

# Sea Wall

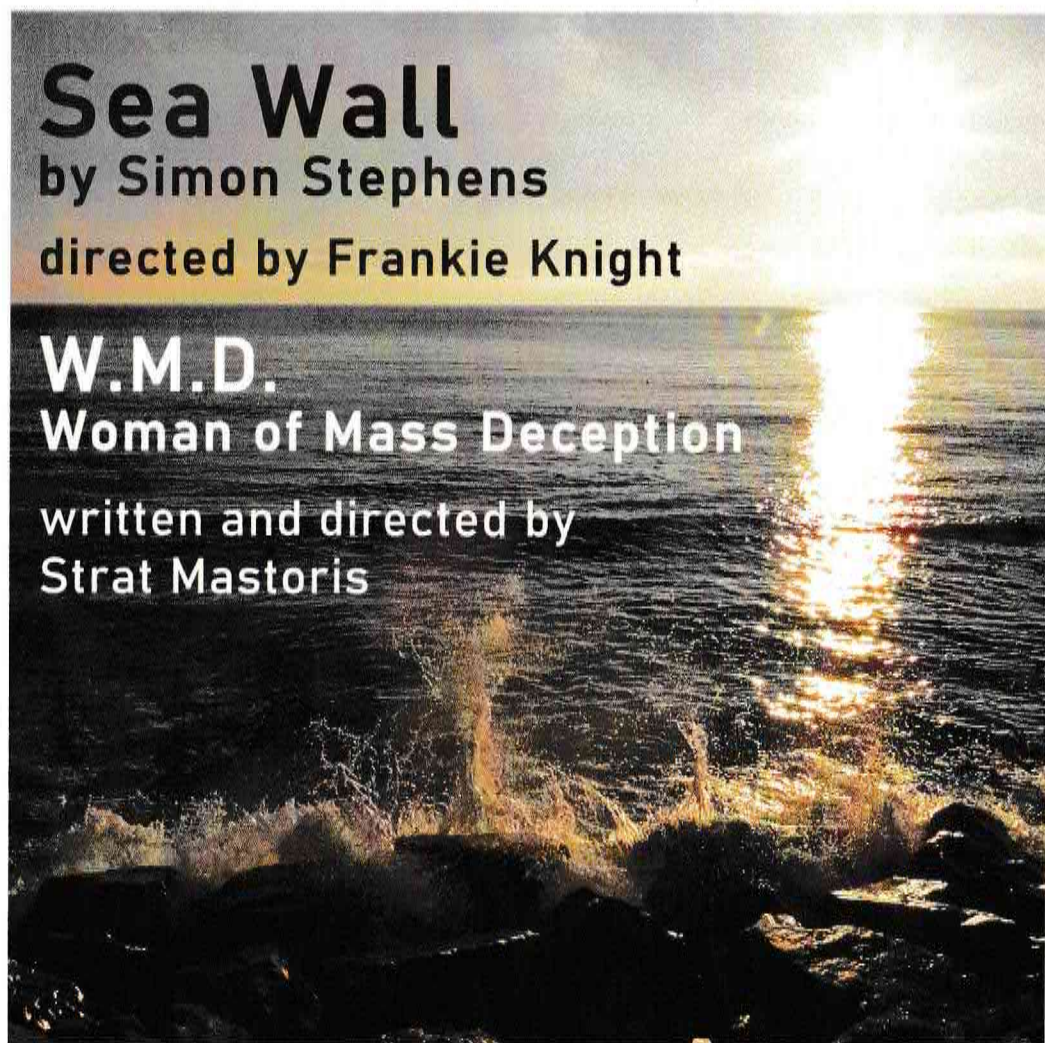
by Simon Stephens

directed by Frankie Knight

**W.M.D.**

**Woman of Mass Deception**

written and directed by  
**Strat Mastoris**



**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 3rd - Saturday 11th October 2025 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sun 5th October 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

This amateur production of 'Sea Wall' is presented by arrangement with  
Casarotto Ramsay & Associates Limited

# Sea Wall

As the director of this production, I am thrilled to bring Sea Wall to life in our space. This play is a masterclass in storytelling—raw, poetic, and profoundly human. It explores themes of love, loss, and the fragility of existence through the eyes of Alex, a photographer whose life is irrevocably changed by a single moment. Jon Cottrell brings a fresh and deeply moving interpretation to the role of Alex. His performance is honest, vulnerable, and quietly powerful—qualities that make this production a truly immersive experience. Watching Jon inhabit this character has been a privilege, and I believe audiences will be captivated by his ability to connect so viscerally with the material. Our staging is deliberately minimal and stripped back, allowing the words and performance to take centre stage. The intimacy of New Venture Theatre studio offers the perfect setting for this one-man play, drawing the audience into Alex's world and holding them there with quiet intensity.

