

Let's Just Pretend

BY NIKKI HILL



4th - 7th March 2015

Doors 7pm/Start 7:30pm (Sat Mat Start 2:30pm)

Tickets from £4

Reserve tickets at newtheatre.org.uk

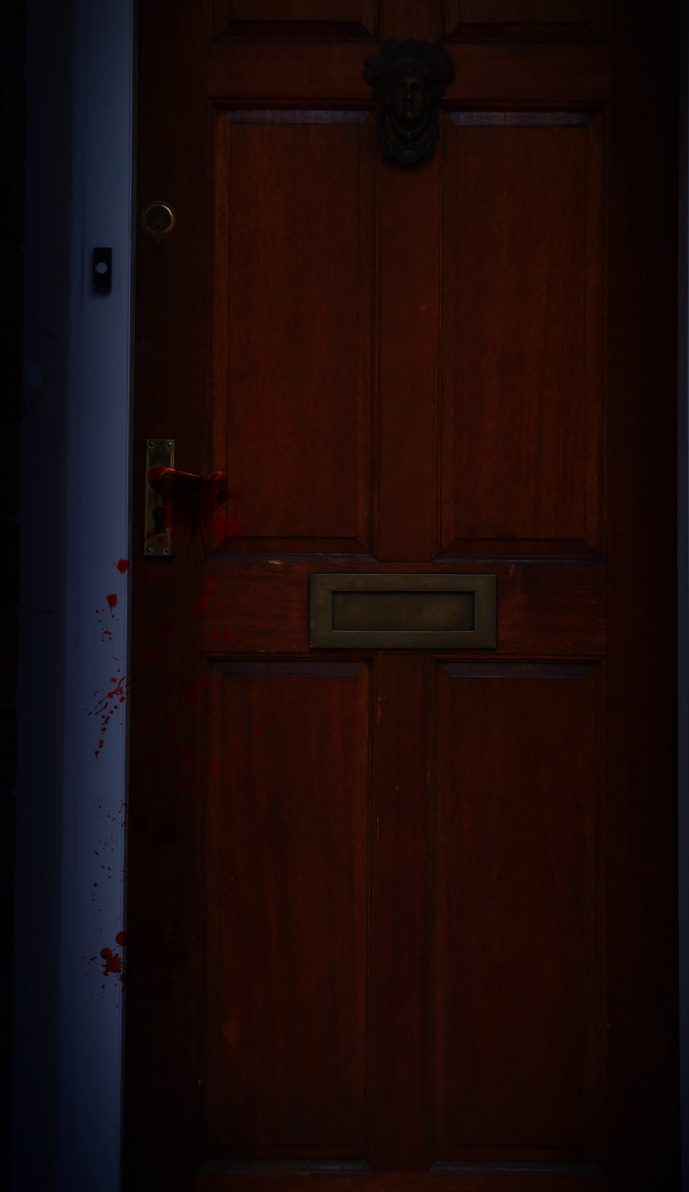
The Nottingham

New Theatre

Students' Union
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

ORPHANS

BY DENNIS KELLY



Cast

Liam – Diderik Upma

Helen – Anna Stubbs

Danny – Shannon Smith

Crew

Director – Gus Herbert

Producer – Matt Standen

Technical Director – Joseph Heil

Shadow Technical Director – Alba Bodi Garcia

Lighting Designer – Harry Bridge

Technical Operator – Nick Gill,

Nathan Penney & James Fox

Costume Designer – Maddie Hardy

Poster Designer – Max Miller

Special Thanks – Emma Kendall

Orphans by Dennis Kelly

25th – 28th February

Helen and Danny keep themselves to themselves. But the outside world comes crashing into their lives one day when Helen's brother Liam turns up. Covered in blood. A thrilling contemporary suspense story that takes its audience into the extreme violence of urban areas.

Not About Heroes by Stephen MacDonald

11th – 14th March

In July 1917, Wilfred Owen crosses paths with Siegfried Sassoon: under his tutelage, he creates the most revered war poetry ever written. Fifteen years later, Sassoon looks back on their sixteen months of passion- passion that was for both their poetry and for each other.

Overspill by Ali Taylor

24th – 27th March

Three 20 year old lads take us on their usual Friday night out in Bromley, but things turn ugly when a bomb explodes in McDonalds. Tensions rise and a vigilante state of mind takes hold. For the lads, things are about to come to a violent end.

Women of Troy by Euripides

6th – 9th May

The Trojan War is over. All its men are dead, the women's lives are in the hands of their conquerors. In a prison, the women await their fate, they struggle to keep alive their dignity, their humanity and their hope.

Rhinoceros by Eugène Ionesco

10th – 13th June

Rhinoceros follows Berenger, a disillusioned borderline alcoholic, and his refusal to change whilst all those around him turn into rhinoceroses. A cornerstone of 'The Theatre of the Absurd', this dark, satirical farce is about the radical transformative nature of conformity and the cult of opinion.

