

PYRENEES

By David Greig
Directed by Sandie Armstrong



NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

**Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT**

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 21st to Sat 29th April 2023 at 7:30pm

Matinee: Sun 22nd April at 2:30pm

www.newventure.org.uk

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Registered Charity no. 268607

PYRENEES

by David Greig

David Greig is relatively unknown outside his native Scotland, even though many of his plays have been performed internationally and in London's West End. His work has been commissioned by the RSC and Paines Plough, amongst others, and Pyrenees was commissioned as part of Paines Plough's This Other England season in 2005.

The play explores themes of national and personal identity, otherness and strangerhood. Greig's recurrent fascination with these themes reflects his personal history: he was born in Scotland, raised in Nigeria, educated in an American Baptist school, and is now living in Scotland. He says: "I have a powerful compulsive desire to be rooted and a powerful awareness that I'm not. It's the tension between those two things that produce quite a lot of the material in my work."

I was first drawn to Pyrenees by its lyricism and playful use of language. The piece simultaneously celebrates language and highlights its limitations: the Man's experience in the snow is a place that language cannot grasp, a place beyond the everyday, a no-place...

The cast have spent many hours with me wrestling with this multi-layered piece which is open to many interpretations, and throws up more questions than it answers.

I feel very fortunate to work with such a creative and hard working cast, crew and production team and I can't thank them enough for bringing this project to fruition.

Finally, a big thanks to Katie Brownings for suggesting I put in a proposal to direct a show at the NVT and for her help and support as Production Manager on the show.

I hope you have fun going on this journey with us!

Sandie Armstrong
Director

Cast

(In order of appearance)

ANNA	Tia Dunn
THE MAN	Greg Donaldson
THE PROPRIETOR	Simon Hudson
VIVIENNE	Samantha Ferree

Production Team

DIRECTOR	Sandie Armstrong
ASSITANT TO THE DIRECTOR	Neil Hadley
STAGE MANAGER	Trisha Bayliss
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Bryony Weaver
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Katie Brownings
SET DESIGN	John Everett
SET CONSTRUCTION	John Everett, George Walter, Richard Lock, Laura Nuppola, Jean Parker, Mark Snipe.
SCENIC ARTIST	Fiona Hewitt
LIGHTING DESIGN	Apollo Videaux, Will Scott
SOUND DESIGN	Ian Black
LIGHTING & SOUND OPERATION	Apollo Videaux, Will Scott, Paul White
COSTUME	Elaine Clydesdale
PROPS	Trisha Bayliss
POSTER	Gardner Muirhead
PROGRAMME	Ian Amos
PHOTOGRAPHY	Strat Mastoris
PUBLICITY	Charly Sommers, Katie Brownings

With special thanks to Michael Folkard and Gladrags and as
always our appreciation and gratitude go to the Front of
House, Bar and Box Office teams.



GREG DONALDSON: Greg graduated from LAMDA in 1995. He has taken the last 8 years out to practice as a psychotherapist and now returns to work on some interesting projects. Theatre Credits: Beyond Our Ken; National Theatre. In Our Own Little World; Bloomsbury Theatre. My Name Is Bill; Barons Court Theatre. Absurd Person Singular; Gatehouse Theatre. The Torture Garden; BAC. Ruffian On the Stair; Pentameters Theatre. Something About Us; Lyric Studio. Strangers House; Royal Court Upstairs. The Tower; Almeida. TV Credits: Doctors; BBC. Ashes to Ashes; Kudos. Silk; BBC. Dirty War; BBC. The Basil Brush Show; BBC. Dream Team; Sky One. Silent Witness; BBC. 3 Years as a regular on The Bill; Thames Talkback. Film Credits: Echelon Conspiracy; Warner Brothers. EX; Genie Productions. V for Vendetta; Warner Brothers. The Football Factory; Vertigo Films. The Golden Rule; Blast Films. The Brothers; Paranoid Films. Skin; Tapson Steele Films. Clancy's Kitchen; Third Rock Films

TIA DUNN: Tia has made a circular journey back to acting. After winning a Stage scholarship to study at 16, she then spent the following decades trying to convince herself that acting was not for her. Swinging from researcher on Arts Documentaries at the BBC in London to Production assistant on music videos in Rome; from editing photo essays with Magnum Photographers in New York to creating online fashion and beauty content for ELLE Magazine in London; back to New York to pursue life as an artist (aka working in a bar and as a PA for a photographer/filmmaker) then finding herself in Brighton just in time for Covid and finally making the realisation that actually, yes, she is an actor. Since completing some more training at ACT, Brighton, Tia has enjoyed playing a diverse range of roles including Caesar's wife, an AI, and an alcoholic ghost. She has also written a short play and is in the process of writing a one-person show.



