



Picnic at Hanging Rock

by Tom Wright

directed by Diane Robinson

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 17th - Saturday 25th May 2024 at 7.30pm
Matinee: Sunday 19th May at 2.30pm

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

Registered Charity No. 268607

Picnic at Hanging Rock

"The rock is a nightmare and nightmares belong in the past."

Five modern schoolgirls struggle to solve a mystery from 1900 - of the disappearance of four girls and their teacher on a school trip in the Australian outback. Hysteria and terror reverberate throughout the community; as the potential for history to repeat itself becomes nightmarishly real.

This chilling adaptation by Tom Wright of Joan Lindsay's novel - made famous by the 1970's Peter Weir film - evokes the true horror of the story, and effectively captures the conflict existing between the Colonial aspirations to 'tame the indigenous people', and the savage nature of the Australian outback.

The cast begin by recounting the story, rather like a Greek chorus; but gradually becoming the characters. They switch between roles, almost like a ritualistic role play. The play's text captures the repressed sexuality of the girls and sets it against the unforgiving powers lurking in the wilderness.

Director Diane Robinson says: "I love the way that this adaptation of 'Picnic' picks up a story that the audience think they already know - a story full of mystery and suspense. This version speaks to our need for meaning, our impulse to simplify a reality that is basically incomprehensible. It taps into our fear of engaging with the unknown.

As a piece of theatre, it is really important that we conjure up the horror of the piece; partly through the menacing use of language, and the employment of an eclectic range of theatrical styles that play disturbingly with the shifting of time.

Another thing that drew me to this adaptation is that Nature is the central character in this play – for the Rock, and indeed Nature itself, is always there as a Primeval presence throughout. Mrs Appleyard represents repression, and the Colonial need for creating order in the Australian outback, and she speaks of the need to 'tame,' 'cultivate,' and 'civilize,' the land, through 'restraint,' 'vigilance and 'cleanliness.' But she is no match for Nature and for the landscape, to which she ultimately surrenders."

"This retelling of Joan Lindsay's cult classic proves the themes remain relevant and will terrify the pants off you" The Guardian

CAST

Amber: Joanna Joy Salter

Elizabeth: Isabelle Boreham

Nikki: Amelia Thurley

Arielle: Holly Hinchcliffe

Harriet: Jessica Masseron

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Diane Robinson

Assistant ; Natasha Higdon

Production Manager: Tamsin Mastoris

Stage Manager: Katie Brownings

Assistant Stage Managers: Carol Croft, Lauren Fassam, Claudia Ezraeelian

Set Design: Judith Berrill

Set Construction: Simon Glazier, Sam Deards, George Walters

Set Painting: Judith Berrill

Lighting Design: Strat Mastoris

Lighting Rigging: Strat Mastoris, Sabrina Giles

Lighting Operation: Sabrina Giles, Moon Berglind

Sound Design: Scott Smith

Sound Programming: Ian Black

Sound Operation: Cameron Davies, Esther Dracott, Ollie Wilson

Projections: Torrin Gieler

Costume Design: Lindsay Midali

Costume Assistant: Jackie Jones

Dressers: Katie Brownings, Carol Croft, Claudia Ezraeelian

Hair & Make Up Advisor: Chris Horlock

Props & Set Furniture: Diane Robinson, Katie Brownings, Guy Dixon

Accent Coach: Kirrily Long

Poster & Programme: Tamsin Mastoris & Strat Mastoris

Publicity/Headshot Photography: Strat Mastoris

Publicity & Marketing: Debbie Willsher, Tamsin Mastoris

Health & Safety: Ian Black

With many thanks to Graham Walls for the loan of the clock, Geoff Springett for providing the tree and Wick theatre company for the loan of some costumes and to Brian for his wonderful support and for the loan of Thomas, and as always, to the Front of House and Box Office teams, without whom no show would ever go on.



Amber: Joanna Joy Salter

Having trained in Performing Arts at the university of Chichester, Joanna is now a proud secondary school Drama teacher in Crawley as well as an actress. Having mainly performed in pantomime and musical theatre previously, she is excited to perform in her NVT debut. Her previous credits include *Sister Act*, *Annie*, and her performance of Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* as well as her most recent role of Margot in *Legally Blonde the Musical* with Barnstormers, Patcham.

Elizabeth: Isabelle Boreham

This is Izzy's NVT debut after moving from London where she has been performing with theatre groups over the past few years. Her previous credits include *Improbable Fiction*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Twelfth Night* and various new writing showcases. When not acting, she works as a mechanical engineer for the built environment. Izzy is very excited to be involved in her first NVT production with such a wonderful director, cast and crew.



