

A NEW VENTURE THEATRE PRODUCTION 2019

# HYSTERIA



by Terry Johnson

**NVT**  
NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

**PERFORMANCES:**

Friday 17th to Saturday 25th May 7.45 pm

Sunday matinee 19th May 2.30 pm

No show Sunday evening

**BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118**

**ONLINE BOOKING: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)**

Registered Charity No. 268607

50p

An amateur production in association with Samuel French, Ltd.

**BRIGHTON  
FRINGE.**

# Hysteria

by Terry Johnson

*Hysteria* is a very rich play, very strong and very strange. There's nothing quite like it – though there are echoes at times of Tom Stoppard's style in masterpieces such as *Travesties*. Historical and hysterical at the same time.

The play made a strong mark at the Royal Court in 1993, reinforced by a revival in the West End three years later. We see Sigmund Freud, the celebrated but imperfect psychoanalyst, mortally ill and tortured by doubt. It's 1938 and the world is going to hell in a handcart, Freud himself having just escaped to London from the growing Nazi onslaught against humanity in general and Jews in particular.

The bold device that Terry Johnson used was to set this grim background of reality alongside two other real events – and very ridiculous events they were too. One was the visit paid to Freud in the summer of 1938 by the highly eccentric surrealist painter Salvador Dali. The other odd event was a trip Freud had recently made to the Aldwych Theatre to see the classic farce *Rookery Nook*. And in *Hysteria* these two things seem to be sparking Freud's imagination in strange directions.

The result is a tide of comic action sweeping the play along, with 'real' reality dissolving into the powerful theatrical reality of farce. Classic farcical ingredients galore – fans of *Rookery Nook* will have a field day spotting the parallels!

*Hysteria* revels in the magical reality that theatre is able to create. There is a very serious backbone to the narrative – life and death issues, intelligent insights into art and medical ethics, the cry of humanism and the gnawing of self-doubt. But at the same time, the play wants to engage and embrace its audience with a generous mixture of pure fun and entertainment.

It takes a fine dramatist to pull off this kind of balancing act – and needless to say it presents big challenges to performers and members of the production team. We've been having a great time working on it!

**Bob Ryder, Director**

*Set in 1938, in Sigmund Freud's study at 20 Maresfield Gardens,  
Hampstead, London.*

## **Cast**

<b>Sigmund Freud</b>	Dan Dryer
<b>Jessica</b>	Lucy Mae Knight
<b>Abraham Yahuda</b>	David Peaty
<b>Salvador Dali</b>	Stuart Curlett

## **Production Team**

<b>Director</b>	Bob Ryder
<b>Stage Management</b>	Carol Croft and Terri Challis
<b>Production Manager</b>	Tom Kitch
<b>Set Design</b>	Adam Kincaid
<b>Lighting Design &amp; Rigging</b>	Keith Dawson
<b>Sound Design</b>	Bob Ryder
<b>Projection Design</b>	Max Videaux
<b>Lighting Operation</b>	Ian Black and Richard Michalec
<b>Sound Operation</b>	Matt Foster and Brandon Mills
<b>The Voice of Anna Freud</b>	Terri Challis
<b>Rehearsal Assistant</b>	Hermione Huxley
<b>Costumes</b>	Ellie Roser/Gladrags
<b>Set Construction</b>	Simon Glazier and George Walter
<b>Poster and Artwork</b>	Judith Berrill
<b>Photography</b>	Strat Mastoris
<b>Publicity</b>	Greta Galdikaite, Cata Lindegaard and Kate McGann
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Ian Black

We would like to thank Pat Boxall and Tamsin Mastoris for their help behind the scenes, and as always our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar, and Box Office teams.

The production runs for approximately 2 hours 10 minutes,  
including a 20 minute intermission.

## **Dan Dryer (Sigmund Freud)**

Dan 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*), Scoblowksi (*Daisy Pulls It Off*) and Trofimov (*The Cherry Orchard*). He has recently directed *Thérèse Raquin*, *God of Carnage* and *The Tempest*. Dan is looking forward to appearing again at NVT after so many years and in such an amazing play.



## **Stuart Curlett (Salvador Dali)**

*Hysteria* is Stuart's second ever stage performance, both of which have taken place at NVT. His debut was in *Orphans* by Dennis Kelly in November last year, where he played Danny. Stuart wishes to continue the momentum of performing throughout the rest of the year where possible, until October when he will begin a Masters at East 15 Acting School in Essex.



## **Lucy Mae Knight (Jessica)**

This is Lucy's acting debut with New Venture Theatre. With previous experience including Elaine Robinson in Brighton Little Theatre's production of *The Graduate* (2018) and roles in various productions for Drip Action Theatre Company, including the Arundel Festival, Vickie in *The Thrill of Love* (2017) and Woman in *The Father* (2018). As well as theatre work Lucy also has credits in a radio play, murder mysteries and film.



Lucy has very much enjoyed the challenge of exploring the mind of Jessica and is excited to be performing in this production on the NVT stage.

## **David Peaty (Abraham Yahuda)**

David's previous NVT appearances have been as Ray Say in *Little Voice* by Jim Cartwright back in 2012 and as Gerald in Ayckbourn's *Woman in Mind* (2011).

David works predominantly with Wick Theatre Company in Southwick and has acted in over 20 productions during twice as many years. In a brief review of his recent past productions David notes a tendency towards comedy pieces. He has recently played Jim Hacker in *Yes Prime Minister*, Major Courtney in *The Lady Killers*, Bertozzo in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and comic cameos in *One Man Two Guvnors* and *Brief Encounter*.



## Bob Ryder (Director)

Bob has been busy as an actor and director for the last 30 years, in more than 80 productions in the local area. His previous shows at NVT have been as director for *Death and the Maiden* (1996) and last season's *Bad Jews* (2018), and as an actor in *Moscow Stations* (1997), *Betrayal* (2001), *Woman in Mind* (2011) and *Broken Glass* (2016).



He has also worked extensively at the Barn Theatre in Southwick (for Wick Theatre Company). Recent highlights there have been playing Willy Loman (*Death of a Salesman*) and Prospero (*The Tempest*) and directing his own translation of *The Cherry Orchard*. He is also associate director for the annual Rainbow Shakespeare productions in Worthing.

Bob has some "previous form" with Terry Johnson plays, acting the role of Brian in *Dead Funny* (2005) and directing *The Graduate* (2008). It's been a long-held ambition to stage *Hysteria* – and a joy to get the chance to do so at NVT!



# June's NVT Production Elephant's Graveyard

**Friday 14 to Saturday 22 June**

**by George Brant**

**directed by David Eaton**

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. Combining historical fact and legend, this poignant and revealing play sheds a harsh spotlight on mankind's lust for spectacle, violence and revenge.



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

Many thanks to our current donors and our special appreciation to our major anonymous donor.

## **SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL 2019**

**Friday 19 to Saturday 27 July**

### **Agency**

by Michelle Donkin  
directed by Ian Amos

### **Hope That Plays a Tune Alone**

by Sarah Drew  
directed by Mark Wilson

### **Match and Matrimony**

by Judey Bignell  
directed by Chris Gates

### **The Colour of Water**

by Bryony Weaver  
directed by Alex Epps

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)

## **Youth Theatre**

(11 to 17 year olds)

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, during term time.

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

For enquiries, please contact: [youththeatre@newventure.org.uk](mailto:youththeatre@newventure.org.uk)