

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Adapted from
Charles Dickens
by Neil Bartlett

Directed by
Diane Robinson

NVT
NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Thur 5th - Sat 14th December 2019 - 7.45 pm
Matinees Sun 8th & Sat 14th December - 2.30pm
(No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: www.newventure.org.uk/tickets
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CLASSES ✦
LICENSED BAR ✦

£1

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

'All the mists on the marshes had risen...and the whole world lay spread before me like a dream'

Using only Dickens' extraordinary words and a cast of 13 actors, this powerful stage version of the much loved story is exciting, imaginative and evocative. From its opening image of Pip, alone on the windswept marshes, to the haunted darkness of Miss Havisham's cobweb-strewn bridal chamber, this inventive and atmospheric play brings to thrilling theatrical life this classic exploration of childhood terrors and hopes and adult dreams and regrets.

This wonderful play and very talented cast and crew, have made this play a joy to work on. It is such an imaginative adaptation of my favourite Dicken's book. The book itself is an incredible read, full of amazing descriptions of characters and places and this adaptation captures it all - evocative language, well drawn characters and with great opportunities for innovative staging, enabling our creative team, both on stage and behind the scenes to bring Pip's world of the misty marshes, mouldering Satis House and dark and dangerous London bursting to life on stage.

We are really excited to be welcoming new members : Matt Ingram, Daisy Proud, James Hammond, Jenny Behn and Harry Morris to the talented cast of Great Expectations and hope they will continue their involvement with NVT after this production. We also welcome back relatively new comers Dan Dryer ('Hysteria' 2019,) and Emma Lillie Lees (Short Play Festival 2019) as well as some regular New Venture faces all offering their skill and expertise – Mark Green, Justine Smith, Diana Banham, Cata Lindegaard, Sam de Costobadie and Martin Ryan.

The Backstage and technical team, a very talented bunch are just as exciting and their skill, expertise and wonderful creativity will all ensure this play bursts into life on stage. We have the very talented services of Musical Director - Liz Ryder-Weldon, last seen acting at NVT in 'Jumpy' who is making sure the play evokes the sounds of the marshes, the river, London and Satis House, with the help of Bob Ryder. We are also very lucky to have the services of choreographer Alex McQuillan-Wright, who is busy jumping backwards and forwards from 'Big' in the Dominion Theatre, where she is Associate Director, to NVT to put the cast through their paces. Judith Berrill is our very talented Production Designer, with an eye on the look of the whole thing, she has designed a beautiful set which Simon, George and Peter will be realising. Strat Mastoris is our wonderful lighting Designer – so important as light plays such a significant part of the story, both symbolically and in evoking the atmosphere of the piece. The very experienced Richard Blennerhassett returns to NVT with fantastic ideas as costume Designer, supported by new member Lindsay Midali and then we have our wonderful backstage team led by Carol Croft, our Stage Manager who is already getting her hands dirty making the turkey!

Diane Robinson
Director

CAST

Pip :	Matt Ingram
Miss Havisham :	Justine Smith
Abel Magwitch/Ensemble:	Mark Green
Mrs Joe/Biddy/Wemmick/Ensemble :	Daisy Proud
Estella/Ensemble :	Emma Lillie Lees
Herbert/Compeyson/Ensemble :	Harry Morris
Joe Gargery/Mr Jaggers/Ensemble :	Dan Dryer
Sergeant/Bentley Drummle/Ensemble :	Martin Ryan
Pumblechook/Ensemble :	James Hammond
Mr Wopsle/Ensemble :	Sam de Costobadie
Ensemble :	Jenny Behn, Cata Lindegaard, Diana Banham

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Diane Robinson
Shadow Director :	Gaby Bowring
Production Designer :	Judith Berrill
Musical Director :	Liz Ryder-Weldon
Choreographer :	Alex Worrall
Costume Design :	Richi Blennerhassett
Lighting Design :	Strat Mastoris
Sound Design :	Bob Ryder
Production Manager :	Tamsin Mastoris / Gaby Bowring
Stage Manager :	Carol Croft, Trisha Bayliss Natalie Sacks, Terri Challis
Set Building / Painting :	Simon Glazier, George Walter, Peter Wood, Judith Berrill, Amanda Steinmann
Costume Assistant :	Lindsay Midali
Sound Operator :	Max Apollo Videaux, Ricahrd Michalec
Lighting Operator :	Joy Paley, Esme Bird, Tamsin Mastoris
Props :	Lindsay Midali and Carol Croft
Poster Design / Programme :	Judith Berrill / Tamsin Mastoris
Photography :	Jenny Behn, Strat Mastoris
Fight Coordinator :	Moog Gravett
Publicity :	Cata Lindegaard, Tamsin Mastoris
Health & Safety :	Ian Black

Many thanks :

To all the folks who have supported the production by running the bar and box office and a big thank you to the wonderful group of inspiring, creative and skilled people who made up the team 'Great Expectations'.

