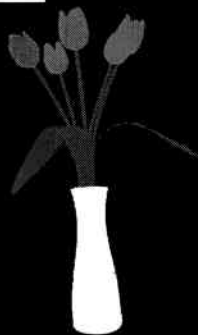


A NEW VENTURE THEATRE PRODUCTION 2015

a double bill
by Peter Shaffer



THE PRIVATE EAR AND BLACK COMEDY



NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 20th Feb - Sat 28th Feb 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 PRIVATE EAR

Sir Peter Shaffer is well known for weighty scripts such as *Equus* and *Amadeus*; but as our Artistic Director Rod Lewis showed me, he also writes what can be simply described as 'domestic comedy'. 'The Private Ear' is one of his earliest, originally starring Maggie Smith and Kenneth Williams in the Globe Theatre.

In 1960's London, classical musical enthusiast Bob has a big date with Doreen, The Perfect Woman. Not knowing much about entertaining, Bob has invited ladies' man Ted along as cook and moral support; that's an unusual move to be sure and Doreen might not be all she seems. As the music swells, what could possibly go wrong?

Recent sitcoms have developed the sub-genre of 'embarrassment humour' - the kind that has you hiding your face in your hands even as you giggle. Shaffer was mining this decades earlier; what was topical and current is now a period piece... but the knuckle-clenching awkwardness and clumsy attempts at romance are eternal. We have all been Bob and Doreen and we have all envied a Ted. It's much easier to laugh when you're on the outside though. Three excellent actors – Isabel Roffe-Silvester, Scott Roberts and Steve Larkin – make me laugh constantly and I know they will do the same for you.

Dan Walker

BLACK COMEDY

This is a fun one act play, making up the second half of this Peter Shaffer Double Bill. The play is a farce set in the mid 1960's, with Brindsley, a poor sculptor who hopes to sell some of his work to the millionaire art collector George Bamberger; he also intends to ask Colonel Melkett, Carol's father, for her hand in marriage. He has borrowed, without permission, some of his neighbour Harold's antique furniture in an attempt to impress. The evening is set, but marred by the appearance of a Miss Furnival, a neighbour, the unexpected return of Harold, and the surprise arrival of Brindsley's ex.

Add to this the twist that it takes place in a flat in London, which suffers a power cut.

Casting this play was difficult, with so many good people to choose from. We have come up with a great cast, some new to the NVT, some returning after a while away and others who are fairly regular performers, along with a great supporting team in both design, tech and backstage. This play has been a joy to rehearse over the past couple of months.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

Ian Black

CAST - THE PRIVATE EAR

Steve Larkin : Ted
Scott Roberts : Bob
Isabel Roffe-Silvester : Doreen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director - The Private Ear : Dan Walker
Director - Black Comedy : Ian Black
Stage Manager : Sophie Nunn
Assistant Stage Managers : James Camp, Monica Martin, Daniel Nicholls
Set Design : Ian Black, Dan Walker, Adam Kincaid
Set Construction : Tomasz Baranieckie, George Walter Adam Kincaid
Lighting Design : Strat Mastoris
Lighting Rigging : Strat Mastoris & Chris Pugh
Lighting Operation : Alex Epps
Sound Design: Ian Black & Dan Walker
Sound Operation : Chris Pugh
Costume Design : Arwen Matthews
Properties : Sophie Nunn
Special Props : Peta Williams, Mark Green & Arwen Matthews
Marketing : Dan Walker
Poster Design & Programme : Tamsin Fraser

CAST - BLACK COMEDY

Michael Bramley : Brindsley
Arwen Matthews : Carol Melkitt
Liz Stapleton : Miss Furnival
Andy Thomas : Colonel Melkitt
Nick Richards : Harold Gorringe
Lucy Mepsted : Clea
Jezz Bowden : Schuppanzigh
Geoff Goble : George Bamberger

Many thanks to:

Special thanks go to Rod Lewis, Pat Boxall, Linda Kelly, Ifield Barn Theatre for loan of clothes, Uli Schilling, Chris Pugh, Steven O'Shea and Mike Stubbs, and as always, our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.

