

# SALOME



BY  
OSCAR WILDE

TRANSLATED BY  
LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS

DIRECTED BY  
NATASHA HIGDON

**NVT**  
NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE

Friday 4th - Saturday 12th October 2024 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sunday 6th October at 2.30pm

[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)  
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Bedford Place,  
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# SALOME

Originally translated by Lord Alfred Douglas, this has been adapted to include a male 'court' chorus and a poem from Wilde's collection. I place this story in a time period that is unknown to us – much like 'The Village' by M Night Shyamalan – we know we are witnessing a cult of some kind, but do we know the exact location, time? No. The premise of SALOME is determined by the male court, a united voice led by her Stepfather Herod – which is 'interrupted' with new information in the story to highlight women's fears of death – this exposes Wilde's language of 'sacrifice' as Cappa informs us, *"In my country there are no woman left. There are some who say they have hidden themselves in the mountains, but I do not believe it."*

The Page also voices her fears of death through Oscar Wilde's poem, 'Requiescat.' This poem was selected to expose the fragility of the female characters and their lack of hope under the ruling of King Herod.

Salome's 'on show' presence in Act 1 is exhausting for her, as she is constantly watched and objectified by the male court, baring resemblance to the hopeless existence of the Vestal Virgin's from Rome. This is emulated through the beautiful spectacle you see, but this is far from the reality for Salome. In Jokanaan, Salome sees elements of herself, she questions his 'Prophet' Legacy and doubts the notion of him holding a curse. She is not afeared to look into his eyes but rather drawn to him – what is it that fascinates her so? Her freedom? Salome's obsession for Jokanaan was the vessel for Wilde's sexual desires and her ticket to holding her own voice in a world dominated by men.

The sounds of the public male court begin to fade, as the family's dynamic is exposed in private moments. Wilde implies that Herod feels his wife Herodias is incapable of providing him with children, and thus maybe seeking to fulfil his legacy through Salome. Herodias tries to protect her daughter but is hardened by her role as Herod's wife when she still seems to be grieving for her previous husband. Herodias must listen while Herod speaks unforgettable truths about his lustful desires towards Salome, barely disguising the language he chooses to speak, using the moon as his loose shield, when the moon is indeed Salome. Unable to fulfil these desires he makes her consecrated, whilst continuing to request a dance from his daughter – The Seven Veils Dance. In this version, the Seven Veils dance is not focused on Herod's plan, but about the 'act' that Wilde places as a stage direction – the act for Salome to take back her power, her legacy, her identity.

This has been a wonderful script to explore with my team and our two wonderful Salome's – both actors bring a different interpretation not to be missed.

This show is dedicated to my late Grandmother Elsie Jane Moss.

## **CAST**

Salome : Imogen Honey Strachan and Maya Muthoni Kihara

Herod : Jeremy Crow

Herodias : Kasha Goodenough

Jokanaan : Lester Seale

Page : Imogen Honey Strachan and Maya Muthoni Kihara

The Young Soldier : Rocco Biancardi

Cappa : Jason Lever

\*All cast members play the chorus

## **CREW**

Directors : Natasha Higdon

Stage Manager : David Turton

Production Manager : Katie Brownings

Set Design : Natasha Higdon, Simon Glazier, Karl Petrie

Set Construction & Painting : Simon Glazier, George Walter, Chris Tew, Sam Deards,  
Dan Tranter, Chris Dent, Tomasz Baraniecki, Chris Hauschild, Karl Petrie

