seater barns to tiny rooms in a pub. I can honestly say the Studio Theatre at NVT is becoming one of my all-time favourite spaces. It is so simple. A black box with infinite possibilities and a very special intimacy. You can almost hear an actor's heart beating. So the Studio is the perfect space to stage *Beginning*, an intimate play about human intimacy.

The premise is simple. The last two people at a party. Is this the beginning of something special or the end of the beginning? Come on, we've all been there which is what makes David Eldridge's play so watchable and so buttock-clenchingly truthful.

As Michael Billington said in his Guardian review of the National Theatre production: "It reminds us that, even in the age of social media and internet dating, forging a connection with other people remains as much of an emotional minefield as ever."

Beginning is set in 2015, and even though that's less than a decade ago, it's probably a good idea to remind ourselves of the social context. The Wanted lead singer, Jay McGuinness, was quick-stepping his way past Peter Andre to victory in *Strictly*; Jessie J was selling her 30-millionth single; only Donald Trump stood in the way of Hilary Clinton becoming the first woman in the White House; and Labour party membership was skyrocketing under new leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

One of the delights of working with such a small cast is the bond that develops through the rehearsal process and the time and space to really dig down into the minutiae of the script. The challenge now is to break out of that comfy cocoon and share the show with you, the audience.

On the other hand, I dread to think what the eight weeks of rehearsal would have been like if we hadn't got on.

Finally, I hope you'll realise, once you've seen the play, why we decided to perform it, as written, without an interval. There is simply nowhere to stop. So, my advice – go before the show.

Richard Lindfield - director

Beginning is set in a one-bedroom flat in Crouch End, North London.

Time: late autumn, 2015.

CAST

LAURA - Amy Brangwyn

DANNY - Jonathan Howlett

CREATIVES AND CREW

DIRECTOR: Richard Lindfield

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Nikki Dunsford

LIGHTING DESIGN: Apollo Videaux

STAGE MANAGERS: Martyn Coates, Carol Croft

SET CONSTRUCTION: John Everett, George Walter

UPHOLSTERER: Antonella Marchetto

POSTER: Strat Mastoris

PROGRAMME: Tamsin Mastoris

PHOTOGRAPHY: Anna Lawson

PUBLICITY & MARKETING: Nikki Dunsford

HEALTH & SAFETY: Ian Black

BOX OFFICE: Ian Amos

Beginning runs approximately 1hr 30 mins without an interval.

Special thanks to Ian Amos, Jamie Collins, Alison McMillan-Puri, Glenys Stuart and Linda Hornett

As always, the director, cast and crew would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to the front-of-house, bar and box-office teams, without whom none of this would be possible.



Amy Brangwyn - Laura

Amy trained at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York and her professional credits include: Alex in Steven Green's acclaimed production of *A Clockwork Orange* with Fourth Monkey Theatre Company, Catherine in Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge* at The Broadway Theatre, and Ensemble in Ann Akin's *Conversations With Love* at The Soho Theatre & Riverside Studios. *Beginning* is Amy's second production with NVT.

Jonathan Howlett – Danny

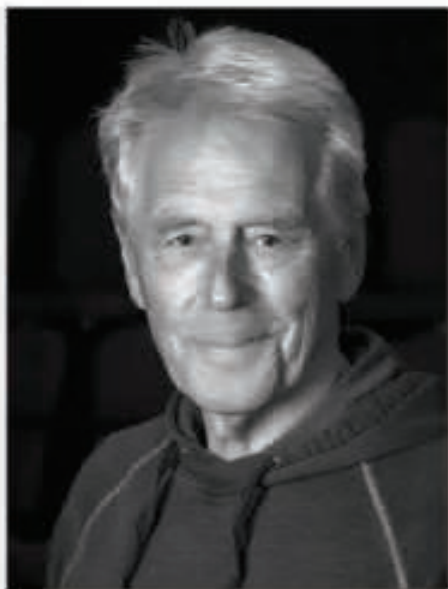
Jon graduated from East 15 school of acting in 2008. Since when he has performed various roles in theatre, film, commercials and web series.

Recent NVT shows include *1984*, *Orphans* and *The Winterling*.



David Eldridge – writer

David Eldridge is an acclaimed dramatist and screenwriter. Born in Romford, where his father was a shoemaker, his plays include *Market Boy*, *In Basildon* and an adaptation of Thomas Vinterberg's film *Festen*. His latest play, *Middle*, which debuted at the National, was the second in a trilogy of dramas about couples that began in 2017 with *Beginning*. David has three sons, lives in north London, and attends every West Ham home game.



