

# Unsanctioned

by Sam Chittenden



## Measure 2 Measure

adapted by Sam Chittenden from William Shakespeare



NEW VENTURE  
THEATRE  
Bedford Place  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:45pm

Matinée: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm

[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)

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Registered Charity no. 268607

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**KINA/Catie Ridewood**

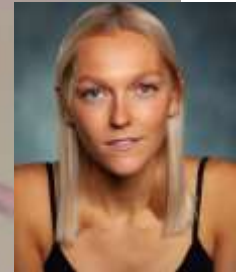


**ADAM /James Stallwood**



I am hugely excited to be back at NVT staging this unusual double-bill. It pairs a brand new dystopian drama with an exciting reworking of Shakespeare's difficult 'comedy', to explore sexual politics in two radically different places and times.

**LIL/Sammie Bailey**



"I don't think she has people. Look at her."

Unsanctioned is set in a world ravaged by climate change, in which all pregnancies and births must be state-sanctioned. When a strange young woman turns up at the remote home of a reservoir keeper and his wife, they make a shocking trade with her. She in turn makes a deal that will have a devastating impact on them. This is a tale of infiltration and betrayal that explores how far morality can slip when stakes are high.

I am a big fan of Sci Fi and dystopian fiction, but am more interested in character-driven stories than the kind of epic

heroism we often see in the genre. I wanted to write a piece that was intimately scaled and female-centric, with a real sense of claustrophobia generated by the world the characters find themselves in. The idea was sparked back in 2018 by the simple phrase 'our daily bread', and the play was largely written over the following year - although an audience might be forgiven for thinking it's a post-pandemic piece.

"Who will believe thee, Isabel?"

Measure 2 Measure is a stripped down, one-act version of Shakespeare's play, with 5 characters instead of the usual 13. My adaptation, which largely uses Shakespeare's text, focuses on the #MeToo-like theme of Angelo's attempted seduction of Isabella, without the usual pantomime elements or get-out clauses. With a radical shift in the plot, it enables us to see more clearly the consequences of people's actions, and looks anew at the choices people make.

Together, the two plays explore themes that are hugely relevant today. Both look at the abuse of power, whether personal or political. In Measure 2 Measure that abuse impacts people. In Unsanctioned it has also threatened the planet. There are strong links between the two pieces, reproductive politics and gender being key to both storylines, but the way power is wielded by the sexes is very different in the two worlds portrayed.



**Sam Chittenden**

**Understudies**



**KINA/Rose O'Kane**



**ADAM/Mickey Knighton**



**LIL/Alex Louise**

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**ISABELLA/Rose O'Kane**



**ANGELO/Mickey Knighton**



**CLAUDIO/Harry W Freeman**



**VINCENTO/Andy Hoggarth**



**MARIANA/Alex Louise**





ISABELLA/Catie Ridewood



ANGELO/Harry W Freeman



CLAUDIO/Jake Harrison



VINCENTO/Mark Lester



MARIANA/Sammie Bailey

DIRECTOR: **Sam Chittenden** | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (UNSANCTIONED): **Alex Louise** | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (MEASURE 2 MEASURE): **Neil Hadley** | PRODUCTION MANAGER: **Ulrike Schilling** | STAGE MANAGER: **Carol Croft** | ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: **Victoria Bayliss, Hannah Bryant, Neil Fitzgerald** | COSTUME DESIGN + MAKE-UP & HAIR: **Richi Blennerhassett** | SET DESIGN: **Michaela Ridgway** assisted by **Sonya Smith** | SET CONSTRUCTION: **Neil Fitzgerald, Simon Glazier, Strat Mastoris, Michaela Ridgway, Monika Schüttbacher** | LIGHTING DESIGN: **Strat Mastoris** | VISUAL EFFECTS: **Apollo Videaux** | SOUND DESIGN\*: **Sam Chittenden** | LIGHTING & SOUND OPERATION: **Mariángeles Campos, Steve Coulson, Apollo Videaux** | POSTER: **Tamsin Mastoris** | PROGRAMME: **Ian Amos** | PHOTOGRAPHY: **James Michael Maltby, Strat Mastoris** | PUBLICITY & MARKETING: **Aldo Henriquez** | HEALTH & SAFETY: **Ian Black**

