

Coming in February:

*'How To Disappear
Completely and
Never Be Found'*

By Fin Kennedy
Directed by Ian Black

23 February -
2 March

Box Office (24hr)
01273 746118
Other enquiries
01273 808353

NEW VENTURE
T H E A T R E

Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT
info@newventure.org.uk
www.newventure.org.uk

Two plays by Caryl Churchill 19-26 January 2013



'Far Away'

'Seven Jewish Children'

"If it's a party, why was there so much blood?"

This Caryl Churchill double bill runs from 19 - 26 January 2013
Directed by Tamsin Fraser (Far Away) and Strat Mastoris (Seven Jewish Children)

In 'Far Away', Harper, Joan and Todd inhabit a dystopian nightmare country where people are at war with their neighbours. But as the action becomes more surreal and animals, insects and even the elements are pitted against each other, we must question how much is truth and how much are tales told to protect ourselves and others from the real atrocities going on.

As with all wars involving rival clans and rival groups, alliances coalesce and fracture – last month's allies become today's sworn enemies, sometimes happening so quickly that you can't keep up with who you should be hating...

'Far Away' features a strong cast with Sarah Davies (most recently seen in Medea) as Harper, Tobias Clay (Permanent Way and Biloxi Blues) as Todd and welcoming back Christina Wood (last seen here in Bold Girls) as Joan.

Caryl Churchill wrote 'Seven Jewish Children' as a response to the Israeli assault on Gaza in January 2009. It's an intensely emotional piece, attempting to examine the psychology of the Israeli people - refugees from the Holocaust in Europe now building and defending a new state in Palestine.

Seven short speeches, each from a relative to the parent of a young girl, sketch out modern Jewish history. The first speech takes place somewhere in Europe, in hiding from the Nazis, and subsequent scenes occur during the

emigration to Palestine, the foundation of the State of Israel, the subsequent wars with their Arab neighbours, and the occupation of territory won in 1948 and 1967. The speeches will be delivered by a line of seven women - a wonderfully talented group including both experienced NVT actors and a

number of new faces performing here for the first time.

We see 'Seven Jewish Children' as a perfect counterpart to 'Far Away' as both plays address how people attempt to protect themselves from unbearable truths, and demonise others perceived as 'the enemy'.

The themes addressed in these plays are very controversial, and 'Seven Jewish Children' sparked

a vigorous debate when it was first performed.

With this in mind, our intention is to host a post-show discussion about the plays' issues, after both Saturday performances.

This is Tamsin's first full-length project as director. She had great success directing 'Still Waters' in the Ten Minute play event earlier this year at the NVT.

Strat is a great admirer of Caryl Churchill's work - he directed 'A Number', her play about cloning, at the NVT in 2007.

19 to 26 January 2013, 7.45pm

(No performance Monday evening)

Matinee: Sunday 20 January



L-R Sarah Davies as Harper,
Christina Wood as Joan

Photo by Jez Bowden

Acting Class

Longform Improv Bootcamp

Andrew Allen

7, 14 and 21 January

In this very short series of Acting Classes, there's just a taster of 'long-form' improvisation - where the aims are less about the joke, and more about the story. Ideal for performers who want to gain more confidence for supporting (and being supported by) their fellow actors onstage, and also for writers - or any creatives - who want to kick start 2013 with a hamper of fresh ideas for new plots and stories.

These are a series of purely drop-in workshops, meaning that people can attend all three or just the one as they see fit. But interested parties may want to note that these classes serve as an introduction to the type of work we will be exploring in NVT's entirely improvised play which will be performed as part of the Brighton Festival Fringe 2013.

Finding Stories and Characters from All Sorts: Dipping into Devising - Sarah Davies

28 January and 4, 11,18,25 February

Exploring different stimuli as creative springboards into inventing scenarios and characters. Sarah invites you to come and invent together in the spirit of play. Lots of moving around to movement and silly games to get you into the mood of playfulness with others. Structures and scenarios will be given for you to explore and experiment with. Each session will end with a sharing of work.

