

NVT  
Newsletter  
October 2009

Coming in  
November

'Bold Girls'  
by Rona Munro

Directed by  
Jerry Lyne

7-14 November

Bedford Place  
Brighton BN1 2PT  
01273 746118 (24hr)  
info@newventure.org.uk

NEW VENTURE  
T H E A T R E

THEATRE  
NEW WRITING  
CLASSES

# ART

By Yasmina Reza  
Directed by  
Tim McQuillen-Wright

10-17 October 2009

"Art", at it's simplest, is a play about three men. The purchase of a contemporary painting by one of the characters is the catalyst for them realizing that their relationship is no longer as it was in their youth. The play was originally cast with actors in their sixties and a few eyebrows were raised when I announced that I might consider about a younger casting. This was not me being intentionally provocative. It was more to do with the fact that I didn't see anything in the script which bound me to that initial premise. It was no surprise that such a clever and challenging play attracted a lot of quality auditionees but, ultimately, Matt, Colin and Andrew provided an interesting spark which hinted at a side of the play which I hadn't previously spotted. It is not about cantakerous old men, it is about identifying that life is suddenly not how it used to be and whether you accept it, find a way

to adjust to it or fight it. With a young cast, whose characters' responses come from a place of discovery rather than a place of experience, we have a play which will excite people who have already seen it performed, while also

showing those who have never seen it before what all the fuss is about.

The play is automatically given a new lease of life by moving it into the intimate space of the NVT studio. The pressures of commercial theatre have

*(Continued page 3)*



Photo by Strat Mastoris

Left to Right: Matthew Fox, Colin Elmer, Andrew Allen

## COMING: 'Dancing at Lughnasa'

Remember "It's a Wonderful Life"? Well, Gerry's back! Back to a period he loves - the 1930s. And there is a radio as well - again!

"Dancing at Lughnasa" is an award winning play and a modern classic - an Olivier in London and a Tony in NYC as best play in 1991. Brian Friel is an accomplished and master story teller.

It is 1936 and harvest time in County Donegal. In a house just outside the village of Ballybeg live the five Mundy sisters, barely making ends meet. The two male members of the household are brother Jack, a missionary priest, repa-

triated from Africa by his superiors after 25 years, and the seven year old child of the youngest sister.

A deeply moving play but with lots of laughter too. And the dancing is an added bonus!

Auditions will be in November but contact Gerry ([gerrymcrudden@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrymcrudden@hotmail.com)) as soon as you like to discuss parts and crew.

Gerry would especially like to hear from potential Production Managers

**Mike Stubbs**

# NVT Awards - The Winners

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Many thanks to those who supported the return of the NVT Awards on Saturday 12 September, a fun and successful evening. We started with a fun improvisation led by Gayle and Andrew, with a team from the acting class and an Improvisation workshop. The improvisation incorporated lines from each of the productions during the last season, as suggested by members of the audience; an entertaining meander through the productions.

The awards themselves followed, with support from an enthusiastic audience. A list of the winners for each category follows.

Best Set Design	5 Kinds of Silence
Best Lighting Design	5 Kinds of Silence
Best Costume Design	It's a Wonderful Life
Best Sound Design	It's a Wonderful Life
Best Poster Design	5 Kinds of Silence
Most Effective Back Stage Team	Festen
Best FoH / Box Person	Holly Prescott
Most Helpful Member	Kathrin Zeisberg
Best Performance outside a production	Tony Shoesmith
Most Innovative Production	Mademoiselle Y
Best Newcomer	Sarah Charsley
Best Actor / Performer	Matt Houghton
Best Direction	Festen
Best Production	Festen

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the theatre in any way during the last year - we're all winners really as we have such a great space to put on all of our great productions. Additional thanks to those who took the trouble to vote, prior and on the night. We look forward to the NVT Awards 2010.

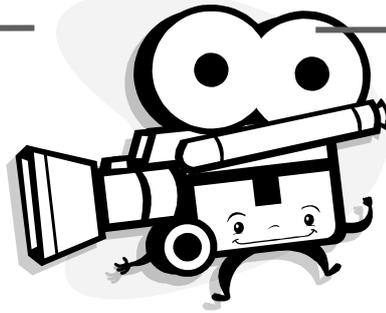
## 'Brighton Rock' - new filming

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The classic film of "Brighton Rock" (1947, John Boulting) is about to be remade, this time placing the action with the mic 60s Brighton mods and rocker gangs instead of the mid-40s Brighton race hill razor gangs.

info, and, if you live in the area, do watch out for local ads asking for extras for crowd scenes; who knows, maybe Richard Attenborough might even come down to watch !

See [http://www.imdb.com, Chris title/tt1233192/](http://www.imdb.com,title/tt1233192/) for more



# The October Acting Classes

## Characterisation and Text Into Performance

### October 5, 12, 19 & 26

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This set of four sessions will take participants into the processes of communicating a character's situation to an audience both physically and vocally by looking at 'story' and how the writer's story might then be told by actors.

Each class will be run in a way that fits all levels of experience and as a discrete unit – perfect for those either able to attend all or just one or two of the sessions.

You will be working on your own and in small groups. There will be opportunities to present work and gain feedback on performance. The intention is that it should be a learning, skills-based process - ideal for beginner or for those with more experience - that, by the end, will have provided you with more than you came in with.