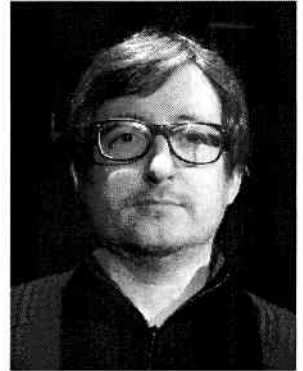


Steve Larkin

Steve is registered with 'RSM, Cherry Parker Management'. Recently finished an 8 part dark comedy series 'Drowning in Sunshine', out later this year. Also recently appeared in a music video for up coming DJ featured on BBC Radio 1 and out on all music channels. Theatre work includes playing 'Joseph Wykowski' in 'Biloxi Blues' and 'Nick' in sell out Brighton Fringe 2013 self-devised show, 'Better Days'. Has also been in two plays at the Young Vic Theatre in London.

Scott Roberts

Scott trained at Arts Ed Drama School in London. His previous NVT credits include: 'How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found' and 'Decade'. He will be directing a rehearsed reading of 'Richard III' at the NVT in April this year.

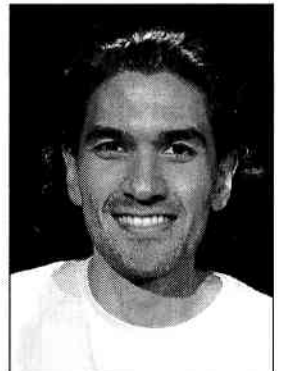


Isabel Roffe-Silvester

Izzie is a freelance designer and language tutor. She also writes and performs stories about the environmental and social injustices of the Fashion Industry. She recently opened the Brighton Fashion Week Sustain catwalk show with a storytelling performance. She attends New Venture acting classes and 'Private Ear' is her theatre debut.

Michael Bramley

This is Michael's first production with NVT, having spent four years with a musical theatre company, which included lead roles in 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Hot Mikado'. Michael is studying philosophy, mathematics and science – the concepts of which he also explores through dramatic writing. Michael is currently co-writing a screenplay with longtime friend and collaborator, Christian Howard, the co-star and co-creator of the 2014 hit web series, 'Street Fighter: Assassin's Fist'.





Arwen Matthews

Arwen has been acting, directing and writing since school; performance poetry, cabaret, singing, living history, costume design. She left drama school with a firm belief that the arts are for all.

She is delighted to return to the NVT and farce, and would like to dedicate the laughter to Alice.

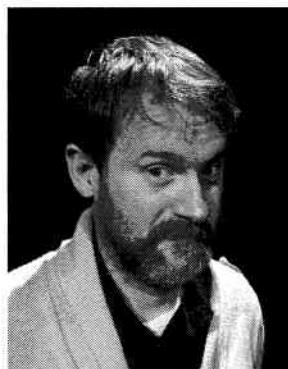
Liz Stapleton

A long standing member of NVT, Liz has appeared in many productions over the years including 'American Clock', 'The Last Resort', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Kvetch' and 'Heart's Desire'. Liz has decided that mad old ladies are her speciality.



Andy Thomas

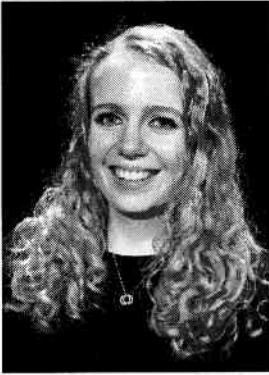
Andy first joined NVT for 'The Last Resort' in 2003 and put on his comedy 'The Therapists' here in 2006. He met both his comedy partners, Rob Maloney and Colin Elmer at the NVT and with the former produced the sketch comedy 'Kill Cats' and with the latter a semi biog of Andy's teaching career 'Crimes Against Humanities Teachers', which has toured and won best comedy in the Brighton Fringe.



Nicholas Richards

Nick's various credits include 'Uncle Arron' in Red Dwarf, 'Pablo' The Power of Three, 'Undercover' The One Show for the BBC, 'Robbie' in The Bullet for Two Bins 'Compare' Vintage Hitchcock: A radio play with Conn Arises Theatre he has toured Bite Size with The White Room Theatre. He recently starred as 'Ned Royston' in the short film Kartoombe which he also co wrote, directed and produced.



