

ANNIVERSARY APRIL

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**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT
Registered Charity No. 268607

Friday 6th April: Fun Fest
 Saturday 7th April: Short Plays and Some Song
 Wednesday 11th April: Film Fest
 Friday 13th April: NvyT 'Mixtape' / Such Stuff
 Saturday 14th April: Cast Iron Roulette / Podcast Live
 Wednesday 18th April: An Evening of Archives and Anecdotes
 Friday 20th April: Snippets From the Shows / Fringe Sampler

£1

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

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

70 Years of the NVT

Thank you for coming along to help us celebrate this 70th Anniversary of the New Venture Theatre. In marking this platinum date, we thought it might be a nice idea to have a festival of events to showcase the many and various talents of our creative teams. So, as you will see from the programme, we have an eclectic mixture of productions for you to enjoy. I wonder when the team that staged our first production in November 1947 (*The Late Mr Lavarick*), did they ever realise that 70 years later we would be marking what they started. The main instigator was A. Graham Phillips who, along with other stalwarts, founded the theatre with a theatre fund of £6.

We grew out of earlier theatre groups of which there were many in the first half of the last century: The Gradonic ADS, The Florence Moore Players, The Studio Players, The Forum Theatre Group, and many others. The NVT was also known at the time as The Brighton and Hove Repertory Company, a name we continue to own. In the early years we had an itinerant and peripatetic existence and staged shows at various venues around the city such as Middle St Schools, Dorset Gardens, The Ralli Hall and The Pavilion

Theatre. With much effort theatre obtained space in current home in 1958 in what was Christ Church School. Indeed, one of our current members attended school in the 1920s. In 1984 we were able to obtain the freehold of the building for the princely of £12,000.



The Taming of the Shrew
(William Shakespeare;
directed by A. Graham
Phillips; October 1949)



*Arsenic and
Old Lace*
(Joseph Kesselring;
directed by Tony
Brownings;
January 1983)

Down the years the NVT has gone from strength to strength. Of course there were tough times when the survival of the NVT was on a knife edge. There were break ins and a number of arson attempts. But through it all, despite the many challenges and with the hard work of our members and supporters, we survived.

We are proud of our creative reputation as much loved community theatre. Since our inception we have staged nearly 700 productions involving many thousands of folk, be they on stage, back stage or front of house. It takes many skills and much commitment to stage a show. So our grateful thanks to all of them down the years, and, of course, to you, the audience. Without you there would be no show.

Gerry McCrudden (NVT Archives and Angels Co-ordinator)

Anna Christie
(Eugene O'Neill;
directed by Jerry
Lyne; November
2017)



NVT's Unsung Heroes

As we began piecing together the plans for this, our 70th Anniversary celebrations, a couple of points kept coming up: "what links the programme together?" and "how do we showcase that all of this is run by volunteers?" I think that the second question answers the first – everything we do is linked together by our volunteers.

Within our pool of members, there are some extraordinary people who give a lot of their time and make great and sustained efforts to keep NVT going so that others can enjoy it. Some come along for a season, some dip in and out, and some seem to be part of the furniture. Without them, this place would not be a theatre.

Some of the results of their efforts are available for applause. We notice the set, props, costumes, lighting and sound that complement the actors and actions, but it isn't always so obvious how many hours it has taken to create these things, or that there's a team of people in for every show, making sure that everything works as it should.

Underpinning everything is an even smaller group of people who literally keep the place running. It's no small matter maintaining a building of this size, or keeping a grasp on the creatives running amok within it! To borrow a line from Mr McCrudden: "We stand on their shoulders".

What we do here is amazing. Long may it continue.

Melissa Noble (NVT Volunteer Co-ordinator)



Anniversary April Programme

Friday, 6th April: Fun Fest!

A feast of comedy featuring our Fri-Up favourites followed by the fabulous Fannytasticals!

