

A NEW VENTURE THEATRE PRODUCTION 2015

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens
adapted and directed
by Sarah Davies



**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT


PERFORMANCES:

Fri 4th - Sat 12th December 7.30pm

Matinees 2.30pm (Sat 5th/Sun 6th/Sat 12th)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

THEATRE ◀

NEW WRITING ◀

CLASSES ◀

LICENSED BAR ◀

50p

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scrooge hates Christmas - tight-fisted, mean spirited, friendless; he seems to hate just about everyone and everything. Then, on Christmas Eve, he's haunted by the restless ghost of Marley, his dead colleague, followed by three Spirits of Christmas, who show him his past and present life - and the miserable future which awaits him unless he changes his ways. Each ghost takes him on a journey with dreamlike sequences of scenes following fast one after the other. The stories leap from busy London streets, to alleyways, to cosy interiors, to dances, and even to a lighthouse and to a ship at one point, then back to Scrooge's bedroom briefly before hurtling off once more to the Stock Exchange and then to a foul-smelling area of ill-repute. How on earth do you do all that on stage on a tiny budget and without a Tardis?

Our answer was to cast one person as Scrooge and have the episodes that the ghosts reveal recreated by an ensemble. All the other parts and locations are recreated by an extremely capable, multi-role playing cast. Together, this collective of talented youngsters and experienced adults have developed a slick ensemble physical performance style. They do everything: shift set, switch costumes and transform before your eyes into a range of familiar characters - adding a few new creations of their own whilst underscoring transitions with singing. The piece features an original score by Steve Hoar, whose twist on classic carols has added much richness to the piece.

'Bah humbug' has become a phrase epitomising a dislike of the Christmas seasons and its jollities. Why tell this tale again? Apart from it being a good yarn, Dickens intended it as a condemnation of greed, and a way of informing the middle and upper classes of the plight of the poor and the needy. In our time, across the world, across the UK and in this town, there persists a great imbalance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. Thus the transformation of Scrooge continues to hold a relevant message for us all - reminding us that we are inter-connected and can gain by helping others.

This show is a testimony to the power within us all to shine and be the best that we can be. It has been full of creative challenges which we have tackled collaboratively: cast, crew, designers, makers, production team and chaperones. I am humbled, and so grateful, to this talented cast and all who have worked on and supported this show; I wish you all the very warmest of seasonal greetings. Let our hearts never give up hope. May we all be encouraged to unstick ourselves when we feel stuck. May we offer and receive love freely, giving gratitude for what we have, whilst showing awareness and generosity to those who have not.

What's the appeal of this bad-tempered, bitter, friendless, old man? Is it that we can all be a little Scrooge-like sometimes? Is it that we all like the notion that we can change - and indeed can be forgiven?

Sarah Davies
Director

CAST

Scrooge : John Tolputt
Ensemble : Heather Andrews, Judey Bignell, Lisa Caira,
Jake Cargill, Jeremy Crow, Chris Dangerfield,
Mark Green, Amy Maynard, Jeff Moody &
Robert Purchase,
Youth Cast : Megan Batchelor, Ava Aubrey Conboy,
Saoirse Counihan, Lillie Curry, Sarah K. M. Elliott,
Rudie Kauhanen, Lauren Kelly, Harry King,
Becky Lewis & Esther Marshall

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director : Sarah Davies
Musical Director: Steve Hoar
Production Manager : Tamsin Mastoris
Children in Entertainment Manager : Annique Tate Doe
Stage Managers: Melissa Noble, Scott Roberts
ASMs: Mags O'Sullivan, Bob Wheeler-Osman,
Jessica Rook, Sophie Nunns
Costume Team : Mark Green, Jackie Jones, Katie Lewis
Judey Bignell & Melissa Noble
Lighting Design & Rigging : Strat Mastoris
Lighting Operators : Kaylee Nicholas, Tamsin Mastoris
& Sabrina Giles
Sound Operators: Igor Goran Macukat, Toni Louise Dillon
Set Build Team : George Walter, Simon Glazier, Adam Kincaid,
Monika Schuettbacher, Strat Mastoris & cast
Make-up : Judith Griffiths, Claire Laker,
Sabrina Giles & cast
Props : Mark Green,
Poster : Jeff Moody
Programme : Tamsin Mastoris
Photography : Strat & Tamsin Mastoris
Publicity & Marketing : Dan Walker



