



THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE

BY
JULIA CHO

DIRECTED BY **SAM CHITTENDEN**

NVT

NEW VENTURE THEATRE

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 15th - Sat 23rd Feuary 2019 - 7.45 pm
Matinee Sun 17th February - 2.30pm
(No Sun/Mon eves)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

@nvt_brighton

- THEATRE ◀
- NEW WRITING ◀
- CLASSES ◀
- LICENSED BAR ◀

£1

An Amateur Production in association with William Morris Endeavour Entertainment

THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE

'When we say a language dies, we are talking about a whole world, a whole way of life. It is the death of imagination, of memory. It makes me much sadder than I could ever possibly express.'

- George

2019 is the year of indigenous languages, so what better timing for us to stage Julia Cho's delightfully whimsical yet poignant play.

George is a brilliant linguist, consumed with preserving and documenting dying languages. And it is a Sisyphean task. There are sixty-nine thousand languages in the world, and more than half are expected to die within the next century. When describing the tragedy of lost languages and the lost worlds that they represent for him, George is eloquent and passionate. But at home, he cannot find the words that will save his disintegrating marriage. In desperation, his wife Mary has taken to hiding hand written notes around the house.

The exasperated Mary sets out in search of her own happiness, finding a new purpose through a chance meeting with a man at a station. A purpose that subtly echoes one of the play's repeating themes - that of resurrection.

George's archival assistant Emma is mute with adoration for him. She visits a language instructor to learn Esperanto in the hope it will help her to communicate her love. The instructor, also romantically disappointed, has a different lesson for Emma to learn.

The archive's newest subjects, the last speakers of Elloway, the language of the river people, have recently descended into a huge argument about airplane arm rests, cooking and romantic rivals, and now refuse to utter a word to one another.

The Language Archive traverses the gulf between what's said and what isn't. The story, seemingly simple at first, unfolds like a surprising fable or a mystery train ride. Cho emphasises this unfolding by including doubling in the script as an artistic device rather than a pragmatic one, with five actors playing thirteen characters!

This is a play that cries out for theatricality, so we are extremely lucky to have Tim McQuillen-Wright's gorgeous set, that speaks of George's frantic desire to maintain order, and transforms magically into different spaces. Cleverly crafted lighting and projection by Keith Dawson and rootsy sound design by Simon Scardanelli add to the artisan vibe.

I have been blessed with an amazing cast and production team, and we have had a lot of fun bringing The Language Archive to life. We hope you love it as much as we do.

A final note - The Language Archive is about loss; about mourning things that end or can never be. But it is also about life, and the birth of new possibilities. Above all, it is about what we hand on to the people we meet and leave to future generations. In January my father quietly passed away. Among his gifts to me have been a love of language, theatre and the fantastical; gifts that have led me in turn to directing. He would have hugely enjoyed the intelligence and pathos of this jewel of a play. So, Dad, this is for you. ♥

Sam Chittenden, 2019.

CAST

George :

Alex Bond

Mary :

Bridgett Ane Lawrence

Emma :

Cata Lindegaard

Alta :

Justine Smith

Resten :

Culann Smyth

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :

Sam Chittenden

Production Manager :

Ulrike Schilling

Stage Manager :

Miriam Soto, Lillian Lim, Greta Galdikaite

Costume Design :

Sam Chittenden

Hair & Makeup :

Julia Monkcom

Set Design :

Tim McQuillen-Wright

Set Construction :

Delphine du Barry, Cata Lindegaard,

Simon Glazier, George Walter, Max Videaux,

Lillian Lim, Hermione Huxley

Lighting Design :

Keith Dawson

Sound Design :

Simon Scardanelli

Sound Operation :

Max Videaux

Lighting Rigging :

Keith Dawson

Lighting Operation :

Ulrike Schilling, Tamsin Mastoris

Prompt & Support :

Hermione Huxley

Poster & Programme :

Tamsin Mastoris

Photography :

Strat Mastoris

Publicity & Marketing :

Kate McGann, Cata Lindegaard,

Greta Galdikaite, Ulrike Schilling

Health & Safety :

Ian Black

Alex Bond (George)

Alex is making his NVT theatre debut with The Language Archive. Alex's performance career began at a young age as an award-winning dancer and choreographer shunning any speaking parts until getting the taste for stand-up comedy on the London comedy circuit. Alex has performed at some of the capitals best comedy venues before moving to Brighton and studying acting at the Academy of Creative training. Since graduating from ACT Alex has been involved in a mixture of professional and amateur theatre work most recently making his professional London debut performing *Waiting for Curry* with Twilight Theatre Company.