Workshops

Introduction to Stage and Production Management

Saturday 26 January 4:30-6pm

Have you ever wondered what is happening behind the scenes of a play? What, or rather who, holds a play at its core? This is your chance to find out! We will be looking at the role descriptions of Production and Stage managers and even put this information

into practise by looking at the set up of the current production. You will hear about peoples experience at NVT and find out how to get involved in the next productions.

Introduction to Lighting Design

Saturday 2 February 2-6pm

Theatre lighting is designed to create the atmosphere and support the action of a particular scene in a play. We start by looking at the script and asking the classic journalist's questions -

Who ? Who is being lit?

What? What is lighting them? What kind of light?

Why ? Why is it necessary that they are lit in this way?

Where ? Where is the light coming from? Which direction?

When ? When is the scene happening? What time of day or night?

This half-day course will take newcomers through the basics of how theatre lights are used, and how different effects can be created. Lighting is a fascinating subject in itself, but we hope that workshop participants will go on to be involved in lighting for productions at the NVT.

To book a place on either workshop, please email ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk

Proposals for 2013-2014

There is still time to get your proposal in for next season. I have received several proposals and am in conversation with some people but would like to encourage everyone who is considering to direct at NVT, but is not sure how to go about it, to either hand in a proposal or contact me ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk

I look forward to hearing form you and to schedule another exciting season!

Ulrike
Artistic Director

'Hansel and Gretel'

Reviewed by Barrie Jerram

The choice of Hansel and Gretel for NVT's Christmas show made a refreshing change from the usual fairy tale stories trotted out over the festive season. This version of the story, written and directed by local playwright Helen Nelder, told the story simply but garnished it with music, dance and delightful bird puppetry. Much of the movement was balletic with elements of ritual. A major contribution to the show's success came from Joanna Burke who composed and played the evocative music that wove its way through the production.

The show started in the bar area as the cast and the musician were led in by Peta Taylor, stepping in at short notice to take on the role of Narrator. Having gone round the room asking the youngsters if they wanted to hear a story, Pied Piper like, she

led the audience in to the studio where an imaginative wood had been created. Peta then skilfully guided the cast through the tale of how hunger and poverty drove the parents into abandoning their children in the woods where they were captured by the cannibalistic witch. She proved to be a masterful story teller who interacted well, pantomime style, with the small children in the audience who remained entranced throughout the hour long show. They were particularly enchanted by her bringing to life a puppet bird.

At the beginning the pace was a little pedestrian and ponderous but it livened up especially with the arrival of Janet Hewlett-Davies's myopic witch.

The young actors playing the title roles did well with Francesca Drew showing a sweetness that counter-

pointed the greed and naughtiness of her brother, depicted by Daniel Walford. It was such an odious creation that one would not have been too sorry if he had got eaten by the witch! Their mother, Jo Spratley gave a good performance that swung between sternness and maternal love. I understand Jezz Bowden was a replacement and a newcomer to acting but sadly his portrayal of the father was too softly spoken.

But it was, as usual, Janet's performance that stole the show. Her witch was a remarkable creation – a glorious blend of the sinister with superb comedy. This Grande Dame of local theatre transformed herself into another Dame – a pantomime dame. It is no wonder that husband Barry confided in me that in almost 50 years of being married to Janet he had never realised before how much she could look like Les Dawson! All she needed to complete the image was a grand piano.

FEBRUARY 2013 newsletter

Copy deadline: Monday 21 January

Printing: Monday 4 February

Tickets for next upcoming NVT productions

Ticket prices: £9 (£8 members)

Final Friday/Saturday: £10 (£9 Members) Tuesday evenings: tickets £7

Please note: On Sundays matinee only

Evening performances at 7.45 pm

Sunday Matinees at 2.30 pm

19-26 January:

'Far Away' and 'Seven Jewish Children'
by Caryl Churchill

Performance date?