Lighting Design : Strat Mastoris

Lighting Rigging : Strat Mastoris, Mireille Pedder

Lighting Operation : Olie Wilson

Projections : Molly O'Neil

Music : Steve Hoar

Sound Design : Natasha Higdon

Sound Operation : Cameron Davies

Costume : Karl Petrie

Hair & Make Up : Richi Blennerhasset

Props/puppetry : Lindsay Midali, Karl Petrie, Natasha Higdon, David Brownings

Props : Natasha Higdon, David Brownings

Poster Photographer : Ali Tollervey

Poster Editor : Teri Murkin

Programme : Tamsin Mastoris

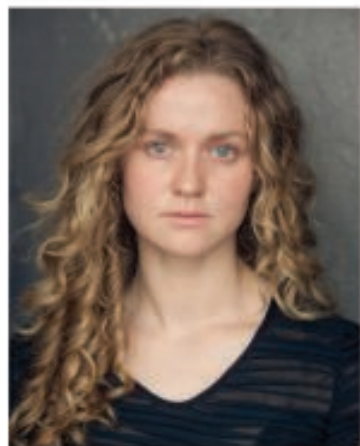
Publicity Photography : Strat Mastoris

Publicity & Social Media : Greg Donaldson, Annabel Fenton, Natasha Higdon

Health & Safety: Ian Black

## ***Thank you...***

*Thank you to all the front of house team, cast, crew and Wiz and Brett Fancy for your support in rehearsals. Thank you also to my Production Manager – Katie – For being a wonderful support and friend. Thank you to my mum for all your words of encouragement. Thank you to everyone who has supported at the production meetings. Thank you to Ian Black who brought me to the NVT community.*

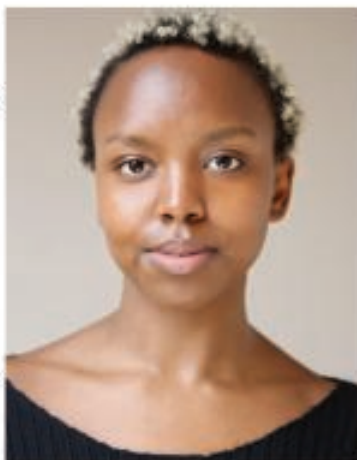


### **Salome: Imogen Honey Strachan**

Imogen is excited to make her debut at NVT. She recently portrayed *Betsy in Wisdom of a Brighton Whore* at the Brighton Fringe. Imogen graduated last year from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with a BA in Acting with Musical Theatre. Her favourite acting highlights have been *Curtains*, *Things I Know to be true*, *Present Laughter* and *Anna Karenina*. Before pursuing her passion for acting, she studied Biological Sciences at Oxford University. Imogen loves all aspects of theatre and has also worked as a voice-over artist and singer. She is eager to bring her diverse skills and passion to this really interesting and exciting interpretation.

### **Salome: Maya Muthoni Kihara**

Maya's introduction to theatre is from the original story tellers: East Africans. History was shared by retelling of myths through the use of physical theater and narration to the beat of a cowhide drum. She's always had a passion for singing and acting, which she has been honing over the past 2 years at the Academy of Creative Training in Brighton. This summer, Maya had the opportunity to perform at the Minack Theatre. She also took on the lead role in the Brighton Fringe musical *Call Me Daddy: The Musical* and played Maria Marten in *The Ballad of Maria Marten* at the Lantern Theatre. In addition to her theatre work, Maya has also ventured into screen acting, appearing in short films.



### **Herod: Jeremy Crow**

Jeremy appeared last season at the NVT as the Professor in *The Sweet Science of Bruising* and as Fenwick/Tom in *An Experiment with an Air Pump*. Previous roles here have included Dr Miller in *The Deep Blue Sea*, Charles in *The Clean House*, Major Glendinning in *How Many Miles to Babylon?* and David in *Benefactors*. He has also appeared at Brighton Little Theatre and with the Southwick Players. Other roles in Brighton include Noel Coward in *Mad About the Boy* (Dandyking Productions) and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Slurring Words Productions).



### **Herodias: Kasha Goodenough**

Kasha joined NVT in 2015 attending the Monday night Acting Classes before securing roles in productions such as *Blood Wedding*, *Lulu*, *Consent*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *The Sweet Science of Bruising*. She has also worked with several other independent theatre companies for Brighton Fringe over the years, including a debut at BLT last year in *Black Mountain*. Kasha is delighted to be in this exciting adaptation of *Salome*.



