



LAUNDRY
THE
BOURBON

by James McLure



directed by Mark Lester

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:


Fri 18th - Sat 26th January 2019 - 7.45 pm

Matinee Sun 20th January - 2.30pm

(No Sun/Mon eves)

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

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

An Amateur Production in association with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

Registered Charity No. 266607

THEATRE ✦
NEW WRITING ✦
CLASSES ✦
LICENSED BAR ✦

£1

LAUNDRY AND BOURBON

LONE STAR

Double bill *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lone Star* are two one-act comedies set in Maynard, Texas in the late 1970s. Opening on a baking hot afternoon, *Laundry and Bourbon* sees Elizabeth and Hattie reflecting on their high school days and what life in Maynard has dealt for them since. Elizabeth's husband Roy is missing and she's harbouring a secret, while Hattie, escaping her 'high-spirited' children, advises her best friend on how best to move forward. Enter Amy Lee with fresh gossip and news to send Hattie into a tail spin: bridge is on its way out and a new game is coming to town.

That same evening *Lone Star* sees war veteran Roy and his younger brother Ray sharing a few beers and some snacks out the back of Angel's bar. Still struggling to come to terms with how much life has moved on without him since serving, Roy relives former glories of his youth driving around in his 1959 pink Thunderbird convertible, while Ray hilariously struggles to relate to his brother's time in Vietnam. Enter Amy Lee's husband Cletis, who Roy hates with a passion, with a revelation that will severely test the brothers' relationship and shatter Roy's already uncertain world.

In *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lone Star*, James McLure intertwines the lives of his colourful characters with wit, vigour and bitingly funny dialogue. While it would be easy to dismiss the inhabitants of Maynard and their small-town existence, this double-bill is a poignant observation of relationships in the shadow of the Vietnam War, which continues to resonate with audiences through its cleverly crafted look at life in the face of both domestic and national tragedy.

I've been so lucky to work with two incredibly talented casts with the support of an amazing backstage team. As an actor, I've always valued the "invisible people" who put so many hours and so much love into helping a production come to life, but as a director it has taken this appreciation to a whole new level. It is impossible to thank everyone, but I would like to show my gratitude to all those that have helped bring *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lone Star* to the NVT stage: your hard work, advice and support have been greatly appreciated and without which I would have been lost.

We all, cast and crew, hope you enjoy the plays as much as we do.

Mark Lester – Director

Bryony Weaver – Assistant Director

CAST

Elizabeth :	Sarah Drew
Hattie :	Kate McGann
Amy Lee :	Isabella McCarthy Sommerville
Roy :	Cai Jones
Ray :	Matthew Wyn Davies
Cletis :	Neil Drew

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Mark Lester
Assistant Director :	Bryony Weaver
Production & Stage Manager :	Gabrielle Bowring
Assistant Stage Managers :	Cata Lindegaard, Greta Galdikaite, Matthew Foster; Soraya Moon
Costume Design :	Pat Boxall
Dressmaker :	Sue Salt
Hair & Makeup :	Richard Blennerhassett
Accent Coach :	Dee Forrest
Set Design :	Simon Glazier
Set Construction :	Simon Glazier, George Walter
Set Painting :	Simon Glazier, Tim McQuillan-Wright, Bryony Weaver, Gaby Bowring, Greta Galdikaite, Soraya Moon
Lighting Design :	Keith Dawson
Sound Design & Operation:	Ian Black
Lighting Rigging :	Keith Dawson
Lighting Operation :	Alex Epps
Props :	Gabrielle Bowring, Bryony Weaver, Greta Galdikaite
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Mastoris
Photography :	Patrick Dalla Torre and Sandy Bi - pksyart.com
Publicity & Marketing :	Max Videaux, Cata Lindegaard, Greta Galdikaite, Matthew Foster, Kate McGann
Health & Safety :	Ian Black

Many thanks :

To Gladrags for costumes, Sue Salt for designing and making two wonderful dresses, Dee Forrest for her brilliant help with the Texan accents and, as always, to Scott Roberts and the Front of House Team, Chris Stubbs and the Box Office Team without whom no show would ever go on.

