

THE CLEAN HOUSE

BY SARAH RUHL

DIRECTED BY SAM CHITTENDEN



**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**


Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 4th - Sat 12th November 2016 - 7.45 pm
Sun Matinee - 2.30pm
(No Sun/Mon eves)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

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50p



THE CLEAN HOUSE

'if you do not clean, how do you know if you've made any progress in life?'

Sarah Ruhl is an award-winning American playwright born in 1974. Described as 'a sublime playwright' and 'deliriously imaginative and fearless in her choice of subject matter'. She is perhaps best known for *In the Next Room* (or *The Vibrator Play*) which concerns the 19th century practice of doctors using the vibrator to bring women to orgasm as a treatment for "hysteria." This will give you an idea of her sensibilities!

The Clean House premiered in 2004 at Yale Repertory Theatre, and was produced Off-Broadway in 2006. It was a finalist in the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, 2005 and won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize 2003-2004 (for the best English-language play written by a woman). The 2008 touring UK production featured Patricia Hodge and Eleanor Bron.

Paula Vogel says that "reading a Sarah Ruhl play is a little akin to falling in love". We agree! Variety called *The Clean House* "A wondrously mad and moving work". From the first time I picked up the script I was blown away by how Sarah Ruhl deals with difficult and dark issues in a beautiful and often hilarious way, and by the strong women in her story.

Dreamlike and poetic, yet acerbic and very funny, *The Clean House* blends comedy, surgery, apple picking and infidelity in a cocktail of magic realism. It is a beautiful play about love, death, laughter and the messiness of life. We have moved the setting from a 'metaphysical Connecticut' to somewhere a little closer to home.

Some of the more surreal elements of the play have been creatively challenging, but its been great fun to weave in special effects, video and choreography to create a multi-textured piece of theatre.

Rather than trying to perfectly mimic reality, we have exposed the make-believe at play. I think that this is one of the great joys of theatre - we know its pretend, but for a couple of hours we can pretend that we don't. At the same time, the characters, feelings and reactions are painfully real - perhaps more so because of the illusion around them.

It has been an absolute delight to work with a brilliant cast and crew to bring this magical play to life. We hope you'll love it as much as we do.

Seria bem divertido !!!

Sam Chittenden

CAST

Lane :	Kerri Frost
Victoria :	Jozede Scrivener
Matilde :	Shaila Alvarez
Charles / Father :	Jeremy Crow
Ana / Mother :	Diane Robinson

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Sam Chittenden
Production Manager :	Tamsin Mastoris
Musical Director :	Steve Hoar
Choreography :	Margarita Steinberg
Stage Manager :	Matt Bosica
ASMs :	Jessica Rook, Kasha Goodenough
Set Design :	Adam Kincaid
Set Construction :	Adam Kincaid, Simon Glazier, George Walter, Tomasz Baraniecki
Lighting Design :	Strat Mastoris
Sound Design :	Tim Metcalfe
Costume Design :	Mark Green, Freia Metzger, Jackie Jones
Video FX :	Rima Stankute
Lighting Rigging :	Strat Mastoris, Steve Coulson
Lighting Operator :	Steve Coulson, Alex Epps
Sound Operator :	Tim Metcalfe, Tamsin Mastoris
Props :	Romaine Mitchell, Sam Chittenden
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Mastoris
Photography :	Strat Mastoris and Tamsin Mastoris
Publicity & Marketing :	Dan Walker
Health & Safety :	Ian Black

Music Credits

Medicina meum quod est amoris by Steve Hoar, Bachianas brasileiras and other piano works by Hector Villa-Lobos (arranged and played by Steve Hoar), Rio Antigo; Vaidoso (Vain); Pedacinhos Do Céu (Little pieces of heaven) - all by Ademilde Fonseca, Uno - Quinteto Argentino de Cuerdas, Aria from the Bachianas brasileiras No. 5 by Heitor Villa-Lobos, sung by Anna Moffo with the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski



Kerri Frost - Lane

Kerri began acting at the age of 13 as a member of Croydon Youth Theatre where she spent over 10 years and acted in over 30 productions including taking the title roles in 'Anna Christie', 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' and 'Educating Rita'. She worked at sea for a decade but has now returned to her acting roots. Her most recent production was a community play at Printer's Playhouse in Eastbourne where she also took an acting course. 'The Clean House' is Kerri's first play at NVT but she hopes it will not be the last!

Jozede Scrivener - Victoria

Jozede trained at Rose Bruford College. She has workshopped with Augusto Boal and Simon McBurney, and cites Brecht as a major influence in her writing for the theatre. She has an MA from Sussex University in Dramatic Writing, and her work has been staged in the Brighton Festival. She has recently performed at the Marlborough Theatre's 'Hidden Cabarets', writing and singing darkly funny songs with her band, Saucebox. This is her first role for the NVT.



