

THE END OF THE BEGINNING



A comedy by Sean O'Casey

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT


PERFORMANCES:

Fri 21st Mar - Sat 29 Mar 7.45 pm

Sun Matinee 2.30pm (No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: www.newventure.org.uk/tickets

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

THEATRE ✦

NEW WRITING ✦

CLASSES ✦

LICENSED BAR ✦

50p

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Set in a quiet backwater of rural Ireland, lazy farmer Darry Berrill makes a very big, mistake when he boasts to his spiky tongued wife Lizzie that he could do her work far better than she could do his. When Lizzie calls his bluff and strides out to mow the meadow, it soon becomes a race against time as Darry with some extremely inept help from his very short sighted crony Barry, attempts to complete the household tasks. With catastrophic results, the two men stagger from calamity to calamity on an hilarious path towards ' a panorama of ruin'!

O'Casey was one of the twentieth century's major playwrights. 'Shadow of a Gunman', 'Juno and the Paycock', 'The Plough and The Stars' dealt with serious and troubling political issues in a deeply humane way. When O'Casey visited New York in 1937 he was greeted by Eugene O'Neill, the most renowned dramatist of his time, with the words "I am greatly envious. I wish to God I could write like you."

'The End Of The Beginning' is a script of pure fun. Although based on a simple fable where a farmer and his wife swap roles for a day, the play is not without significance - namely the inequality of the woman's role in Irish life. O'Casey, a fierce fighter against all forms of oppression, was an outspoken champion for Womens' rights ,but in this play he provides us with a feast of comic physical action that at times veers towards the slapstick, and the play is hugely enriched by O'Casey's masterful insight into character and his finely tuned and witty use of language is sublime to the ear. O'Casey surely wrote this play with glee in his heart!

The 'End Of The Beginning' has stuck in my mind now for more than twenty years since I first saw the Schiller Theater's production when I was working in Berlin. Despite it being in German (which I didn't speak), it still managed to be one of the funniest shows I had seen. I am grateful to NVT that now, helped so much by a superb cast of Des Potton, Carl Boardman and Janice Jones and a fine creative team, I have been given the chance to try and pass this pleasure on.

Staging the play in the Theatre Upstairs promises to be a great way of celebrating the opening of NVT's exciting, new theatre space. This evening kicks off with pre-show Irish Ceilidh singing in the bar from Patrick Hannigan including songs written by Sean O'Casey himself. Afterwards we end up back downstairs in the bar again to enjoy a drink and have a craic with your friends to the sounds of live musicians playing Irish music on the fiddle and bodhran.

Rod Lewis
Director

CAST

Darry Berrill :
Barry Derrill:
Lizzie Berrill :

Des Potton
Carl Boardman
Janice Jones

CREATIVE TEAM

Director :
Production Manager :
Stage Manager :
Deputy Stage Manager :
Assistant Stage Managers :

Design :
Set Design :
Set Construction :

Set Finish and Dressing :

Properties :
Costume Design :
Dialect Coach :
Special FX :
Hair & Makeup :
Lighting Design & Operation :
Lighting Rigging :
Sound Design:
Sound Operation :
Marketing :
Poster Design & Photography :

Bar Entertainment :
Bar Design :
Pre-Show Singer:

Post-Show Music:

Rod Lewis
Pat Boxall
Pauline Rospigliosi
Annique Tate-Doe
George Walter, Barry Purchase, Rick Moore & Dennis Cumming
Xeli Perez
Tony Shoosmith
Tomasz Baraniecki, Rod Lewis, George Walter & Ignacio Castro
Xeli Perez, Marta Gillner Gilewska & Lorena Maldonado
Trish Bayliss
Imogen Forbes
Paddy O'Keeffe
Rick Moore
Georgina Ragazza
Chris Pugh
Jezz Bowden
Alistair Lock
Emma Sheil & Annique Tate-Doe
Dan Walker
Tamsin Fraser

Christine Stubbs
Christine Stubbs & Laura Scobie.
Patrick Hannigan Contact Patrick at: patrickahannigan@outlook.com
Louise Wells (fiddle) and Adam Mould (bodhrán).

Many thanks to:

Special thanks go to Laura Scobie, Lindsay Stoner of the Fretful Federation for mandolin loan and tuition, Mark Wilson for Mandolin loan, Eleanor Gamper for transcription of chord progressions, Irish translator - Pdraigin Nic Giolla Chearr, Sophie Nunns for the weather vane and additional props, James Weisz at The Emporium, Gerry McCrudden and always, our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.

