



# Be My Baby

by **Amanda Whittington**

directed by **Jerry Lyne**



**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**


Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 30th Nov - Sat 8th Dec 2018 - 7.45 pm  
Matinees Sun 2nd & Sat 8th Dec - 2.30pm  
(No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: [www.newventure.org.uk/tickets](http://www.newventure.org.uk/tickets)

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt\_brighton

An Amateur Production in association with Nick Hern Books

THEATRE ◀

NEW WRITING ◀

CLASSES ◀

LICENSED BAR ◀

# BE MY BABY

It's 1964 but the sixties aren't swinging for Mary Adams, 19-years-old, unmarried and pregnant. She is sent by her mother, intent on keeping up appearances, to St. Saviours, a Church of England mother-and-baby home in the North of England run by a formidable Matron.

Mary is set to work in the laundry and shares a dormitory with the tough-talking Queenie. Mary, along with other girls in the home, has to cope with the dawning realisation that she may well have to give up the baby for adoption, so she plots her escape.

The girls bond over their love of girl-groups of the times, such as the Ronettes and the Chiffons, and the music entertains, consoles and inspires them as they try to dance away their cares as the birth of their babies' approaches. When Mary finally gives birth to her baby she puts up a desperate fight to keep her child.

Despite all this, Mary and the other girl's youthful effervescence shines through so we share their laughter and tears as they dance their troubles away in this emotional and bitter sweet comedy.

The Playwright, Amanda Whittington, was exploring the plight of adopted children and wanted to write a play about them. But as she delved deeper, she felt herself needing to find out how it was for those teenage girls, coerced into giving up their child by social pressures, not really understanding the consequences of adoption and the emotional cost of giving up a child forever.

Uli and I are delighted to have such a talented cast, crew and production team who have the creativity and dedication to make this show a success.

We are sure you will catch the infectiousness of the girls' laughter and tears during the short time we share with them.

**Jerry Lyne - Director**

**Uli Schilling - Choreographer and Production Manager**

## **CAST**

<b>Mary Adams :</b>	<b>Lizzie Kroon</b>
<b>Mrs Adams :</b>	<b>Diane Robinson</b>
<b>Queenie :</b>	<b>Rosie Blackadder</b>
<b>Norma :</b>	<b>Ella Verity</b>
<b>Dolores :</b>	<b>Georgia Cudby</b>
<b>Matron :</b>	<b>Katie Brownings</b>

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

<b>Director :</b>	<b>Jerry Lyne</b>
<b>Production Manager :</b>	<b>Ulrike Schilling</b>
<b>Production Assistant :</b>	<b>Anthony Squire</b>
<b>Production Assistant :</b>	<b>Max Videaux</b>
<b>Stage Manager :</b>	<b>Trish Bayliss, Carol Croft</b>
<b>Assistant Stage Manager :</b>	<b>Gabrielle Bowring, Bryony Weaver,</b>
<b>Costume Design :</b>	<b>Richard Blennerhassett</b>
<b>Makeup and Hair :</b>	<b>Richard Blennerhassett</b>
<b>Set Design :</b>	<b>Adam Kincaid</b>
<b>Set Construction :</b>	<b>Simon Glazier, George Walter, Monika Schuettbacher, Carol Croft</b>
<b>Lighting Design :</b>	<b>Strat Mistoris</b>
<b>Lighting Rigging :</b>	<b>Strat Mistoris, Carol Croft</b>
<b>Lighting Operation :</b>	<b>Alex Epps, Tamsin Mistoris</b>
<b>Sound Design :</b>	<b>Ian Black</b>
<b>Sound Operation :</b>	<b>Ian Black, Rowan Bridget</b>
<b>Props :</b>	<b>Gabrielle Bowring, Bryony Weaver, Carol Croft</b>
<b>Poster &amp; Programme :</b>	<b>Tamsin Mistoris</b>
<b>Photography :</b>	<b>Strat Mistoris</b>
<b>Publicity &amp; Marketing :</b>	<b>Max Videaux, Ulrike Schilling, Greta Galidkaite</b>
<b>Health &amp; Safety :</b>	<b>Ian Black</b>

**Many thanks :**

To Ian for his support in transport, to Gladrags for costumes and as always to Scott Roberts and the Front of House Team, Chris Stubbs and Box Office Team without whom no show would ever go on.

### **Elizabeth Kroon (*Mary Adams*)**

Elizabeth is an actor, musician, and writer. In 2014, she got involved with the Royal & Derngate in Northampton, taking masterclasses, assisting with shows, performances, and festivals there, and treading their hallowed boards with the Actors Company ensemble – last year in 'Great Expectations' and 'Grapes of Wrath'. Since moving back to her southern roots, Elizabeth performed stand up for the full run of Edinburgh Fringe 2018, and has enjoyed rehearsing with this cast for her first NVT performance. Elizabeth hopes to obtain professional representation and training, with which to develop and pursue an acting career.



### **Diane Robinson (*Mrs Adams*)**

Diane has taught, performed and directed with a number of schools, youth groups and community companies, including some professional work, since graduating in Drama from University of London Goldsmiths' College.

Most recent acting roles include 'Calendar Girls' Wick Theatre Company, Ana in 'The Clean House', Mrs Elton in 'The Deep Blue Sea' and June in 'Impact Statement' for NVT and Benjamin in 'Animal Farm' for Brighton Little Theatre.

Diane has directed over 30 productions, both with young people, many of them with special needs, and also with adults. She directed Award winning 'Daisy Pulls it off' June 2015 and 'Brief Encounter,' October 2017 for WTC. She also directed 'Jumpy' for NVT in June of this year.



