



PROOF

BY DAVID AUBERN

DIRECTED BY CLARE LEWIS

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place, Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Friday 16 to Saturday 24 June 7.45 pm

Sunday matinee 18th June 2.30 pm

No show Sunday evening or Monday

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

ONLINE BOOKING: www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Registered Charity No. 268807

50p

An amateur production in association with Samuel French, Ltd.

Proof

Proof is a play by American playwright David Auburn. The play premiered off-Broadway in May 2000 and transferred to Broadway in October later that year, running until January 2003, a total of 917 performances. The play won multiple awards including the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play.

Proof was adapted for film in 2005, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, Hope Davis and Jake Gyllenhaal.

I love reading plays and every so often I find one that stays with me. *Proof* is a fine example. Why? I found the characters intriguing and was drawn into their world and their relationships with each other. I connected with the naturalistic dialogue and its poetic quality. The plot is intelligent, moving and funny. And the play opens up a wealth of themes to explore: trust, fear, family, mania/genius, love, validation, sacrifice – all perfect ingredients for a compelling piece of theatre to work on.

My desire is that when you leave the theatre, *Proof* will have touched you in some way.

Thank you for your support.

Claire Lewis (director)



(From left to right) Bridgett Ane Lawrence, Bill Griffiths, Marie Ellis and Robert Purchase.

PROOF

Set on the back porch of a house in Chicago.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Robert	Bill Griffiths
Catherine	Marie Ellis
Hal	Robert Purchase
Claire	Bridgett Ane Lawrence

Production Team

Director	Claire Lewis
Stage Management	Melissa Noble
Assistant Stage Management	Gabrielle Bowring, Gabriel Phelan, Sebastian Warrington & Bryony Weaver
Set Design	Michael Folkard
Lighting Design & Rigging	Dan Walker
Sound Design	Ian Black
Lighting Operation	Gabrielle Bowring & Sebastian Warrington
Sound Operation	Ian Black
Set Construction	Simon Glazier, Monika Schuettbacher & George Walter
Set Painting	Michael Folkard & Hannah Clark
Poster Design	Dan Walker
Publicity Photographs	Miles Davies
Publicity	Dan Walker
Props	Melissa Noble
Programme Design	Tom Kitch
Health & Safety	Ian Black

We would like to thank Brighton Little Theatre, Sussex Beacon, Judi Campbell, Jez Bowden, Sophie Dearlove, Adrien Rodes and Ulrike Schilling for their help and support, and as always express our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar and Box Office teams.

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



Robert (Bill Griffiths)

This is Bill's first play at NVT. Recently he has appeared in *Dracula* at Brighton Little Theatre, *Merry Wives of Windsor* at BLT and Lewes Castle Garden, *Jerusalem* at Southwick Players, *One Man Two Guvnors* at BLT and *Frankenstein* at BLT, BOAT and the Minack Theatre.

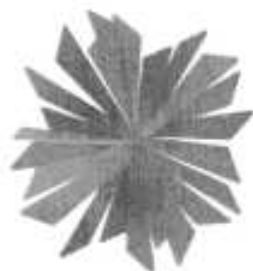
Bill's found everybody at the NVT to be very friendly, though he's still finding his way round the cavernous building. He hopes that all the cast and backstage team do justice to this brilliant script.

Catherine (Marie Ellis)

Marie began acting professionally at the age of 11, when she toured the U.S. for three seasons with the Nebraska Theatre Caravan. She spent her youth acting in community theatre productions and attended drama school at the University of Nebraska, later studying with Howard Fine in Los Angeles.

During a seven-year stint in Los Angeles, she appeared in TV shows, such as *Medium* with Patricia Arquette, and several independent films, including supporting roles in *The Land of Hope and Dreams* and *From Behind the Sunflower*, with the late Jeff Conaway. She is a black belt in Tae kwon do and did some stunt work while living in California.

Marie was last seen at the New Venture Theatre in 2011 as Karen in *Speed-the-Plow*. She is the Managing Editor of a medical news website and regularly performs spoken word poetry around Brighton.