Matt Ingram - Pip

Matt began his working life as an actor performing across film, television and theatre for 8 years. Past credits include; Roger in 'Lord of the Flies' at the Regents Park Open Air Theatre, Ricky in 'CHAVS: An Education' at the Lyric Hammersmith, Eco in Disney's 'Inbox', and the Hooded Demon in Philip Ridley's film 'Heartless'. Having given up acting in 2013, Matt's gone on to pursue a career in illustration. After 7 years away from the stage Matt thought he'd gently re-introduce himself back into the acting world by auditioning for the role of Pip in Great Expectations...



Justine Smith - Miss Havisham

This is Justine's third performance with NVT, which is proving to be an excellent place for her to gain experience across diverse roles since completing a year at Ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris, in 2017; and Great Expectations has been a wonderful opportunity to put some of that physical theatre training into action. Prior to this training she performed in immersive improv based productions (Girl who walked into the sea, with Fluxx; and Operation Black Antler, with award winning artists Blast Theory + theatre company Hydrocracker). Justine is also exploring being a musician and was delighted to be included in the musical elements of the show.

Mark Green - Abel Magwitch / Ensemble

This is Mark's 3rd production this year with the NVT and his 2nd Dickens adaptation having been in 'Pickwick & Weller' earlier in the year, then playing the part of Engineer in 'Elephants Graveyard' in June. He is also a member of Slurring Words Theatre Company and will, no doubt, be involved in their 2020 productions. He is very much looking forward to playing the part of the iconic Magwitch.



Daisy Proud - Mrs Joe / Biddy / Wemmick / Ensemble

Daisy studied acting at Goldsmith's College, specialising in physical theatre and devised performance. She collaborated on several projects in London and Rome with Elastic Theatre, most notably as Ophelia in their bilingual production of 'Hamlet'. Other projects have included playing Lady Macbeth (Cambridge Shakespeare Festival) and Mrs Robinson in 'The Graduate' (The Space), 'Girl With a Pearl Earring' (Theatre Royal Haymarket), national tours of the new plays 'Rigged' and 'Under a Foreign Sky', the BBC3 comedy 'Snuff Box' and playing a regular character in the BBC Radio series 'Legsy Gets a Break'. This is her first production with NVT.

Emma Lillie Lees - Estella / Ensemble

Emma Lillie graduated from East 15 Acting School in 2008 and has previously performed at The Soho Theatre, BAC and The Theatre Royal Bath. She has appeared in films and commercials and regularly works in the corporate sector as a performer. Emma is delighted to be returning to the stage to play Estella in her first full production at the NVT.



Harry Morris - Herbert Pocket / Compeyson / Ensemble

This is Harry's first show with NVT and he's delighted to be a part of the Great Expectations cast. Harry is currently working for a VAT company in Hove, with long term plans to go to drama school and start training to be a professional actor. Recent stage credits include 'Rock of Ages: the Musical', 'It's A Wonderful Life', 'Into the Woods', and '12 Angry Men'. He hopes you enjoy the show.



Dan Dryer - Joe Gargery / Mr Jeggery / Ensemble

Dan Dryer trained at the Bristol Old Vic and acted in many roles, including a stint in Scarborough for Alan Ayckbourn. Having decided to do a proper job, Dan returned to acting 20 years ago for NVT's Brighton Festival Fringe production, playing Billy Bishop in 'Billy Bishop goes to war'. For the last six years Dan has acted and directed in the Barn Theatre in Southwick (for Wick Theatre Company). Recent roles include Goldberg (The Birthday Party), Elston Rupp (Disappeared), Mr Scoblowksi (Daisy Pulls it Off) and Trofimov (The Cherry Orchard). He has recently directed 'Thérèse Raquin', 'God of Carnage' and 'The Tempest' and was last seen at NVT playing Freud in 'Hysteria'.

Martin Ryan - Sergeant / Bentley Drummie / Ensemble

Since becoming a member of NVT in 2017, Martin has been gleefully chewing up the scenery in a varied range of productions. Credits include classics such as 'Anna Christie' and 'True West'. The joyful, dickensian 'Pickwick and Weller', plus the disturbing real life period drama 'Elephants Graveyard'.



James Hammond - Pumblechook / Ensemble

This is James's first performance at NVT, having recently moved into the city. He has previously performed for many theatre companies across London including Teddington Theatre Club, Richmond Shakespeare Society, Questors Theatre. Previous shows have included 'Not About Heroes', 'The Drowsy Chaperone', 'Richard III', 'Kiss Me Like You Mean It' and 'Rhinoceros'. James is very pleased to be here and hopes you enjoy the show and your Christmas to come.

Sam de Costobadie - Mr Wopsle / Ensemble

Sam is 21 years old and this will be the third major play that he has done at the NVT. Sam previously studied at the Brighton MET college studying Games Development and Art and Design. His hobbies include reading, writing, watching movies, walking his dog, doing exercise, visiting new places and meeting new people. He also enjoys acting and drama and has very much enjoyed working with this cast to create this play.