### **Rosie Blackadder (*Queenie*)**

Rosie graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2014, with a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. This is her first production at NVT, having recently returned to the UK from performing a comedy season at the Adelaide Fringe in Australia. Alongside performing, she has a keen interest in writing and directing. Previous roles include Jade in 'Motortown' (Simon Stephens), Doll in 'Playhouse Creatures' (April de Angelis) and directing credits include 'Abigail's Party' (Mike Leigh).



### **Ella Verity (*Norma*)**

This is Ella's second time being involved with an NVT production and she's excited to be back. In June she played Lyndsey in 'Jumpy' which was well received in the Fringe review. Ella is currently attending the University of Sussex doing a foundation year in Arts and Humanities and hopes to begin her English degree next year.



### **Georgia Cudby (*Dolores*)**

This is Georgia's first production with New Venture Theatre and she is delighted to be a part of it. She is thrilled to play 'Dolores' as her oblivious, jovial manner yet touching past is totally endearing. Georgia has worked with the National Youth Theatre and Nation Youth Music Theatre and is currently training at Advanced Academy in Brighton. Recent productions include playing King Lear in 'King Lear' at the Old Market with Sussex Downs College and touring 'A Village Romeo and Juliet' with the New Sussex Opera. She hopes to gain a place at drama school this year.



### **Katie Brownings (*Matron*)**

Over the years Katie has enjoyed contributing to all areas of theatre life both at the NVT and at The Wick. She has been involved in hundreds of productions in some capacity, amongst which, some of the most challenging include, 'Brimstone and Treacle', 'Children of a Lesser God', 'Educating Rita', 'Masterpieces', (the first ever studio production at NVT) 'Road', 'Shirley Valentine', 'Accrington Pals', 'Blue Remembered Hills', 'Misery', 'Death and The Maiden' and 'Calendar Girls'. Katie first joined NVT when she was 18 years old and after a substantial break is delighted to be playing here once again.



## Jerry Lyne (Director)

Jerry has acted in and directed for various Theatre Companies, winning awards for productions and acting roles.

Roles include: Tolen, 'The Knack', Higgins 'Pygmalion', Sebastian 'Twelfth Night', Iago 'Othello', Truffaldino 'A Servant for Two Masters', Willy Loman 'Death of a Salesman', Eddie Waters 'The Comedians', Kent 'Lear', Mel 'Prisoner of 2nd Avenue', Polonius 'Hamlet', Frick 'The Last Yankee', Solomon 'The Price'.

Among plays directed: Ayckbourn's 'The Norman Conquests', Shepard's 'Fool for Love', Mcllwraith's 'The Anniversary', Munro's 'Bold Girls' & 'Iron', Mamet's 'Boston Marriage', Macdonald's 'Not about Heroes', Miller's 'Broken Glass' & O'Neill's 'Anna Christie'.



## COMING NEXT

18 - 26 JANUARY 2019

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

**LONE STAR / LAUNDRY AND  
BOURBON BY JAMES MCLURE**

directed by Mark Lester

A baking Texan afternoon sees friends Elizabeth and Hattie sharing Bourbon and folding laundry. They chat and reminisce while waiting for the replacement Air Conditioning. Elizabeth's wayward husband Roy has been missing for days and Elizabeth is harbouring a secret.

That evening, nostalgic Vietnam veteran Roy is knocking back Lone Star beer at Angel's Bar with younger brother Ray. While Ray indulges his older brother, neither is aware of what the night holds for them and Roy's prized 1959 Pink Thunderbird convertible.

## COMING SOON

15 - 23 FEBRUARY 2019

(STUDIO THEATRE)

**THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE**

BY JULIA CHO

directed by Sam Chittenden

George is a brilliant linguist, consumed with preserving and documenting dying languages. But at home, he cannot find the words that will save his disintegrating marriage. His archival assistant is mute with adoration for him; and his newest subjects, an elderly couple who are the last speakers of an obscure language, refuse to utter a word to one another. A magically inventive comedy, *The Language Archive* traverses the gulf between what's said and what isn't. Whimsical, melancholic, yet life affirming, it deploys the universal languages of Esperanto and of love.



# THE PEBBLE TRUST

~Est. 1994~

# silverado

contemporary jewellery

31 Bond Street, Brighton



## MAIL BOXES ETC.®

- Print & Copy
- Office Services
- Stationery
- Packing & Shipping
- Packing Materials
- Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 [www.mbebrighton.co.uk](http://www.mbebrighton.co.uk)

Email: [print@mbefbrighton.co.uk](mailto:print@mbefbrighton.co.uk) [www.mbebrighton.co.uk](http://www.mbebrighton.co.uk) 91 Western Road, Brighton. BN1 2NW



## Bramble Cottage Retirement Home

01273 565821

Fully Compliant with CQC Standards.  
Established Luxury, Retirement Home  
Contact Diana Shaw For Further Details

Long or Short Stay & Convalescence Breaks. Large Individual Rooms  
All With Colour TV (Satellite TV Available). Lift Servicing All Floors.  
Attractive Gardens & Balconies. First Class Food Prepared By 'In House'  
Chef. Optional Social Programme. Visiting Hairdresser And Chiropodist.  
24 Hour Care By Fully Trained Staff. Family Owned.  
Highest Standards of Care, Support & Service



18 Carden Avenue  
Patcham, Brighton  
East Sussex BN1 8NA  
Tel: (01273) 565821  
[www.bramblecottagebrighton.com](http://www.bramblecottagebrighton.com)

## 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](http://www.newventure.org.uk).  
All other enquiries 01273 808353

## NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVYT welcomes all young people (12 - 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](mailto: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](mailto:gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com).

## Membership

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter.  
Student/Unwaged - £10 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 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](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk) for more information.*