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Hal (Robert Purchase)

Robert rediscovered acting in 2015, through the New Venture Theatre workshops. He studied drama at college and briefly attended Brighton's Academy of Creative Training. He's also a trained violinist.

Robert has had a busy two years at the New Venture Theatre. A series of smaller roles – Fred in *A Christmas Carol*, the Blind Fiddler in *How Many Miles to Babylon* and Inspector Pissani in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* – led to a major role as Ian in the October 2016 production *Holes*. Robert also appeared as Jack Anderson in *Dick Barton and the Tango of Terror*.

Besides the NVT, Robert appeared at The Basement venue in Brighton in a series of modern, short new plays. When not acting, Robert is a video game journalist by day for the website Eurogamer.



Claire (Bridgett Ane Lawrence)

Originally from Chicago, Bridgett Ane received her BFA in Acting from Ithaca College. Her Chicago credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Public*, *The Trial* and *Anne Frank in Right As Rain*.

Her New York credits include the Princess of France in *Loves Labours Lost*, Pope Joan in *Top Girls*, *In Search of a Goddess* and *Brimstone and Treacle*. BA's television appearances include *Law & Order: SVU*, *Sex and The City*, *The Sopranos*, guest artist in NBC's *Missing Persons* and a recurring role in *The Education of Max Bickford*.

Her UK credits include the feature film *Honeymooner* as well as writing, producing and performing her one woman show *An Evolution of Love* at the Marlborough Theatre. She is grateful to be back on stage at the NVT after recently playing the part of Ruth in *The Homecoming*.

Although yoga was originally her day job, it became her way of life; she graduated from the Yoga College of India in 2006 and has been running Yoga in the Lanes (yogainthelanes.com) for 8 years as well as leading yoga retreats and teaching yoga locally and internationally. BA dedicates her performance to Ruby and Lillis.



Claire Lewis (Director)

Born and bred in Brighton, Claire has been involved with theatre for upwards of 30 years directing, performing, producing and all areas of stage management.

As well as numerous youth productions, Claire has recently directed *That Face* by Polly Stenham, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh, *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, *The Boy Friend*

by Sandy Wilson (Brighton Fringe 2013), *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth, *Company* by Stephen Sondheim (Brighton Fringe 2014), *Far From the Madding Crowd* adapted by Mark Healy (winner of the Brighton & Hove Arts Awards Best Overall Production & Best Director 2014). For the NVT, Claire directed *Parlour Song* by Jez Butterworth.

Last year, Claire had the great privilege of directing *Frankenstein*, adapted by Nick Dear, for Brighton Little Theatre and subsequently 'touring' this production at Brighton Open Air Theatre and the world famous Minack Theatre in Cornwall, where it achieved runner-up status for the coveted Minack Trophy.

Claire runs Top Act Drama Academy (TaDA!) and thrives on working with young people aged from 4 to 18 to develop their skills and love of theatre.

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Playing Catherine can, at times, feel daunting. Here is a young woman who is not only dealing with the death of her beloved father, but also with the task of proving to others and herself that she is talented in her own right. Stepping into her shoes has felt somewhat familiar to me; like Catherine, my father was my hero. I come from the Midwest, and my years spent as a struggling actor in Los Angeles afforded me the opportunity to feel inadequate. What is most telling about Catherine's character is her drive in the wake of adversity. The dynamic combination of her strength and vulnerability is what makes playing Catherine such a joy.

Marie Ellis



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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. 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

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

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

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION

Friday 21st to Saturday 29th July

Short Play Festival

Six new writers were selected to each produce a 15-20 minute long play. **Sarah Charsley, Sam Chittenden, Michelle Donkin, Amy Onyett, Nick Richards and Charly Sommers** were all guided through an editorial process by two experienced and professional writers and when their plays had reached the required standard they were passed on to six selected first time directors.

The directors – **Jeremy Crow, Erica Fletcher, Sabrina Giles, James Macauley, Tom Slater-Hyndman and Emmie Spencer** – were also offered support from experienced colleagues as they worked with actors to bring these plays to the stage. All the writers, directors and their mentors have strong connections with the New Venture Theatre.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, until 21st July, before returning in the autumn.

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

For enquiries, please contact: youththeatre@newventure.org.uk