



# BEDROOM FARCE

by Alan Ayckbourn



**NVT**  
NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 1st - Saturday 9th December 2023 at 7.30pm  
Matinees: Sunday 3rd December and  
Saturday 9th December at 2.30pm

[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton](https://www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton)

Registered Charity No. 268627

# BEDROOM FARCE

*"My mother used to say, Delia, if S-E-X ever rears its ugly head, close your eyes before you see the rest of it."*

One endless Saturday night of dysfunction; where beds, tempers, and domestic order are well and truly ruffled.

Trevor and Susannah, a monstrosly self-obsessed couple, parade their problems around the bedrooms of three other couples - exposing the cracks in each relationship, and lifting the lid on middle-class marriage in the 70s.

As a title, 'Bedroom Farce' suggests characters rushing in and out of cupboards and bedrooms scantily clad - but in fact it's a study of real people in very real situations, that escalate into farcical situations. Here we have four relationships, varying from 'love's young dream', to a couple married for almost a lifetime. What makes the play so appealing and makes people laugh (and nod their heads in recognition), is Ayckbourn's deep and sympathetic understanding of human nature.

Originally written at the request of Peter Hall for the National Theatre almost five decades ago, Bedroom Farce remains one of Ayckbourn's most performed plays. The play has had many revivals, most recently as an adaptation for BBC radio 4. Our production has a wonderful eight-strong cast, featuring many stalwarts of the NVT stage.

When I read the play I laughed, and loved the structure of individual scenes and the rhythm of the dialogue. It's clear to me that Ayckbourn is a master craftsman, and his ability to mix mechanical skill and disquieting truth should never be underestimated. Although times have changed since the gaudy 70's, I believe that 'Bedroom Farce' can still be relevant and hugely entertaining for a modern audience.

**Katie Brownings**

**Director**

*The play is set during one evening in 1976*

**CAST**

Ernest: John Tolputt  
Delia: Nikki Dunsford  
Nick: Frank Leon  
Jan: Sarah Charsley  
Malcolm: James Bennison  
Kate: Laura Scobie  
Trevor: Greg Donaldson  
Susannah: Janice Jones

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**DIRECTOR:** Katie Brownings  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:** Pat Boxall  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Tamsin Mastoris  
**STAGE MANAGER:** Ayshen Irfan  
**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:** Natalie Sacks Hammond  
**LIGHTING DESIGN:** Strat Mastoris  
**LIGHTING OPERATOR:** Alex Epps, Tamsin Mastoris  
**SOUND DESIGN:** Ian Black  
**SOUND OPERATOR:** Ian Black  
**SET DESIGN:** John Everett, Laura Colamonaco, Simon Glazier  
**SET BUILDING & PAINTING:** John Everett, Simon Glazier, George Walter,  
Laura Colamonaco, Jean Parker, Andy Hind, Sam Deards, Katie Brownings,  
Marian Drew  
**HAIR STYLING:** Richi Blennerhasset  
**MAKEUP:** Marnie Mugridge  
**COSTUME:** Katie Brownings, Pat Boxall  
**POSTER & PROGRAMME:** Tamsin Mastoris  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Strat Mastoris  
**PUBLICITY & MARKETING:** Ayshen Irfan, Tamsin Mastoris  
**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Ian Black

With many thanks to:

Mike Whittaker, and to all the Box Office and Front of House volunteers without whom no show would ever go on.



Ernest - John Tolputt

John could recently be seen at NVT in 'Not Talking', 'Hangmen' and 'The Herd'. At Brighton Little he has played Churchill and King Charles, though not at the same time. For many summer seasons he appeared at the Pendley Shakespeare Festival.

Off stage he is an editor for the online Poetry Archive.

Delia - Nikki Dunsford

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 salt-of-the-earth pub landlady 'Hangmen' and a no nonsense matriarch 'The Herd'. Nikki is thoroughly enjoying working with such a talented group of people.



Nick - Frank Leon

Frank is a drama graduate from the University of Greenwich. He has performed as Eugene in 'Biloxi Blues' and Hal in 'Loot' at the NVT, as well as Prince Harry in 'King Charles III' at the Brighton Little Theatre. Most recently Frank played George Holly in 'Suddenly Last Summer' earlier this year. Frank also directed 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' at the NVT in 2014 and 'The Pitchfork Disney' at The Lantern this November.



Jan - Sarah Charsley

Sarah took a break from acting a few years ago to focus on stand-up and sketch comedy. She writes and performs for the award-winning Brighton sketch group The Fannytasticals and is a regular on the stand-up circuit. Sarah has previously appeared at NVT in 'Communicating Doors', 'The Herbal Bed', 'The Maids' and 'Five Kinds of Silence'.