Richard Lindfield - Director

Beginning marks a hat-trick of NVT productions for Richard, following on from *Quartet* and last season's Fringe production, *Cock*. In an earlier incarnation he took his clothes off twice nightly in the West End review, *Oh! Calcutta!* He now spends his time standing on windy touchlines fully clothed watching his giant sons play rugby. Next up is a production of Nikolai Gogol's farce, *The Government Inspector*, for the Southwick Players.



Nikki Dunsford - Producer

Nikki was trained at the Royal Ballet School and began her career as a classical ballet dancer before joining the commercial world of dance in various West End and TV shows. Most recently at NVT she has played a chapel-going farmer's mum (*The York Realist*), a stuck-up mother (*The Herd*) and a salt-of-the-earth pub landlady (*Hangmen*). Nikki is losing count of the times she has collaborated with Richard. He has directed her in *A Murder is Announced*, *Festen* and *Calendar Girls*.

Apollo Videaux - Lighting Designer

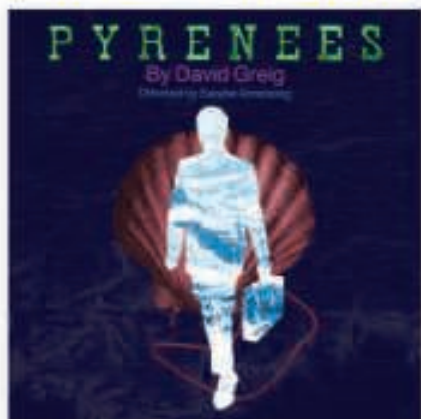
Apollo is a regular behind the scenes at NVT, usually found wound up in some cables underneath the floor in the Operations booths. He got his start teching for NVT and has since transitioned into a freelance lighting, special effects and sound design, with dozens of shows under his belt. Coming from a computer games background, Apollo enjoys utilising his design skills in a physical space to enhance the mood and meaning of the pieces he is working on.

Martyn Coates – Stage Manager

Martyn's first production at NVT was the ill-fated *Quartet* which had to be pulled halfway through the run because of the Covid lockdown. He had more luck with *Cock* which ran for all eight shows as part of the Brighton Fringe. Previously Martyn has flown through the air (if not always 'with the greatest of ease') at the Theatre Royal as Jacob Marley in *Scrooge - The Musical* and appeared in *Journey Of A Lifetime* at the Piccadilly Theatre, London.

Carol Croft – Deputy Stage Manager

Carol has enjoyed working backstage at NVT in various roles for several years now, most recently scene-shifting on *Farragut North* and assistant stage-managing *Not Talking*. Carol is delighted to have been asked to join the *Beginning* company and is very much looking forward to renewing her backstage partnership with Martyn Coates. She previously worked with him on *Quartet*, the show in which she made a fleeting appearance as Angelique, the harassed care-assistant.



21st - 29th April 2023
In the Theatre Upstairs

Pyrenees

by David Greig

directed by Sandie Armstrong

A man is found lying in the snow at the foot of the Pyrenees. He remembers nothing. He believes he is British. A young woman from the British Consulate is dispatched to confirm his nationality and to try to piece together his identity. When Vivienne, a middle aged woman from Edinburgh arrives, she presents him with a history he doesn't recognise. Is he really who she says he is? As the snow melts on the mountains the man must decide which reality he will enter – Anna's or Vivienne's? Who is he really?

19th - 27th May 2023
In the Studio Theatre

Suddenly Last Summer

by Tennessee Williams

directed by Rod Lewis

Set in mid-1930s New Orleans, Suddenly Last Summer has all the power and richness of Williams' more famous works, but with a tighter, more deadly focus. The play is ferociously charged with family conflict and Catherine's desperate battle to survive the destructive intentions of her Aunt Violet and reveal the deeply shocking truth behind the extraordinary death of her aunt's son Sebastian.



Supporting The New Venture

We all need a little 'care and maintenance' from time to time and our lovely Grade II listed theatre is certainly no exception. Whether it's fixing the roof or upgrading equipment it is all increasingly expensive. So any donation you can make to help keep the New Venture alive and kicking will be hugely appreciated, and you can do it either via the donations box by the fireplace in the bar, or using the Donate Button on the homepage of our website - www.newventure.org.uk

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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.

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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.