

## History

The New Venture Theatre was originally a church school. Built in 1841 - the school stood next to a church, which was on the site of Christchurch Flats adjacent to the theatre to the north.

In 1958, following a fire which destroyed the church, we took on the rent of the first floor of the old school and it became our permanent home. Productions continued in the main theatre on the first floor; the ground floor being used for various activities and hires by the church. However, in 1981 the church decided to sell the building and New Venture Theatre was given the option to buy. Somehow the money was raised and the whole building became The New Venture Theatre.

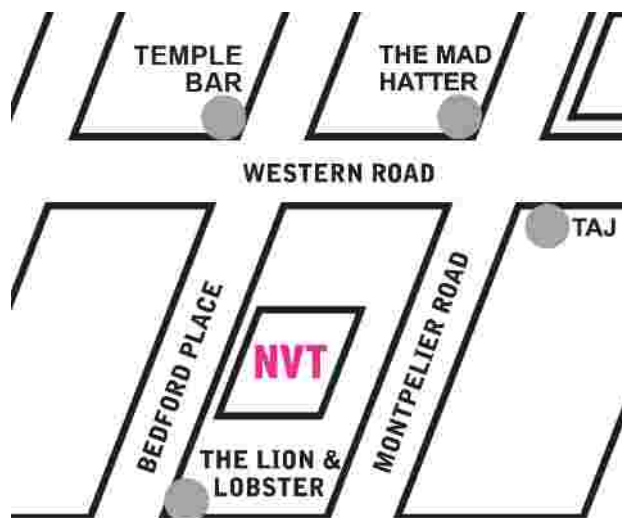
Since then there have been various changes to the interior, the new toilet area was developed with funding from the Arts Council, a lighting box was developed from an old attic area above the entrance lobby, a support pole - like that in the South Hall - was replaced with a huge RSJ in the Studio Theatre and the bar was built. All these developments were done with the help of members.

When licensing regulations changed in 2003 restrictions were put on the use of the Main Theatre - where the New Venture Theatre had started - and a major refurbishment plan was drawn up. Since then the performances have centred on the ground floor Studio Theatre, which adds its own challenge to any production as well as a feeling of intimacy and inclusion for the audience.

### Use of the Theatre

We receive a number of requests for hire of our space, but we generally limit this to activities that will benefit our members. We serve the local community by providing them with good quality, reasonably priced theatrical experiences. In so doing we are developing our own experience and that of those who join us; as well as enabling some new writing to see the light of performance.

## How To Find Us



We are 10 - 15 minutes walk from Brighton Station and 20 - 30 minutes walk from Hove Station. Located just off Western Road, we are well served by buses. Parking can be difficult, so please allow plenty of time. After 18:00 some parking areas are free.

## Contact Us

New Venture Theatre  
Bedford Place  
Brighton BN1 2PT

General Enquiries - 01273 808353  
Box Office Information - 01273 746118

Website - for information and online bookings  
[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)

*Registered Charity No. 268207*



Find out more

The New Venture Theatre is a registered charity, run entirely by volunteers and managed by a committee of Trustees, elected annually by the members.

All our major productions are open to the public. We also hold a number of social events during the year as well as workshops, play readings and a weekly acting class.



### Performance Space

Our studio theatre provides a flexible performance area, with flexible seating for up to 80. The South Hall operates as a licensed bar for members and audiences during productions, social events etc. It also doubles as a rehearsal space.

Upstairs we have dressing rooms and a Main Theatre space. License restrictions make this space unavailable for public performance at present, but it is used for rehearsals.

### How do I get involved?

Membership is open to all - see information and form overleaf. All members receive a monthly newsletter - except for a short break in the summer. Experienced or not you will be very welcome. We have acting classes on Monday evenings, various workshops throughout the year and we need regular help on the bar and box office. There are up to 10 productions a year, social events, and other ad hoc events to enjoy. We like to encourage new and experienced actors, directors and writers and we try to have some new works in each season. Also, if you have a particular skill or trade that may be useful to maintaining the building that would be great.

### What's in it for me?

What you get will depend on what you put into it. As stated above we have weekly Acting Classes. Over the year these are split into blocks of 4 to 5 weeks, looking at different aspects of acting and actor development. Although these blocks are linked, we have a drop in policy, so you come along when you are available.

We have up to 10 major productions a year, with up to three productions rehearsing concurrently. These all need actors, productions teams, back stage teams - lighting, sound, stage management etc. If you would like to be involved but don't have any experience you could assist in a role and get to know what to do that way. Also, we have workshops for lighting, sound, costume, stage management etc. So you can add to your skills and knowledge by attending these.

We are keen to help develop new writing and performance. We have various ways to aid and promote such development; through rehearsed readings / performances, workshops and one off events. This year we have poetry, short story, and comedy evenings, at which members can demonstrate their skills.

We also look outside the NVT into the community for other ways to generate new theatre experiences.

## Types of Membership

Membership is open to anyone over 16yrs with an interest in theatre. There are two types of membership.

### ASSOCIATE

This is someone who does not want to get involved in the productions, but wishes to be a part of the theatre in another way - by helping behind the bar or in the box office, joining in at social events or just as a regular playgoer. Associate members receive our monthly newsletter and can take advantage of members' discounted ticket prices.

### FULL

If you are interested in participating in productions - acting, technical support, back stage etc. you can join as a **Full Member** and get involved in all activities of the NVT. You get the newsletter and members' discount on your tickets, plus discounts to workshops, the Acting Class etc. We also offer discounted Full membership for full time students and unwaged people on benefits (not pensions).

Annual membership rates:

Associate Member - £ 8

Full Member - £ 25

Student / Unwaged Discount rate - £ 13

(please enclose evidence of status with completed form)

Please enclose a cheque with the completed form or make a BACS payment - our details are.

Account Name: New Venture Productions

Bank: Lloyds TSB Sort Code: 30-96-83

Account No: 00171929

- Use your Full name as a reference -

\* Gift Aid is a very simple initiative, which allows charities such as New Venture Theatre to reclaim the tax on any donations. It costs you nothing apart from a few seconds of your time. To be eligible you must be a UK taxpayer, paying an amount of annual Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.

## Membership Application

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

Type of Membership: Full  Associate

Student/Unwaged (evidence with application)

*All members please indicate areas of interest*

Bar Cover  Box Office Cover  Admin

Front of House Manager  Marketing / Publicity

Trade Skills: \_\_\_\_\_ Maintenance

*Full Members - please tick your areas of interest*

Acting  Directing  Set  Writing

Production Management  Stage Management

Lighting  Sound  Props  Costume

Make-up  Social Event Management

Theatre Management  Health & Safety

Website  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Acting Age Range: \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree to abide by the rule and regulations of the NVT.*

Signature:

Date:

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