Shaila Alvarez - Matilde

This is Shaila's third appearance at NVT. Her first role was as Helen of Troy in 'Women of Troy' March 2016 and Constance at the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. She has also performed at the Fringe Festival as Clara Schumann, The Television Terrorist, Kate in 'The Taming of the Shrew', among many others. Recently she has appeared in a short film by Ridder Levitt playing the role of inspiration. Shaila has studied and workshopped different acting techniques such as Meisner technique with Scott Williams, Alexander technique with Korina Biggs and acting technique, voice work and improvisation at PPH. Shaila wants to dedicate this performance to her father.

Jeremy Crow - Charles / Father

This is Jeremy's fifth appearance at the NVT. He first played David in 'Benefactors' in the 2014/15 season, and last season appeared as Marley's ghost and in a number of other guises in 'A Christmas Carol', as Major Glendinning in 'How Many Miles to Babylon', and as a member of the ensemble for 'Love and Information'. He also performed with the Southwick Players as Theseus in last summer's production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.



Diane Robinson - Ana / Mother

This is Diane's 1st NVT appearance, however she has been Acting and Directing since studying Drama at University of London Goldsmiths College. Diane's Educational career has enabled her to direct over 25 shows with a range of Young people.

Favourite Acting roles include Maggie- 'Outside Edge,' Mrs Bennett- 'Pride and Prejudice,' Lady Pembroke- 'Madness of King George,' Agnes- 'Dancing at Lughnasa,' Jan - 'Bedroom Farce,' Madge- 'The Dresser,' Betsy Trotwood- 'David Copperfield,' and Marie- 'Calendar Girls.'

Diane recently directed 'Daisy Pulls it off' for the WTC.

Sam Chittenden - Director

Sam's last production at NVT was 'The Arsonists' in 2015. She also directed 'Blackbird' at The Rialto in this year's fringe, wrote and directed for Cast Iron Theatre, and staged her one-woman show Underworlds as part of the first Hove Grown festival. She is the founder of creative training company Different Development, and runs a variety of personal development workshops, including The Mastery of Self Expression. www.differentdevelopment.com



Medicina meum quod est amoris
by Steve Hoar

My medicine, that is love
My medicine, that is love
Together forever
Love is life
Your everlasting soulmate

Hail Queen, my sweet love
My angel, of silver *
Fellow traveller, fellow reveller
Companion in play, Soulmates!

My medicine, that is love
My medicine, that is love
Together forever
Love is life
Your everlasting soulmate

* from Argentina!



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COMING NEXT

DICK BARTON AND THE TANGO OF TERROR

BY PHIL WILMOTT

directed by Gerry McCrudden

1 - 10 DECEMBER 2016

(STUDIO THEATRE)

Dick Barton, hero of the BBC's acclaimed 1940s wireless serial, is brought back to life. This joyful Christmas production will be a bit of a romp. A ruthless Latin lothario has set his sights on the women of London. No gal is safe from his sultry seductions. Thank heavens that square-jawed British hero, Barton, is on hand to save the dignity and diamonds of our dowagers and debutantes – but will the fancy footwork of this foreign fiend defeat Dick and his pals Jock and Snowy?

Many thanks to:

A very special thank you to Jackie Jones for pulling two gowns out of her magic hat. Thank you to Brighton BPAS for the loan of equipment. To Victoria Lezaun for accent coaching, to Charly Sommers and DeeJ Johnson for advice on special FX. The crew and cast also wish to warmly thank our families, without whose support and forbearing we couldn't have made this happen. And always, our appreciation and gratitude to The New Venture Angels and the Front of House, Bar and Box Office teams.



COMING SOON

THE FANNYTASTICALS

16/17 DECEMBER 2016

(STUDIO THEATRE)

FANNYTASTICALS comprises of six, sensational, sassy women keen to entertain you with their distinctly female take on life, love and the universe. Expect some topical satire as well as a twist of the ridiculous and just plain silliness in our hour long show. Join us for songs, sketches, ridiculous rhymes and duologues designed to make you giggle and provoke a thought about life from a woman's point of view. We will be lewd, crude and somewhat rude.

We are not raging lesbians, hairy feminists or man-haters. None of us actually hate men, in fact some of us even live with them! Come and enjoy the pre-Xmas fun!

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To book tickets or for other
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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!

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for details.

Membership

Full (company) membership -
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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

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 why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. Our Angels have proven to be generous in the assistance they give us. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: gerrymcrudden@hotmail.com. If you are a UK tax payer your donation will also benefit from Gift Aid.