

An Amateur Production in association with Felix De Wolff Agency.



How Many Miles to Babylon?

adapted by **Alan Stanford**

from the novel by

Jennifer Johnston

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 8th - Sat 16th April 2016 - 7.45 pm

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

THEATRE ◀


NEW WRITING ◀

CLASSES ◀

LICENSED BAR ◀

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

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50p

How Many Miles To Babylon?

Adapted by Alan Stanford from Jennifer Johnston's novel

In 'How many Miles to Babylon?' as in some of her other works Jennifer Johnston draws upon the literature of the Irish "Big House". Fictional representations of the social and cultural organisation of the Anglo-Irish or Protestant ascendancy class. Johnston is herself a daughter of that class; a society which struggled to find its place and voice in the emerging post independence Ireland. As a group they are now melting away into history. Yeats was a friend of her family. She met him when she was young, along with O'Casey, Shaw and others who have also faded into legend.

Against all odds Alec and Jerry have forged a firm friendship; Alec's patrician Anglo Irish background was one of privilege, while Jerry's was cut very differently. Alec, in defiance of the strictures of his class-bound mother, will not, nay cannot, give up his friendship with Jerry. As the story unfolds Alec recounts the events of his life which have led to his present circumstances.

When war breaks out in 1914 these two young men, whose own isolation and shared love of horses brought them together in the first place, decide to sign up. They do so though for quite different reasons. But now in the trenches they also find themselves divided as officer and enlisted man.

Their friendship continues to isolate them both and whose warmth seems to be at odds with much around them. And yet it is there, surrounded by mud, chaos and death, that one of them makes a fateful decision whose consequences will test their friendship and loyalty to its limits.

'Babylon' transforms the novel's first person narrative into a memory play in which Alec is compelled – much like Michael in 'Dancing at Lughnasa' to re-live his past. A personal, redemptive and often painful act of remembrance. American writer Flannery O'Connor once wrote "There is something in us as storytellers and as listeners to stories, that demands the redemptive act, that demands that what falls at least be offered the chance to be restored".

I do hope you will embrace Jennifer Johnston's different take and deeply humane approach to those caught up in the Great War. She is a fine storyteller and Alan Stanford's adaptation captures it well.

Gerry McCrudden
Director

CAST

Alec :	Edward Cave
Padre :	Adam Kincaid
Alicia - Mother :	Red Gray
Mr Cave & Officer :	Philip Davies
Frederick - Father :	Simon Messingham
Jerry :	Fintan Shevlin
Blind Fiddler & Wounded Man :	Robert Purchase
Major Glendining :	Jeremy Crow
Sgt. O'Keefe :	Culann Smyth
Bennett :	Matthew Mulvay
Orderly :	James Macauley
French Barman :	Mark Green
Musicians :	Adam Kincaid, James Macauley & Mark Green

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Gerry McCrudden
Designer :	Tim McQuillen-Wright
LX Designer :	Strat Mastoris
Sound Designer :	Alistair Lock
Costume Designer :	Margarita Steinberg
Production Manager :	James Macauley
Stage Manager :	Victoria Lezaun
ASM's :	Melissa Noble, Barry Purchase, Georgy Pleece
Sound Recordings :	Emilio Pascual, Fintan Shevlin
LX Operator :	Alex Epps
Sound Operator :	Tim Metcalfe
Set Build Team :	George Walter, Simon Glazier Monica Schuettbacker, Matthew Swan
Costume Team :	Jackie Jones, Mark Green, Judith Greenfield & Freia Metzger
Makeup :	Charlie Temperton
Properties Master :	Mark Green
Army Drill :	Dan Walker
Choreography & Movement :	Alexandra Worrall
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Mastoris
Photography :	Strat Mastoris
Video Promos :	Philip Palmer & Fintan Shevlin
French Language Coach :	Tom Slater
Publicity & Marketing :	Dan Walker & Victoria Lezaun
Music Recording :	Coady Green (Chopin Prelude) & Alistair Lock Graham Connor (Irish Traditional) Louisa Huskisson (Alec's Piano pieces)



Edward Cave - Alec

Ed stumbled into acting rather late c.2013 as a writer striving to inform the writing process. He got the acting bug performing in several of Brighton's Cast Iron Theatre short play nights where he was approached by Babylon director Gerry McCrudden, with whom he is delighted and privileged to be working.

Adam Kincaid - Padre

Adam is a visual artist, set designer and musician. This is his second appearance at the New Venture Theatre and he is delighted to be working with director Gerry McCrudden for the first time.



Red Gray - Alicia (Mother)

This is Red's 5th appearance at NVT. Highlights since last appearing here in Nov 2014 have included an award winning comedy short 'Not my Wife', a run of 'The Ealing Comedy' (both by Button Pressed Productions) and an ongoing tour of 'BOUFFE' an operetta set in 1850's Paris (RedBlonde productions). In addition she has continued to perform with Jazz Orchestra Studio9 including at last summer's 'Love Supreme'. Red also runs her own part-time Theatre Arts School and Vocal Teaching Practice.