How many?	
Member?	Non-Member?

Total Cost?
£

23 February - 2 March:

'How To Disappear Completely and
Never Be Found' by Fin Kennedy

Performance date?

How many?	
Member?	Non-Member?

Total Cost?
£

30 March - 6 April:

'Boston Marriage' by David Mamet

Performance date?

How many	
Member?	Non-Member?

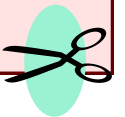
Total Cost?
£

Name, Address, Postal code & phone number:

Membership
Number(s)

* PLEASE SEND or DELIVER YOUR CHEQUE and this coupon to:
New Venture Theatre, Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

* Please note there may be a delay in receiving confirmation of your tickets
for bookings made more than a month in advance of the performance date.



Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

What's On Show ?

As we get near Uli's February deadline for ideas for next season, I hope Associate Members (in other words, the audience) realise they can have a say in what they would like to see.

There seems to be a current in-house preference for plays which are off-beat, unusual, unexpected, seldom-seen or "clever" and there's nothing whatever wrong with that for a company which calls itself "New Venture." Can we be sure, though, this is the diet the paying customers really want ?

Recently, American craftsmen Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and Neil Simon have been well-represented, but not home authors like Alan Bennett, Alan Ayckbourn, Arnold Wesker. Howard Brenton or David Hare. In 20 years, I remember only one Bernard Shaw – Arms and the Man, hardly his best. There used to be a yearly Shakespeare, a tradition which seems to be in abeyance. When the Youth Group was operating, they did one Brecht. There have been Pinter productions, but not recently. Of modern classic English comedies, I think the last was Coward's Blythe Spirit nearly 15 years ago. European, Scandinavian and Russian theatre doesn't get much of a look in.

This isn't a complaint in disguise. I'm just wondering if members get the best the company can offer, given all the talent it can call on – and the wealth of material out there for the taking.

A few ideas: Doctors' Dilemma (Shaw) Is private medicine a rip-off? God Only Knows (Hugh Whitemore) thriller and better than Da Vinci Code – secret document disappears from the Vatican. Is this the end for Christianity? Canary (Jonathan Harvey) "Cavalcade" for the 21st century; The Hypochondriac (Roger McGough) scathingly funny take on Moliere; Pravda (Howard Brenton and David Hare) Does the Press have too much power in Britain?

With best wishes

Barry Hewlett-Davies

News on the main theatre

We have completed the new lighting box, rake and cladding of the stage wall.

The entrance and arch are complete and the stage windows have been shuttered

At a recent meeting we have agreed to appoint J & C Joel as contractors to install the Grid System supporting motorised tabs and tracks along with the new lighting bars.



The installation cannot take place until the rewiring of the electrics. This will include the whole of the upstairs theatre, dressing rooms and workshops and is due to start in January.

Once the electrics are completed we can start making good and redecorating.

BUDGETS

We have spent slightly more than £6.5K from total sums raised of just over £34K.

To install the new lighting and grid system will cost over £31,000 which takes most of our current fundraising.

We need to keep fundraising to make sure we can complete this by the summer.

New Seating will cost £13K and Judy Milton our Fundraiser is applying for grants. If we are successful we will have new seats when we open.

So we are making good progress but we need every penny we can get!

Jerry Lyne



Wishing you and your families a
Happy, healthy and satisfying
New Year !

Charles Gilson, Newsletter Editor



Another triumph for the NVT

On the evening of Monday 10 December the annual awards ceremony for the Brighton and Hove Drama Awards were held in the grand hall of BHASVIC College.

On a central table gathered the cast and crew of 'The Price' and me. We could see many familiar faces on other tables representing the other companies participating in the battle for the trophies, and **Chris Pugh** manning light and sound and giving technical assistance for the evening.

