

DOUBLE  
BILL

# HUGHIE

by Eugene O'Neill

directed by Dan J Walker

THE  
**REAL  
INSPECTOR  
HOUND**

by Tom Stoppard

directed by Mary Allen

**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

**PERFORMANCES:**

Friday 21 April to Saturday 29 April 7.45 pm

Sunday matinee 23 April 2.30 pm

No show Sunday evening or Monday

**BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118**

**ONLINE BOOKING: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)**

Registered Charity No. 263637

**50p**

## HUGHIE

In Eugene O'Neill's *Hughie*, New York is on the cusp of the Great Depression; in its seedy underbelly, small-time gambler Erie is crawling back into his hotel after nights of drunken mourning. The Night Clerk would rather be somewhere (and someone) else, but to his horror he finds that Erie has many tales to tell. This is a completely honest exploration of a friendship between two people, one of whom is an inveterate liar, and the struggle to make new connections when we feel alone.

O'Neill himself was born in a New York hotel room in October 1888. The first American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature, he may be best known for 1946 drama *The Iceman Cometh*. O'Neill wrote *Hughie* as one of a series of short plays with the theme of eulogies, a collection titled "By Way of Orbit". For unknown reasons the writer chose to burn all manuscripts of these eight plays, bar one.

I found *Hughie* while searching for plays that could fit some very specific requirements; a two hander by a well-regarded playwright of the 19th or 20th century, with a script of substantial monologues. This turned out to be harder than expected. The ideal play would allow us to delve deeply into a line-by-line study.

Right from the start we knew that we needed actors prepared to go on this journey with us. In addition to being excellent actors Steve Mallen and Simon Messingham are also my collaborators; if you see directorial choices that you like in this play, then please thank them also.

By placing Erie, the Night Clerk and indeed *Hughie* himself under a microscope, we found what these characters were all looking for at 3am on a dark night in the city: connection to other people.

*Dan Walker*

### **Dan J. Walker (Director)**

This is Dan's fourth outing as a fledgling director at NVT, following *Ten Moon Minutes* (2013), *The Private Ear* (2015) and a performed reading of Terry Pratchett's *Mort* (2016). Also a lighting designer, he has been involved in many NVT productions since 2009. Watch out for his lighting in upcoming *Epicene* (May Fringe Festival, Bar Broadway) and *Proof* (June, NVT).



## Simon Messingham (Erie)

Simon Messingham has been a writer for over twenty years. His current novel *Sirens* was published on April 18th in Australia. 'Hughie' is Simon's fourth role at the NVT - the others being in 'The Winslow Boy', 'The Herbal Bed' and 'How Many Miles to Babylon?'



## Steven Mallen (Night Clerk)

After completing a foundation course at The Academy of Creative Training, Steve's first public role was as MacMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at The Nightingale Theatre. He has since performed in many plays at New Venture and was most recently seen as Frank in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* at Lewes Little Theatre.



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# THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

*The Real Inspector Hound* is one of Stoppard's funniest plays, a surreal comedy set in a theatre, where an Agatha Christie-style whodunnit is being performed and watched by two critics, Moon and Birdboot. As the show continues, both critics are gradually drawn onto the stage, with catastrophic consequences.

The play within a play is set in Muldoon Manor, a country house surrounded by 'desolate marshes' and 'treacherous swamps' and is a direct parody of Agatha Christie's 'closed' settings in which no one can enter or leave, so the characters know that the murderer must be one of them. It opens with a body lying on an otherwise empty stage.

Eventually Inspector Hound arrives on the scene, apparently searching for a madman, and the company finally notices the body. When they split up to search the house, Simon, a mysterious young man new in the neighbourhood enters the house, comes onstage, examines the body and is shot. His death presents another mystery: who killed Simon and why?

The play celebrates Stoppard's word-playing intellectuality, his self-conscious theatricality and his love of reworking pre-existing narratives. In this production we have pared the set down to the bones, to focus the attention on the characters, relentlessly driving the action through two successive (but very different) performances of the play within a play, while the critics soar to ever more pretentious heights in their parodies of criticism.

This production is brought to life by a fabulous cast and crew, to whom many thanks. They have been a pleasure to work with, and have come up with numerous good ideas about the interpretation of Stoppard's words. I hope he would be proud of what we've done.

Mary Allen

## **Mary Allen (Director)**

Mary started her professional life acting in rep, on tour and in the West End, in shows including *Godspell* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She went on to make a career running various arts organisations. For the last twelve years she has directed a musical each summer in Suffolk; this year's show will be *My Fair Lady*.



### **Des Potton (Moon)**

Des's recent credits include *Rattle of a Simple Man* and *Frankenstein*, both for Brighton Little Theatre, and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* at New Venture. "It's been a delight to work on this piece of surreal comedy, the absurdity of it all has kept us all in stitches throughout!"