\*For full details of the music go to <https://tinyurl.com/UNSM2Mtracks>

# Thanks

**Sam Chittenden says...*Massive thanks to everyone who has been a part of this production.***

***I am blessed with an enthusiastic and inventive company of actors, most of whom are newcomers to NVT: Sammie Bailey, Harry W Freeman, Andy Hoggarth, Rose O’Kane, Mickey Knighton, Alex Louise, Catie Ridewood and James Stallwood, along with understudies Mark Lester and Jake Harrison. Together we have workshopped the scripts to create the final versions.***

***The use of understudying has enabled us to explore similarities and differences between the plays and their characters. Some performances will feature one or more understudies as alternates; some will have members of the cast appearing in both plays.***

***I am joined by Assistant Directors Alex Louise (Unsanctioned) and Neil Hadley (Measure 2 Measure) - an initiative designed to offer development opportunities to new directors.***

***I am also thrilled to have a hugely talented creative and back-stage team helping to create two intimate and immersive worlds - designed by Michaela Ridgway - in the NVT’s wonderful Studio space.***

# Biographies

**Sammie Bailey:** Sammie graduated last summer from ICTheatre with a BA(HONS) Degree in Performing arts, where she starred in the production of ‘Boudica’, written by Tristan Bernays, and the musical ‘The Little Prince’, directed by Ed Burnside, playing principal roles in both stage productions. She featured in the 2021 film ‘Black Mail’, nominated for a British Urban Film Festival Award and is currently on the look for new Agent representation, specializing in stage and screen acting.

**Sam Chittenden:** Sam is an award-winning playwright, creating work mainly with female-driven narratives. In 2019 she won Best New Play at Brighton Fringe for ‘Clean’, about the women of the laundry hill area of Brighton. Sam has directed a number of productions at NVT including The Arsonists, The Clean House, Antigone and The Language Archive. Sam is also Artistic Director of Different Theatre, who have three shows coming up in the Brighton Fringe this year.

**Harry W Freeman:** Brighton born-and-bred Harry loves all things artistic, and performance based. He is a 2021 Acting graduate from the London College of Music, recently seen as ‘Mel’ in Simon Stephens’ Fatherland and ‘Ross’ in William Shakespeare’s Macbeth, whilst shooting multiple short films and features in London and Sussex. He featured in The Tempest at The Old Market, as ‘Lovborg’ in Hedda Gabler directed by Gary Cook and has just finished playing ‘Escalus’ in Measure for Measure in London.

**Neil Hadley:** After finishing school, Neil became a Bluecoat Entertainer devising and performing shows for the seasonal guests. He holds a Honours Degree in Drama at the University of Exeter and studied “plays and playwrighting” as part of a Masters Degree in English Literature. Currently Neil leads a Performing Arts department delivering BTEC vocational training in Acting, Musical Theatre and Dance and this is his first involvement at the NVT.

**Jake Harrison:** Coming from the beautiful Isle of Wight, and after a career as a journalist and broadcaster at national level in London, Jake is an up-and-coming actor. He played the role of Lieutenant Peterson in the independent film, Somme16, currently in the making, and was recently cast in a student project. Jake works as a tv and film support actor, auditioning for multiple short films and features around the country, and is excited to debut at NVT.

**Andy Hoggarth:** Andy Hoggarth is a theatre-maker, actor, mime and writer. He founded All Greek To Me, where he is creating exciting, visceral, physical and intelligent theatre. Recent credits include writing, directing and acting in The Minotaur and The Odyssey for All Greek To Me; and his solo multi-media piece, Quantum People. Andy is a teacher of drama and acting, believing passionately in the power of theatre to transform lives. This is his debut at NVT.



