

Ghosts

by Henrik Ibsen

a version by Richard Eyre

directed by Jerry Lyne



**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 23rd - Saturday 31st May 2025 at 7.30pm
Matinees: Sun 25th & Sat 31st May at 2.30pm

www.newventure.org.uk
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Registered Charity No. 268607

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

Ghosts

by Henrik Ibsen

Helene Alving has spent her life suspended in an emotional void after the death of her cruel but outwardly charming husband. She is determined to escape the ghosts of her past by telling her son, Oswald, the truth about his father. But on return from his life as a painter in France, she discovers Oswald has already suffered the devastating consequences of his father's actions.

Brilliant, vital, and enormously intelligent, Ghosts is one of the most memorable plays in modern literature. Performed numerous times around the world, it is considered a masterpiece.

Although Victorian critics considered it scandalous and morally corrupt leading to it being banned, it was soon staged in small venues in various countries leading to its overall acceptance as one of the great pieces of theatre

The play has a good deal of relevance in a modern context. It deals with universal and timeless themes: domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, euthanasia, incest and moral hypocrisy.

I read about Richard Ayers version of Ghosts and bought a copy of the script. I was hooked as soon as I read it. It is such a brilliant version, focused, subtle and powerful. I could see why Ghosts caused controversy and was initially banned in Victorian times, given its themes. Themes that still invoke vigorous debate today.

Working on this play has been intensely rewarding for us all. I am so lucky to have a talented team and a dedicated group of very talented actors. Rehearsals have been so rewarding as we delved into the intricacies of this brilliant play. Ibsen was a master, and we will give full justice to his work which is staged in our intimate Studio Theatre.

This production is dedicated to my very old friend Phil Middleton

Jerry Lyne
Director

CAST

Regina Engstrand : Amelia Leigh
Jacob Engstrand : Robert J Shepherd
Pastor Manders : Alex Blyth
Helene Alving : Sarah Tansey
Oswald Alving : Sebastian O'Driscoll - Henderson
Plant : Audrey

MUSIC

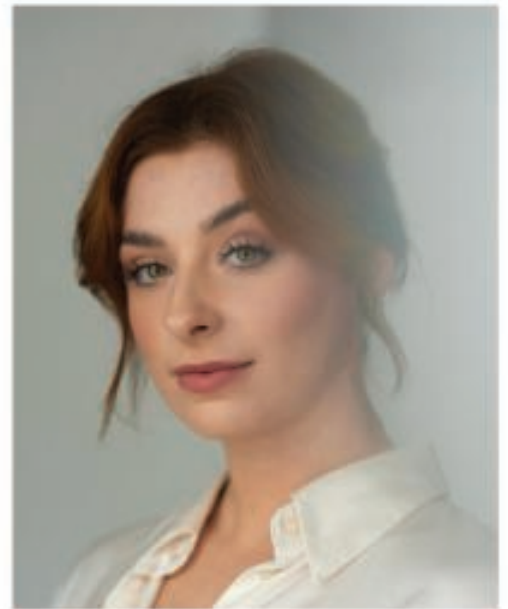
Cello music by Eicca Toppinen tracks from the album 'Black Ice'
Pavanne, Opus 50 by Faurè

CREATIVE TEAM

Director : Jerry Lyne
Production Manager : Ian Black
Stage Manager : Gaby Bowring
Production Assistant : Jason Lever
Set Design : Steve Hutton
Set Build : Simon Glazier, Dan Tranter, George Walter, Chris Tew
Set Painting: Simon Glazier, Manda Steff, Annie Sheppard
Properties : Bryony Weaver
Hair and Makeup : Richi Blennerhassett
Costume : Karen Hindmarsh
Costume Assistant : Jackie Jones
Dressers: Karen Hindmarsh, Asmita Chandorkar
Lighting Design : Sabrina Giles
Assistant Lighting Designer : Chris Dent
Lighting Operation : Sabrina Giles, Tamsin Mastoris, Chris Dent
Sound Design : Ian Black
Sound Operation : Ian Black, Chris Dent
Script Prompt : Jason Lever
Poster & Programme : Strat & Tamsin Mastoris
Photography : Strat Mastoris
Publicity and Social Media : Elysa Hyde
Video Interview : Alistair Lock and Arun Varghese
Health and Safety : Ian Black

Regina Engstrand : Amelia Leigh

Seeing 'A Doll's House' by Ibsen at the age of 13 began Amelia's acting journey. She came away from it speechless, in awe of Nora's final stage direction and with an all-consuming feeling that theatre was where she wanted to be. She is delighted to now be part of an Ibsen production. Theatre credits include: Anna in 'Anna Karenina' (The Wick), Sarah Woodruff in 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' (Brighton Little and The Minack), Nikki/Irma in 'Picnic at Hanging Rock', Barbara in 'The York Realist' and Jessica in 'Communicating Doors' (all at NVT). Screen credits include: Steph in 'Stuck In' (Crybaby Productions) and Anna in 'Tiny' (MET Film School).