Philip Davies - Mr Cave & Officer

Philip trained as a singer and actor at The Royal Academy of Music. Credits include: Various roles at RAM; White Horse Theatre Company (German Tour); Komedia (Café Prague & Screamers Comedy Club). He now performs regularly with The Actually Gay Men's Chorus, most recently as The Captain of HMS Pinafore (Brighton Dome). This is Philip's debut with NVT.



Simon Messingham - Frederick (Father)

Simon is an actor and writer. He played 'Desmond' in 'The Winslow Boy' and 'John Hall' in 'The Herbal Bed'. 'How many Miles To Babylon' will be his third role at the NVT.



Fintan Shevlin - Jerry

Fintan trained in Acting at LIPA. Recent credits include: 'Hedwig' in Hedwig and the Angry Inch, 'Dickie' in The Winslow boy, 'Greg' in 'Reasons To Be Pretty', 'Davey' in 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore' and 'John' in Hard Chair Stories (Rose Theatre London). TV & commercials include: John Lewis 150 years, Webuyanycar.com, Banks of the Foyle Irish tourist board promo, a new BBC comedy pilot, and NBC movie 24 ident. Films include: The making of beach, Coldcall, The Shadow of Israphel, and Angel on the ceiling a new Brighton feature.

Robert Purchase - Blind Fiddler & Wounded Man

Bertie returned to acting after more than a decade, in New Venture's Christmas show, 'A Christmas Carol', playing Scrooge's cheerful nephew Fred. He was on the stage again in February as part of new troupe Red Hat Productions performing in a night of newly written 10 minute plays at The Otherplace in Brighton. He will also be appearing in 'Accidental Death of An Anarchist' here in June.

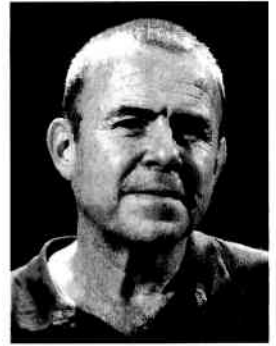


Jeremy Crow - Major Glendining

Jeremy is appearing for the third time at the NVT, having been seen last year as David in Benefactors, and in a number of guises in A Christmas Carol. He also appeared recently with the Southwick Players as Theseus in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Jeremy will also be playing a number of roles in Caryl Churchill's 'Love and Information' here in July.

Culann Smyth – Sgt. O’Keefe

Culann has been in two previous productions with The New Venture Theatre, playing George in ‘Kvetch’ and the Telephone Repair Man in ‘The Rise and Fall of Little Voice’, both in 2012. He is thoroughly enjoying working at NVT again and will be appearing in ‘Accidental Death of an Anarchist’ in June.



Matthew Mulvay – Bennett

This is Matthew’s second production for NVT, since playing the prince in ‘The Snow Queen’. He has enjoyed every second working with the outstanding talent that has brought this fantastic production together.

James Macauley – Orderly

James’ most recent NVT performances were in ‘The Miser’ and ‘The’ Arsonists’. He is proud to be working with such an excellent cast & crew.’ James will also be appearing in Pop Heart Productions ‘Am I F*%kable?’ in this year’s Fringe Festival.



Mark Green - French Barman

Acteur, directeur, createur du decor de theatre et de costumes, Marc a tout fait a NVT. Il a ete vu la derniere fois dans le role de Poseidon dans ‘Women of Troy’. Il a apprecié de travailler avec Gerry et tout le monde sur ‘Babylon’

Gerry McCrudden - Director

Gerry has directed a number of plays at the NVT including; ‘Hay Fever’, ‘The Winslow Boy’, ‘Biloxi Blues’, ‘Dancing at Lughnasa’ and ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’. He has also directed and appeared in various productions in Brighton and other exotic places overseas.



COMING NEXT

FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

BROKEN GLASS

BY ARTHUR MILLER

directed by Jerry Lyne

12 - 21 MAY 2016

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

New Venture Theatre presents a Brighton Premiere of this moving Olivier Award-winning drama. Sylvia Gellburg is stricken by a mysterious paralysis for which her doctor can find no cause. He realises she is obsessed by the news from Germany. It's 1938. The Kristallnacht. However, it's what he learns of her relationship with her husband that crystallises the two seemingly unrelated situations.

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Many thanks to:

Whitlock and Heaps and The Temple Bar who are sponsoring this show, The Choir of Brighton College Chapel, Rosie Bergonzi, Ben Tindal, The Imperial War Museum, Caroline De Wolff, Kerensa D'Arcy Barr, The Lyric Theatre - Belfast, Harveys of Hove, Eamon Lynch, Ashley March - British Postal Museum and Archive, Santina Campbell, Victoria Sheridan, Philip Orriss, Jane Clarke, The New Venture Angels and as always, our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar and Box Office teams.

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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



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