Jenny Behn - Ensemble

Jenny grew up on an island in the Baltic Sea where, between the ages of 11 and 19, she took part in annual theatrical productions, notably the title role in Jenny Wolf and summer seasons of Vineta at the Open Air Theatre. On moving to Berlin she performed with Deutsches Theater. She also performed in a college production as part of her studies. After graduating, she went on to co-direct a production. Jenny has a passion for music and photography. She founded a band and established herself as a photographer. This is her first production with NVT and she is proud to be a member of the cast.



Cata Lindegaard - Ensemble

This is Cata's third stage appearance with NVT since joining last fall. Previous roles include Emma in Julia Cho's 'The Language Archive' and Muddy Townsperson in George Brant's 'Elephant's Graveyard', and most recently as The Other Woman in Jez Butterworth's 'The River' at Brighton Little Theatre. When she's not busy trying to get on the stage, however, she's usually running around doing something behind the scenes, most recently as the assistant director in last month's production 'Fen'.

Cata has thoroughly enjoyed working with such a passionate cast and crew, and hopes to do more Dickens in the future.

Diana Banham - Ensemble

Diana has thoroughly enjoyed being part of this innovative and creative ensemble piece of theatre and until Great Expectations was in danger of being worryingly typecast.

Recent performances have included a selection of distasteful characters including Tupolski in Martin McDonagh's 'The Pillowman' at The Marlborough Theatre, the money driven Tour Manager in 'Elephant's Graveyard' at NVT and a mother with murder on her mind in the NVT short plays a few years ago. Respite came in the shape of playing Quince, leader of the mechanicals, in 'Midsummer Nights Dream' at Starmer House gardens during the summer of 2018.



Diane Robinson - Director

Diane has taught, performed and directed with a number of schools, youth groups and community companies, including some professional work, since graduating in Drama from University of London Goldsmiths' College.

Most recent Acting roles include - 'Calendar Girls,' - Wick Theatre Company; Ana in 'The Clean House' Mrs Elton in 'The Deep Blue Sea' and Mrs Adams in 'Be my Baby,' for NVT. In 2018 she played Benjamin in 'Animal Farm' for Brighton Little Theatre.

This is Diane's 2nd Directing role for NVT, having directed 'Jumpy,' June 2018. Apart from 'Jumpy,' Diane has most recently directed Award winning 'Daisy Pulls it off' June 2015 and 'Brief Encounter,' October 2017 for WTC.

Music and Themes

I have loved delving into the background of Dickens and the music which surrounded him. I have a sense that music was important to him - and with this in mind in my earliest discussions with Diane we felt it fitting to use music to lend a thematic feel to the play.

Dickens often referred to music in his novels and *Great Expectations* is no exception. Herbert says to Pip, "Would you mind Handel as a familiar name? There's a charming piece of music, by Handel, called the Harmonious Blacksmith." Who knew that Dickens had written the libretto to an opera *The Village Coquettes* and also songs - *The Ivy Green* being one? As there is no written record of the music for this, I wrote a melody for his words, which although a poem about the force of nature, seems to me to relate to the mood and shape of the play; so the text and melody creep into this performance. I like to believe that Dickens would have been aware of the music of James Hook who had been a working musician in London until 1820, and whose clarinet concerto, used at many points in our production, was written in the year of Dicken's birth, and indeed Pip's birth year.

As an avid concert-goer, Dickens would have been familiar with the music of Schubert and Weber whose music also appears in this production.

Liz Ryder-Weldon

COMING NEXT

17 - 25 JANUARY 2020

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

THE WINTERLING

BY JEZ BUTTERWORTH

directed by Steven O'Shea

"You fall asleep out here, something creeps up and eats you".

In a dilapidated farmhouse on rural Dartmoor, in the depths of winter, West, a gangland fugitive, awaits the arrival of two old associates he has summoned from London to deal with some unfinished business. There is only room in the car for two people to leave. Meanwhile someone sits waking upstairs.

Multi award winning playwright Jez Butterworth, author of such modern classics as 'Mojo', 'Jerusalem' and 'The Ferryman', deploys his trademark pump-action dialogue as the characters' power plays become increasingly desperate and deadly.

COMING SOON

14 - 22 FEBRUARY 2020

(STUDIO THEATRE)

TALK

BY MARK WILSON

directed by Mark Wilson

Set in the 1850s in the criminal wing of Bethlem asylum this is a play about the birth of psychotherapy. It is the story of the struggle between those advocating traditional and quite Medieval treatment of the mentally ill and those struggling towards an understanding of the centrality of childhood experience and the curative value in articulating it - the curative value of talk. It is a play about stories, but more than that, it is a play about the universal and, indeed, timeless need to be heard.

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