Saturday, 7th April: Short Plays And Some Song

Full Beam lights the way. *Tons of Money* (1947) and *The Swing* (2017) showcase writing old and new. We are then treated to some Noel Coward songs, before the eagerly awaited premiere of *Mad About The Boy*.

Wednesday, 11th April: Film Fest

Friends of NVT celebrate celluloid, proving our talents extend beyond the stage in this festival of short film delights.

Friday 13th April (the following events need to be booked separately)

NVYT 'Mixtape @ 7.00 pm

Take a trip down memory lane and look back at some of the finest theatrical moments from NVT's history. The theatre's stars of tomorrow bring you a mash up of scenes taken from iconic plays throughout the decades.

Such Stuff . . . An Evening Of Literary Nuggets @ 8.15 pm

An evening of poetry and flash fiction on the theme of *Such Stuff As Dreams Are Made On*. Revel in the poetry of the 1940s, new writing and pieces with a theatrical theme.

Saturday, 14th April: Cast Iron Roulette / Theatre Podcast Live: 70 Years Of NVT

An evening of new writing and modern technology combine to prove just how much has changed since the early years of NVT.

Wednesday, 18th April: An Evening Of Archives And Anecdotes

Witness NVT history brought to life, with help from some very familiar faces.

Friday 20th April: Snippets From The Shows / Fringe Sampler

We begin with some highlights of shows gone by, then come bang up to date with a snapshot of some of the freshest and most exciting upcoming Brighton Fringe productions.

70 Years of Drama

1930s–40s Precursors to NVT, such as the Gradonic and other theatre groups, are active

1947–58 NVT leads peripatetic existence, performing at various venues

1958 Leslie Osborne (Treasurer) obtains lease for use of upstairs space

1974 Death of our founder, Graham Phillips

1977–80 A period of uncertainty as we consider alternative premises

pre 1947

1947

1952

1957

1962

1967

1972

1977

Nov 1947 First NVT (Brighton and Hove Repertory Company) production, *The Late Mr Lavarick*

Jun 1956 Live parrot upstages leading lady in *Sabrina Fair*

Nov 1958 First Production in our venue, *The Burning Glass*

Jan 1964 Our 100th production, *Charley's Aunt*

Mar 1976 Our 200th production, *Son of Man*

1976 The Christchurch building is gutted by fire

1981 An opportunity to lease all of the building from Church Commissioners is missed



Jul 1983 A break-in and arson attack during the run of *Virginia Wolf* causes much damage, including destroying many costumes

May 1986 First production in the new studio – a revue, *Not The NVT's Late Late Picture Show*

Aug 1997 Due to audience demand we have a midnight matinee of *Bouncers*

Dec 2002 The fire department puts the upstairs out of bounds

Jan 2003 Outstanding bills are paid off, leaving £5,000 in account

Aug 2005 The Arts Council issue a grant for us to upgrade the ground floor facilities

Oct 2013 reopening of the upstairs theatre

1982

1987

1992

1997

2002

2007

2012

2017

Mar 1984 Freehold of building bought for £12,000

Oct 1986 First play in the new Studio, *Masterpieces*

Apr 1988 The fire department threatens to close us down during the run of *Farndale Ladies*

Nov 2002 The new Artistic Director discovers we are under threat of legal action due to non payment of work on the studio

May 2005 The last production in the upstairs theatre due to H&S issues, *The Weir*

Jan 2010 Jerry Lyne forms a project team to design and refurbish the upstairs theatre

April 2018 We celebrate 70th Anniversary



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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 donors and our special appreciation to our major anonymous donor.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Friday 11th to Saturday 19th May

1984

by George Orwell

directed by Nick Richards

Friday 1st to Saturday 2nd June

A rehearsed reading of

Elephant's Graveyard

by George Brant

directed by David Eaton

Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd June

Jumpy

by April de Angelis

directed by Diane Robinson

www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Summer term starts on Friday 13th April.

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



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