

ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

BY
GEORGE BRANT



A REHEARSED READING
DIRECTED BY DAVID EATON

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**


Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 1st and Sat 2nd June only - 7.45 pm

ONLINE BOOKING: www.newventure.org.uk/tickets

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

An Amateur Production in association with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

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THEATRE ◀
NEW WRITING ◀
CLASSES ◀
LICENSED BAR ◀

50p

ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

"The Show That Never Broke A Promise. Starring Mary: the largest living land animal on Earth."

There was a town. There was a circus. There was a railroad. There was an elephant. And there was a man with red hair. In 1916, a tiny town in Tennessee will experience the greatest show on Earth. A sight never before seen by any man and it's going to put them on the map, forever.

When a horrific tragedy is witnessed by the entire town of Erwin during a circus parade, panic and chaos erupts. Who is to blame? How could this have been allowed to happen? What should be done with the guilty party? Told from the varying points of view of the towns people and circus folk, this poignant and revealing play sheds a harsh spotlight on mankind's lust for spectacle, violence and revenge.

Combining historical fact and legend, come one, come all and bear witness to an event that will astound and amaze. You will never forget what you are about to behold.

I first read Elephant's Graveyard while studying in America and was immediately drawn to it. The storytelling and characters brought to life this sad and amazing tale in a way that I hadn't seen in any other play. Once I read it, I knew that I wanted to see it onstage and am delighted to have been given the opportunity to direct this moving story.

David Eaton
Director

David Eaton

David has been a part of the New Venture Theatre for 5 years working in productions such as Hayfever by Noel Coward and Not About Heroes by Stephen MacDonald. He has mostly acted in productions and previously directed in the short play competition. Elephant's Graveyard is the first full length piece he has directed and he has found it a wonderful experience. He would like to thank his incredible cast, his brilliant crew and his amazing parents for all their support.



CAST (in order of appearance)

Preacher :	Tom Cunningham
Muddy Townsperson :	Caroline James
Hungry Townsperson :	Alex Williams
Steam Shovel Operator :	Richard de Costobadie
Young Townsperson :	Cosmo Rana-Iozzi
Marshal :	Paddy O'Keeffe
Ringmaster :	Martin Ryan
Ballet Girl :	Sophie Burton
Trainer :	Alice Ringholm Heder
Clown :	Benjamin Pritchard
Strongman :	Jamie Marchant
Tour Manager :	Diana Banham
Engineer :	Mark Green
Musical Director :	Adam Hewitt http://adamhears.com
Singer :	Becca Huggett http://beccahuggett155.wixsite.com/performer
Guitarist :	Matthew Clark http://mattdc.co.uk
Drummer :	Neil Rocks

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	David Eaton
Production Manager :	Kasha Goodenough
Stage Manager :	Kasha Goodenough
Costume Design :	Vanessa Barrett
Costume Design :	Mark Green
Set Painting :	Adam Kincaid
Lighting Design :	Keith Dawson
Lighting Operation :	Leanne McKenzie
Sound Operation :	Leanne McKenzie
Voice Coach :	Marie Ellis
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Mastoris
Photographer :	Emma Bailey - ebaileyphotography.co.uk @EJBPix IG @Funkypish
Publicity & Marketing :	Cast, crew and Emmie Spencer
Health & Safety :	Ian Black

Many thanks :

To Emma Bailey for the photos and use of her studio for rehearsals and for being generally awesome, to Vanessa for costuming everything, to Kasha for keeping us all in line (and keeping me sane), to Tamsin for her encouragement and as always to Jezz Bowden and the Front of House Team, Chris Stubbs and Box Office Team without whom no show would ever go on.

Tom Cunningham (*Preacher*)

Tom's only other performance at the NVT so far was in 'The Real Inspector Hound' in 2017. Since then, he has had parts in 'Earthquakes in London' at the BLT and BOAT, and 'The Pillowman' at the Marlborough Theatre. He will be appearing in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Stanmer House this summer.



Caroline James (*Muddy Townsperson*)

This is Caroline's first performance at NVT. Additionally, it's the first time she has acted since her school days, during which she regularly took part in school plays and studied Drama as a GCSE and an A Level. She also took LAMDA Acting classes during her teen years.



Alex Williams (*Hungry Townsperson*)

Alex's first appearance at the New Venture Theatre was playing Death in 'Mort' in March 2016. Since then Alex has appeared as Roger in New Venture Theatre's 2016 Christmas production, 'Dick Barton & the Tango of Terror'. Alex has loved working with the cast and crew on 'Elephant's Graveyard' and hopes to be in other productions in the future.



Richard de Costobadie (*Steam Shovel Operator*)

This is Richard's first performance at the NVT having been a regular member of the Monday night acting workshops since joining the theatre in 2017. He appeared in 'She Stoops to Conquer' at Brighton Little Theatre last year, although his first theatrical outing was being pursued by a cow around Frankie Howerd's orchard in Somerset while on a trainee journalism assignment many years ago. Titter ye not



Cosmo Rana-lozzi (*Young Townsperson*)

Cosmo is a Brighton-based actor and comedian. Between 2012-15, he was with the University of Birmingham Footnotes, and then went onto perform in a sketch show and stand-up at PBH's Free Edinburgh Fringe 2015. He last played a mystical woodcutter in the New Venture Theatre's 2017 production of Lorca's 'Blood Wedding'. Cosmo is also currently playing a leading role in 'Finding Yourself Offside', a play dealing with issues of homophobia and football culture, at the Rialto Theatre, Brighton.



