

A NEW VENTURE THEATRE PRODUCTION 2017

THE HOMECOMING



BY
HAROLD PINTER

DIRECTED BY
STEVEN O'SHEA

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Friday 20 January to Saturday 28 January 7.45 pm

Sunday matinee 22nd January 2.30 pm

No show Sunday evening or Monday

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

ONLINE BOOKING: www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Registered Charity No. 268607

50p

An amateur production in association with Samuel French, Ltd.

*'There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal,
nor between what is true and what is false.'*

Harold Pinter, 1958

Eight years after his death, Harold Pinter remains arguably the most significant and influential British playwright of the post-war era. *The Homecoming* represents one of the high points of Pinter's creative output and ranks in the forefront of the body of work that continues to sustain his immense reputation. Challenging, disturbing, tantalisingly enigmatic and savagely funny, it represents the playwright at the height of his powers.

However, as so often with Pinter's work, one finds that defining what the piece is essentially about is very much a matter of subjective conjecture, particularly as the characters themselves struggle with the instability of their notions of the past and the difficulty of being able to verify where reality ends and dreams begin. The plot itself is straightforward enough. Having lived in the United States for several years, Teddy, a professor of philosophy, brings his wife Ruth back to meet his family at their home in North London. As the drama unfolds, Pinter examines the naked violence of the family's inter-relationships with a ruthless objectivity that is devoid of any moral agenda.

Within this crackling hotbed of visceral tension, exchanges seemingly polite and genuine are in fact malicious and destructive in nature. Language is utilised and deployed as a weapon to control, dominate or humiliate. In the character of Ruth, Pinter portrays a woman able to remain elusively dominant by reflecting and subverting what is projected on her by the male characters of the play, providing an illustration of how femininity is so often defined by men to satisfy their desires or insecurities. As she increasingly becomes the central figure of the action, the play explores themes of manipulation, emotional impotence, Oedipal desires, personal loneliness, seduction and jealousy as the characters engage in their chosen form of psychological warfare with Ruth as the focus of the family's struggle for supremacy.

The play remains a modern classic and a landmark in twentieth century British drama.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my exceptional cast including NVT stalwarts James Macauley, Scott Roberts, Culann Smyth, John Tolputt and NVT debutantes Bridgett Ane Lawrence and Chris Knight, along with the entire crew and all the administrative staff at the NVT for their invaluable work and support throughout this production.

Steven O'Shea (director)

THE HOMECOMING

Set in an old house in north London in the late summer of 1965

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Lenny	Scott Roberts
Max	Culann Smyth
Sam	John Tolputt
Joey	Chris Knight
Teddy	James Macauley
Ruth	Bridgett Ane Lawrence

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Steven O'Shea
Assistant Director	Mike Stubbs
Stage Management	Kasha Goodenough
Assistant Stage Management	Georgy Pleece & Freia Metzger
Set Design	George Walter & Simon Glazier
Lighting Design & Rigging	Strat Mastoris
Sound Design	Tim Metcalfe
Lighting Operation	Alex Epps
Sound Operation	Erica Fletcher & Steve Coulson
Costume Design	Freia Metzger
Set Construction	Monika Schuettbacher, Tomasz Baraniecki, Simon Glazier & George Walter
Poster Design	Strat Mastoris
Photography	Dan Walker & Strat Mastoris
Fight Choreographer	Moog Gravett
Publicity	Dan Walker
Props	Kasha Goodenough, Georgy Pleece, Freia Metzger & Mark Green
Programme Design	Tom Kitch
Health & Safety	Ian Black
Costumes Supplied by	Moss Bros and Gladrags

We would like to thank Rod Lewis and Uli Schilling, and as always express our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.

The production runs approximately 2 hours 20 minutes including a fifteen minute intermission.