Nikki: Amelia Thurley

Amelia's previous NVT performances include Barbara in *The York Realist* and Jessica in *Communicating Doors*. She has completed a number of courses with National Youth Theatre since 2019. Other theatre includes Lily in Simon Stephen's *Punk Rock* and directing Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* both at The Mission Theatre, Bath. Amelia will be playing the title role of Sarah Woodruff in *The French Lieutenant's Woman* at Brighton Little Theatre and The Minack Theatre, Cornwall in July/August of this year.



Arielle: Holly Hinchcliffe

Holly trained at ArtsEd, taking a BTEC in Acting. There Holly appeared in *Speaking in Tongues* by Andrew Bovell, *Pool No Water* by Mark Ravenhill and *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. She also has experience performing musical theatre pieces at Her Majesty's Theatre. This is her second performance as part of Brighton Fringe, having played Christine Linde in *A Doll's House* by Stef Smith in 2023 in The Bubble Theatre. Holly is currently in her second year, studying English and Drama at the University of Sussex.



Harriet: Jessica Masseron

Jess has been acting since she was young and graduated from Institute for Contemporary Theatre in 2022 with a degree in Musical Theatre. She has performed most recently in *Revenge of the Amazons*, and is excited to return to the stage in *A Picnic at Hanging Rock*. She has loved working with all the cast and creatives on this project, and can't wait for you to hear all the Aussie accents.

Director: Diane Robinson

Diane has taught, performed and directed for schools, youth groups, community companies and professionally for more years than she cares to admit!

Recent Theatre appearances include: *Humble Boy*, (S.P), *Merchant of Venice*, *A Christmas Carol*, (WTC,) *The Railway Children* and *Animal Farm* (BLT), *Arthur and Esther*, *The Clean House*, *The Deep Blue Sea* and *Be my Baby*, (NVT)

Her most recent Directorial credits include: For WTC: Nick Dears' *Frankenstein*, Knee High's '*Brief Encounter* and for NVT: *Great Expectations* and *Jumpy*.



NVT Appeal Puzzle

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

Makeup

Apron

Dressing Rooms

Lighting

Green Room

Backstage

Foyer

Paint

Stage

Costumes

Bar

Properties

Box Office

Wings

Scenery

Scripts

Here are some well known things you'll find in a theatre, and hopefully you'll also find them in the puzzle above. You'll also find most of them at the NVT and they all cost money to create, buy, clean, heat, rent and/or maintain so it would be hugely appreciated if you can help with a donation, however small, by putting cash in the Donations Box beside the fireplace in the Bar, or donating online by visiting :

www.newventure.org.uk



1st June 2024 - 7.30pm
In the Studio Theatre
NVT Comedy Night

Get ready to unleash your laughter at New Venture Theatre's Comedy Night.

This special event promises an evening overflowing with laughter, featuring a handpicked selection of the most uproarious comedians from Brighton and beyond. Each performer is ready to deliver a knockout comedy set that will have you laughing till you cry, showcasing a mix of classic punchlines, witty observations, and comedic genius.

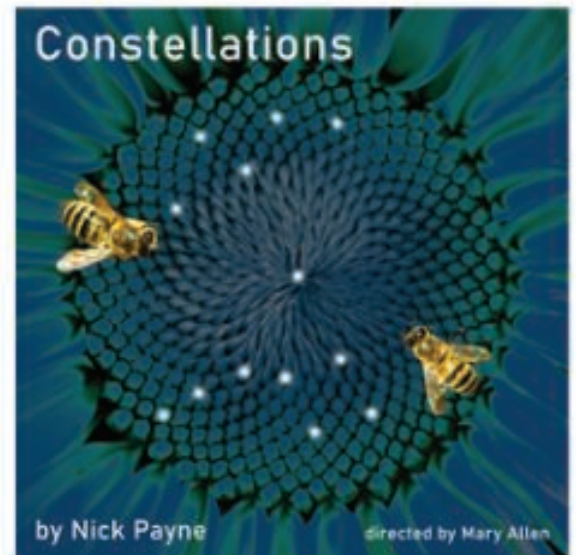
This event contains adult humour

14th - 22nd June 2024
In the Theatre Upstairs

Constellations by Nick Payne

directed by Mary Allen

Constellations follows Roland, a beekeeper; and Marianne, a quantum physicist. Their lives are set in a multiverse, a construct that contains an infinity of different possible futures. They meet, go home together – or do they? They marry – or do they? Marianne's life disintegrates, but over how long?



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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

New Venture Young Adults Theatre

For young people wanting to build their skills and experience within the theatre sector (17-25) Fridays 4.30-6.30pm. £55 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.*