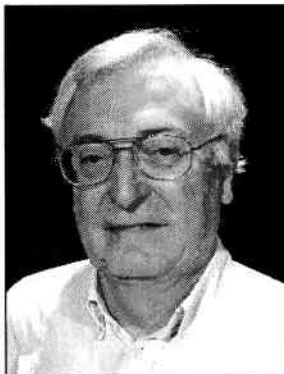
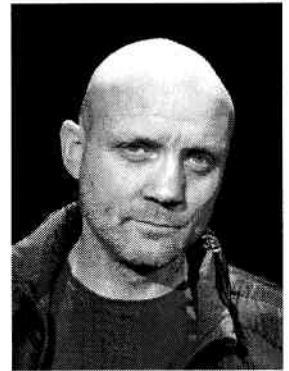


Lucy Mepsted

Lucy is very excited to be performing her first show at NVT. She has appeared in many short films and theatre shows over the years, including the Festival Shakespeare Company's production of 'The Taming of the Shrew', and Emporium's panto 'Cinders' as ugly sister 'Innit'. She has also performed her one woman show 'Clock' in both Brighton and London.

Jezz Bowden

This is Jezz's 4th production at NVT having previously appeared as the Father in 'Hansel & Gretel', 'A Beginning, Muddle and an End' and as the Milkman in Pinter's 'The Lover'. He also directed 'The Pig Sleep' in last year's 10 Minute Plays. A keen photographer, Jezz dislikes being photographed himself.



Geoff Goble

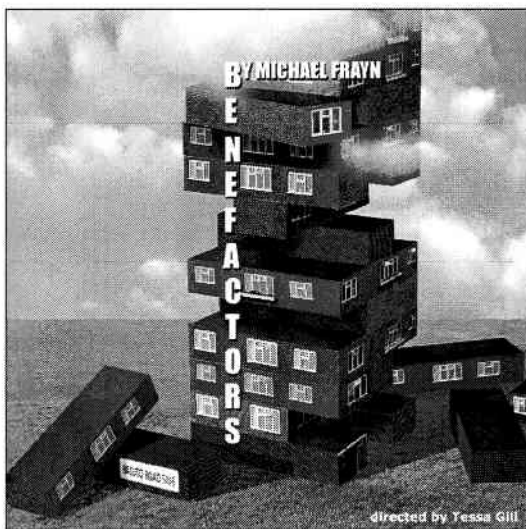
For NVT: Prime Minister's voice (Ten Moon Minutes); ASM for The Snow Queen; New Year's Eve stand-up set. Recent local work includes: Giles Corey (The Crucible, Pretty Villain Productions, Brighton Fringe 2014); several playlets for Cast Iron Theatre (Dukebox Theatre); Mr Parsons (Crownton Dobby, [a Downton Abbey spoof], 21st-Century Films).

Dan Walker

Dan has filled many backstage roles at NVT over the last few years and designed lighting in shows around East Sussex. This is the second play he has directed, following 'Ten Moon Minutes' in the 2013 Ten Minute Play competition

Ian Black

Ian has directed regularly at the NVT since joining in 2007. These include Three Tall Women, The Lying Kind, Gaby Goes Global, How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found and Heart's Desire. He has also directed at other venues around West Sussex, designed sound for a number of productions and been known to tread the occasional board. He is an undiscovered playwright and has appeared as an extra in various TV and film productions.



COMING NEXT

BENEFACTORS
BY MICHAEL FRAYN
directed by Tessa Gill
20 - 28 MARCH 2015 (STUDIO)

An idealistic architect David and his anthropologist wife Jane are building a future and looking after the world until their "good-doing" with their neighbours Nigel a cynical failed journalist and his wife Sheila, a former nurse, mean their regeneration project fails.

This play humorously explores the difficulties of helping and being helped..

COMING SOON

RICHARD III - BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
a rehearsed reading directed by Scott Roberts
3 - 4 APRIL 2015 (STUDIO)

In March 2015, Richard III's recently discovered bones will be reburied in Leicester Cathedral. To mark this occasion, we'll be presenting a rehearsed reading of an abridged version of Shakespeare's play. Villain and anti-hero, the play's protagonist allows the audience a window into his Machiavellian mind through confessional speeches; weaving a complex tale of personal and political ambition, jealousy, infanticide, seduction, betrayal and murder. Anyone with a passion for great story-telling and strong language should come along.



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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. All other enquiries 01273 808353

NVTYT - NVT Youth Theatre

NVT welcomes all young people (11-17) 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 for details.

Membership

Full (company) membership - £25 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £13 a year. As above... *Proof of status is required.*

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 why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. Our Angels have proven to be generous in the assistance they give us. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: gerry mccrudden@hotmail.com. If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.