Malcolm - James Bennison

James has been involved in the theatre since he was ten years old in his breakout debut role as 'Sailor 1' in Playbox Theatre Company's production of 'The Witches'. He has since gone on to perform all over the world in shows such as 'The Seagull', 'Richard III', and 'Godspell', as well as writing and performing almost twenty of his own theatre and stand up comedy shows at Edinburgh Fringe. More recently he played the lead role of Felix in 'Humble Boy' with Hurstpierpoint Players and starred in NVT's performance of 'NSFW' as Rupert.

Kate - Laura Scobie

This is Laura's ninth production with NVT. She was last seen there playing Violet/ Zuzu in 'It's a Wonderful Life' and Shirley in 'Hangmen'. Other recent roles include First Voice in Identity Theatre's 'Under Milk Wood' at BOAT, and Lizzie the scullery maid in 'Town House Voices' at the Regency Town House. She is chuffed to bits to be playing Kate in 'Bedroom Farce'. Cornish pasty, anyone?



Trevor - Greg Donaldson

Greg graduated from LAMDA in 1995 and has gone on to enjoy a varied acting career. He has performed at the National Theatre, The Almeida and The Lyric Hammersmith in some interesting and challenging roles. Greg has also appeared in some great feature films such as 'V for Vendetta', 'Echelon Conspiracy' and 'The Football Factory'. His TV appearances include roles in 'Ashes to Ashes', 'Silent Witness' and a 3-year stint as DC Tom Proctor in 'The Bill'. After a 10-year break in acting Greg is now enjoying being part of the NVT.

Susannah - Janice Jones

Janice has been involved in theatre for many years, performing in Brighton, London and Edinburgh, in theatres, pubs, castles and court houses. Productions include A Street Car Named Desire, Macbeth, Glass Menagerie, Little Voice, That Face, Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, Kvetch, The Price, Old Times, Broken Glass, Talk and most recently A Kind of Alaska at NVT. Janice is enjoying stretching her comedy legs with this lovely and talented team.





**Katie Brownings - Director**

With 40 years of acting under her belt, having joined NVT when she was 18 years old. Katie has been involved in hundreds of productions in some capacity, at both NVT and The Wick, amongst which, some of the most challenging include, 'Brimstone and Treacle', 'Children of A Lesser God', 'Educating Rita', 'Masterpieces' (the first ever studio production at NVT), 'Road', 'Shirley Valentine', 'Accrington Pals', 'Blue Remembered Hills', 'Misery', 'Death and The Maiden' and 'Calendar Girls'. She most recently appeared at NVT in 'The Herd' in 2022.



### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Saturday 16th December - 7pm to 11.30 pm

A fund raising event for members and guests  
(up to three with each member)

Tickets are £5 pp and include a glass of mulled wine or soft drink.

Dress code red and black.

Charity raffle

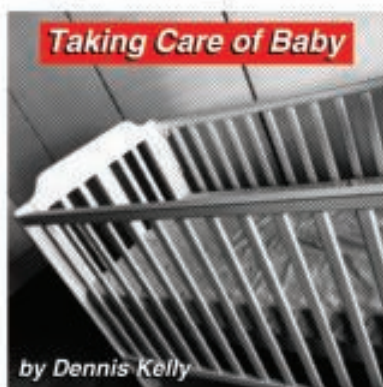
This event will take place in the bar and is fully accessible.

19th - 27th January 2024  
In the Studio Theatre

## Taking Care of Baby

by Dennis Kelly  
directed by Neil Hadley

"Taking Care of Baby" tackles the complex case of Donna McAuliffe, a young mother convicted of the murder of her two infant children. In a series of probing interviews the people in this extraordinary story, including Donna herself and her bewildered mother Lynn, reveal how they may have harmed those they sought to protect.



by Dennis Kelly

# NVT Appeal Puzzle

S	R	E	T	C	A	R	A	H	C	D	S
S	F	C	O	M	E	D	Y	K	E	V	P
E	A	J	T	K	D	S	U	X	I	X	A
N	Y	T	O	I	L	A	U	G	H	S	R
I	G	D	I	K	M	B	A	A	E	S	K
L	C	Z	O	R	E	I	A	L	R	E	L
L	K	O	Y	R	E	S	N	N	U	K	E
I	R	V	A	B	A	D	I	G	T	I	W
S	T	N	O	Z	L	P	L	R	N	E	N
E	C	U	A	S	T	H	U	M	O	U	R
E	E	T	R	A	P	E	R	U	T	B	F

Laughs

Timing

Sparkle

Repartee

Humour

Characters

Jokes

Silliness

Fun

Banter

Satire

Comedy

Exuberance

Sauce

Wit

Parody

Here are some things you might find in a show at Christmas. We hope you find some in *Bedroom Farce* which like all our shows this season requires lots of money for production costs, overheads and building expenses. If you can help with a donation, however small, you can put cash in the Donations Box beside the fireplace in the Bar, or donate online by visiting :

[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.