**Mark Wilson**

## **ART** *continued from page 1*

meant that "Art" is used to being performed in 2'000 seat theatres with TV personalities filling the roles. While the play's commercial success of 15 years ago has allowed Yasmina Reza, its writer, more creative freedom in her subsequent work, you can't help wondering whether, once being an actor herself, she ever missed the opportunity to showcase three actors in close proximity to the audience, and watching the characters engage with them. At the New Venture

we get that opportunity. There is an undeniable magic when watching someone fight to understand what is happening to them from close quarters. In the studio, the play which is so much more about friendship than art anyway, becomes a dance - a sequence of tangos as each character attempts to manoeuvre their partner.

Working with the three actors rediscovering this play has been a very exciting process for me.

This is my first venture into directing and although I have been a set and costume designer fifteen years I am used to my creative involvement being virtually complete by the time rehearsals start. With this creative cast and my skilled backstage team I am proud to present a production which, we think, shows off the engaging simplicity of the studio space and the unique place that the New Venture occupies in Brighton theatre.

**Tim McQuillen-Wright**

## Traditional or Experimental theatre?

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I liked the piece in The Argus of 4th September previewing *Intimate Encounters* which contained this extract... "*The show continues the NVT's new and more experimental direction after the dance and drama fusing Mademoiselle Y in July.*"

Uli's reprise of *Intimate Encounters* was a big success and its impact on the participants was obvious as they returned to the "real" world at 10 minute intervals! This show is fast becoming a "must see" with its own followers. Who knows, we might see it again....and again.

I love all kinds of theatre, from the classics to fringe, as long as it's done well, and I believe NVT should be a broad church, but I

must say directing *Mlle Y* has made me want to try new forms of theatrical entertainment, especially combinations of music, dance and drama which actively involve the audience.

So if anyone has ideas in these directions, please get in touch

*mikestubbs2000@yahoo.co.uk*  
or 07990 514949.

Also this newsletter is a good vehicle for members and friends to voice their views on how "New" The New Venture Theatre should become...we'd like to know your feelings on this key subject.

**Mike Stubbs**

## HACKED OFF

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Hi everyone, I have had the misfortune to have been 'hacked into' and all my e-mail addresses have been stolen. I know some of you will have been having strange e-mails headed with my name, it is not me. Whenever I sent out e-mails to members I always put NVT before the subject. As you can imagine this has caused me no end of embarrassment, unfortunately there is nothing I can do about it other than complain to hotmail, who can do nothing.

I have changed my e-mail address and have my fingers crossed there isn't a trojan in the computer. I hope the e-mails do not cause too much annoyance, regard it as a spam that has arrived in your Inbox by mistake.

Best wishes for the new season

**Susan Moss**

## Wanted - Artistic Director

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Over the last year we have spent a considerable amount of our reserve funds to upgrade the theatre exterior and install the Fire Detection System. As we have been doing this the list of other refurbishment, improvement and development options for the theatre have become more apparent - the closer you look the more you see. It is clear that the unfilled role of Fundraiser, which Mike Stubbs has been minding as well as being Artistic Director, is crucial for the future of the NVT.

Mike has taken the difficult decision to step down from the Artistic Director role and put all his efforts behind fundraising, which has become more time consuming in the present financial climate. He will be leaving the Artistic Director role from the AGM, but intends to do this in a coordinated way. He is happy to look after the existing season alongside the new person in the role, to ensure a smooth handover takes place.

So we are looking for someone to move into the role of Artistic Director at the AGM in October. As the forthcoming season is mostly in place they can move into the role working alongside Mike, their initial focus will be the planning of next season over the early months of 2010, allowing a few months to familiarise themselves with the role.

If you are interested in this role please contact Mike for further information -

# Letters & Notes

# Our sponsors

NVT Newsletter edited and produced by Charles Gilson - Correspondence to: nvtnewsletter@btinternet.com or by post to the theatre

Dear Members,

I very much enjoyed the NVT's awards ceremony last Saturday night. I was glad that I went because I'm getting quite tired of watching the usual so called 'Saturday Night's entertainment' on TV! I have never cared much for 'The Generation Game' and 'Blind Date' is not as good as it used to be.

The NVT awards turned out to be the perfect ('gin and') tonic. I was on the edge of my seat in a packed out Studio (there must have been at least 20 people there), would 'True West' win 'Best Production?' 'Best Costumes' perhaps? 'Best American Wig'? Sadly, like many evenings I have spent in a nightclub, I came away with nothing. But I was delighted for others and I wasn't jealous or bitter in any way. I had a great night!

The entertainment beforehand was arranged by Andrew 'Woody' Allen and Gayle Dudley 'Moore'. It comprised of improv. The best bit was where Mark Green did an impersonation of Jesus Christ, although its not that hard to stretch your arms out and pretend to be on a cross, when you think about it. But somehow Mark made it different, amusing and loving.

Well done NVT

**Andy Thomas**

## A day of free workshops for 12 - 25 year-olds

Saturday 14 November from 10.30am in the Studio, including acting masterclass / lighting / sound / directing / stage fighting / musical theatre.

Places are limited and must be booked.

Contact  
liz.hart@crawley.gov.uk or phone 01293 438156

## Ticket requests

To: The Box Office Manager, New Venture Theatre,  
Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

**Saturday 10 October to Saturday 17 October 2009 7.45 pm**

(no performance on Monday)

**Matinee Sunday 11 October 2.30 pm**

Please reserve for me \_\_\_ tickets for **'ART'**

Tickets:

£8.00 (£7 members:) Final Friday & Saturday evenings: £9 (£8 members)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership number \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



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