



**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 6th - Saturday 14th December 2024 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sunday 8th 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. 269607

# RULES FOR LIVING



BY SAM HOLCROFT

## Director's Notes

Rules for Living by Sam Holcroft is a brilliantly chaotic and darkly comedic examination of family dysfunction and the unspoken behavioural "rules" we follow to cope with stress, especially within the family sphere. Set around a Christmas dinner gathering that spins hilariously out of control, Holcroft's play deftly combines biting satire with physical farce, taking the audience on a rollercoaster of laughter and discomfort.

The central conceit of the play to me is ingenious: each character operates under specific rules dictating their behaviour. These rules, revealed to the audience and eventually layered with new rules as tensions rise, create a unique theatrical experience. Watching the characters attempt to maintain their composure while abiding by these absurd rules adds a distinct layer of physical comedy and a sense of escalating absurdity.

Holcroft's writing is sharp, capturing the painful irony of holiday gatherings where every word and action is carefully chosen—until it's not, and everything implodes. The play serves as both a cautionary tale and an invitation to consider how these "rules for living" hold us back from authentic connection and true expression.

It has certainly been a challenging production to stage and I am incredibly grateful to our brilliant, patient cast and backstage team who have all been essential in the realising of this Yuletide treat.

Martin Malone

## CAST

Carrie: Carla Matthews  
Matthew: Thomas Dee  
Sheena: Rose Marfleet  
Adam: James Hammond  
Edith: Maggie Clune  
Francis: Tim Blissett  
Emma: Oak Faun

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Martin Malone  
Production Manager: Pat Boxall  
Stage Manager: Moon Berglind  
Assistant Stage Managers: Claudia Ezraeelian, Natalie Sacks-Hammond and Guy Dixon  
Set Design: Michael Folkard  
Set Construction and Painting: Tomasz Baraniecki, George Walter, Sam Deards, Simon Glazier  
Leah Mooney, Michael Folkard and Kelsey Lyon  
Lighting Design: Strat Mastoris  
Lighting Rigging: Strat Mastoris and Chris Dent  
Lighting Operation: Alex Epps and Will Neal  
Sound Design: Martin Malone  
Sound Operation Philip Castle  
Properties: Carrie Hynds, Cast and Crew  
Specialist Properties: Karl Petrie  
Fight Director: Moog Gravett  
Poster: Martin Malone  
Programme: Tamsin Mastoris  
Photography: Strat Mastoris and Martin Malone  
Publicity and Social Media: Annabel Fenton and Greg Donaldson  
Health and Safety: Ian Black

## THANK YOU

With many thanks to Katie Brownings, Bryony Weaver, Michele Benny, Olive Tullett, Oak Faun for the loan of the wheelchair and, as always, to the Front of House and Box Office Teams, without whom no show would ever go on.





**Carrie : Carla Matthews**

After finishing a degree in theatre studies in Winchester, Carla moved to London and completed industry training with The National Youth Theatre, Spotlight, W1 Workshops, The Actors Class, Mixing Networks and The Actors Centre. Carla has appeared in TV, short feature films and commercials. In her most recent performances she showcased her edgy one women show 'Football Girls' at 'Plug In Girls' and 'Mismatched', in London, leading to the show being commissioned. Since 2020 Carla has trained as a Drama specialist. This is Carla's third show with NVT, and she is thrilled to be taking on the lively role of Carrie and collaborating with the talented team on this exciting play.

**Matthew : Thomas Dee**

'Rules for Living' will be Thomas's fifth production with NVT, having previously appeared in 'Sweet Science of Bruising', 'NSFW', 'Turpin' and 'Not Talking'. Thomas previously wrote for the stage during university, and won national awards for his efforts. He is delighted to be a part of this production, and to work with such a great team!