Sarah Davies

Sarah's previous NVT directing and devising works include 'The Building' and 'Talking Dog'; she also walks the boards and was seen recently as Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. Post-show Sarah will be enjoying a well-deserved holiday in Taipei, where they celebrate neither Christmas nor the New Year. ;)

Robert Purchase

This is Bertie's first performance for the NVT. It has been a long time since he trod the boards but he's enjoying every step.



Sarah K. M. Elliott

Sarah is a student at Dorothy Stringer High School and has been a member of the youth theatre at NVT for the past two years. She is actively involved in numerous musical and theatrical groups around Brighton and is preparing for a career in the performing arts.



Mark Green

Mark has had a busy year filled with acting, directing, and set & costume design. He recently had the unique pleasure of playing Godot in the 10 Minute Plays and is looking forward to getting stuck into the role of Properties Master here at the NVT.



Lillie Curry

Lillie has been a dedicated member of the youth theatre for some time, but this will be her first public performance. She is eager to experience what it feels like to be part of a sophisticated show.

Steve Hoar

This is Steve's second theatrical collaboration with Sarah having worked on music for 'Talking Dog'. He produces bi-annual concerts for his piano students, as well as personal recitals.





Jeremy Crow

Jeremy was last seen here earlier this year, playing David in 'Benefactors'. His next role is likely to be as a barman in the NVT bar, hoping to persuade someone to give him another part.



Judey Bignell

This is Judey's first show at the NVT, but you may have seen her performing as part of the local 'Cast Iron' theatre group. She will be going on to direct at Brighton Fringe Festival next summer.



Harry King

Harry has been with the Youth Theatre for a while but this will be his first public performance. He can't wait to see how it all turns out!



Becky Lewis

Becky hasn't been a part of the youth theatre for very long and this will be her first NVT show. She is loving it and very much looking forward to the adventure.



Christopher Dangerfield

Chris has been previously seen in 'Bedroom Farce' at Brighton Little Theatre; this is his NVT debut. He is soon to be heard on 'Eternity rises', an audio spin-off of Doctor Who.

Lauren Kelly

Lauren is currently studying double performing arts and drama and theatre studies at Sussex Downs college. She has been a member of NVT for just over a year now and is also involved with other theatre companies and groups. She's due to start filming a weekly sitcom for Latest TV in January

Amy Maynard

Amy's most recent role at the NVT was playing the Head Troll in 'The Snow Queen' last Christmas. She is currently busy directing 'The Reincarnation of Trim Tab Jim'; a rock opera which is being performed at the Old Market on the 19th December.



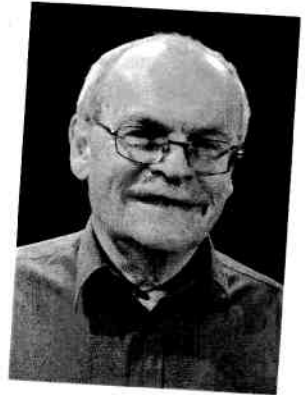


Lisa Caira

Lisa was last seen at the NVT playing a number of roles in 'The Snow Queen'. She is also involved at the Cast Iron theatre as an actor and director.

John Tolputt

John's recent appearances at the NVT have included 'The Arsonists' and 'The Winslow Boy'. When not performing, he enjoys writing introductions to poets for the online 'Poetry Archive'.



