

# ***Taking Care of Baby***

***by Dennis Kelly***  
***directed by Neil Hadley***

**NVT**  
**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 19th - Saturday 27th January 2024 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sunday 21st January at 2.30pm

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

Registered Charity No. 268607

# ***Taking Care of Baby***

I first encountered this play when helping a student select an appropriate monologue for a drama school audition. She had left it very late to choose one and I was hoping that a solution would present itself - I hope it did the trick. Reading it for myself, I was soon transported into the complicated, dark, troubled world of Donna and the characters she shares the stage with. I thought immediately that the studio space was the perfect forum to present this story, implying, as it does the involvement of the audience in the action.

It has been a hugely rewarding, challenging and informative experience working with such an experienced and gifted cast who have, from the first moment, thrown themselves wholly into exploring both the complex array of themes, but also, ways in which the story can be told in a bold and imaginative manner.

I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful support I have had from many members of the NVT both formally and informally. Rod Lewis has been a hugely illuminating source of theatrical knowledge over my two years as a member and I have been privileged to share conversations over a cup of coffee at his favourite café in Hove Street. Charly Sommers was a huge help in scheduling the first phase of rehearsal which is a complicated and time-consuming job which was far more challenging than I could have guessed at the outset.. Lastly, I would like to thank my mentor Mark Wilson who has always had the best interests of the show at heart and always demanded the highest standards which are the hallmark of NVT productions.

Neil Hadley  
Director

## **CAST**

Donna McAuliffe: Charly Sommers  
Lynn Barrie: Sam Ferree  
Mrs Millard/Woman/waitress: Frankie Knight  
Dr Millard/Old Man: Robin Fry  
Martin McAuliffe/Reporter/Man: Jonathan Howlett  
Mr Kelly: Spike Padley  
Jim/Brian: Martin Malone

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**DIRECTOR:** Neil Hadley  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Ian Black  
**STAGE MANAGER:** Ayshen Irfan  
**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:** David Turton  
**LIGHTING DESIGN:** Strat Mastoris  
**LIGHTING OPERATOR:** Alex Epps, Tamsin Mastoris  
**SOUND DESIGN:** Carl Nicholson  
**SOUND OPERATOR:** Carol Croft, Ian Black  
**SET DESIGN:** Charly Sommers, John Everett  
**SET BUILDING & PAINTING:** John Everett  
**COSTUME:** Frankie Knight & Ayshen Irfan  
**PROPS:** Carrie Hynds & Ayshen Irfan  
**POSTER & PROGRAMME:** Tamsin Mastoris  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Strat Mastoris  
**PUBLICITY & MARKETING:** Ayshen Irfan  
**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Ian Black

*With many thanks to all the Box Office and Front of House volunteers*



**Donna McAuliffe - Charly Sommers**

Dark drama seems to be something of a draw for Charly Sommers. She directed not only Dennis Kelly's Orphans for the NVT in 2018 but also Rory Kinnear's The Herd in 2022. On stage, her credits include King Charles III, So You Say and Love & Information.

Charly would like to dedicate her work on Taking Care of Baby to Michael Stubbs. Over the years, Mike's contribution to the NVT has been immense. He remains remembered, missed and loved by so many.

**Lynn Barrie - Sam Ferree**

Samantha trained at the Arts Educational Schools. Theatre includes national tours with Theatre Centre Familiar Feelings and Peacemaker, Tiebreak Theatre My Friend Willy and the Orange Tree Romeo and Juliet. International Tours with LPC in Germany and ETC in Spain. Fringe productions include Edinburgh Festival, The Hen and Chickens, Chelsea Centre Theatre and Riverside Studios. Sam has previously appeared in Pyrenees at NVT after a very long acting break and is delighted to be back with such a great team on TCOB.



**Mrs Millard/Woman/waitress - Frankie Knight**

Frankie is delighted to be taking to the NVT stage for her debut with the New Venture. Normally specialising in comedy roles, Mrs Millard is quite a different character to those she is used to. It's been a completely different experience working in traverse and exploring different characters and their back stories through the misner technique.