### **Jokanaan: Lester Seale**

Lester Seale is making his NVT debut, having recently graduated with a 1st Honours from ICTheatre on a Top-up BA Performing Arts course, following a HND at Bexhill College. For his dissertation, Lester indulges his love of horror and explores how movement could be used to portray monstrosity, and has been enjoying practicing what he learned through this production. In the past Lester has worked in *Pantos*, *Shakespeare* and even as a *Scare actor* and has thoroughly involved himself in theatre throughout his life. He recently finished filming for a short film inspired by *The Green Knight*, and in his spare time enjoys roleplaying games like *Dungeons and Dragons*, along with other board and card games.



### **The Young Soldier: Rocco Biancardi**

Notable credits: Franz in *The Producers*, George in *Posh*, Lockwood in *The History Boys* for APOLLO, Liam Wilson in *Crime Stories* for ITV/Fremantle, Jon Snow in *All Men Must Sing*, Showman in *The Elephant in the Room* and John Brooke in *Little Women* at Brighton Fringe 2019, 2021 and 2024.

*Salome* is Rocco's first show at New Venture Theatre and he is very excited to be working alongside such talented people on this exciting piece of theatre, which is unlike anything he has acted in before.





#### **Cappa: Jason Lever**

Jason has appeared at the NVT in recent seasons as Ross in *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*, Ned/ Pamphleteer in *Turpin* and Bill in *Hangmen*. His *An Usher Pushed Too Far* featured in NVT's Filmed Monologues series and he used to review shows for the newsletter. He has appeared at Brighton Little Theatre as Philly in *Playboy of the Western World* and for Dionysus Theatre Company as Sir Oliver Surface in *School for Scandal*. Jason studied on the Academy of Creative Training's Foundation in Acting and An Introduction to Playwriting, where he staged two rehearsed readings of his one act, then one woman, play, *Lola Montez: Truth or Dare*. He is a quieter civil servant by day.

#### **Director: Natasha Higdon**

Natasha Higdon is a Director, Lecturer and Reviewer. Natasha is founder and artistic director for The Writer's Mark – a company that she started in 2023 to celebrate the life and works of surrealist writers from our past including: Franz Kafka and Antonin Artaud. This year she has showcased her work at Fabrica (Brighton), holding a three-hour event with art installations and theatre performances. She has recently taken her experimental physical theatre piece FILLE DE MON COEUR to Camden Fringe, which was also performed at The Regency Town House (Brighton) this July. Natasha is a freelance theatre maker, a theatre practitioner for Third Space Actors and currently teaches Performing Arts in Kingston and Acting for Screen at Chichester University. Natasha specialises in physical theatre, berkoffian theatre and theatre of the absurd, she has published materials on: Antonin Artaud and Steven Berkoff, writing for We Teach Drama and Go Live Theatre.



"I am delighted to bring the story of Salome to the floor boards of the NVT's stage. To bring a beautiful spectacle. Bring on the seven veils dance."

1st November 2024  
In the South Hall

## Ghost Stories for Halloween

Tickets £5 ( An NVT Fundraising Event)

An atmospheric evening of spine-chilling readings by our favourite raconteurs with Spooky Stories and Ghostly Tales

\*goosebumps and shivers guaranteed\*

Charity raffle  
Halloween dress optional



8th - 16th November 2024  
In the Studio Theatre

## Mixie by Mary Melwood

directed by Rod Lewis

After decades of being inseparable, Time is inexorably closing in on Mr and Mrs Bick...and now they are being intruded upon by a powerful, third presence, the mysterious Mixie. Rich with action, the Past bites into the Present, turning their once quiet life crazingly topsy-turvy - will it end in murder?

6th - 14th December 2024  
In the Theatre Upstairs

## Rules for Living by Sam Holcroft

directed by Martin Malone

Everyone creates their own coping strategies or rules for living. But what happens when a family gathers for a traditional Christmas and they each follow those rules, rigidly? Accusations fly and relationships deconstruct as the rules take over. In Sam Holcroft's playful, dark comedy the instructions are there for all to see, audience included - so there's no place to hide.



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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 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.*