Sea Wall is not just a play—it's an emotional journey. Whether you're a seasoned theatre-goer or new to the stage, this production promises to be a memorable and thought-provoking experience.

Frankie Knight

## W.M.D. Woman of Mass Deception

I grew up (as many of us did) on Homer's classic story of the Trojan War - the seduction of Helen and the great Greek expedition to get her back and to punish Troy. But when I looked at maps to find out where Troy actually was - right at the mouth of the narrow channel linking the Mediterranean to the Black Sea - what jumped out was just how incredibly strategic the location is. The Trojans would have been able to control and tax all the goods passing their city. And to raise those tariffs to punitive levels, if they chose - rather like President Trump is doing these days. So I wrote a Bronze Age story, which turns out to be right up to date. And more. Politically, the Greeks would have needed an excuse to attack Troy. Why not set up Helen as a 'honey-trap', so that it was actually she who seduced the Trojan prince Paris, and not vice-versa? Helen of Troy as a Woman of Mass Deception - W.M.D.

But W.M.D. also refers to the illusory 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' that served as an excuse for Tony Blair and George Bush to attack Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 2003. Nothing much changes in politics in three and a half thousand years ...

I feel incredibly privileged to have a hugely talented cast of five actors to bring this play to life.

Mark Lester as King Agamemnon, Jo Salter as his daughter Iphigenia, Kasha Goodenough as Helen, Jeremy Crow as the Treasurer of Mycenae, and Rich Watkins (in his first NVT role) as the wily Odysseus / Tony Blair.

Strat Mastoris

## **CAST - SEA WALL**

Alex : Jon Cottrell

## **CAST - W.M.D.**

Agamemnon : Mark Lester

Treasurer : Jeremy Crow

Iphigenia : Joanna-Joy Salter

Odysseus : Rich Watkins

Helen : Kasha Goodenough

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director - Sea Wall : Frankie Knight

Director - W.M.D. : Strat Mastoris

Director's Assistant - W.M.D. : Carrie Hynds

Production Manager : Tamsin Mastoris

Original Music for 'Sea Wall' : Michael James

Stage Manager : Moon Berglind

ASMs : Claudia Ezraealian, Natalie Sacks-Hammond

Set design : Frankie Knight, Simon Glazier, Strat Mastoris

Set construction and painting : Simon Glazier, Dan Tranter, Chris Tew

Costume : Karen Hindmarsh, Jackie Jones, Gladrags

Dressers : Karen Hindmarsh, Asmita Chandorkar, Lulu Belle Harrington, Angela Reinhold

Hair & special effects makeup : Samantha Howard

Lighting design : Sabrina Giles

Lighting rigging & operation : Sabrina Giles, Alex Epps

Sound design : Chris Dent, Strat Mastoris

Sound operation : Chris Dent, Arun S Varghese

Mycenaean Map : Judith Berrill

Video recording: Alistair Lock, Arun S Varghese, Dylan Atkins

Poster : Strat Mastoris / Programme : Tamsin Mastoris

Headshots : Celia Strømsholm

Marketing & publicity : Elysa Hyde

Health and safety : Ian Black

## **THANK YOU**

A big thank you to Judith Berrill for our wonderful Mycenaean Map, to Tapi Carpets of Hove for our pillars, to Box Office and Front of House volunteers, and everyone else who keeps our theatre running. Without you there would be no show.



## **Jon Cottrell - Alex**

Jon is back on stage after nearly ten years away from acting and directing, having once been a regular on the fringe circuit. Past highlights include leading roles in 'Dr Faustus', 'Frozen', 'Speed-the-Plow' and 'Black Comedy', and directing 'Oleanna' and 'A Lie of the Mind'. After changing paths following a rehearsal injury dancing the Charleston (poorly!), Jon is delighted to be back, and thanks Frankie and the company for their warm welcome.