Jacob Engstrand : Robert J Shepherd

Rob works behind the cameras in TV, with a career that has taken in comedy, drama, documentary and music, and is now centred in prime-time quiz shows, mainly for BBC1, ITV and C4. He also runs communications for the Unity Centre in Lewes. His theatre experience stems from working on the lighting crews of several London theatres and then producing The Market Theatre of Johannesburg's powerful 'Born in the RSA', staged at London's Tricycle Theatre, for Channel 4, to critical acclaim. Ghosts' Jacob Engstrand is Rob's first acting role.



Pastor Manders : Alex Blyth

With previous roles including John Proctor in 'The Crucible', Prospero in 'The Tempest' and Leonardo in 'Blood Wedding', Alex most recently appeared in 'Little Women' at the Brighton Little Theatre, and makes his NVT debut as Pastor Manders in Ghosts. When not acting, Alex runs design focused PR agency Red Setter.



Helene Alving : Sarah Tansey

Sarah Tansey Trained at LAMDA. Her Theatre work includes: A Day in the Death of Joe Egg(Glasgow Citizens) To kill a Mockingbird, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado about Nothing (Regents Park Open Air Theatre) Norman Conquests(Liverpool Playhouse)) A Dolls House(West Yorkshire Playhouse) The House Among the Stars, Sperm Wars(Orange Tree Theatre) A Street Car Named Desire, Blithe Spirit(Mercury Theatre) The Misalliance (Theatre Clwyd) Romeo and Juliet(New Vic Theatre).
TV includes: In and Out of the Kitchen, Heartbeat, Far from the Madding Crowd, Casualty, The Bill, Turning World.



Oswald Alving : Sebastian O'Driscoll - Henderson

Seb is an aspiring performer with ambitions to perform at the National Theatre and the Edinburgh Fringe one day. This is his first performance at NVT and has put many hours towards working on Oswald Alving, a troubled artist who's just come back home from Paris after 2 years for his father's memorial. Seb has found the process engaging and has developed a penchant for pipes through Oswald's usage!



Director : Jerry Lyne

Jerry has acted and directed for various Theatre Companies, Roles include: Tolen, 'The Knack', Higgins, 'Pygmalion', Sebastian, 'Twelfth Night', Iago, 'Othello', Truffaldino, 'A Servant for Two Masters', Willy Loman, 'Death of a Salesman', Eddie Waters, 'The Comedians', Kent, 'Lear', Mel, 'Prisoner of 2nd Avenue', Polonius, 'Hamlet', Frick, 'The Last Yankee', Gregory Solomon, 'The Price'.
Plays directed at NVT: Shepard's 'Fool for Love', Mcllwraith's 'The Anniversary', Munro's 'Bold Girls' & 'Iron', Mamet's 'Boston Marriage', Macdonald's 'Not about Heroes', Miller's 'Broken Glass', O'Neill's 'Anna Christie', Amanda Whittington's 'Be My Baby', Ross Howard's 'Arthur & Esther' Mike Bartlett's 'Not Talking'





THANK YOU

To all the creative team who have worked so tirelessly to create this production of Ghosts. Special thanks to Gladrags and Harvey's for the Costumes. Box Office and Front of House volunteers and everyone else who keeps our theatre running. Without you there would be no performances.



Friday 6th June 2025
7pm - 11.30pm - £15

Fish 'n' Chips Supper

Back by popular demand

Come and enjoy a tasty Fish 'n' Chips Supper*, take part in the Quiz and maybe win a prize in the Charity Raffle - and what's more, it will all help NVT in raising funds to keep us up-and-running for years to come!

*Vegetarian option available - please make sure to let us know when making your booking.

Accessibility: This event will be in the South Hall (Bar) and will be fully accessible.

20th - 28th June 2025
In the Theatre Upstairs

Eurydice

by Sarah Ruhl

directed by Sam Chittenden

Eurydice is in love with Orpheus. Her dead father has advice for her wedding but his letters can't get through to the land of the living. When at last one does, she falls into the underworld, her memory wiped. How will she ever get home?



25th July - 2nd August 2025
In the Theatre Upstairs

Short Plays 2025

a set of short plays by directors
new to the NVT

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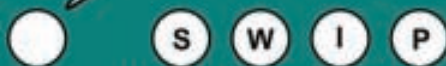


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Supporting The New Venture

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

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

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

£300: Advertise on the website, in each program email update and six monthly printed newsletter for 2 years. Plus two free tickets per show on request. Contact finance@newventure.org.uk

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.*