

Translation by Alistair Beaton. An Amateur Production in association with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

# THE ADSONISTS

BY MAX FRISCH



**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT


**PERFORMANCES:**

Fri 19th June - Sat 27th June 2015 - 7.45 pm

Sun Matinee - 2.30pm (No Sun/Mon eves)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt\_brighton

**THEATRE** ◀

**NEW WRITING** ◀

**CLASSES** ◀

**LICENSED BAR** ◀

Registered Charity No. 268607

**50p**

# THE ARSONISTS

"Many things burn, but not every fire is determined by fate.

Sometimes the fire can be prevented."

Fires are becoming a problem in this town, with shocking reports of arsonists conning their way into people's homes. Mr Biederman, a respected member of the community with a loving wife & a flourishing business making hair restorer, thinks he is immune. A egalitarian and a philanthropist, who has donated to the fire service, his sense of civic duty leads him to give shelter to two new guests. And when they fill the attic with petrol drums, he'll even help to set up the fuse... But can we tell who is fooling who?

Originally known as Biederman & the Fireraisers, Max Frisch's parable ('a moral play without a moral') was written in the 1950s, just after the Second World War, and is said to highlight what happens when good men and women turn a blind eye to wrong doing. The Arsonists is a translation by Alistair Beaton, & was presented at The Royal Court in 2007.

With Brechtian overtones, an absurdist plot, and a Greek chorus of Firemen helping to relate the tale, The Arsonists is a unique view on the art of the con. Although its themes can be read as political, its main focus is human behaviour - on how we see ourselves & the psychology of self deception.

The production has been great fun to put together. We have a large cast of 12, some known to NVT audiences, alongside a gaggle of lovely newcomers.

The creative team have brought a surreal look and feel to the production. Set in the intimate studio space, the show breaks down the barrier between actor, chorus and audience. As its themes apply to us all, this isn't going to be a comfortable ride.

The Arsonists is hilariously dark, fast paced and surreal. There will be fire!

**Director**

**Sam Chittenden**

## CAST

Biedermann  
Babette  
Anna  
Schmitz  
Eisenring  
Doctor of Philosophy  
Chorus Leader  
Chorus/Other Characters

John Tolputt  
Catherine Carr  
Teresa Kuna  
Jonny Parlett  
James Macauley  
Mark Green  
James Harkness  
Claire Coull  
Fenia Giannopoulou  
Nick Lazar  
Igor Goran Macukat  
Andy Osborn

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :  
Production Manager :  
Stage Manager :  
ASM :  
Set Design & Build :

Townscape :  
Lighting Design :  
Lighting Operation :  
Sound Design :  
Sound Operation :  
Costume Design :  
Costume Assistant :  
Makeup :  
Choreography :  
Properties :  
NVT Properties :  
Marketing :  
Photography :  
Poster, Flier & Programme Design :

Sam Chittenden  
Alanna Manwaring  
Victoria Lezaun  
Lisa Caira, Alanna Manwaring  
Tomasz Baraniecki, Simon Glazier,  
Monika Schuettbacher,  
George Walter, Xeli Perez Lopez  
Lorena Maldonado-Cabello,  
Freia Metzger  
Michaela Ridgway, Sonya Smith  
Strat Mastoris, Victoria Lezaun  
Steve Coulson, Tamsin Mastoris  
Alistair Lock  
Jeff Moody, Steve Coulson  
Mark Green  
Kelly Hall  
Charlotte Temperton  
Alanna Manwaring  
Mark Green, Sophie Nunns  
Trisha Bayliss  
Dan Walker  
Kellie Smith, Strat Mastoris  
Tamsin Mastoris

Teaser Trailer by Dan Walker

Many thanks to:

Chris Pugh and Jez Bowden for all their technical assistance, to Sophie's neighbours for the oil cans and as always, our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.



**John Tolputt - Biedermann**

John Tolputt has appeared in the New Venture Theatre in 'The Winslow Boy', 'The Permanent Way' and 'Dancing at Lughnasa'. His next project is King Lear at the Minack Theatre, Cornwall. In his spare time he writes about poets for the online Poetry Archive.

**Catherine Carr**

In a previous life, Cathy did a degree in Drama and Dance at Roehampton and had a lot of theatre experience in the Tunbridge Wells area. She joined NVT last year and has been attending acting classes, she claims not to have been in a play for about 100 years but is thoroughly enjoying this one.



**Teresa Kuna - Anna**

Teresa is a professionally trained actress from Vienna, where she graduated from drama school in 2011. Since then she has mainly focused on her film work, but also had a small part for a season in one of the biggest stages in Vienna, the 'Theater in der Josefstadt'. With 'The Arsonists' she celebrates her debut in the New Venture Theatre and on stage in England in general.



**Jonny Parlett - Schmitz**

Jonny most recently played Hamlet at the NVT, following the title role in the 2014 Fringe production of 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch'. Other roles include Podraic Osborne in Martin McDonagh's 'Lieutenant of Inishmore' and James Hennesey in Neil Simon's 'Biloxi Blues'. He has collaborated on devised projects 'The Building' at NVT and 'Better Days' for Brighton Fringe 2013. He is currently writing sketch comedy and his first dramatic short.