**Sheena : Rose Marfleet**

Rose is a 2011 graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts. Theatre credits include Cherry in 'Cosi', Time & Cleomenes in 'The Winter's Tale' and Masha in 'Three Sisters'. TV credits include roles in Channel 7's 'Winners & Losers' and ABC's 'The Broken Shore'. She has co-produced and devised productions for Adelaide and Melbourne fringe festivals and played the titular character of Sarah in a series of Holden car commercials called 'Sarah's Bottom'.



**Adam : James Hammond**

James trained at the University of Canterbury gaining experience in theatre, TV, physical theatre and dance. He has since worked with various groups including Questors Theatre, Teddington Theatre Club and Richmond Shakespeare Company. James has lived in Brighton for 6 years. This is his second show with New Venture Theatre having previously performed in 'Great Expectations' in 2019.



**Edith : Maggie Clune**

Maggie is delighted to be treading the boards again at NVT for the Christmas production. Previous roles at the theatre include 'Strangers on a Train', 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane', 'Faith Healer', and 'Two-Way Mirror'.

**Francis : Tim Blissett**

Tim's theatre credits at NVT include Joe Keller in 'All My Sons', Riderhood in 'Our Mutual Friend', Bounderby in 'Hard Times', Frank in 'Faith Healer' and Gregor Samsa in 'Metamorphosis' which toured in Prague. Other theatre credits include Brendan Behan in 'The Begrudgers' (Dublin, Newcastle and London), Spencer in 'After Party' (Brighton) and Ray in 'Red Sea Fish' (Brighton and New York City) for Two Bins Theatre.



### Emma : Oak Faun

Oak Faun is a 22-year-old non-binary actor based in the Brighton area. In 2023, they graduated from Greater Brighton Metropolitan College with a BA(Hons) in Acting and Contemporary Theatre Making. They took a break from acting for about a year to start their own small business, and now, with that being established, they have decided to dip their toe back into the waters of the acting world with the role of Emma!



### Director : Martin Malone

Martin's theatre directing credits include: 'The Dwarfs' by Harold Pinter (Nathda Drama Festival winner), 'Poor Super Man' (Cat Factory), 'The Vagina Monologues' (Komedia), 'All We Have Is Now' (Brighton Fringe) and for NVT: 'The Goat (or Who is Sylvia?)' by Edward Albee. He helped to found The Co-Active Theatre Factory, the Brighton-based collective in 1993, staging acclaimed plays by Brad Fraser in Brighton and London. Martin has also directed commercials, music videos and several short films including: 'The Launch', 'Newton's Cradle', 'Acid Rain' and 'Stranded' (UK Film Council). For TV: 'Ideal', which spawned the long-running successful BBC comedy series starring Johnny Vegas and the animated TV pilot 'Nebulous' adapted from the BBC Radio Series by Graham Duff starring Mark Gatiss, Graham Crowden and David Warner.



Saturday 4th January 2025

7pm - 11.30pm

## New Year Social Evening

for members and their guests

Join us for this NVT Fundraising event. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and a charity raffle. Dress to sparkle!

Tickets £5 pp\*

\*only members can buy tickets (4 tickets max)

\*includes glass mulled wine or soft drink



16th -25th January 2025

In the Studio

## Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

adapted & directed by Steven O'Shea

Returning from a victorious campaign on the battlefield, Macbeth and his companion Banquo encounter three witches whose unsolicited prophecies lead to a cataclysmic series of destructive events. This production presents an adaptation focusing primarily on the relationship between Lady Macbeth and her husband, a love affair so intense and all-consuming that, powered by a shared ambition, leads inexorably to murder and madness.

14th -22nd February 2025

In the Theatre Upstairs

## The Incident Room

by Olivia Hurst & David Byrne

directed by Richard Lindfield

The Millgarth Incident Room, Leeds - the epicentre of the biggest manhunt in British police history. We follow Sergeant Megan Winterburn as she joins hundreds of officers working around the clock to find the man known as the Yorkshire Ripper. With public pressure mounting, the investigation resorts to increasingly audacious attempts to catch one of Britain's most notorious serial killers.



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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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 McCudden: [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.*