Frankie hopes you "enjoy" the show as much as one can given the content and subject matter.

**Martin McAuliffe/Reporter/Man - Jonathan Howlett**

Jon graduated from East 15 school of acting in 2008. Since then he has performed various roles in theatre, film, commercials and web series. Recent NVT shows include '1984', 'Orphans', 'The Winterling', and 'Beginning' in 2023.





**Dr Millard/Old Man - Robin Fry**

Robin recently returned to acting after a completely unintentional 8-year hiatus, playing David/Edward VIII in 'The King's Speech' at Brighton Little Theatre for the Brighton Fringe. His previous roles include Ricky Roma in 'Glengarry Glen Ross', Billy Bibbitt in 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' and Fagin in 'Oliver!'. Robin also performed in improvised comedy shows for many years with local groups Off the Cuff and The Maydays.

This is Robin's first show with NVT. He'd like to thank Neil, Mark, the cast and everyone behind the scenes for making it a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

**Mr Kelly - Spike Padley**

Spike graduated from Rose Bruford College in 2020, additionally having trained at the Akademia Sztuk Teatralnych (National Academy of Theatre Arts) in Poland during a placement. He has previously been invited by the National Theatre on a creative development residency for his devising work.

Notable theatre credits for Spike include 'The Perjured City', 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist', 'You Don't Need My Permission', and 'Naturalism', as well as the immersive works 'Home Fires', '451', and 'Dr Blighty'. Most recently, he co-created 'Chekhov's Gun' for Metric Theatre in the 2023 Brighton Fringe.

'Taking Care of Baby' is Spike's debut production with the NVT, and he is eager to sink his sharp, sharp teeth into this unusual role.



**Jim/Brian - Martin Malone**

Martin's Theatre acting credits include Harry Wade in 'Hangmen' at NVT, Jim Cartwright's 'Road', 'Limelight', 'The Ugly Man', 'Unidentified Human Remains', 'Hamlet'. TV includes 'Eastenders', 'The Bill', 'Waking The Dead', 'Rose and Maloney', Dennis Potter's 'Karaoke'. Film: 'Distant Shadow', '24 Hours in London'.



Neil Hadley - Director

Neil's first engagement with the entertainment industry was as a bluecoat entertainer at various Pontin's camps in the late nineteen eighties. He subsequently read Drama at Exeter University where he was instructed by Antonio Fava in the practical aspects of the Commedia Dell'Arte.

During his MA in English Literature he specialised in aspects of playwriting and contemporary theatre practice. He currently leads a Performing Arts department in a Sixth Form college teaching acting and playwriting. In 2022, Neil directed a short play which was his first with NVT. He has thoroughly enjoyed working on TCOB and is highly appreciative of the talented team of actors and support crew

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16th - 24th February 2024  
In the Theatre Upstairs

## Les Liaisons Dangereuses

by Christopher Hampton

directed by Mark Lester

A powerful drama, the play centres on Valmont and his ex-lover, the Marquise de Merteuil. Each has a plan and is prepared to go to any lengths to achieve it. The reward, a chance to bathe in the afterglow of victory and relive the ecstasy of their passion. However, the stakes are high, and collateral damage is inconsequential, in a society just around the corner from revolution. Family, friends and innocent hearts will suffer at the hands of these master manipulators and their vengeful plots.



*Contains adult themes, some nudity and potentially outdated and upsetting attitudes.  
Unsuitable for children.*

# NVT Appeal Puzzle

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

Everyman  
Minack  
Globe  
Lyric

Savoy  
Mayflower  
Aldwych  
Lyceum

Crucible  
Old Vic  
National  
Festival

Swan  
Marlowe  
Gielgud  
Garrick

Can you find these well known theatres in the puzzle? Like NVT they all have to pay for production costs, overheads and building expenses (well, the Minack not so much 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

### 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.

### Become a Sponsor

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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](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.*