SAMANTHA FERREE: Sam's theatre work began with the title role of *Electra* in Sophocles Electra at Group 64 Youth Theatre in Putney. After training at Arts Ed, she worked in young peoples theatre on tours with Theatre Centre, The Orange Tree, Tie Break and LPC in Germany and ETC in Spain. She worked as a traffic and travel radio presenter for Metro Networks and now continues to do voice work for IVR phone systems for British Airways, HMRC, Santander and Vodaphone. Sam gained an MA in Voice Studies from Central School of Speech and Drama in 2006 and taught voice at Italia Conti, ALRA and London Centre for Theatre Studies. She is now a freelance voice and communication coach, specialising in vocal delivery, confidence and presentation skills. This is her first production with NVT and very happy to be performing again after a long break!

SIMON HUDSON: Simon was a professional actor between 1987 and 2000, after graduating from Hull University and The Webber Douglas Academy. He worked extensively in repertory at The Leicester Haymarket, Manchester Royal Exchange, Birmingham, Nottingham Playhouse, Harrogate and Bolton Reps. He was in a C4 soap for a good while, as well as performing in a host of premieres on the London Fringe at venues such as The Bush, The Old Red Lion, The Etcetera and The Finborough Arms. Since 2000 he has been a Drama and English teacher but has continued to be involved in theatre. He directed, devised and produced 'Hurricane Michael,' a sell-out comedy about Mr Phish and the storm of 89, which toured the country and The Edinburgh and Brighton Festivals between 2015 and 2018. Previous shows at The NVT include Roland in 'Jumpy' and Michael in 'Happy Now' in 2018.



SANDIE ARMSTRONG (Director): Sandie is very excited to be directing at the NVT for the first time. Previously she directed another David Greig play, *Brewers Fayre*, for the Brighton Fringe, to critical and audience acclaim. In another life, Sandie was a professional actor in both the UK and the United States, performing a variety of roles on stage and TV. For the NVT she has appeared in *Iron* and *Jumpy*. She is delighted to have been given the opportunity to direct *Pyrenees* at the NVT.



Booking now at newventure.org.uk

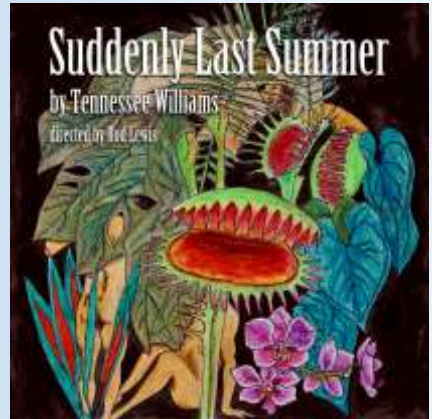


SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER

by Tennessee Williams

Fri 19th to Sat 27th May

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.

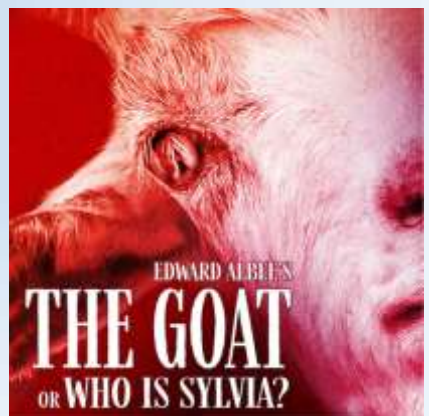


THE GOAT OR WHO IS SYLVIA?

by Edward Albee

Fri 16th to Sat 24th June

Three-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward Albee's most provocative, daring, and controversial play since *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Goat* won every major award for best new play of the year. This mischievous comedy drama centres around Martin, a middle-aged architect at the peak of his fame, whose life is thrown into complete turmoil when he reveals to his best friend that he has fallen in love, spiritually and physically, with a goat named Sylvia.



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.*