

An Amateur Production in association with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

WHY  
DO WE  
BEHAVE

# REASONS

# TO BE

# PRETTY

by Neil LaBute



# NVT

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT


PERFORMANCES:

Fri 13th Nov - Sat 21st Nov 2015 - 7.45 pm

Sun Matinee - 2.30pm (No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: [www.newventure.org.uk/tickets](http://www.newventure.org.uk/tickets)

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt\_brighton

THEATRE ◀

NEW WRITING ◀

CLASSES ◀

LICENSED BAR ◀

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# 50p

# REASONS TO BE PRETTY

"But I don't want a model, I want you!" is not from the play. It is a line that my fifteen year old self thought would be a nice thing for a girl to hear. Shortly after that, the conversation became a blur as I fought to reestablish what I had meant and how I could find the sequence of words which could, in effect, turn back time. The young relationship did not blossom. Whether that episode had anything to do with it is impossible to tell but it is fair to assume it didn't help.

In "Reasons To Be Pretty", Greg endures a similar crisis but in this case, his words do prove to be the catalyst to a very challenging period in his relationship to girlfriend, Steph. Neither of them are able to communicate their feelings terribly well and when put into situations of high stress, they do not articulate a perfectly crafted soundbite like in some Renee Zellweger movie. They argue with confusion and panic like the rest of us and perhaps that is why I like the play so much.

Neil LaBute wrote the comedy to be about our fixation with physical appearance. There is a lot of confrontation in the play and you would be forgiven for thinking, on reading it, that it is an angry play. But we believe that could not be further from the truth. It shows how, in the real world, love is flawed, difficult and often ugly but love is also tender, beautiful and extremely funny.

We are presenting the play in the intimate space of the studio so that whether you side with Greg and feel his pain for saying the wrong thing, or with Steph for believing that, if you love someone, you are incapable of making such a mistake in the first place, the audience is in the thick of the argument.

The cast have proven to be wonderfully creative contributors to the entire process. Fintan, last seen as Hedwig, Pamela, fresh from her fantastic performance in "The Thrill of Love", Scott, a regular NVT performer and recent director of "Richard III" and Jen, from last season's "Benefactors", all bring a wealth of experience and charm to four challenging roles. We also have an incredibly strong backstage team who regularly pop into rehearsals and add to the blend of ideas. Between the script and the team, I am extremely lucky and proud to present this play.

If I can conclude with another quote, this time from someone far more erudite than I, which I feel sums the play up, Shrek in Shrek-The Musical sings, "Beautiful isn't always pretty".

Director

Tim McQuillen-Wright

## **ACT ONE**

Scene 1

The home of Steph and Greg

Scene 2

The locker room at Greg's work

Scene 3

A mall

Scene 4

The locker room at Greg's work

## **ACT TWO**

Scene 1

A restaurant lobby

Scene 2

The locker room at Greg's work

Scene 3

A baseball field

Scene 4

The locker room at Greg's work

The play runs at approximately 2 1/2 hours including an interval of 15-20 mins

## **CAST**

**Steph**

**Greg**

**Kent**

**Carly**

**Pamela Sian Evans**

**Fintan Shevlin**

**Scott Roberts**

**Jen Ley**

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

**Director/Designer :**

**LX Designer :**

**Sound Designer :**

**Production Manager :**

**Stage Manager :**

**ASM :**

**ASM :**

**Shadow to Director :**

**LX Operator :**

**Sound Operator :**

**Set Build Team :**

**Programme :**

**Photography :**

**Publicity & Marketing :**

**Tim McQuillen-Wright**

**Strat Mastoris**

**Tim Metcalfe**

**Steve Coulson**

**Sophie Nunns**

**Barry Purchase**

**Melissa Noble**

**Slawek Kudryś**

**Alex Epps**

**Tim Metcalfe**

**George Walter, Simon Glazier**

**Monika Schuettbacher, Araceli Perez**

**Tamsin Mastoris**

**Strat and Tamsin Mastoris**

**Dan Walker**



### **Pamela Sian Evans - Steph**

This is Pamela's second production with New Venture Theatre, having played the role of Doris Judd in 'The Thrill of Love.' Pamela completed a degree in Theatre Studies before touring with educational theatre companies in Barcelona and West Sussex. Last year she performed the role of Celia ('As You Like It') in open air theatre and Hermia ('A Midsummer Nights Dream') at Glastonbury festival.

Pamela works full time as a pastry chef and is currently completing a diploma in patisserie. As well as theatre, travelling and adventuring is a big passion of hers. She has thoroughly enjoyed exploring the character of Steph and hopes you enjoy her portrayal.