Bridgett Ane Lawrence (Mary)

BA began working as an actor in 1990, in Chicago. Her passion for acting drew her to New York where she shined on-camera and off-Broadway. She sang in a rock band, joined a contemporary dance company and began teaching Yoga in 2005. BA's very grateful to have discovered the NVT in 2016 whilst doing research and was thrilled when asked to play a Brit in 'The Homecoming'. Her most recent appearance was as Mrs. Robinson in 'The Graduate' at the Brighton Little Theatre. When not exercising her acting chops, BA teaches & practices at her school, Yoga in the Lanes.



Cata Lindegaard (Emma)

Making her NVT debut, this is Cata's first public play since graduating from the University of Northampton in 2017. She moved to Brighton last June to finally start her acting and directing career and is thrilled to be a part of the NVT community.

Growing up Cata was surrounded by a sea of languages, having been born in Luxembourg to Danish and Spanish parents and attending an international school. She's incredibly grateful to get the chance to perform a script that celebrates languages and their beauty in such a meaningful and humane way.



Justine Smith (Alta / Language Instructor / Conductor)

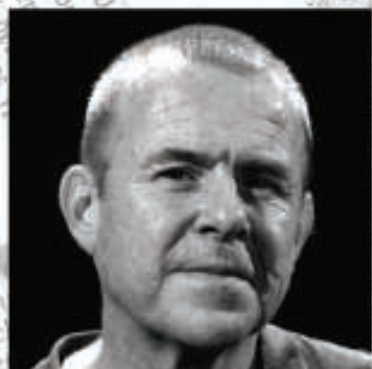
Quite new to acting, this is Justine's first production with NVT. Having had a career in Organisation and Management, Justine is enjoying a non-traditional pathway into acting. She has spent some time learning the Meisner technique, and attended a year acting at Philippe Gaulier Ecole. Never one to take the easy route, she has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the Language Archive with its plethora of accents, languages and hats!



Culann Smyth (Resten / Old Baker / Zamenhof)

Culann Smyth got involved with theatre as a teenager, attending a Saturday morning youth drama group in Brighton. In the 80's and 90's he was part of various productions and worked with Brighton Actor's Workshop and Theatre 48 in Horsham. He joined NVT in 2012 and appeared in 'Kvetch' the same year. His last performance at NVT was as Raymond in 'The Messiah' and, most recently, as Denny in 'A Steady Rain' at Burgess Hill Theatre.

He's thoroughly enjoying working with such a creative cast and crew on 'The Language Archive'.



Sam Chittenden (Director)

This is Sam's fourth full length production at NVT, previous shows being 'The Arsonists', 'The Clean House' and 'Antigone'. Her short play, 'Moving Slowly' was performed here and she has even appeared in a couple of productions. She is Artistic Director of Different Theatre, producing mainly her own work, which has three (yes, three!) productions coming up in this year's Brighton Fringe. When not writing or directing, Sam runs a small consultancy specialising in leadership and personal development, often using theatre skills. She also pots and potters, and loves walking on the South Downs.





Incidental music includes tracks by :

Tin Hat Trio, Paolo Fresu,
Richard Galliano & Jan Lundgren,
Weyes Blood, Frank & Nancy Sinatra,
Juliet Gréco.

Many thanks :

To Gladrags for our lovely costumes,
all our *Fabela* international voices,
Gina Laline for her support, Greg
Starns for the little poster woman and
as always Front of House and Box
office as well as the volunteers
running NVT.



COMING NEXT

15 - 23 MARCH 2019

(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

THE FATHER

BY FLORIAN ZELLER

directed by Mary Allen

The Father is about Andre, a man with dementia, wrestling to control or even understand his daily life. It is an acute, funny and ultimately distressing portrait of the condition. The audience shares Andre's uncertainty about his multiple confusions. Is the action taking place in his flat, or that of his daughter Anne? Is Anne about to abandon him to live in London with a new lover, or does she remain in Paris, taking her dad to live with her? And indeed who is Anne? How is Anne going to look after her increasingly frail father? He saw off the previous carer and says he doesn't need anyone to look after him. A new carer arrives, but will he recognise them since he fails to even recognise his own daughter? Will Anne find a solution that works for her, her husband and for Andre?

COMING SOON

12 - 20 APRIL 2019

(STUDIO THEATRE)

PICKWICK AND WELLER

BY BARRY PURCHASE

(With more than a nod towards Charles Dickens)

music by Michael James

directed by Rod Lewis

Samuel Pickwick is a warm hearted and well meaning man of advancing years but, despite his age, still something of an innocent. As he sets forth on his adventures into the wider world he is easy pickings for rogues such as Alfred Jingle and the rascally lawyers Dodson and Fogg. He is in need of a protector and no-one comes better qualified than the street wise Sam Weller. Sam, with his singular brand of philosophy, never fails to make us laugh as he comes to the rescue of Pickwick time and again.



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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.

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 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 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

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £10 a year. As above... *Proof of status is required.*