Let's Just Pretend by Nikki Hill

4th – 7th March

Caroline and Mark guide each other through teenage crises and real life trials as we follow their relationship from sixteen to twenty eight. But as Mark moves further away from reality, Caroline wonders if he's just holding on to when they were sixteen.

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

18th – 21st March

In St Louis, Missouri in the 1930s, Tom Wingfield struggles to support his mother, Amanda, and sister, Laura. As Amanda becomes obsessed with finding a husband for the emotionally unstable Laura, he faces the dilemma of following his dreams or remaining loyal to his family.

Road by Jim Cartwright

29th April – 2nd May

"Don't feel awkward wi' us, make yourselves at home. You'll meet 'all-sorts' down here." In the course of one wild night, the drunken guide Scullery conducts a tour of Road, his derelict Lancashire street. Energetic, dark, and funny, "ROAD" will be an exhilarating and totally immersive experience like never before seen on the NT stage.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Adapted by Roger Parsley

13th – 16th May

In Aldous Huxley's amazing dystopian future one man feels out of touch with life and, with a female co-worker, ventures outside of civilisation where they meet a savage and make a shocking discovery which changes both their lives forever.

Matt Standen – Producer
BA English & Philosophy
(2nd Year)

Previous Experience:
Producing: King Lear
Acting: Room 30, Letting Go
(Nottingham New Theatre)



Producer's Note:

Orphans is a play about sticking together through adversity to get the best outcome; a theme fitting our experience of putting it on! Being first slot of the semester has had its limitations but has also brought an intensity and urgency to the creative process which Gus and our incredible cast have more than matched.

The power of script meant we chose to stage the play on a relatively blank canvas, bar some key props. However, this left us needing a pretty formidable cast to really create something really special with Kelly's dialogue. Fortunately, we found ourselves working with Di, Anna and Shannon. Anyone who has read the script will have some idea of just how hard these 3 have worked even before watching them perform and if you haven't then you'll soon see just how talented these guys are. My only regret in this process is my absence. I've been pretty busy with other things and I wish I'd had more time to work closer with these guys, but this has meant that I've been able to see just how much progress this incredibly talent trio can make in short spaces of time. Gus has once again excelled as a director and, along with everyone else, been a delight to work with. Smashing out back to back in-house shows is something we believe is a New Theatre first (if you know otherwise, please refrain from telling us, and let us have our moment!) both very different and testament to Gus' range as a director.

Enjoy!

Gus Herbert – Director
BA History (3rd Year)

Previous Experience:
Directing: King Lear, Blackbird,
Buried Child
(Nottingham New Theatre)



Director's Note:

Directing Orphans has been an exhilarating experience. Doing a show in such a short space of time was initially a daunting task but has been extremely enjoyable with a fantastic group of people. Orphans is a brilliant example of naturalistic dialogue, something that I love dealing with as it gives actors so much power but also really tests them to their limits. The themes of family and violence that Dennis Kelly incorporates into his writing are very exciting to delve into and bring a high-level of tension to the play that is always thrilling to work around.

My actors have been a dream to work with. All three have taken on this intense task with consummate ease, control and skill and I am very proud of what they have created on the stage. Diderik, your embodiment of Liam has been a joy to behold and you have created a character so endearing but with an unnerving quality, which really displays your remarkable abilities as an actor. Anna, the subtlety you bring to this complex role is amazing, you are an outstanding actress and I'm very excited to see what roles you take on in the future. Shannon, after three shows together you continue to impress me with your mesmerising talent and I wish you the best for the future. I'm very grateful to the three of you and I hope you get the praise you so richly deserve.

I always have to give a huge thanks to the man who keeps me sane, does all the hard work and makes everyone's job easier. Matt, you are a fantastic producer and I hope you continue to work on numerous other great projects next year. Thank you to my technical crew, Harry and Joe, who have been as invaluable as ever. And finally thank you to everyone I have worked with in my brief New Theatre career. I've had an incredible time and can't think of a better show to go out on.

Diderik Upma - Liam
BSc Economics (3rd Year)

Previous Experience:
The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge
Mastromas, Romeo and Juliet,
The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
(Nottingham New Theatre)



Shannon Smith - Danny
BA Media & Communications
& Spanish (2nd Year)

Previous Experience:
Acting: King Lear, Mojo,
Blackbird, The
Pitchfork Disney (Nottingham
New Theatre)



Anna Stubbs - Helen
BMBS Medicine (2nd Year)

Previous Experience:
Punk Rock, Buried Child
(Nottingham New Theatre)



Orphans was first presented by Birmingham
Repertory Theatre Company and Traverse Theatre
Company in association with Paines Plough at the
Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh on 31st July 2009.