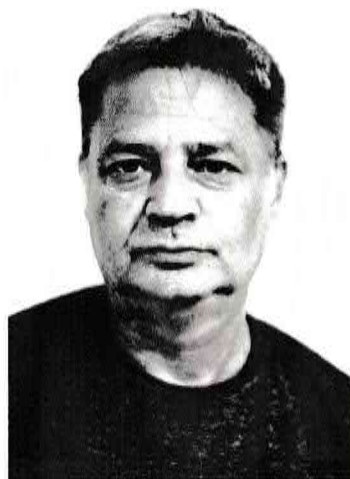
## **Frankie Knight - Director - Sea Wall**

Frankie is delighted to be returning to NVT but this time as a director. Frankie has thoroughly enjoyed directing Jon in this beautiful piece of writing. Working with just one actor has been a new and exciting challenge, and Frankie has fully embraced the opportunity. With a requirement from the playwright that minimal set, sound and lighting are used, she's enjoyed a stripped back space to work and create with. Frankie would also like to thank Michael James for his beautiful musical composition for the play, and Claire Skinner and Melissa Paris for their unwavering mentorship and support. Frankie hopes you enjoy this raw and heartfelt window of storytelling.



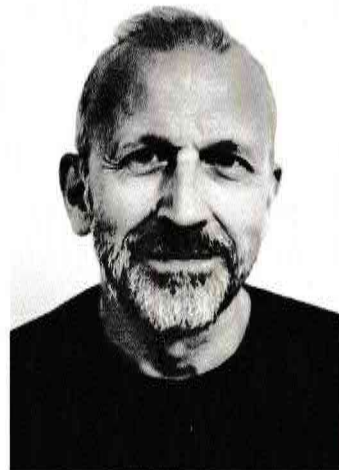
## **Mark Lester - Agamemnon**

Mark is an actor, director, and member of the Artistic Director Team at NVT. He has acted in and directed many NVT productions since coming back to Brighton in 2016. Most recently he played George Oldfield in 'The Incident Room' and directed 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' before that. He is looking forward to bringing the character of King Agamemnon to life in Strat Mastoris's great play, 'W.M.D.', and working with an exciting cast, director, and crew.



## **Jeremy Crow - Treasurer**

Jeremy's most recent appearances at the NVT have been as Bishop Santa Cruz in 'The Heresy of Love', Herod in 'Salomé', Professor Charlie Sharp in 'The Sweet Science of Bruising', and Fenwick/Tom in 'An Experiment with an Air Pump'. Previous NVT roles have included Mr Miller in 'The Deep Blue Sea', Charles/Father in 'The Clean House' and Major Glendinning in 'How Many Miles to Babylon'. He has also appeared at Brighton Little Theatre, with the Southwick Players and on the Brighton Fringe.



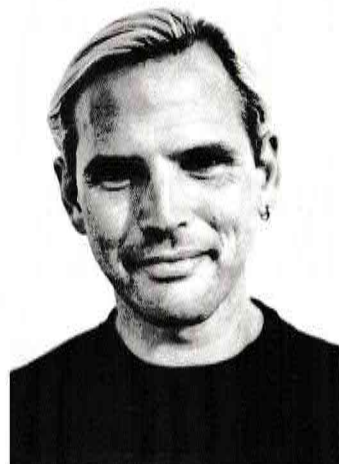
## **Joanna-Joy Salter - Iphigenia**

With training in Performing Arts from the University of Chichester, Joanna is a Secondary school Drama teacher as well as an actress. Having performed predominantly in musical theatre before NVT (as Glinda the Good Witch in 'The Wizard of Oz' as well as roles in 'Sister Act', 'Legally Blonde', Annie and a variety of pantos), she is thrilled to be in her fourth performance at the NVT and excited to bring the role of Iphigenia to life in Strat Mastoris's original play. Previous NVT credits: 'Picnic at Hanging Rock', 'Mixie' and 'The Heresy of Love'.



## **Rich Watkins - Odysseus & Tony Blair**

Rich is thrilled to be making his NVT debut in W.M.D., after moving to Brighton last year. As an actor, Rich is probably best known for his solo musical 'Happily Ever Poofster' which toured extensively across the UK, Europe and Australia from 2018 - 2024. Training: MTA (Musical Theatre) and Ecole Phillippe Gaulier (Clown). Other writing/producing credits include: 'Reclaiming Harry' and 'Burlesque Toy Story'. As well as performing, Rich is a teacher and facilitator. His workshop 'Realising Your Creative Magic' has been enjoyed by many! @itsrichwatkins



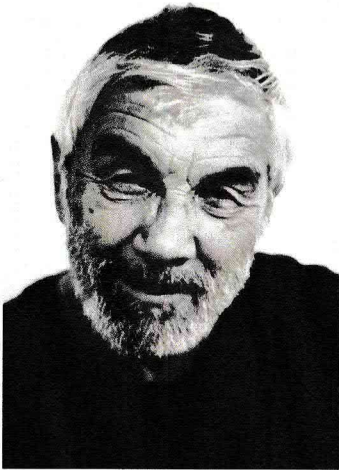
## Kasha Goodenough - Helen of Troy

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', 'The Sweet Science of Bruising' and 'Salome'. She has also worked with several other independent theatre companies performing in Brighton & Chichester Fringe over the years, a debut at Brighton Little Theatre in 2023 in 'Black Mountain', and a supporting role in a feature film (Hope) that premiered at Brighton Fringe 2025.