Sarah Drew (*Elizabeth*)

Sarah has appeared in various productions in Brighton including as Myrtle in Tennessee Williams' 'Kingdom of Earth', Elinor in 'Sense & Sensibility', Wife in Berkoff's 'Greek' and Melody in 'Bad Jews'. She trained at Bretton Hall in Theatre Acting and Music and has an MA in Scriptwriting from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.



Kate McGann (*Hattie*)

This will be the fifth play Kate has performed in at the NVT since she joined in 2016. She has also had the pleasure of singing at the NVT's 70th anniversary earlier this year, stage managing the excellent production of 'Orphans' and even hosting the annual Christmas Quiz at the NVT Social! She is delighted to be working with Mark Lester again alongside a fantastic cast and crew and couldn't believe her luck at landing such an amazing part as Hattie!

Isabella McCarthy Sommerville (*Amy Lee*)

Isabella graduated from Royal Holloway, University of London, with a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies in 2013. Her recent theatre credits include Anna in 'Anna Christie', Paula in 'Timeshare', Hilda in the UK Tour of 'A Good Jew', Rachel in 'Inherit the Wind' and Vickie in 'The Thrill of Love'. Isabella received the 2017 Arts Council Best Actress Award for her portrayal of the title role in Anna Christie at NVT last year. She's excited to be back performing at one of her favourite Brighton theatres.



Cai Jones (Roy)

This is Cai's second production with the NVT after '1984' earlier this year. It is also the second time he has been part of a production written by James McLure, after he played Silvio in 'Pvt. Wars' with the Manor Theatre Group in Horsham. He has very much enjoyed the whole experience of working with the cast and crew of 'Lone Star', and is very grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a great production. Enjoy the performance!



Matthew Wyn Davies (Ray)

'Lone Star' is Matthew's fourth production at the NVT. His previous roles include Liam in 'Bad Jews' and Philip in 'The Deep Blue Sea'. This year Matthew has also played the role of Benjamin Braddock in 'The Graduate', as well as Willoughby in 'Sense & Sensibility', at the Brighton Little Theatre.

Neil Drew (Cletis)

Neil has been performing in theatre in Brighton for 5 years now. His favourite roles include Ralph in 'Accrington Pals', Chief Weasel in 'Wind in the Willows' and Edward Ferrars in 'Sense & Sensibility' at the Brighton Little Theatre, as well as Freddie in the NVT's production of 'The Deep Blue Sea'. He is very excited to be returning to a bit of comedy and is delighted to be performing with such a talented cast!



Mark Lester (Director)

Mark has been back at the NVT for 2 years now. His acting roles include: William Collyer in 'The Deep Blue Sea', Chris Christopherson in the NVT's award-winning 'Anna Christie' and Mark in 'Jumpy' and he is very much looking forward to appearing in 'The Father' in March.

After directing the short play 'Tons of Money' for the NVT's 70th Anniversary last year, this will be Mark's debut directing a full-length play at the NVT and he is delighted to be working with two amazingly talented casts. He is also grateful for the brilliant support of the production crew and creative teams, which are helping behind the scenes to bring James McLure's work to life.



Bryony Weaver (Assistant Director)

Bryony has been involved in over 54 productions of amateur dramatic and musical theatre since 1969. Main musical roles included Tzeitel in 'Fiddler on the Roof' (1993) and Peep-Bo in 'The Mikado' for TWAODS (1994), as well as chorus work in 'The Merry Widow', 'The Bartered Bride', 'Orpheus in the Underworld', 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'Cabaret'. For the profit-share ENR Productions, acting roles included Chorus Leader in Steven Berkoff's 'Agamemnon', Viola in 'Twelfth Night' and Hester in 'Equus', which she co-directed. Professionally, Bryony worked as a dresser for ENO in the early 80s, was PA to the Head of Opera at the National Opera Studio in 1986, PA to Steven Berkoff in 1993, and (having gained a PGCE in Drama) taught Drama at Lansdowne College, London, in 1996.

Bryony has been stage manager or crew at the NVT for: 'The Deep Blue Sea', 'Proof', 'Antigone', 'Anna Christie', 'True West', 'Jumpy', 'Be My Baby' and later this season, 'Pickwick & Weller'. She made her NVT acting debut in '1984', and was delighted to be asked to write a play for this year's Short Play Festival. This is her assistant director debut for the theatre.

COMING NEXT

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.



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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.*