### **Alistair Lock (Birdboot)**

Alistair's previous roles at the NVT include Barnabus in *The Herbal Bed*, Toomey in *Biloxi Blues*, Hal in *Kvetch* and McLeavy in *Loot*. Offstage, Alistair is perhaps best known for his work on Big Finish Productions' series of officially-licensed *Doctor Who* and *Blake's 7* audio plays. Film and TV work includes a terrified doctor in the *Wolfman*, and Dennis Nilsen in a TV drama documentary.



### **Zoe Edden (Mrs Drudge)**

Zoë last appeared at the New Venture in *Seven Jewish Children* and since then has played the lead in *The Gingerbread Lady* and Celia in *Calendar Girls* at Brighton Little Theatre. She previously played Cynthia in a production of *Hound* at the Barn Theatre, Southwick, and is delighted to be in the show again as Mrs Drudge.



### **Tom Cunningham (Simon Gascoyne)**

Having only moved to Brighton last October, this is Tom's first show at the New Venture. Previously, he has appeared in several productions in London – most recently as The Watcher in KDC's *There Has Possibly Been an Incident*. He last appeared in a Tom Stoppard play as Valentine in *Arcadia* and has very much enjoyed his time playing Simon in *Hound*.



### **Keziah Israel (Felicity Cunningham)**

Keziah's previous roles include Liz in *Don't Blame It On The Boots*, Pauline in *One Man, Two Guv'nors*, Sharpay in *High School Musical* and Maureen in *Rent*. She also enjoys being part of the makeup team, most recently for *The Actress*, *Wizard of Oz* and *Frankenstein*. This is Keziah's first show with the NVT. Keziah is performing next month in *The Effect* at Brighton Little Theatre. As always, Keziah's performance is dedicated to May Price.



### **Teresa Kuna (Cynthia Muldoon)**

Teresa is an actress from Vienna, Austria, where she studied performing arts. She lives in Brighton and has lately focussed more on developing her film acting skills. *The Real Inspector Hound* is Teresa's second production at the NVT; her first was *The Arsonists*.



### **Adam Kincaid (Inspector Hound)**

This is Adam's fifth appearance at the New Venture Theatre. He last appeared as the moon in *Blood Wedding*, and he is delighted to be playing Inspector Hound, working with such a fantastic cast and crew, and to be working with Mary Allen for the first time.



### **Culann Smyth (Major Magnus Muldoon)**

Culann's appeared in a number of NVT productions, and his roles include George in *Kvetch*, Telephone Repair Man in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, the Sergeant in *How Many Miles to Babylon?*, the Superintendent in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and Max in *The Homecoming*.



## **Matthew Jeffrey (Body)**

Matthew has never been dead before, but thought it sounded like good fun. He previously played Cutwell in NVT's production of *Mort* (2016), and is looking forward to the challenge of doing nothing, as opposed to anything at all.

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director (Hughie)	Daniel Walker
Director (The Real Inspector Hound)	Mary Allen
Directors' Mentor	Mark Wilson
Production Manager	Sophie Nunns
Stage Management	Leanne McKenzie
Assistant Stage Management	Mark Green
Set Design	Simon Glazier
Lighting Design & Rigging	Emma Sheil
Sound Design	Ian Black
Sound & Lighting Operation	Danny Brunton, Erica Fletcher & Debbie Waldon
Costume Design	Hannah Clark
Set Construction	Simon Glazier & George Walter
Publicity & Poster Design	Dan Walker
Photography	Strat Mastoris
Hair & Make Up	Keziah Israel
Props	Mark Green & Leanne McKenzie
Health & Safety	Ian Black
Costumes Supplied by	Gladrags
Programme Design	Tom Kitch

Dan would like to thank Anniqe Tate, BA Lawrence, Marie Ellis, Izzy Mackenzie and Rod Lewis, and Mary would like to thank Mark Wilson and Rod Lewis; we all would, as always, like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar staff and Box-Office teams.

The production runs approximately 2 hours 25 minutes including a 15 minute intermission.

### **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!

### **Contacting the NVT**

For ticket and performance enquiries only, call the Box Office: 01273 746118, or email: [boxoffice@newventure.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@newventure.org.uk)  
All other enquiries: 01273 808353

### **Become an NVT Sponsor**

Advertise your business to hundreds of local residents with NVT from only £250. For a range of print and web publicity options and opportunities for free show tickets, please contact: [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

### **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 rely on the generosity of the community, to provide donations that are essential to the upkeep of the building and the refurbishment of the main auditorium. For more information on how you can support NVT, please contact: [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

Many thanks to our current donors and our special appreciation to our major anonymous donor.

## **FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

Thursday 18 May to Saturday 27 May

### **Lulu**

by Frank Wedekind  
directed by Scott Roberts

Friday 16 June to Saturday 24 June

### **Proof**

by David Auburn  
directed by Claire Lewis

Friday 21 July 2017 to Saturday 29 July

### **Short Play Festival**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)

### **New Venture Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)**

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, from 19th April to 21st July (except half term).

The sessions are led by experienced actors, directors, writers and teachers. The first session is free so you can come and try it out before committing. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome.

For further information, see [www.newventure.org.uk/youththeatre](http://www.newventure.org.uk/youththeatre)  
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