

A BEGINNING

A MUDDLE

& AN END




**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Sedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:
28th May - 1st June 7.45 pm

TICKET INFO: 01273 746118 (24 HRS)
ONLINE: www.newventure.org.uk/tickets

 @nvt_brighton



50p

Registered Charity No. 318807

A BEGINNING, A MUDDLE & AN END

You probably know this already, but it bears repeating: everything you see in tonight's show is entirely improvised. Nothing is planned. There are no secret handshakes, no codes, no default scripts. We're flying blind. And when I say 'we', I am of course attempting to steal some of the limelight for myself: in truth, this is all about nine extraordinary performers - some of whom had never done any improvisation before this production - sharing a stage with each other, and spinning a tale out of thin air. It could be comedy, it could be tragic. Nobody knows until it's already told. One thing is clear, however: whatever else improv is, it's about so much more than simply making stuff up on the spot.

This is the third full length production I've directed at the NVT in as many years, and I've always been allowed to be somewhat ridiculous with what I'm doing. 'Four Play' had four different actors playing four different parts (and coping with four different endings) while 'Medea' was an attempt at Greek tragedy for audiences that didn't like Greek tragedy - and getting the audience to sit right in the middle of the performance space. And this week, we have a play - more accurately, five plays - in which there is no plot, no idea, no safety nets. In very real terms, it could be a spectacular train crash. Even if the play isn't actually about a spectacular train crash. I say all this not to blow my own trumpet (well, maybe a bit) but just to underline that there is a trumpet, and we all get to gleefully share it in equal measure.

Improvisation, if it's about anything, is about trust, faith, and listening. Surrounding yourself to the very real possibility that the crazy idea that your partner or colleague has might just work. More than that: it might be fantastic. It's a good mentality to carry on into 'real life'. I'm aware that I've spoken about this before but this, too, bears repeating: I'm always somewhat awestruck and humbled by how much faith and trust the NVT puts in its members. Good theatre is about reaching slightly above what you previously considered possible, or even sane. We can do this knowing that we are in a building full of support - from a fantastic group of performers that were always pushing themselves to 100%, to the many people who I don't even see that show their support in a hundred quiet little ways, to the few who my sleep deprived brain has caused me to entirely forget, and may never thank properly. You guys are the best.

And, that cast? I've had the greatest cast on my side in this production. I was determined to try to achieve a genuine 'company' feel: a cast who supported and looked out for each other, working very hard to make everyone else look brilliant. In the end, I needn't have worried - that achievement is entirely theirs, without my interference. I merely blow the trumpet.

Andrew is a sometime director, writer and actor. He has tended to play the brooding failed writer in love with a woman he can't have, which is the sort of typecasting that's quite pleasing or depressing, depending on your outlook. For the NVT, he has previously produced 'Medea' and 'Four Play' (his own script), and runs weekly improv workshops, every Sunday night, at the DukeBox Theatre in Hove.

Andrew Allen
Director

CAST

Jezz Bowden
Sam Chittenden
Alexandria Macleod
Deborah Jane Keays
Daniel Walford
Magdalena Whitehouse
Katie Matheson
Carlie Gestwicki
Chelsea Mountney

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Andrew Allen
Production Manager :	Sophie Nunns
Stage Manager :	Sarah Charsley & Sophie Nunns
Set Design/Build :	Jezz Bowden & Chris Pugh
Lighting Design :	Jezz Bowden
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Fraser
Programme Photography :	Jezz Bowden & actors own photos
Production Photography :	Tamsin Fraser

This production will run for approximately 1 hour with no interval

With Special Thanks to:

Thanks to Lisa Howard, Rosie Nicchitta, Kevin Moore, Tamsin Fraser, Sarah Davies, Natasha Borg, Ulrike Schilling, Ian Black and Chris Pugh and as always our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.

Coming next to NVT... a Harold Pinter Double Bill

The Lover directed by Kevin Moore

Celebration directed by Tim McQuillen-Wright

22nd - 29th June

Two of Harold Pinter's short plays in one evening.
The first, 'The Lover', which follows a couple's sexual fantasies, explores the power struggles within a marriage in a dark twisted tale where reality is left at the door. And then 'Celebration'. Pinter's final play is full of black humour and wicked satire aimed at a culture hung up on celebrating it's own material success. The evening of plays is sure to delight Pinter fans and welcome new ones to the party.

Jezz Bowden

This is Jezz's third NVT production, having previously appeared in 'Medea' and 'Hansel & Gretel'. Jezz is a photographer who came to the NVT as a volunteer two and a half years ago, and has been a regular back stage presence ever since. Highlights include; award winning sound designs for 'Iron' and 'The Permanent Way', as well as lighting designs for 'Talking Dog' and 'Three Kinds of me'. He is also one of the company photographers, and his 'Boston Marriage' pictures are currently on display in the South Hall.



