

Pickwick and Weller

by **Barry Purchase** (& Charles Dickens!)



music by
Michael James

directed by
Rod Lewis

artwork by
Ben Pritchard

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place
Brighton BN1 2PT

STUDIO

Friday 12 to Saturday 20 April: 7.45 pm
Matinees Sunday 14 and Saturday 20 April: 2.30 pm
No show Sunday evening or Monday

£10 (£9 members)

Book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre
Box office information: 01273 746118

50p

Having begun life as a weekly serialisation, Charles Dickens's published *The Pickwick Papers*, as his first novel, in 1836 – the year before the young Victoria came to the throne.

With its sharp depiction of readily identifiable characters - its bright humour contrasting with a more threatening world of poverty and hardship – it rapidly became a publishing phenomenon, giving rise to bootleg copies, theatrical performances, Sam Weller joke books and other merchandise.

Dickens, at 24 years old, had hit upon a unique way of capturing the quintessential aspects of English life in the mid-nineteenth century. However, Dickens's characters and the situations they found themselves in, do still strike a resonance in our hearts today. So, when Barry Purchase, one of our members, gave me his fresh take on *The Pickwick Papers* to read – focusing on Pickwick and Weller's budding friendship, I was immediately hooked. How exciting to have the lure of our very own home grown dramatisation! With its dynamic story line, rich with magnificent characters, *Pickwick and Weller* did however present quite a few creative challenges. How, with its multi-scene structure and with, for us, a massive cast, could we do its wonderful spirit justice? It would demand pace, but also clarity – and a good dash of charm too!

That said, with so many at NVT willing to rally round, we just had to mount this production! Barry's many years experience as a professional writer (picking up two Baftas on the way for his talent) has very much come to the fore in insightfully extracting a new, powerful dramatic experience from Dickens's vast (1000 page!) original work. To the quirky Dickensian characters and rich Dickensian dialogue Barry has added a special spark of his own. The show is full of humanity and humour that shines through the dark shadows of the time. The quality of the *Pickwick and Weller* script has attracted a highly talented and charismatic cast and a fine creative team and crew. From the first read through rehearsals have been greeted with enthusiasm and filled with laughter.

It has been a privilege – and fun! – to work with such a great group of people and a delight to have the music of Michael James, and set design by Tim McQuillen-Wright, enriching our production. All in all this has been a project about which I think the tricky Alfred Jingle character might well have described as “Singular . . . very!”

Rod Lewis, Director

Set in London in the 1830s

Cast

John Tolputt	Samuel Pickwick
Nikolas Balfe	Sam Weller
Culann Smyth	Tony Weller
Jerry Lyne	Cab Driver/Sergeant Buzzfuzz
Bertie Purchase	Alfred Jingle
Naomi Rose Horsfall	Mary
Bryony Weaver	Miss Witherfield/Elderly Widow
Tom Slater-Hyndman	Nathaniel Winkle
Apollo Videaux	Augustus Snodgrass/Justice Starleigh
Thomas Hobart	Tracy Tupman
Martin Ryan	Dr Slammer/Gummer
Amanda Harman	Mrs Bardell
Bill Griffiths	Dr Payne/Dodson
Adam Kincaid	Mr Perker
Gerry McCrudden	Fogg
Sam De Costobadie	Jackson
Mark Green	Roker/Dubbley
Jeremy Crow	Magistrate Nupkins
Mark Lester	Sergeant Snubbins

The play lasts approximately 2 hours 15 minutes, including a 20 minute interval

Our thanks to Ulrike Schilling, for creating the most intricate rehearsal schedule for a cast of 19 acting out 40 or so scenes, and to the Front of House and Box Office volunteers and all the volunteers who run this amazing charity theatre.



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PICKWICK & WELLER CAST



John Tolputt

John played Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at the NVT, and most recently was Charles in *Charles III* at the Brighton Little Theatre.



Nikolas Balfe

Nik has been acting for most of his life. This is his second show at NVT, and certainly not his last.



Culann Smyth

Culann has been performing at NVT since 2012 and recently appeared in *The Language Archive*. He's thoroughly enjoying working with such a great cast and crew.



Jerry Lyne

Jerry has been acting and directing for too far long and should be pensioned off. However he is having fun and thoroughly enjoying working with all the fantastic cast and crew on this brilliant production.



Bertie Purchase

Bertie has appeared regularly at NVT in recent years but this play, *Pickwick & Weller*, is extra special. It is written by – with a little help from Charles Dickens – his dad.



Naomi Rose Horsfall

Naomi's previous roles include Puck, Cordelia, Trixie (*Daisy Pulls it Off*) and Jackie (*Hay Fever*). This is her first Dickensian part and she has thoroughly enjoyed being part of this wonderful cast.