### **Fintan Shevlin - Greg**

Fintan trained in acting at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. Credits include, 'Surab' in The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Lyric Belfast) 'Charles Bingley' in Pride and Prejudice, 'Davey' in The Lieutenant of Inishmore, The Piper (The Lowry, Manchester), and 'John' in Hard Chair stories (Rose Theatre, London) Credits with NVT include 'Dickie' in The Winslow boy, The Building, and 'Hedwig' in Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Recent film and TV credits include: Cilla, a new self penned online comedy sketch directed by James Newton, The Beach a new web series with Futuresun films, 'Andy' in Coldcall (featured at Film4 Frightfest), 'Rich' in a new feature Angel on the ceiling, 'The halfling Grunmore' in The Shadow of Israphel (City17 productions), a BBC Online pilot comedy series with Greg Davies, The John Lewis 150 years commercial, NBC Movie 24 promo, and Banks of the Foyle Halloween Carnival promotion for the Irish tourist board.



### **Scott Roberts - Kent**

Trained as an actor at Arts Ed, London and worked professionally for a number of years. He most recently performed as Thraso this summer in the Roman play 'The Eunuch', by Terence. The production was staged at the Brighton Open Air Theatre with rave reviews.

His New Venture Theatre credits include: Bob in 'Private Ear' and The Editor/Jason in Headlong's collection of short plays inspired by 9/11, entitled 'Decade'. His first show at the NVT was as the lead role Charlie in 'How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found', by local award winning writer Fin Kennedy.

This year Scott directed and designed his own adaptation of 'Richard III' and is also a keen writer.



### **Jen Ley - Carly**

Jen has been performing with the NVT since 2007; productions include 'The Interview', 'Intimate Encounters', 'The Real Inspector Hound', 'It's a Wonderful Life', 'Benefactors' and last season's 10 Minute Play Competition. She has also worked with Bitesize Theatre locally, played Laura in the Two Bins production of 'After Party' (both of which won an Argus Angel award) and done rehearsed readings of 'Beef' (Something Underground Theatre Co) and 'WLTM' this September at The Mesmerist. She is currently undertaking small film roles in order to put together a show reel and is in the second year of her counselling diploma-at least one will lead to some paid work in the future!

## **Tim McQuillen-Wright - Director**

At the NVT Tim has directed and designed 'Art', 'Of Mice And Men' and last season's Harold Pinter play 'Celebration'. Tim has also designed 'Biloxi Blues', 'It's A Wonderful Life', 'The Rise And Fall of Little Voice', 'The Memory of Water' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' amongst many others.

Away from the New Venture, Tim has directed for Bite Size at the Edinburgh Festival and designed productions all around the world including the musical 'The Life' currently playing at the English Theatre in Frankfurt and 'Let It Be' which is touring the UK.



Many thanks to:

Pat Boxall, Sarah Stephenson, Gladrags and as always our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.



**Fintan Shevlin & Pamela Sian Evans**  
Photo by Strat Mastoris

## COMING NEXT

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
**BY CHARLES DICKENS**  
**AN ADAPTATION BY SARAH DAVIES**  
directed by Sarah Davies  
4 - 12 DECEMBER 2015  
(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

Everyone knows Scrooge - tight-fisted, old miser. Bah humbug! Come enjoy this creepy classic, seasonal ghost story retold with energy, music and a sense of fun. Adult members and our youth theatre work as an ensemble to recreate Dickensian London

Suitable for 7 year olds and upwards  
(not for those who are easily spooked)



## COMING SOON

**LOOT - BY JOE ORTON**  
directed by Steven O'Shea  
15 - 23 JANUARY 2016 (STUDIO THEATRE)

**WOMEN OF TROY - BY EURIPEDES**  
directed by Ella Thompson  
26 FEBRUARY - 5 MARCH 2016 (THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

**OUR SONS AS WELL**  
an evening of poetry and prose  
commemorating those who lost  
their lives in the Great War  
19 MARCH 2016 (STUDIO THEATRE)

**HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON?**  
**BY JENNIFER JOHNSTON**  
adapted by Alan Stanford  
directed by Gerry McCrudden  
8 - 16 APRIL 2016 (STUDIO THEATRE)

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## Contacting the NVT

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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

## NVTYT - NVT Youth Theatre

NVT welcomes all young people  
(11-17) with a passion for or an  
interest in theatre.  
Fridays 4.30-6.30pm.

## 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!

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per show. Contact  
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for details.

## Membership

Full (company) membership -  
£25 a year. Full participation,  
discount on tickets & newsletter.  
Student/Unwaged - £13 a year.  
As above... *Proof of status is  
required.*

## Supporting NVT

We are a membership club,  
founded in 1947. We perform  
established plays, both classical  
and contemporary, and are a  
showcase for new writing. If you  
are interested in joining us,  
please pick up a membership  
form in the foyer.

In 1983 NVT bought the freehold  
of this listed Victorian building



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which needs constant investment to maintain its integrity. To keep NVT going we need your financial support, either to add to our regular sponsors (Annual package £250) or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. Our Angels have proven to be generous in the assistance they give us. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: [gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com). If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.