

WRITTEN BY  
**Lucinda Coxon**

DIRECTED BY  
**Claire Lewis**



**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place  
Brighton BN1 2PT

THEATRE UPSTAIRS

Friday 5th to Saturday 13th October 2018 7.45 pm

Sunday matinee 7th October 2.30 pm

No show Sunday evening or Monday

£9 (£8 members)

First Friday/Tuesday £8 (£7 members)

Final Friday/Saturday £10 (£9 members)

Book online: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)

Box office information: 01273 746118

**50p**

# Happy Now?

The original production of *Happy Now?* premiered at the National Theatre, London in 2008 where it was described as ‘a richly rewarding gem . . . the best new play to have arrived on a British stage for at least a year . . .’ and ‘the wisest, wittiest and most observant take on the idea of women “having it all”’. It was nominated for several awards, winning the Writers Guild of Great Britain Best Play and the Susan Smith Blackburn Special Commendation.

I stumbled across the play when looking for a comedy with a female protagonist and instantly fell for it. You kind of know, when the first line in the play makes you laugh out loud, that you’re on to a winner. It has certainly been an absolute blast to rehearse.

Coxon wanted to write a play about the hidden underbelly of contemporary family life, what it is actually like balancing personal freedom with a husband, children, friendships, fidelity, ageing parents and a high pressured job. I think she has hit the nail on the head, making the play both blisteringly truthful and wonderfully funny.

Her new play *Alys, Always*, a psychological thriller, also featuring a female protagonist, premieres at London’s Bridge Theatre from January 2019.

After watching the play . . . are you happy now?

**Claire Lewis**

Director

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*Thanks to Graham Brown, Louise Sidgwick and Raefn West for their support and as always to the Front of House and Box Office volunteers and all the volunteers who run this amazing charity theatre.*

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*Some of the furniture in the production will be for sale at the end of the run – please enquire at the bar.*

*Place: The City*

*Time: Now*

## **Cast**

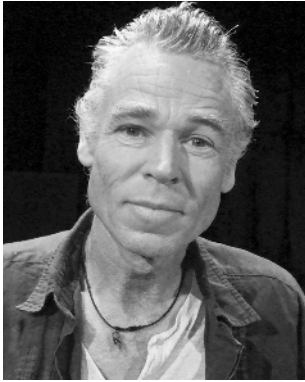
(in order of appearance)

<b>Michael</b>	Simon Hudson
<b>Kitty</b>	Sophie Dearlove
<b>Johnny</b>	Ciaran O'Connor
<b>Miles</b>	Giles Coghlin
<b>Bea</b>	Emmie Spencer
<b>Carl</b>	Robert Purchase
<b>June</b>	Pat Boxall
<b>Voice of Cora</b>	Bibi Dearlove-Richards
<b>Voice of Tim</b>	Oscar Bird

## **Production Team**

<b>Director</b>	Claire Lewis
<b>Production Manager</b>	Ulrike Schilling
<b>Stage Managers</b>	Caroline Stephens and Janet White
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Laura Mukabaa
<b>Costume Design</b>	Claire Lewis
<b>Set Advice</b>	Tim McQuillen-Wright
<b>Set Design</b>	Michael Folkard
<b>Set Construction</b>	Simon Glazier, George Walter, Monika Schuettbacher, Cai Jones, Delphine du Barry and Ingrid Styles
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Keith Dawson
<b>Lighting Operation</b>	Alex Epps
<b>Sound Design</b>	Ian Black
<b>Sound Operation</b>	Ian Black and Erica Fletcher
<b>Props</b>	Glenys Stuart
<b>Prompt</b>	Sue Williams
<b>Poster</b>	Dan Walker
<b>Photographer</b>	Strat Mastoris
<b>Publicity &amp; Marketing</b>	Emmie Spencer and Max Videaux

The play lasts approximately 2 hours 20 minutes, including a 20 minute interval



### **Simon Hudson (Michael)**

Simon was a professional actor in the 80s and 90s, having trained at The Webber Douglas Academy. He has worked with Edward Bond and Richard Dreyfus and performed seasons at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Leicester Haymarket, Bolton Octagon, Harrogate and Nottingham Playhouse. He also performed premieres of a variety of plays at The Orange Tree, Richmond, The Bush Theatre, The Old Red Lion and The Finborough Arms. He was a regular in *Hollyoaks* and appeared in many other TV shows including *The Bill*, *Casualty* and *Eastenders*.

Simon played Roland in *Jumpy* recently at the NVT, having returned to acting after an eighteen year break!



### **Sophie Dearlove (Kitty)**

Sophie has been working as an actress for over fifteen years. Credits include *The Interpreter* (Sky TV), *The Casebook of Inspector Steine* (BBC Radio 4), *Beachcomber* Film London (Badgerboy Productions), *Would Like To Meet* (The Lyric Theatre, Carmarthen) and *The Missing Special* (Pretty Villain Productions, The Rialto). Sophie has also appeared in a number of short films, corporate roles and commercials. She has performed previously at the New Venture Theatre in productions including *Amongst Barbarians* and *Parlour Song* and is delighted to be returning.



### **Ciaran O'Connor (Johnny)**

Ciaran has returned to acting over the last year following a ten year break. He has recently appeared in *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Beyond Therapy* and *Present Laughter* at the Brighton Little Theatre and is now making his first appearance with the New Venture.