Megan Batchelor

This is Megan's first public performance with the NVT. She wants to publicly thank Sarah as, without the youth theatre, she might never have discovered the cheesecake from Waitrose.

Jake Cargill

Jake was a dedicated NVT member from its inception, and has since explored a range of roles & styles and discovered a love of improvisation, participating regularly in Iron Clad theatre's classes. He has recently become an adult NVT member, as he graduated to the grand old age of 18 and has also just got a job... but would really love to do stand up.



Heather Andrews

NVT welcomes Heather for her first performance in this collaborative production. She studied drama at the University of Exeter and is looking forward to being part of many more shows in Brighton. Heather will next be appearing in 'Women of Troy' here in February.

Jeff Moody

Jeff made his NVT debut last Christmas as a put-upon reindeer in 'The Snow Queen', and has played a variety of roles in his time; from Toto in the 'Wizard of Oz' to Pseudelus in 'Forum'. When he's not treading the boards, he reads the news for Latest TV in Brighton and Arise News in London.



Esther Marshall

Esther has enjoyed being part of NVT for the last year and playing The Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland. She hopes that the experiences learnt at NVT will help her with her future writing career.



Saoirse Counihan

Saoirse has been in the youth theatre for a year now, and is really enjoying being a part of her first youth and adult production. She is currently in rehearsals for 'Gregory's Girl' which opens in November at Varndean High School, and also has a part in 'Little Shop of Horrors' next February.

Rudy Kauhanen

Rudy has been in a number of small plays but this will be his first large production at the NVT. He is very much looking forward to being a part of the show.



Many thanks to:

Thanks to: all the wonderful cast and crew for your patience, hard-work and dedication to this project; Izzy Aidallbery (Christmas Cards), Mark A, Sarah Charsley, Clare Christian at BHCC, Britt Forsberg, Gladrags for their help and generosity, Tom Kitch, Alanna Manwaring, Fintan Shevlin, our team of chaperones, the FoH and Box Office teams and all at NVT who have supported this project in its aim to allow NVT to perform in part of our mainstream season. Bravo!

YMCA

YMCA DOWNSLINK GROUP

COMING NEXT

LOOT - BY JOE ORTON
directed by Steven O'Shea
15 - 23 JANUARY 2016
(STUDIO THEATRE)

Hal's mother has just died.
Having robbed a bank, and in order to
conceal the proceeds of the crime, he
and his partner Dennis hide the
money in Hal's mother's coffin. This,
though, leaves no place for the body...

YMCA DownsLink Group is a charity providing housing to local young people who would otherwise be homeless. We have 90 supported housing units across Brighton & Hove. We provide a place and space for young people to feel safe through accommodation, training, learning, support and advice, counselling and mediation that will lead to better life chances and a positive future.

Please visit www.ymcadlg.org for more information about our work. You can also follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/ymcadlg or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ymcadlg for latest news and updates.

COMING SOON

WOMEN OF TROY
BY EURIPEDES
directed by Ella Thompson
26 FEBRUARY - 5 MARCH 2016
(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

OUR SONS AS WELL
an evening of poetry and prose
commemorating those who lost
their lives in the Great War
19 MARCH 2016 (STUDIO THEATRE)

HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON?
BY JENNIFER JOHNSTON
adapted by Alan Stanford
directed by Gerry McCrudden
8 - 16 APRIL 2016 (STUDIO THEATRE)

The Clock Tower Sanctuary



The Clock Tower Sanctuary is the only drop-in service providing all-round information, advice and support to homeless young people (aged 16-25) in Brighton & Hove. Our centre is open 6 days a week.

"The Sanctuary is the backbone of where I am now and how much I have progressed. Without this place I would still be sleeping under Brighton Pier, it's as simple as that." Mark, 24

To find out more about how you can help homeless young people get their lives back on track, visit our website www.thects.org.uk

Don't forget to...

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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 pro-
gramme 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



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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: gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com. If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.