### **James Macauley - Eisenring**

James has held non-acting roles in various plays at New Venture since joining in 2014 and has acted in multiple productions outside Brighton. This is his first acting role at New Venture, and he is very much looking forward to treading these boards!



### **Mark Green - Doctor of Philosophy**

Mark has played many diverse characters including The Mad Hatter and Alice B Toklas. His dream role would be Fagin and he'd like to play Edith Sitwell (someone said he looks like her). He also directs and designs and builds sets and costumes.



### **James Harkness**

James' previous work includes several productions with the Sussex University Drama Society. His roles include Martin in 'The Goat' by Edward Albee, Rev. Hale in 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller, and Bernie in 'Sexual Perversity in Chicago' by David Mamet. Earlier in the year he played Laertes in the NVT's production of 'Hamlet', directed by Steven O' Shea.



### **Claire Coull**

Claire recently moved to Brighton from Qatar where she was heavily involved in the local community theatre scene. More familiar with musicals, she has enjoyed rehearsing with a lovely cast and director for her first role in NVT. Thanks to Sam, Alanna and all the crew for making her so welcome!



**Fenia Giannopoulou**

Fenia has acted in various modern & classical plays in Greece over the last ten years as a member of a semi-professional group called OTOE. She joined NVT last year and has since participated in various workshops and plays. Fenia will be starting her professional acting training at A.C.T in September 2015. Currently she is a senior lecturer of exercise physiology at the university of Brighton.



**Nick Lazar**

Nick Lazar has a love of theatre and comedy. If he's not involved in a performance he's watching one. He has performed stand up comedy and acted in plays. Most recently as John Malcolm in a production of Terence Rattigan's 'Separate Tables'. In his spare time he runs his own web development company to try and pay the bills.



**Igor Goran Macukat**

*Igor Goran Macukat joined the New Venture Theatre in September 2014 and has enjoyed working back stage as an assistant stage manager for 'Hay Fever', 'Black Comedy' and the 'Private Ear' productions. Now he makes his debut at the theatre, his first stage performance since 2009.*



**Andy Osborn**

This is Andy's first outing with NVT after recently moving into the area. A great group of people but apparently a bit careless with naked flames. At college, he joined the Chorus in 'Palach', about a Czech student who set light to himself in protest against the Russian occupation. There's an uncanny resonance.





### **Sam Chittenden - Director**

Sam Chittenden has appeared in 'Seven Jewish Children' and 'A Beginning, A Muddle and an End' at NVT, as well as in 'The House of Bernada Alba' for Pretty Villain, several short plays for Cast Iron Theatre, and in feature film 'The Cutting Room'. She has previously directed ten minute plays at NVT (One, Two, Three) and Cast Iron. This is her first full length production as a Director. Sam runs Different Development, a creative training company, and leads The Mastery of Self Expression workshops in Brighton.

## **COMING SOON**

### **10 MINUTE PLAY COMPETITION**

17 - 25 JULY 2015 (THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

Following the success of previous 10-Minute Play Competitions, New Venture Theatre and Sussex Playwrights have joined forces once again...

Up to 8 new plays have been selected from the 2015 competition entries and developed into a production for 8 performances. After each performance the audience will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite plays. This will result in an overall winner of the competition, which will be announced on the final night.

## **COMING NEXT SEASON**

**THE MISER - BY MOLIERE**  
**ADAPTED BY FREYDA THOMAS**  
directed by Steven Adams  
2 - 10 OCTOBER 2015 (STUDIO)

**REASONS TO BE PRETTY - BY NEIL LABUTE**  
directed by Tim McQuillen Wright  
13 - 21 NOVEMBER 2015 (STUDIO)

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL - BY CHARLES DICKENS**  
**AN ADAPTATION BY SARAH DAVIES**  
directed by Sarah Davies  
4 - 12 DECEMBER 2015 (THEATRE UPSTAIRS)



# MAIL BOXES ETC.®

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

Tel: 01273 70 60 20  [www.mbebrighton.co.uk](http://www.mbebrighton.co.uk)  
 Email: [print@mbebrighton.co.uk](mailto:print@mbebrighton.co.uk)  91 Western Road, Brighton. BN1 2NW



## 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](http://www.deepdeneschool.com) Tel: 01273 418984



*Bringing business training alive through actors*

[www.bluestarfishconsulting.com](http://www.bluestarfishconsulting.com) 0845 017 0742  
email [info@bluestarfishconsulting.com](mailto:info@bluestarfishconsulting.com)

## Windlesham School



An independent school and nursery for boys and girls from 3 to 11 years, with strong links to a range of state and independent secondary schools at scholarship level.

Contact the School Admissions Secretary on 01273 553645  
or email [info@windleshamschool.co.uk](mailto:info@windleshamschool.co.uk)

190 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 5AA - [www.windleshamschool.co.uk](http://www.windleshamschool.co.uk)

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: [gerrymcrudden@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrymcrudden@hotmail.com). If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.

## 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

## 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](mailto: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