## **Giles Coghlin (Miles)**

This is Giles' first performance at The NVT and only his second since the birth of his eldest son almost eight years ago.

His previous roles include Mozart in *Amadeus*, Bobby Gould in Mamet's *Speed-The-Plow*, Topolski in Martin McDonagh's harrowing *The Pillowman* and Deeley in *Old Times* where he shared the stage with our esteemed director, Claire Lewis (all at The Brighton Little Theatre).

He has also appeared in various Edinburgh Fringe productions, *Up 'n' Under* at The Minnack and, most recently, in a new play, *Timeshare*, both written and directed by Philip Ayckbourn at The Lewes Little Theatre.



## **Emmie Spencer (Bea)**

Emmie has appeared in several productions at the NVT since her debut in *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2012. Recent roles include Daphna in *Bad Jews* (2018), Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea* (2017), Fay McMahon in *Loot* (2016), and Ruth Ellis in *The Thrill of Love* (2015).

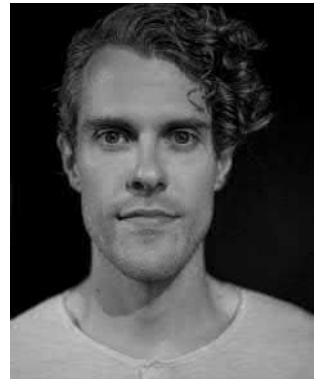
Recent roles elsewhere include Lola in Broken Silence Theatre's *Bug Camp* (Winner of Best New Play at Brighton Fringe 2017) and Matron in Kasabian's *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* inspired music video 'You're in Love with a Psycho' (Sony Music 2017).



## **Robert Purchase (Carl)**

Bertie studied drama at A-level but full-time work and paychecks distracted him from taking it any further. It was many years later he found the New Venture Theatre and, through the acting classes, took a chance and auditioned for *A Christmas Carol* in 2015. He's been riding his luck ever since.

Most recently Bertie was William in the heartrending *Lovesong* (2018) by Abi Morgan. Before then he paraded around as Desmond Olivier Dingle in *The National Theatre of Brent's Messiah* (2017), and interfered as American mathematician Hal in *Proof* (2017). It was Claire Lewis who directed *Proof* and Bertie is as pleased as punch to be working with her again on *Happy Now?*





## **Pat Boxall (June)**

Pat has acted and directed for NVT and elsewhere for many years. Directing credits for NVT include *Strangers on a Train*, *Festen*, *Woman in Mind*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *The Thrill of Love* and *The Deep Blue Sea*. This is Pat's return to acting, after a long break, and she is delighted to be working with this wonderful team of actors and creatives.



## **Claire Lewis (Director)**

Born and bred in Brighton, Claire has been involved with theatre for upwards of 30 years directing, performing, producing and all areas of stage management.

As well as numerous youth productions, Claire has directed *That Face*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Boy Friend* (Brighton Fringe 2013), *Company* (Brighton Fringe 2014), *Frankenstein* and, most recently, *King Charles III* (Brighton Fringe 2018) for Brighton Little Theatre. *Frankenstein* subsequently 'toured' at Brighton Open Air Theatre and the world-famous Minack Theatre in Cornwall.

For Southwick Players, Claire has directed *The History Boys*, *Jerusalem* and *Far From the Maddening Crow* (winner of the Brighton & Hove Arts Awards Best Overall Production & Best Director 2014).

Her previous directing credits for NVT include *Parlour Song* (Brighton Fringe 2015) and *Proof*.

Next year, Claire is looking forward to directing *The Mill on the Floss* for BLT and at the Minack Theatre.

Claire is a drama teacher and thrives on working with young people aged 4 to 18, to develop their skills and love of theatre.

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## **NVT Acting Class**

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5.00 per session (£2.50 for NVT Members). First visit is FREE!

## **Contacting the NVT**

For ticket and performance enquiries only, call the Box Office: 01273 746118, or email: [boxoffice@newventure.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@newventure.org.uk)  
All other enquiries: 01273 808353

## **Become an NVT Sponsor**

Advertise your business to hundreds of local residents with NVT from only £250. For a range of print and web publicity options and opportunities for free show tickets, please contact: [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

## **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 rely on the generosity of the community, to provide donations that are essential to the upkeep of the building and the refurbishment of the main auditorium.

For more information on how you can support NVT. Please contact: [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk)

Many thanks to our current donors and our special appreciation to our major anonymous donor.

## **FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

**2018**

Friday 2nd to Saturday 10th November

### **Orphans**

by Dennis Kelly

directed by Charly Sommers

*Orphans uses strong language throughout and tackles themes which some may find highly disturbing and/or distressing. Suitable for those aged 18+ only.*

Friday 30th November to  
Saturday 8th December

### **Be My Baby**

by Amanda Whittington

directed by Jerry Lyne

**2019**

Friday 18th to Saturday 26th January

### **Lone Star / Laundry and Bourbon**

by James McLure

directed by Mark Lester / Bryony Weaver

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre)

## **Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)**

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm, until 23 November, with no session on 19 October.

The sessions are led by experienced actors, directors, writers and teachers. The first session is free so you can come and try it out before committing. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome.

For further information, see [www.newventure.org.uk/youththeatre](http://www.newventure.org.uk/youththeatre)

For enquiries, please contact: [youththeatre@newventure.org.uk](mailto:youththeatre@newventure.org.uk)