**Mickey Knighton:** Hailing from Sheffield and of Irish descent, Mickey came to acting later than most. He has a BA in film and sociology, and has been fascinated and entertained by the craft of acting since youth. Darkly comic, dry, witty comedy are his driving characteristics, though he finds himself at home playing strong characters in contemporary drama as well as relishing the challenge of classical or historical text.

**Mark Lester:** Mark is an actor and director and has appeared in many NVT productions over the last few years, most recently in The Lieutenant of Inishmore, playing Donny. He's immensely proud to be part of the NVT's Artistic Director Team and is looking forward to being involved with Measure 2 Measure.

**Alex Louise:** Alex is an Actor, tutor, and Director in training who has been acting professionally since 2016. She has been involved in several Fringe and Theatre performances since then and is excited to be performing at the New Venture Theatre for the second time, after debuting in the Short Play Festival a few years ago. Alex is assistant director for Unsanctioned.

**Rose O'Kane:** Rose is at the beginning of her acting career and is currently training at Drama Studio London, where she has performed in works including Look Back in Anger, Oedipus Rex, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Far Away, Picnic and The Deep Blue Sea. Rose was lucky enough to perform in 'The Sleeping Beauty' at Chichester Festival Theatre as well as a touring, verbatim TIE show.

**Catie Ridewood:** Catie is a recent graduate from the Academy of Creative Training in Brighton, and is thrilled to be performing in Unsanctioned, her first production with the New Venture Theatre. Theatre includes Cindy in Whose to Tell (Baron's Court Theatre). Theatre whilst training includes Dol Common in The Alchemist and Chantal/Esther/Lexi in Landmines.

**James Stallwood:** After graduating from Drama Centre London James has been working on local film projects and has just recently ventured into creating his own content. He has been keen to tread the boards again after lockdown.

**Booking NOW at [newventure.org.uk](http://newventure.org.uk)**



## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

Martin McDonagh's multi-award winning **HANGMEN**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

In his small pub in Oldham, Harry is something of a local celebrity. But what's the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they've abolished hanging? Amongst the cub reporters and sycophantic pub regulars, dying to hear Harry's reaction to the news, his old assistant Syd and the peculiar Mooney lurk with very different motives for their visit.



**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> to Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May**



**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June**

"You might want to think twice before declaring that this play about the last public hangmen in Britain is "drop-dead hilarious" or "perfectly executed" but that's a pretty exact description of the blackly comic brilliance of McDonagh's writing" - The Independent

*HANGMEN contains some strong language and themes of an adult nature and is advised not suitable for children.*



## Supporting NVT

Founded in 1947, we are a membership club performing both established plays (classical and contemporary) and showcasing new writing. If you are interested in joining us please pick up a membership form in the foyer or visit [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk). In 1983 NVT bought the freehold of its wonderful listed Victorian building. Recently we have embarked on a 5-year plan 'Renewal at New Venture' to carry out some important

renovations and improvements – details on our website. To meet this expense we need to raise £80,00 between 2021 and 2025 and would greatly appreciate your support! Please donate what you can by :

- \* Visiting [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk) and follow 'Renewal at New Venture' link
- \* Using collection boxes and Gift Aid envelopes in the theatre
- \* Emailing [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

Please also look out for details of our Social/Fundraising events planned for April, July and September - more details on the website as each event draws near.



## 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

NVT welcomes all young people (12-17) with a passion for or an interest in theatre. Fridays 4.30-6.30pm. £50 per 10 week term, first session is FREE!

## NVT Acting Class

Classes will resume shortly - please see website for details. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2 for NVT members) First visit is FREE!

## Become a Sponsor

£250: Advertise 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: [angels@newventure.org.uk](mailto:angels@newventure.org.uk).

## Membership

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