Darragh Mac Caorúthan - Deasún Ó Potaire

This is Des' 2nd production at NVT, having played Walter in Arthur Miller's 'The Price' in November 2012. Other recent credits include Sir John Pontefract in Oscar Wilde's 'A Woman of No Importance', which toured the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, and the troubled Ralph Wantage in Bryony Lavery's 'Frozen', both with Brighton Little Theatre. Says Des "I consider comedy to be the most powerful theatrical genre. As an audience member, you are entirely removed from the stresses of the world around you, and are free to indulge in the "soul food" of laughter. With End of the Beginning, there are some truly delightful sequences in which to revel in the comedic genius of O'Casey.



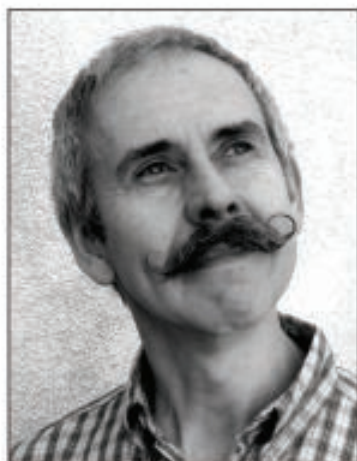
Eilish Nic Caorúthan - Sinéidín Nic Eoin

After glamping up for 'Old Times', Janice has enjoyed glamping down for EOB. To help her understand Lizzie's lot she has been living on a farm in rural Ireland, flying back for rehearsals and getting a decent night's sleep at the Grand. Janice has performed at NVT, BLT, CTC and in some short films, most recently playing the witch in 'Hansel and Gretel' with the Brighton Film Coalition.



Bearáí Mac a Dheirúthan
- Cearúl Nic Giolla Fhírchlar

Carl has been involved with the NVT in various capacities since 1997 and has participated in many dramas, comedies, pantomimes, musicals and reviews. As an actor, amongst others, he has played in 'It's a Wonderful Life', 'Assassins' and 'The Permanent Way'. Directing credits include 'Copenhagen', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Dinner'. Carl has also been lighting designer for many productions, in a previous life, including 'Freak Show' and 'The Duchess of Malfi'. Carl's ambition is to direct opera and is currently co-director of Sabotage Theatre CIC.



Stiúrthóir - Ruairí Ó Laoiseach

Rod has spent most of his working life in theatre, film or T.V, as a technician, actor, director or writer. The seemingly countless past productions he's been involved with, whether in Britain or abroad, have now merged in his mind into one, blurry, kaleidoscopic mass. He claims to have become some sort of ancient theatre mongrel. However, can still just about remember his most recent production, Arthur Miller's 'The Price', here at NVT. Directing this was apparently such a pleasurable and rewarding experience that he readily signed up for more and is now, once again, delighted to be spending his days with Sean OCasey's brilliance and a fine company and cast.



Fretful Federation Mandolin Orchestra

Catch them next at Eastbourne Festival...
Sunday 11th May at 3-5pm in the All Saints Chapel,
Darley Road. £8/£6 concs www.fretful-federation.co.uk

or in the Brighton Festival Fringe
Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm at St George's
Church, Kemp Town - their home venue.
<http://boxoffice.brightonfringe.org/music/5560/fretful-federation-mandolin-orchestra>

Adam Mould Percussionist

(Bodhrán & Cajón)

Session & Ceilidh Band Player

07878 040360

Coming next to NVT...

2nd May - 17th May

Hedwig and The Angry Inch

by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask

Directed by Frank Leon

The anatomically incorrect rock odyssey comes to the Brighton Festival Fringe. This bold and fascinating show is a must see.

Hedwig is an East German rock 'n' roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex change operation, leaving her with just an Angry Inch.

Now on their 'British Tour' Hedwig and her band use music and conversation to tell us of her hilariously tragic life's search for The Origin of Love, inspiring anyone who has felt life gave them an inch when they deserved a mile.

Ticket prices £10/£9 for all shows.

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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!

NVT Youth Theatre

Jan 10th - 21st March (not 21st Feb)
Fridays 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Open to 12-17 year olds interested in Drama, theatre, creative play and working with new people in a real theatre setting.

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 fundraising@newventure.org.uk for details

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS 2014

2nd - 17th May
'Hedwig and The Angry Inch'
by John Cameron Mitchell
and Stephen Trask
directed by Frank Leon

23rd - 31st May
'Not About Heroes'
by Stephen Macdonald
directed by Jerry Lyne

20th - 28th June
'The Herbal Bed'
by Peter Whelan
directed by Tamsin Fraser

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 for more information.