

**The Finborough Theatre is now FULLY AIR CONDITIONED**

“In Their Place”

A three month season of work by women playwrights

Little Bridge Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

**The World Premiere**

# **The Goodnight Bird**

by Colleen Murphy.

Directed by Bethan Dear. Designed by Holly Seager. Lighting by Dan Cloake. Costume Design by Fiona Albrow. Sound and Music by George Dennis.

Cast: Karen Archer. Damien Lyne. David Weston.

The world premiere of Colleen Murphy's *The Goodnight Bird* opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited run of six Sunday and Monday performances from Sunday, 15 May 2011 (**Press Night: Monday, 16 May 2011**) as part of “In Their Place”, a three month season of work by women playwrights. The three Sunday/Monday slots in the season are entirely devoted to introducing the UK to the work of one writer – multi-award-winning Canadian playwright, and our latest Playwright-in-Residence, Colleen Murphy – with a European premiere, a UK premiere and a world premiere of her work. This mini-season within a season marks Colleen's UK debut.

Lilly and Morgan Beaumont are comfortable in their familiar routine until Parker, a homeless man, lands on the balcony of their new condo. After scaring the older couple half to death, he pours himself into the holes of their relationship, agitating them with talk of sex - talk that drives Lilly out into the night with Parker, and sends Morgan on the road to another heart attack. A dark comedy about old love and new courage.

Playwright **Colleen Murphy** was born in Quebec and grew up in Northern Ontario. Her plays include *The December Man* (*L'homme de décembre*), won the 2007 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, the CAA/Carol Bolt Award for Drama and the 2006 Enbridge playRites Award. The play premiered in February 2007 at Alberta Theatre Projects as part of their Festival of New Canadian Plays. It has also been seen at The Citadel, Edmonton, and at The Canadian Stage Company, Toronto, and translated into French and German; *Beating Heart Cadaver* (nominated for a 1999 Governor General's Literary Award); *The Piper*, *Down in Adoration* *Falling* and *All Other Destinations are Cancelled*. In 2008, Murphy was shortlisted for the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. She is currently working on *Deliver Me* (National Arts Centre), *Armstrong's War* (Banff Centre) and *The Birthday Boy* (Shaw Festival). She has twice won awards in the CBC Literary Competition. Colleen's distinct, award-winning films have played in festivals around the world and include *Out in the Cold*, *Girl with Dog*, *War Holes*, *Desire*, *Shoemaker*, *The Feeler* and *Putty Worm*. Two of her plays have been seen as staged readings at the Finborough Theatre – *The December Man* (*L'homme de décembre*) in the first *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* in 2009, and *Beating Heart Cadaver* in 2010's *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights*.

Director **Bethan Dear** has recently completed the Finborough Theatre's Resident Assistant Director programme during which she she assisted on *Saturn Returns*, *Love on the Dole*, *His Greatness* and as part of *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights – Beating Heart Cadaver*, *Lights in the Sky*, *Rock, Paper, Scissors* and *The Voice of Scotland*. Trained at Middlesex University where she directed *Mad Forest*, *The Raft of the Medusa* and *The Insect Play*. Bethan has also been involved in directing overseas productions and workshops for the OYO organisation in Namibia and SoftPower Education in Uganda.

**Karen Archer's** many credits include *The Gods Weep* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Generous* (Finborough Theatre), *Hamlet/Twelfth Night* (Southwark Playhouse), *Mourning Becomes Electra* (National Theatre), *The Memory of Water* (English Theatre Vienna), *Ghosts* (Library Theatre, Manchester) and *Nicholas Nickleby* (Royal Shakespeare Company National Tour and US Tour).

**Damien Lyne's** many credits include *The Pillowman* (Leicester Curve), *Boy's Life* (Soho Studio), *Pride With Prejudice* (The Gatehouse Theatre), *The Hostage* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Hummingbird* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs),

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone +44 (0)20 7244 7439

e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

## Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

*King Lear* (Royal Shakespeare Company) and *The Country Wife* (Royal Shakespeare Company). Many TV credits include *Hollyoaks*, *Doctors*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Bill*, and *The Vice*.

**David Weston's** many credits include *King Lear* (Royal Shakespeare Company World Tour), *Henry VIII* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Henry V* (National Theatre), *Dorian Gray* (National Tour), *Albert Speer* (National Theatre), *Summerfolk* (National Theatre) and *The Tempest* (Royal Shakespeare Company). Many TV credits include *A Most Mysterious Murder*, *Doctors*, *Giblet Boys* and *Barbara*.

**PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 16 MAY 2011 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: BY ARRANGEMENT. PLEASE EMAIL [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)**

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED  
Box Office 0844 847 1652. [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Sundays and Mondays, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 May 2011**

Evenings at 7.30pm. Tickets £13, £9 concessions.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Neil McPherson** on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>

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e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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