Paddy O'Keeffe (*Marshal*)

Paddy finds playing this malevolent, xenophobic, psychopathic American marshal a stark contrast to his usual role as the benevolent, internationalist, socialist, Irish playwright Bernard Shaw.

This year, Paddy is playing Shaw in "Oscar's People" in London, "My Dear Miss Terry" in Surrey and "Bernard Shaw Invites YOU" here in Brighton.



Martin Ryan (*Ringmaster*)

Since joining NVT in 2017, credits have included 'Anna Christie', 'True West', and the short play version of the British farce 'Tons of Money', for NVT at 70.

Theatre credits outside NVT include, La Commedia d'ell Arte, and Wendy Wasserstein's 'Isn't it Romantic'.



Sophie Burton (*Ballet Girl*)

This is Sophie's first production with the New Venture Theatre having recently joined the company. Her last role was playing Puck with the Elmbridge Youth Theatre, where she was also involved in many other productions including 'Anything Goes' and 'The King and I'. She has also played the role of Mary in 'Our Country's Good' and completed her Acting Diploma with The Victoria College of Music and Drama. She is looking forward to getting involved in many more plays with the NVT.

Alice Ringholm Heder (*Trainer - Shorty*)

Alice is an exchange student from Sweden and this is her first play at the NVT. She used to be active in the theatre Värmlandsteatern in Karlstad but moved to Stockholm to study the bachelor's Programme in Performance Studies with specialisation in Dramaturgy and Performance Criticism.



Ben Pritchard (*Clown*)

Ben has performed in a wide range of productions during his 12 years at the NVT, such as 'American Buffalo', 'Bouncers', 'Hedwig & The Angry Inch', 'Hay Fever', 'Parlour Song', and 'The Deep Blue Sea'. Other shows include 'The Full Monty' at Worthing Pavilion Theatre, 'Blue Remembered Hills' at B.O.A.T, and 'Brief Encounter' at The Barn Theatre, Southwick.



Jamie Marchant (*Strongman*)

Over the last few years Jamie has lent his talent to a variety of shows for established local theatres such as the NVT and also for his own theatre company "Slurring Words" of which he is a founding partner. He will next be seen performing in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' this July and August at Stanmer House." 2017 saw Jamie star in the New Venture Theatre's production of Lorca's 'Blood Wedding' and most recently received wide acclaim for his mime work in the Martin McDonagh play 'Pillowman, at The Marlborough Theatre.



Diana Banham (*Tour Manager*)

This is the second time that Diana has been directed by the talented Mr David Eaton, having played an equally distasteful character in David's inaugural production at the NVT in the 10 Minute Plays Festival two years ago. Recently she played Tupolski in Martin McDonagh's 'The Pillowman' at The Marlborough Pub and Theatre directed by Lex Lake, and is looking forward to 'treading the gardens' at Stanmer House in Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Nights Dream' in July of this year.



Mark Green (Engineer)

Mark is back at the NVT after a short break. But he has been busy elsewhere playing Alice B Toklas in 'Alice Cracked' for Mama Koogs theatre and 'storyteller' in 'The Pillowman' for Slurring Words Theatre, for whom he can be seen as Oberon in their July production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Stanmer House.



The Music

As Musical Director, Elephant's Graveyard has been a refreshing and interesting play to work on. Much of the Sound Design and Music in modern theatre is very reliant on computers and technology, however, the Elephant's Graveyard script instructs that, "All music and sound effects should be provided live by the Drummer and Guitarist". George Brant also invites companies to create music for the song 'You Got to Lift It', which he has only written lyrics for, asking them to be sung in a Piedmont Blues style.

When first discussing the script with the production team, it became clear that the narrative exists as a 'larger than life' representation of the era. This is why I decided against composing in a strictly piedmont blues style, instead coming up with something more befitting to the emotions of the play. Our interpretation of 'You Got to Lift It' was composed collaboratively, it is built around two chords which allowed me to come up with a more melancholic melody, something that couldn't have been achieved as effectively with a 12 Bar Blues.

We interpreted the sound effects in a similar way, for instance, rather than using a Train Whistle, we decided to use a harmonica imitating the sound of a train whistle. This helps build the soundtrack almost as a caricature of the era — meaning that throughout the performance, music and sound effects are connected in an organic and aesthetically pleasing way.

Adam Hewitt

COMING NEXT

JUMPY

BY APRIL DE ANGELIS

directed by Diane Robinson

15TH - 23RD JUNE 2018

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

A frank and very funny family drama, which questions parental anxieties and life after 50. Hilary, just turning 50, once protested at Greenham Common and sees herself as a feminist. Now her protests tend to focus on persuading her teenage daughter to go out fully clothed. Married to Mark for far too long — they rub along in a comfortable but sterile relationship. Their daughter, Tilly, is going through the typical teenage tantrums of many girls of her age, but when Hilary and Mark discover that she has started sleeping with her boyfriend they have to decide if they want to be liberal or bring in some discipline.

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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 need your financial support, either to add to our regular sponsors (annual package £250) or you can be a Cherub for a fiver, an Angel for £100, Archangel for £500 or an Archangel Gabriel for £1,000. Please look out for the leaflets in the Theatre. As an Angel you will be listed on the Role of Honour in the Theatre.

If you are interested, please email fundraising@newventure.org.uk for more information.

Contacting the NVT

For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118. To book tickets or for other information check our website at www.newventure.org.uk. All other enquiries 01273 808353

NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVYT 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!

Become a Sponsor

£250: Advertise in our brochure, on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for one year. Plus two free tickets per show. Contact fundraising@newventure.org.uk for details. Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com.

Membership

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £10 a year. As above... *Proof of status is required.*