Lenny (Scott Roberts)

Scott's acting credits include Gus in *Holes* by Tom Basden at the NVT, Trinculo in *The Tempest* at 88 London Road and Thraso in *The Eunuch* at BOAT, and he was the winner of the Best Supporting Actor award at the BHAC Drama Awards for Kent in *Reasons To Be Pretty*. His directing credits include his own adaptations of *Richard III* at the NVT and Wedekind's *Lulu* in the forthcoming NVT 2017 Fringe Festival show.



Max (Culann Smyth)

Culann's appeared in a number of NVT productions, and his roles include George in *Kvetch*, Telephone Repair Man in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, the Sergeant in *How Many Miles to Babylon?* and the Superintendent in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.



Sam (John Tolputt)

John's most recent roles at the NVT include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* and Biedermann in *The Arsonists*. Elsewhere he has appeared in *Glengarry Glen Ross* at the Rialto and *Frankenstein* at the Little Theatre. He is also an editor for the online *Poetry Archive*.

Steven O'Shea (Director)

The Homecoming marks Steven's fifth directorial production at the NVT following *Speed the Plow* by David Mamet (2011), *Kvetch* by Steven Berkoff (2012), *Old Times* by Harold Pinter (2014), an adaptation of *Hamlet* by Shakespeare (2015) and *Loot* by Joe Orton (2016).

He currently runs the Working Toward Performance drop in acting classes in Brighton (www.workingtowardperformance.co.uk).



Joey (Chris Knight)

The Homecoming marks Chris' first appearance at the NVT. Previous performances include a series of short plays and sketches by Pinter and an adaptation of *The Wrong Boy*. He also plays bass guitar for Hucks, which you can hear at soundcloud.com/huckshucks.



Teddy (James Macauley)

James's previous appearances at the NVT include *The Arsonists*, *The Miser* and *How Many Miles to Babylon?* He also performed in the 2016 Brighton Fringe show *Am I F**kable?* for Pop Heart Productions.



Ruth (Bridgett Ane Lawrence)

Bridgett Ane's Chicago credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Public*, *The Trial* and, as Anne Frank, *Right As Rain*. Her New York credits include the Princess of France in *Loves Labours Lost*, Pope Joan in *Top Girls*, *In Search of a Goddess* and *Brimstone & Treacle*. In Brighton she wrote, produced and performed in her one woman show *An Evolution of Love*. Bridgett Ane runs 'Yoga in the Lanes' in Brighton with her husband.



Back row, left to right: Scott Roberts, James Macauley,
Bridgett Ane Lawrence and Chris Knight.
Front row: John Tulputt & Culann Smyth.

Photograph by Dan Walker



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NVT Acting Class

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5.00 per session (£2.50 for NVT Members). First visit is FREE!

Contacting the NVT

For ticket and performance enquiries only, call the Box Office: 01273 746118, or email: boxoffice@newventure.org.uk
All other enquiries: 01273 808353

Become an NVT Sponsor

Advertise your business to hundreds of local residents with NVT from only £250. For a range of print and web publicity options and opportunities for free show tickets, please contact: fundraising@newventure.org.uk

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 which needs constant investment to maintain its integrity. To keep NVT going, we rely on the generosity of the community, to provide donations that are essential to the upkeep of the building and the refurbishment of the main auditorium.

For more information on how you can support NVT. Please contact: fundraising@newventure.org.uk

Many thanks to our current donors and our special appreciation to our major anonymous donor.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Friday 17th to Saturday 25th February

Blood Wedding

by Federico Lorca

directed by Chris Dangerfield

Friday 17th to Saturday 25th March

The Deep Blue Sea

by Terence Rattigan

directed by Pat Boxall

Friday 31st March and Saturday 1st April

Back to Back

an NVT production

Friday 21st to Saturday 29th April

Evening of One Act Plays:

Hughie by Eugene O'Neill

directed by Dan Walker

The Real Inspector Hound

by Tom Stoppard

directed by Mary Allen

www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, from 13th January to 6th April (except half term).

The sessions are led by experienced actors, directors, writers and teachers. The first session is free so you can come and try it out before committing. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome.

For further information, see www.newventure.org.uk/youththeatre

For enquiries, please contact: youththeatre@newventure.org.uk