Bryony Weaver

Bryony is looking forward very much to working with the *Pickwick & Weller* cast and crew



Tom Slater-Hyndman

Tom has been involved in several productions at NVT, most recently directing short play *The Doppelgänger*.



Apollo Videaux

Apollo is a recent addition to the NVT family and this is his first on stage role. He is thrilled to be part of such an elaborate production and working with such a great and varied cast.



Thomas Hobart

Tom studied at the British Institute of Modern Music and is hoping to take a place at a Drama school later this year.



Martin Ryan

Martin's previous productions at NVT include *Anna Christie*, *True West* and a rehearsed reading of *Elephants Graveyard*, which returns to the theatre in June for a full run.



Amanda Harman

Amanda joined the NVT in 2012 debuting in *Medea* that year. This will be her eighth production with the theatre.



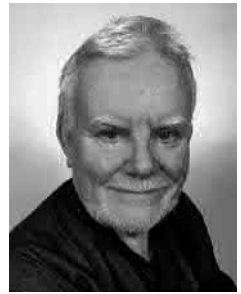
Bill Griffiths

Bill is delighted to be doing another show at NVT.



Adam Kincaid

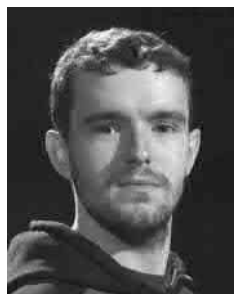
Adam has appeared in several productions at the NVT. He's delighted to be appearing in *Pickwick & Weller*, and enjoying working with Rod Lewis for the first time.



Gerry McCrudden

Gerry has been a member of NVT for 14 years and has directed and acted in a number of productions.

PICKWICK & WELLER
CREATIVE TEAM



**Sam De
Costobadie**

Sam joined NVT in 2017 and first appeared in 1984 in the 2018 Fringe. When not studying or rehearsing Sam enjoys food, dog walking reading, and cinema.



Mark Green

Back after a year working with Slurring Words Theatre, Mark has found it very easy to slip into the NVT once again. Catch him this June in *Elephant's Graveyard*.



Jeremy Crow

Jeremy's most recent NVT role was in *Antigone*. He has since appeared as Bottom at Stanmer Park, in *Fury* at BLT, and in *Death and the Maiden* with the Southwick Players.



Mark Lester

Having performed the role of Pierre in *The Father*, Mark's now hugely excited to be involved in *Pickwick & Weller* with so many NVT friends.



Rod Lewis

Working with (and getting immense support from!) such a fine cast and company on Pickwick and Weller has once again proved to be an absolute pleasure.



Barry Purchase

A TV dramatist for over 30 years, Barry has won two BAFTAs and a Broadcast award.



Michael James

The professionalism and unfailing good humour of the cast and crew has meant that not even John emigrating to Kenya in early March fazed them – everyone just continued to work together, intercontinentally!

Production Team

Director	Rod Lewis
Writer	Barry Purchase
Musical Director & Composer	Michael James
Assistant to the Director	Erica Fletcher
Production Manager	Ulrike Schilling
Stage Manager	Gabrielle Bowring
ASMs	Bryony Weaver, Greta Galdikaite
Movement	Alex Worrall
Set Design	Tim McQuillen-Wright
Set Builders	Tim McQuillen-Wright, Simon Glazier, George Walter, Apollo Videaux, Cata Lindegaard, Monika Schuetbacher, Mark Green, Naomi Rose Horsfall, Lillian Lim
Props	Gabrielle Bowring, Bryony Weaver, Erica Fletcher, with help from Melissa Noble
Armourer	Ian Black
Lighting Design	Dan Walker
Lighting Ops	Alex Epps
Sound Ops	Cata Lindegaard
Costume Design	Richi Blennerhassett
Costumes provided by	Gladrags
Hair & Make Up	Julia Monkcom
Poster	Benjamin Pritchard
Programme	Tom Kitch
Publicity	Kate McGann, Cata Lindegaard, Greta Galdikaite
Photography	Strat Mastoris
Health & Safety	Ian Black



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
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

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

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

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

2019

Friday 17th to Saturday 25th May

Hysteria

by Terry Johnson
directed by Bob Ryder

Friday 14th to Saturday 22nd June

Elephant's Graveyard

by George Brant
directed by David Eaton

Friday 19th July to Saturday 27th July

Short Play Festival

www.ticketsource.co.uk/newventuretheatre

Friday 26th April

New Season Social

Youth Theatre (11 to 17 year olds)

Every Friday, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

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

For enquiries, please contact: youththeatre@newventure.org.uk