



1984

BY GEORGE ORWELL
DIRECTED BY NICK RICHARDS
ADAPTED BY MATTHEW DUNSTER

NVT
NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE


Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 11th - Sat 19th May 2018 - 7.45 pm
Sun Matinee - 2.30pm
(No Sun eve)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

An Amateur Production by arrangement with Knight Hall Agency Ltd

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£1

In George Orwell's 1984, people live under ignorant oppression in Oceania a country caught in a perpetual war. This is a place where the Party scrutinizes human actions with ever-watchful eye of Big Brother. Defying a ban on individuality, Winston Smith a Records clerk at the Department of the Ministry of Truth, his job is to rewrite historical documents according to the Party's demands, dares to express his thoughts in a diary. His hatred of Big Brother, the Party and the Thought Police manifests itself when he decides to risk everything in a search for the real truth and pursue a heart thumping clandestine relationship with the mysterious girl with the dark hair, Julia. These criminal deeds bring Winston to the attention of an Inner Party member named O'Brien who may be involved with an underground resistance group called the Brotherhood. In a world where cheap entertainment keeps the proles ignorant but content. Where the government is always watching, can Winston possibly hold onto what he feels inside? Or will he renounce everything, accept the Party's reality and learn to love Big Brother? It seems that ever since its publication in 1949 the novel Nineteen Eighty Four has always been relevant depicting the times whatever the era up to and past the actual year 1984.

I first read the book in 1994 while working on a construction site in Stevenage (a new town). We were building a pharmaceutical research centre, a monolith of a structure that could have easily doubled as the Ministry of Truth. The work was monotonous and we all had to wear blue boiler suits. I spent lunch breaks reading 1984 and everything I read resonated with me and my surroundings. I identified with Winston Smith and found myself being politicized in a very different way. This was the year the lottery came into being in this country and listening to my fellow workers share their misguided fantasies of what they would do with their winnings 'when they won.' was astounding. The brain washing of the 'It could be you' advertising campaign was predicted here in a book written in 1948! When the 2003 Gulf War took place there were echoes of the book again with the wars against Eastasia and Euroasia and so it went on and on and on. And right up to today there is always a feeling we are living out the world constructed by Orwell.

The story and its themes have always stayed with me and now I have been given a wonderful opportunity to bring it to life on the stage.

I hope you not only enjoy but also take something away from our interpretation of Matthew Dunster's arresting adaptation of this hugely-influential mid-twentieth century political novel. It not only delves into human condition but also the fragility of life itself through social, global, political and economic comments that

capture the Zeitgeist that make the play satisfying and unnerving. We follow some fascinating characters as they are faced with a series of morally complex dilemmas. We rediscover a seminal dystopian fantasy that indicates just how ubiquitous Orwell's predictions have become, from the Lottery to CCTV cameras and the denuded lexicon of text-messaging (Newspeak under a different name). There is cold realization of how dangerous it is to be a citizen in a totalitarian state. The real life nightmares of our contemporary world. This as the 21st-century hurtles headfirst into some sort of catastrophe which we can't see, yet here it is right in front of us on stage ostensibly from a very British stand-point.

'Modern authority is based on a system of lies that are accepted by the general population. Any monitoring system that is invisible, pervasive, automatic and permanent gives those in power the means to create a modern surveillance state. You don't need to watch everyone if everyone believes they're being watched. True freedom is tolerant. It gives people the right to live and think in new ways. Almost every important choice in our lives is really just an expression of hope.'
John Twelve Hawks

1984 has never been more relevant and is compelling as it is terrifying. Introducing the watchwords for life without freedom:

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU.



Nicholas Richards, Director

Scott Roberts – Winston

Scott trained at Arts Ed, London. Previous acting credits at the NVT include; Haemon in *Antigone*, Lenny in *The Homecoming* and Gus in *Holes*, as well as directing last year's Fringe production of *Lulu*. Scott's very proud to be given a chance to play Winston - in a story with so many themes that are just as prevalent now as they were seventy years ago.



Charlotte Anne Atkinson – Julia

This is Charlotte's first performance at New Venture Theatre and she has thoroughly enjoyed working with such a talented cast and crew. An avid member of Brighton Little Theatre for ten years Charlotte's recent past performances include *Present Laughter*, *Earthquakes in London*, *Hayfever*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Her Theatre credits include performances in Australia and Cambodia.



Jim Calderwood – O'Brien

First seen at NVT in 1995 as Norman in *Playing Sinatra*. Last seen Brighton Festival 2016 coercing audiences to be racists in the immersive undercover police drama *Operation Black Antler* for Blast Theory / Hydrocracker Theatre. Jim is also lead singer with Your Future Selves, check out their recordings at <https://yourfutureselves.bandcamp.com>



Bryony Weaver – Old Prole

Bryony's acting roles have included Julia Simmons (*A Murder is Announced*), Viola (*Twelfth Night*) and Hester (*Equus*, also co-director, for ENR Productions). Professionally, she has worked as a dresser for ENO and taught Drama at Lansdowne College in London. For NVT, she has been SM/ crew for *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Proof*, *Antigone*, *Anna Christie*, *True West* and later this season *Jumpy*. 1984 is Bryony's NVT acting debut.