Sam Chittenden

Sam's previous productions include Lorca's 'The House of Bernada Alba' with Pretty Villain Productions and Caryl Churchill's 'Seven Jewish Children' at the NVT. Sam runs the creative training company Different Development (www.differentdevelopment.com) and leads the Mastery of Self Expression workshops in Brighton (www.brighton-mastery.co.uk). She is also a writer, poet and potter.



Alexandria Macleod

Alexandria's passion for drama was developed in derelict youth clubs across Brittany. Her degree was only made bearable by intermittent forays into acting which included being shortlisted for 'Hollyoaks', playing Angie in a SUDS production of 'Top Girls' and BBC 3 show 'Blood Sweat and Luxuries'. Post university she completed a short acting workshop with ACT in Brighton which reawakened her desire to be onstage. She is actively looking for work and representation, e-mail her: alexandria.macleod@gmail.com



Deborah Jane Keays

Deborah is a member of a local creative writing group and has performed in several performances including Durang's 'Medea' & 'Actor's Nightmare'; Strindberg's 'Miss Julie' (Academy of Creative Training) and Caryl Churchill's 'Seven Jewish Children' (The New Venture Theatre). She is now throwing caution to the wind, enjoying every moment within the ever ending narratives that emerge within long form improvisation.



Daniel Steven Walford

Daniel at the age of 13 would be the first person to say he's not 'normal'; dancing and singing while all the other boys kick a ball about a field and scoot and skate. He's played a multitude of roles from 'Dodger' in 'Oliver!' to 'The Mad Hatter' in 'Alice In Wonderland' and has particularly enjoyed widening his improv and acting knowledge in this production. He looks forward to where the future takes him.

Magdalena Whitehouse

Since Magdalena discovered the joy of improv, life just hasn't been the same. She can often be found holding improvised conversations with herself! A Dramatherapist by day, she uses drama to engage children in therapy. She teaches improv and drama personal development workshops. Her performances include, directing and performing with improv troupe 'Say Yes', Theatre of Love and Derby Playback Theatre. She believes in the power of group mind and encourages you to join our troupe on this evenings journey into the realm of imagination and fun.



Katie Matheson

Katie started learning improvised comedy with The Maydays in 2009 and has since trained with many improv luminaries including Jason Chin (I.O), Jay Rhoderick (UCB) and Mark Beltzman (Second City, Seinfeld). She shares all her improv knowledge on her blog: katiemaths.wordpress.com. Katie dedicates her performance to you, the audience, as you take part in a journey that will never happen again.



Carlie Gestwicki

Carlie trained at Arts Educational School, toured with community and theatre-in-education companies and performed Chekhov, Schiller, Sartre and Hare plays on the London Fringe. She then fell into a series of 'sensible' arts jobs at BBC, Buena Vista Films and Brighton Dome. Six months ago she remembered what she loves doing the most and she has jumped right back on stage!



Chelsea Mountney

Chelsea Newton Mountney a renowned grump and champion of granny chic, can currently be found behind the sofa hiding from what could be improv heaven or hell. However she has a plethora of succesful roles behind her including Becks in 'Persuaded' - featured in this years Fringe. Also now selling her very own designs at Snoopers Attic, follow her granny style on her blog www.alanna-somuchlove.blogspot.co.uk





MAIL BOXES ETC.®

- ☐ Print & Copy
- ☐ Office Services
- ☐ Stationery
- ☐ Packing & Shipping
- ☐ Packing Materials
- ☐ Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 • www.mbebrighton.co.uk

Email: print@mbefbrighton.co.uk • 91 Western Road, Brighton. BN1 2NW

Healthy Food Shopping on the Internet



HealthySupplies.co.uk

Yummy snacks & tasty ingredients

Freephone: 0800 0272 616



DEEPDENE SCHOOL & NURSERY

Nursery - 6 mths to 4 yrs

School - 4 yrs to 11 yrs

Traditional Caring Nursery & Primary Education

**Helping children become
confident, competent, considerate & courteous**

195 New Church Road, Hove BN3 4ED

www.deepdeneschool.com Tel: 01273 418984

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!

Become an NVT Sponsor

£250: Advertise in our brochure, on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for 1 year, plus two free tickets per show. Contact Judy Milton on fundraising@newventure.org.uk for details

Contacting the NVT

For ticket and performance enquiries only call the Box Office - 01273 746118 or register online at www.newventure.org.uk
All other enquiries
01273 808353

NVT
NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS 2013

22nd - 29th June
a Harold Pinter double bill
'The Lover'
directed by Kevin Moore
&
'Celebration'
directed by Tim McQuillen-Wright

20th - 27th July
'The Building'
an ensemble devised
piece of promenade theatre

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 liver, 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.

Many thanks to all of our wonderful angels who have donated over £6,000 and our anonymous donor who has promised to match £10,000 raised for the fund.