

# GABRIEL

by Moira Buffini

directed by Gerry McCrudden



**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

**PERFORMANCES:**


Fri 4th - Sat 12th October 2019 - 7.45 pm

Matinee Sun 6th October - 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

An Amateur Production by special arrangement with United Agents LLP.

THEATRE ◀

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# GABRIEL

Being given the opportunity to direct a play at the NVT is an honour and you have to do justice to that task. The script of 'Gabriel' by Moira Buffini inspired me to get those directorial juices flowing again. For me the story a play tells is critical - it inspires the whole creative process. Then having the combination of a superb cast and a talented creative team brings it to life. Our task is to tell a story which will engage with the audience. And what a gripping tale it is. One American reviewer wrote '.... the sheer polish, narrative dash and dramatic brio of "Gabriel" got my theater-loving juices flowing again pretty quickly'.

As the play unfolds all may not be as it seems. The action takes place in Guernsey in 1943. During an almost forgotten period of our history - the German occupation of The Channel Islands. A young man, barely alive, is washed up on a beach. Believing him to perhaps being an RAF pilot he is taken by the women of the Becquet family into their home and hidden. A dangerous and illicit action. As he recovers consciousness it is apparent that he is fluent in both English and German. But he has no recollection of who he is; British pilot or German soldier? Innocent or madman - Saviour or dark Angel?

The bonds between the women in the Becquet household are complicated - not always easy and set within a community in crisis (the Occupation). The arrival of the young man stirs up all sorts of feelings. The presence of a newly arrived German officer on the Island and the emerging relationship between him and one of the women complicates matters further.

"Gabriel" explores memory, identity and imagination and the lies people tell themselves and each other to make the darkness light again. The action builds to a tense and dramatic climax.

Gerry McCrudden  
Director

## CAST

Jeanne Becquet :	Lyn Snowdon
Estelle :	Naomi Horsfall
Lily :	Chelsea Newton Mountney
Margaret Lake :	Amanda Harman
Von Pfunz :	Mark Lester
Gabriel :	Jack Lynn

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Gerry McCrudden
Production Manager :	Tom Kitch
Stage Manager :	Bryony Weaver
ASM :	Carrie Hynds
Set Design and build team:	Adam Kincaid, Simon Glazier, George Walter, Monika Schuettbacher, Peter Wood
Costumes :	Ian Hollands, Mark Green
Props :	Bryony Weaver, Mark Green
Cutler / Health & Safety :	Ian Black
Sound Design :	Alistair Lock
Sound Operator :	Erica Fletcher
Lighting Design :	Strat Mastoris
Lighting Operator :	Alex Epps
Poster & Programme Design :	Tamsin Mastoris
Photography :	Strat Mastoris
Videography and Tech :	Max Apollo Videaux
Social Media :	Cata Lindegaard
German Language Coaches :	Miriam Pommerien, Monika Schuettbacher

### Many thanks :

To Barry Purchase, Fintan Shevlin, Florian Florists, The Lion and Lobster, and as always The Front of House and Box Office teams.

In fond memory of Mark Slater Hyndman

### Lyn Snowdon - Jeanne Becquet

Lyn is proud to be a member of NVT as she embraces the more cutting-edge roles. You may have seen her lose her virginity ('When I was a girl I used to scream and shout'), masturbate in front of her sister ('The Maids'), slapped around by her father ('Five Kinds of Silence'), care for her father with dementia ('The Father') and play an Irish wild woman dying of liver cancer ('Our Lady Of Sligo'). A cognac-swilling Nazi collaborator who possibly slept with her own son? Too easy.



### Naomi Horsfall - Estelle

Naomi has really enjoyed working with the rest of the cast and crew on 'Gabriel', and found learning about Guernsey's experience during the Second World War very interesting too. Having always been interested in this period of history it has been a pleasure to finally work on a play which so realistically captures the struggles of a family under occupation, especially from the viewpoint of such a brave young person. Naomi's recent appearances at NVT have been in 'Pickwick and Weller' and 'Elephant's Graveyard'.



### Chelsea Newton Mountney - Lily

Chelsea, as well performing loves teaching the youth theatre here at NVT. She also co-runs the theatre company PopHeart and enjoyed a short run of their immersive sell out show 'Anti Depressed?!' at both Brighton and Edinburgh Fringe this year. Being part of the Young Vic Directors programme is really inspirational and she loves to make things! Acting in 'Gabriel' has been a fab experience!