James Macauley – Syme

James is an occasional performer and director of things. A couple of recent credits include: *The Swing* by Charly Sommers (Director @ NVT) and *The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter (Director @ the Rialto). He'll also be showing his face in a music video directed by Deborah Espect very soon. Cheers.



Jonathan Howlett – Parsons

Jonathan graduated from East 15 in 2008 with an MA. He has performed in London, Brighton and Edinburgh and featured in numerous Independent and Feature Films. Commercial work includes lead roles for Nissan and Channel 4. Credits including Martin in Dennis Potter's *Brimstone and Treacle*, Eddie Hughes in *Alice Diamond and the Forty Thieves* and Robert in *Last Orders*, Gary in *The Hapless Lovelife of Jesus Grey* (Winner of Best International Film at The L.A Comedy Festival) and Den in the Feature Film *The Last Superheroes*. This is Jonathan's first appearance with NVT.

Andy Grant – Charrington

A regular attender of the NVT Monday Acting Class and has also recently appeared in two performances of short play *Full Beam*.



Cai Jones – Martin / TPA

Cai has not performed with the New Venture Theatre before but has relished the challenges and is very grateful to the cast and production team for making him so welcome. He has performed most recently with the Manor Theatre company in Horsham and hopes to continue performing in future productions.

Sam de Costobadie – Bumstead / Barman

This is Sam's first theatrical performance; he has been an NVT member since 2017 and is a regular attendee at the theatre's Monday night acting classes at which he first met director Nick Richards. Sam is studying Games Design and Art at Brighton Met College; when not studying or rehearsing Sam enjoys reading, walking his cocker spaniel Toby and cinema.



Rebecca Kerr – Mother / SYW

Rebecca is excited to work with New Venture Theatre for the first time on *1984*, which is one of her favourite books. Previously, she was a member of the National Youth Theatre and has directed 2 plays locally.

Beatrice Cupido – Prostitute

Beatrice has trained in contemporary dance, and has experience as a backing vocals singer. She works as a model and artist model in the UK. For a year she has been a regular to NVT's Acting Classes and operated the lights for *Bad Jews*. She performed different duologues as part of Steven O'Shea's Working Toward Performance classes. Beatrice participated in several short theatre acting courses in Italy and most recently attended the two week workshop at ACT.



Other roles will be played by members of the cast.

Nicholas Richards – Director

Nicholas's film, television and theatre credits include 'Uncle Arron' *Red Dwarf*, 'Pablo' *The Power of Three*, 'Undercover' *The One Show* for the BBC, 'Robbie' *The Bullet for Two Bins* 'Compare' *Vintage Hitchcock* with the Conn Artises Theatre. He has toured Bite Size with *The White Room Theatre*. He recently starred as 'Ned Royston' in the short film *Kartoombe*, which he also co-wrote and directed. Nicholas has appeared in various NVT productions recently playing 'Inspector Bertozzo' in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and Dave in *The Swing*. Last season at NVT he directed *Holes* by Tom Basden.

Credits

Goldstein:	Paul Tripp
Telescreen announcers:	Paul Tripp and Sophie Dearlove
Fitness Instructor:	Lisa Shabbas
Director:	Nicholas Richards
Production Manager:	Ian Black
Stage Manager:	Gabrielle Bowring
Telescreen Videos:	Alex Gooch
Set Design:	Nicholas Richards
Set Construction & Painting:	Simon Glazier, George Walter, Delphine du Barry, Gabrielle Bowring and Ian Black
Lighting Design & Rigging:	Strat Mastoris
Lighting Operators:	Louise Sidgwick and Mark Parker
Sound and Visuals Design:	Jezz Bowden
Sound Operator:	Gordon Foggo
Costume:	Maise Wilkins
Prop Design:	Nathan Ritson
Poster Design:	Dan Kaufmann
Photographer:	Nicholas Richards and Strat Mastoris
Publicity:	Emmie Spencer and Ian Black
Programme:	Ulrike Schilling

Thanks to Julian Peach for the loan of a strobe light.

As always our thanks to the Box Office and Front of House teams and to all the volunteers and the committee who run this fantastic members theatre!

Coming soon

1st - 2nd June

Elephant's Graveyard

by George Brant
(rehearsed reading)

15th - 23rd June

Jumpy

by April de Angelis

20th - 28th July

Lovesong

by Abi Morgan

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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. All other enquiries 01273 806353

NVYT - 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. Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com.

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.*



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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 need your financial support, either to add to our regular sponsors (annual package £250) or you can be a Cherub for a fiver, an Angel for £100, Archangel for £500 or an Archangel Gabriel for £1,000. Please look out for the leaflets in the Theatre. As an Angel you will be listed on the Role of Honour in the Theatre.

If you are interested, please email fundraising@newventure.org.uk for more information.