## Strat Mastoris - Writer and Director

Strat is a photographer - <https://stratmastorisphotography.com/> but he's always loved theatre. At NVT he's directed 'A Rational Death' by Gareth Buckell (rehearsed reading), 'A Number' by Caryl Churchill, 'The Maids' and 'Deathwatch' by Jean Genet (double bill), 'Love Letters' by A R Gurney and 'Seven Jewish Children' by Caryl Churchill. Strat's also done lighting design on many NVT productions, and set design for over a dozen <https://seeingstages.com/>. He's produced posters for quite a few, too. As well as this, Strat writes theatre reviews for the online FringeReview site. W.M.D. is his first play.



## Music

Sea Wall sunrise and Sea Wall sunset both composed and performed by Michael James

## W.M.D.

Ancient Pandura - Marios Podaras plays 'Ay Giz' melody

Ancient Lyre — First Delphic Hymn to Apollo — Thanasis Kleopas & Loukiani Papadaki

Phantoms of Mycenae (Ancient Greek Lyre Music) - Leandros Corieltauvorum

Ancient Cross-Flute (Plagiaulos) - Improvisation by Yannis Pantazis

Ancient Pandura - Marios Podaras plays 'Omni' melody

Orpheus's Lyre: Lament For Solo Lyre in the Just Intonation of Antiquity - Michael Levy



7th - 15th November 2025

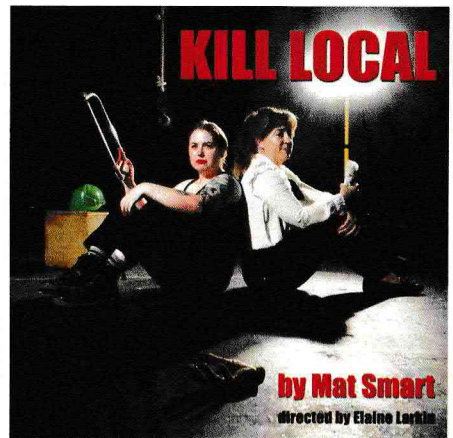
In the Theatre Upstairs

## Kill Local

by Mat Smart

directed by Elaine Larkin

Kill Local is a dark comedy about Sheila, a disillusioned assassin who has lost her passion for murder. Raised in a family of contract killers, Sheila once took pride in her work—but now, her growing conscience and professional mistakes threaten not just her livelihood, but her life. As Sheila grapples with the morality of her profession and the weight of familial loyalty, she is forced to confront the line between justice and revenge. Kill Local explores what happens when killing becomes just another job—and quitting isn't an option.



12th - 20th December 2025

In the Studio Theatre

## Pickwick and Weller

by Barry Purchase

directed by Rod Lewis

Samuel Pickwick is a warm-hearted and well-meaning man of advancing years, but, despite his age, still something of an innocent. As he sets forth on his adventures into the wider world, he is easy pickings for rogues such as Alfred Jingle and the rascally lawyers Dodson and Fogg. He is in need of a protector, and no-one comes better qualified than the streetwise Sam Weller. Sam, with his singular brand of philosophy, never fails to make us laugh as he comes to the rescue of Pickwick time and again. Mr Pickwick, Sam and Tony Weller, Alfred Jingle, Tupman, Snodgrass, Winkle, Dodson and Fogg, Dr Slammer, Mrs Bardell... these are just a few of the kaleidoscope of comic characters who come together in a Dickensian romp that gives us a perception of the human condition that is both insightful and extremely funny.

16th - 24th January 2026

In the Theatre Upstairs

## 4000 Days

by Peter Quilter

directed by Charly Sommers

Michael wakes from a three-week coma to find two people at his side: his sharp-tongued mother, Carol, and his devoted partner of ten years, Paul. Carol and Paul are united in two things: their dedication to Michael, and their loathing of one another. They soon discover Michael remembers nothing of the last 4000 days — and therefore, nothing of Paul. Paul must now fight to bring Michael's memory back while Carol's on a mission to remove him from their lives completely. While grappling with his fractured identity, Michael begins painting a vibrant mural across his hospital room wall — a vivid expression of grief, longing, and the search for the man he used to be... not the stranger he's become..

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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.