### **Amanda Harman - Margaret Lake**

Amanda has been with the NVT since 2012. This is her 9th production.....to include everything from Shakespeare's 'Richard III' and Moliere's 'The Miser' to more modern productions such as Caryl Churchill's 'Love & Information' and the promenade production of 'Decade'. She has most recently trodden the boards etc in 'Pickwick & Weller' as the poor abandoned Mrs Bardell!



### **Mark Lester - Von Pfunz**

Mark continues his involvement with NVT, having directed James MacLure's 'Laundry and Bourbon' and 'Lone Star' at the start of the year and more recently appearing in 'The Father' and 'Pickwick and Weller'. 'Gabriel' offers further opportunity to play another challenging role in a fascinating story. He is genuinely excited to be working with friends old and new and can't wait for opening night.

### **Jack Lynn - Gabriel**

Jack Lynn is an experienced actor and has played numerous roles, both animal and human... from a psychotic duck in black comedy 'Hansel & Gretel', hapless but lovable Buttons in 'Cinderella' to Johnny in a touring production of David Essex's 'All the Fun of the Fair'. He recently starred alongside Jason Sutton in 'Morning Glory', which premiered at this year's Edinburgh Fringe. Whilst having seen many fine productions at the New Venture Theatre this is his first time acting with the NVT; he is enjoying the challenge and the opportunity to work alongside such a talented group of actors and crew. When he's not treading the boards Jack is a long-standing member of the Actually Gay Men's Chorus and works as event photographer for GScene magazine.





### Gerry McCrudden - Director

This is Gerry's 8th Directorial effort at the NVT. The others being; 'It's a Wonderful Life', 'The Winslow Boy', 'Biloxi Blues', 'Dancing at Lughnasa', 'Hay Fever', 'How Many Miles to Babylon' and 'Dick Barton'. He has also appeared in various productions at both the NVT and Brighton Little Theatre. Most recently in NVT's production of Pickwick and Weller. His theatrical antecedents go back a tad further and has acted and directed in places as diverse as New York to New Delhi and points beyond.



St. Peter Port, Guernsey



## COMING NEXT

1 - 9 NOVEMBER 2019

(STUDIO THEATRE)

**FEN**

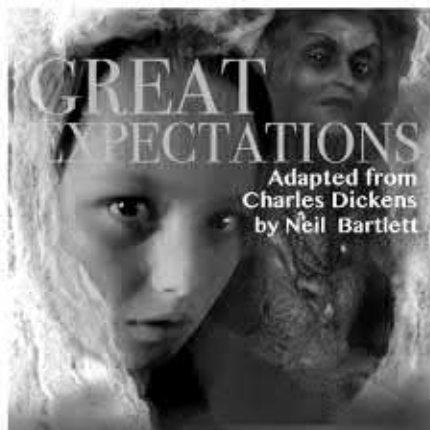
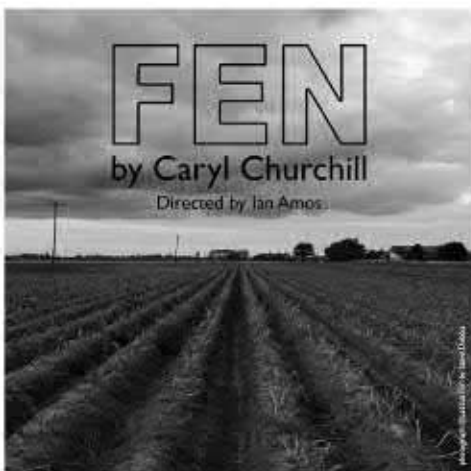
**BY CARYL CHURCHILL**

directed by Ian Amos

FEN is a vibrant and moving play, Breaking new ground at the time it was written, the play is derived from interviews with local people: their words and their stories form its heart. That community is represented by over 20 characters that span the generations from young children to a woman celebrating her 90th birthday.

FEN centres on a group of women working on the land in East Anglia in the early 1980s. Their lives are harsh, but punctuated with humour: haunted by the past and with dreams of what might be, but trapped in the present – work, home, children, money, men...

Caryl Churchill is one of the UK's leading living playwrights and FEN one of her major works.



## COMING SOON

6 - 14 DECEMBER 2019

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

**ADAPTED FROM CHARLES DICKENS**

**BY NEIL BARTLETT**

directed by Diane Robinson

Using only Dickens' extraordinary words and a cast of 9 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 Havesham'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.

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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](mailto: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](http://www.newventure.org.uk). All other enquiries 01273 808353

## NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVYT welcomes all young people (12-17) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*