The actress Sian Webber had the difficult task of judge and gave feedback to every production. The Wick Theatre Company and Lewes Theatre Club both produced 'Calendar Girls', and many of you will know that **Pat Boxhall's** production was crowned by NVT stalwarts like **Sheelagh Baker** and **Charlotte Grimes**. 'Furcoat and No Knickers' was entered by Burgess Hill Theatre Club and The Southwick Players staged 'Visiting Mr. Green'.

Sian Webber commented at NVT's standard of acting, the attention to detail and the outstanding commitment creating such depth and sensitivity that she came away thinking about the themes of the play - a very good sign for a Miller fan. Another aspect that needed mentioning was the number of beautiful authentic props that were sourced for this production.

NVT received nominations for 'Best Stage Set Design', 'Best Costumes', 'Best Lighting Design', 'Best Technical Achievement', 'Best Director',

'Best Actress' (Janice Jones), 'Best Actor' (Jerry Lyne), 'The Arthur Churchill Award for Excellence' and the 'Bea Water Challenge Cup for Best Overall Production'.

Having seen all the productions and experienced that theatre is alive in the community despite (or maybe because) of funding cuts Sian Webber was almost overwhelmed by the passion everybody brought to the shows and awards were pretty much evenly distributed.

NVT's **Peta Williams** received the 'BHAC Chairman's Awards' for the outstanding work of sourcing and making the props for 'The Price', **Jerry Lyne** was awarded the 'Best Actor' for his performance of Solomon and the 'Bea Waters Challenge Cup for Best Overall Production' returned to the NVT as well. **Sheelagh Baker** was awarded 'Best Supporting Actress' in the Wick's production of 'Calendar Girls'.

It was a very nice pre-Christmassy evening celebrating amateur dramatic communities and their achievements.

Congratulations to **Rod Lewis** and his team for the success of 'The Price'!

Ulrike
Artistic Director



Photo by Julia Baverstock



MAIL BOXES ETC.®

- Print & Copy
- Packing & Shipping
- Office Services
- Packing Materials
- Stationery
- Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 www.mbebrighton.co.uk
 Email: print@mbefbrighton.co.uk 91 Western Road, Brighton. BN1 2NW



DEEPDENE SCHOOL & NURSERY

*Nursery - 6 mths to 4 yrs
 School - 4 yrs to 11 yrs*

Traditional Caring Nursery & Primary Education

**Helping children become
 confident, competent, considerate & courteous**

195 New Church Road, Hove BN3 4ED
 www.deepdeneschool.com Tel: 01273 418984

Healthy Food Shopping on the Internet



HealthySupplies.co.uk
 Yummy snacks & tasty ingredients
 Freephone: 0800 0272 616

Our sponsors

Our sponsorship deal is £250 for a year's advertising on our website and in our brochure, newsletter and show programmes, plus 2 free tickets for each production in that year.

MANAGEMENT: Who we are and how to reach us

NAME	ROLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Ian Black	Chairman	ian.black@newventure.org.uk	
Jerry Lyne	Secretary		
Ulrike Schilling	Artistic Director	ulrike.schilling@newventure.org.uk	
Ollie Donovan	Treasurer	treasurer@newventure.org.uk	
Kevin Moore/ Caroline Blick	Production Manager	prod.mgr@newventure.org.uk	
Chris Pugh	Technical Manager	chris.pugh@newventure.org.uk	
Judy Milton	Fundraising	fundraising@newventure.org.uk	
Dan Walker	Marketing & Publicity	publicity@newventure.org.uk	
Rosie Nicchitta	Volunteer Liaison	volunteering@newventure.org.uk	
Kay Wetherilt/ Michael-Orpen-Palmer	Front of House	frontofhouse@newventure.org.uk	
Anne Gilson	Membership Secretary	membership@newventure.org.uk	
Natasha Borg	Box Office	boxoffice@newventure.org.uk	
Charles Gilson	Newsletter Editor		
Pat Boxall	LTG Rep		
Sarah Charsley	Social Secretary	social@newventure.org.uk	
GENERAL ENQUIRIES		info@newventure.org.uk	01273 808353