

Myriad Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

The English Premiere

Gitta Sereny's

In Quest Of Conscience

Adapted for the stage by Robert David MacDonald.

Directed by Rachel Heyburn. Designed by Florence McHugh. Lighting by Dan Cloake. Sound by Chris Barlow.

Cast: Martin Buchan. Siubhan Harrison. Patrick Knowles. Phillipa Peak.

A True Story

"Survival, always survival.

I had to limit my own actions to what I, in my conscience, could answer for."

Franz Stangl.

The English premiere of Robert David MacDonald's *In Quest Of Conscience* opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited run of six Sunday and Monday performances from Sunday, 12 June 2011 (**Press Night: Monday, 13 June 2011**).

SS-Obersturmführer Franz Stangl was the Superintendent of the Nazi's T-4 Euthanasia Programme overseeing the extermination of mentally and physically disabled people, and subsequently Commandant of both Sobibor and Treblinka extermination camps. Tracked down long after the war by Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal in Brazil, he was extradited to West Germany and tried for the deaths of approximately 900,000 people. During his imprisonment, he was interviewed by author Gitta Sereny, well known for her studies of Mary Bell and Albert Speer. Based on her subsequent book, *In Quest Of Conscience* is a startling dramatization of those interviews.

The play explores Stangl the child, the husband, the father and leader, attempting to understand how the young boy who started life wanting to be a fabric weaver in his hometown in Austria became responsible for the most efficient death camp of the Holocaust. *In Quest Of Conscience* is a devastating journey into the dark heart of evil as the interview process gradually brings Stangl face to face with the consequences of his actions...

Playwright **Robert David MacDonald** (1929–2004) was born in Elgin, Scotland. After originally training as a musician, he worked as a Director, Playwright and Translator. As an Assistant Director, he worked at both the Glyndebourne Opera Festival and for the Royal Opera House. In 1971, he became Co-Artistic Director of the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, where he directed fifty plays and wrote fifteen for the venue before his retirement in 2003. The plays that he wrote for the Glasgow Citz include *The De Sade Show* (1975), *Chinchilla* (1977), *Summit Conference* (1978), also seen in the West End with Glenda Jackson and Gary Oldman, *A Waste of Time* (1980), *Don Juan* (1980), *Webster* (1983), *Britannicus* (2002) and *Cheri* (2003). As a translator, MacDonald translated over seventy different plays and opera from over ten different languages including *The Threepenny Opera*, *Tamerlano*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Orpheus* and *The Human Voice*, *Conversation at Night*, *Shadow of Angels*, *The Balcony*, *The Government Inspector*, *Tasso*, *Faust I and II*, Ibsen's *Brand* and *Hedda Gabler*, Lermontov's *Maskerade*, Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Molière's *School for Wives* and *Don Juan*, Pirandello's *Enrico Four*, Racine's *Phèdre*, Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, *The Maid of Orleans* and *Don Carlos*, Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Verne's *Around the World In Eighty Days*, Wedekind's *Lulu* and Goethe's *Clavigo*. His adaptation of *War and Peace* ran for two seasons on Broadway and received an Emmy award when shown on U.S television. The Finborough Theatre has previously presented Robert David MacDonald's versions of Rolf Hochhuth's *Soldiers* (2004) and *The Representative* (2006)

Director **Rachel Heyburn** has recently completed a six month residency as Resident Assistant Director at the Finborough Theatre. During her residency, Rachel assisted on *The Northerners*, *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* and *Dream of the Dog* with Janet Suzman (which subsequently transferred to the West End. Other directing includes *Going Underground* (Theatre 503), *Busted!* (Arcola Theatre), *The Offer* and *Closing Time* (Etcetera Theatre). Assistant Directing includes *The Ones That Flutter* (Theatre 503), *Through The Door* (Trafalgar Studios), *The Hostage* (Southwark Playhouse) and *One Night In November* (Belgrade Theatre). Rachel will be working as the Assistant Director on *Dublin Carol*, directed by Abbey Wright, as part of the Donmar Warehouse residency at the Trafalgar Studios later this year.

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e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

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The cast includes Martin Buchan, Siubhan Harrison, Patrick Knowles and Phillipa Peak.

Martin Buchan's extensive theatre credits include *Juno and the Paycock* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *Borstal Boy* (Gaiety Theatre, Dublin), *Le Diner De Cons* (Manchester Free Theatre Company), *The Rehearsal* (Library Theatre, Manchester) and *Nowhere Close* (Liverpool Comedy Festival). Many television credits include *Crimewatch*, *Dead Clever*, *Emmerdale*, *Doctors*, *Heartbeat* and *Baker Street Bank Heist*. Film credits include *Einstein*, *Our Burdens* and *Sweet Little Chimes*.

Siubhan Harrison's many theatre credits include *Marguerite* (Theatre Royal Haymarket) and *Marianne Dreams* (Almeida Theatre). Musical Theatre includes *Grease* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Bad Girls The Musical* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Les Miserables* (Windsor Castle). Many TV credits include *The Song Of Lunch* and *Al Murray Show*.

Patrick Knowles's credits include *The Northerners* (Finborough Theatre), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester), *Gates of Gold* (Library Theatre, Manchester) and *Paradise Regained* (Royal Court Theatre), and extensive TV credits include *Doctors*, *New Tricks*, *Apparitions* and *Lewis*.

Phillipa Peak's extensive theatre credits include *Mother Courage And Her Children* (National Theatre), *The Deep Blue Sea* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Julius Caesar* (Young Vic Theatre), *The Comedy of Errors* (Bristol Old Vic), *Talk About The Passion* (New End Theatre, Hampstead), *Vertigo* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Romeo and Juliet* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Danny Bouncing*, *Can't Pay Won't Pay* and *Private Lives* (Derby Playhouse) and *Private Lives* (Library Theatre, Manchester) for which she won the Manchester Evening News Best Actress Award. Extensive TV and film credits include *Heartlands*, *King Lear*, *The Bill*, *My Family*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, *EastEnders* and *Emmerdale* where she played series regular Effie.

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 13 JUNE 2011 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: BY ARRANGEMENT. PLEASE EMAIL admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0844 847 1652. www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sundays and Mondays, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 June 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 or **07977 173135**

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