

31Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

MIXED MARRIAGE

by St John Ervine.

Directed by Sam Yates. Designed by Richard Kent.

Lighting Design by David Plater. Music and Sound Design by Alex Baranowski.

The first London production for 90 years of St John Ervine's searing Belfast tragedy *Mixed Marriage*, first seen at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, plays for a four-week season from Tuesday, 4 October 2011 (Press Night: Thursday, 6 October 2011 at 7.30pm) at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre.

As the city's factories come out on strike, John Rainey, the respected head of a Protestant family, acts to calm the sectarian tension being stirred up by politicians for their own ends. On the streets, Rainey successfully unites Catholic and Protestant against the machinations of the factory owners, the nationalists and the Orangemen. But at home, passions rise when Rainey discovers that his son wants to marry the beautiful, innocent Nora, a Catholic...

Set in Ireland before partition, *Mixed Marriage* is a poetic tragedy – leavened with earthy humour – which dissects class and religious sectarianism through the breakdown of one ordinary family. It was a groundbreaking success in its time and established Ervine as a great Irish writer.

This production is another Finborough Theatre rediscovery, following in the footsteps of such sell-out successes as J.M. Barrie's *What Every Woman Knows* and *Quality Street*, Graham Greene's *The Potting Shed* and Emlyn Williams' *Accolade*.

Director **Sam Yates** is Artistic Associate at Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton. He has been Associate Director to Michael Grandage, Trevor Nunn, Jamie Lloyd, Josie Rourke and Phyllida Lloyd. Designer **Richard Kent** has been associate to designer Christopher Oram since 2008 and will, later this year, design *Richard II* for the Donmar Warehouse alongside Lighting Designer **David Plater**. Composer and Sound Designer **Alex Baranowski's** recent credits include *Hamlet*, *Frankenstein* and *Earthquakes in London* at the National Theatre.

Playwright St John Ervine (1883-1971) was a dramatist, novelist, biographer and critic. A protestant, born in East Belfast, he was for a time an unlikely choice as Literary Manager at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, under W.B. Yeats, where *Mixed Marriage*, his first play, was produced in 1911, directed by Lennox Robinson. It was subsequently seen in London at the Royal Court Theatre in 1911 and revived in the West End at both the Ambassadors and Aldwych Theatres in 1922. His many other plays include *John Ferguson* (1915), *Anthony and Anna* (1926), *The First Mrs. Fraser* (1926) and *Boyd's Shop* (1939). In later life, Ervine turned his back on Ireland and its politics, and moved to England where he became a noted drama critic for *The Observer* and *The Morning Star*, as well as a novelist and a biographer of both Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2011 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

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

Tuesday, 4 October – Saturday, 29 October 2011

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from the second week of the run).

Prices for Weeks One and Two (4-16 October 2011) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday Evenings £13 all seats. Previews (4 and 5 October) £9 all seats.

£5 tickets for under 30's for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on the first Saturday of the run only.

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439

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

Press Information

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

Prices for Weeks Three and Four (17-29 October 2011) – Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday Evenings £15 all seats.
Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Ryan Petersen at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7494 3665 or ryan@thecornershoppr.com
or **Neil McPherson** on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

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

Director Sam Yates is Associate Artist at Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton, under Laurie Sansom. Previous direction for the Finborough Theatre includes two plays by Nicholas de Jongh for *Vibrant - A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* – *To Keep the Ghost Awake* (2010) and *There Goes My Future* (2011). Direction includes *Mrs P.* (Workshop for Mercury Musical Developments), *Electra* and *Oedipus* (Garrick Theatre, Stockport), *Oleanna* (Hong Kong Arts Centre), *The Turke* (Arcola Theatre), *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* (ADC Theatre, Cambridge) and *Yeats' Purgatory* (Edinburgh Festival). He was Associate Director to Josephine Hart on Poetry Week (Donmar Warehouse), Michael Grandage on *Hamlet* with Jude Law (Donmar Warehouse, Elsinore and Broadway), *Madame De Sade* with Dame Judi Dench (Donmar Warehouse), Trevor Nunn on *Birdsong* (Comedy Theatre), Jamie Lloyd on *Salome* (National Tour) and *The Little Dog Laughed* (Garrick Theatre). He was Assistant Director to Josie Rourke on *How To Curse* (Bush Theatre) and *Burying Your Brother in the Pavement* (National Theatre), Paul Raffield on *Hysteria* (Birmingham Rep), Rachel Kavanaugh on *Uncle Vanya* (Birmingham Rep) and Phyllida Lloyd on *Wise Children* (National Theatre Studio).

Designer Richard Kent's designs include *Decline and Fall* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Stronger* and *Pariah* (Arcola Theatre) and *Gin and Tonic and Passing Trains* (Tramway Theatre, Glasgow). As Associate to Christopher Oram since 2008 – *King Lear* (Donmar Warehouse and Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York), *Red* (Donmar Warehouse and Broadway) and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Ivanov*, *Twelfth Night*, *Madame De Sade* and *Hamlet* (Donmar Warehouse). Opera includes *Don Giovanni* (Metropolitan Opera, New York), *Madame Butterfly* (Houston Grand Opera) and *Billy Budd* (Glyndebourne). Richard will design *Richard II* at Donmar Warehouse later this year.

Lighting Designer David Plater's designs include *Sondheim @ 80* (Donmar at the Queen's Theatre), *Stronger and Pariah* (Arcola Theatre), *4 Quartets*, *Frame 312*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Morphic Resonance*, *Splash Hatch*, *Summer Begins* and *Badfinger* (Donmar Warehouse), *Michael Ball* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Loyal Women* (Royal Court Theatre), *Dave Strassman Show* (Apollo Theatre), *Dark Tales* (Arts Theatre), *Company* (Derby Playhouse) and *The Arab Israeli Cookbook* (Tricycle Theatre and Gate Theatre). David will design lighting for *Richard II* at the Donmar Warehouse later this year and *Ballet Black* for the Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, in 2012.

Composer and Sound Designer Alex Baranowski's credits include *Hamlet* and *Earthquakes in London* (National Theatre and Tour), *Frankenstein* (National Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Royal Shakespeare Company) and *Hobson's Choice* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield). Forthcoming productions include *The Faith Machine* (Royal Court Theatre), *Salt, Root and Roe* (Trafalgar Studios) and *Othello* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson