

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

New Writing at the Finborough Theatre Season
November 2011 to January 2012

Lucy Jackson for Nusu Nusu Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents
The World Premiere

Fanta Orange

by Sally Woodcock.

Directed by Gareth Machin. Designed by Alex Marker. Lighting by Neill Brinkworth. Sound by Tom Gibbons.
Cast: Jessica Ellerby. Kehinde Fadipe. Jay Villiers.

"Who do you think I am? Another clueless white woman turned up in Africa with her conscience-stricken hat on to save The African from famine, disease, earthquake, wind and fire whilst secretly revelling in her ability to retreat to the nearest luxury lodge when the going gets tough or the dysentery kicks in?"
"Yah. Pretty much."

The world premiere of Sally Woodcock's new play **Fanta Orange** opens at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre from Tuesday, 1 November 2011 (**Press Night: Thursday, 3 November 2011 at 7.30pm**) for a limited four-week season, the opening play in the New Writing at the Finborough Theatre Season, playing November 2011 to January 2012.

Inspired by a real-life Amnesty International report, *Fanta Orange* is a playful and unexpected tale that gets under the skin of modern Africa.

Regina is a Kenyan house servant. Roger is her white farmer boss. The two share a curious bond. Enter Ronnie, a privileged young English girl whom Roger discovers holed up in the bush, studying the bizarre practice of dirt-eating among local tribes. Soon both women are pregnant and a saga unfolds which turns every racial and sexual preconception on its head.

Playwright **Sally Woodcock** was raised in Kenya and educated at Cambridge University, RADA and Kings College London. Woodcock has worked as a journalist, teacher and theatre practitioner, writing and producing comedies (*Wedding Belles* and *The Trouser Department*) on the fringes of Edinburgh (The Gilded Balloon, Hill Street Theatre), London (Jermyn Street Theatre, Bridewell Theatre) and New York (78th St Theatre Lab). Woodcock also co-founded the Horseshoe Theatre Company which produced play texts for public exam students at theatres in Cambridge. *Fanta Orange* is Woodcock's first full-length play and has been developed at RADA and the National Theatre Studio.

Director **Gareth Machin** is Studio Associate at the National Theatre where he has directed Caryl Churchill's *Three More Sleepless Nights* in the Lyttelton Theatre. He has just been appointed Artistic Director of Salisbury Playhouse. He was previously Artistic Director of Southwark Playhouse where his productions included Chris Chibnall's *Gaffer* and Arthur Miller's *The Archbishop's Ceiling*. As Associate Director at Bristol Old Vic, his productions included major revivals of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Clare Higgins and Gerard Murphy, *Look Back in Anger* with Nick Moran, many new plays in the New Vic Studio and establishing the Basement Theatre as a regular lunchtime and late night producing venue. He also co-directed the site-specific epic *Up The Feeder Down the Mouth and Back Again* in Bristol Docks.

Designer **Alex Marker** has been Resident Designer of the Finborough Theatre since 2002 where his designs have included *Charlie's Wake*, *The Women's War*, *How I Got That Story*, *Soldiers*, *Happy Family*, *Trelawny of the 'Wells'*, *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*, *Albert's Boy*, *Lark Rise To Candleford*, *Red Night*, *The Representative*, *Eden's Empire*, *Love Child*, *Little Madam*, *Plague Over England*, and its West End transfer to the Duchess Theatre, *Hangover Square*, *Sons of York*, *Untitled*, *Painting A Wall*, *Death of Long Pig*, *Molière or The League of Hypocrites* and *Dream of the Dog* and its West End transfer to the Trafalgar Studios. His work has been extensively featured in exhibitions, most recently as part of the *Collaborators: UK Design for Performance* in Nottingham.

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

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Press Information

The cast includes:

Jessica Ellerby. At the Finborough Theatre, Jessica appeared in *Oohrah!* (2009). Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Theatre includes *Dreamboats and Petticoats* (Playhouse Theatre), *Curvature*, *Word:Play 2* (Theatre503), *Captain of the School Football Team* (Latitude Festival and Theatre503), *Dick Whittington* (Theatre Chipping Norton), *Triptych* (Southwark Playhouse), *Push Up* (Rosemary Branch Theatre) and *My Name Is Alice* (Edinburgh Festival). Film includes *Magpie*, *Hollow*, *Get Him To The Greek* and *The Sad Case*. Television includes *EastEnders* and *The Bill*.

Kehinde Fadipe. At the Finborough Theatre, Kehinde appeared in *Hurried Steps* (2009) and *And I And Silence* as part of *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights* (2010). Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Theatre includes *Ruined* (Almeida Theatre) and *Auricular* (Theatre503). Workshops include *Houseboy* (Tiata Fahodzi), *Mephisto* (MJE Productions) and *Eclipsed* (National Theatre Studio). Television includes *Misfits* and *The Body Farm*. Short Film includes *Of Mary*.

Jay Villiers. Theatre includes *In Praise Of Love* (Theatre Royal, Northampton), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Tobacco Factory) *Gone To Earth* (Shared Experience, Lyric Hammersmith and Tour), *Barbarians*, *The Taming Of The Shrew* and *Dead Funny* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Betrayal* and *The Browning Version* (Bristol Old Vic), *Arcadia*, *Mansfield Park* and *The Admirable Crichton* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Six Degrees Of Separation* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *Hamlet*, *As You Like It* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Renaissance Theatre Company), *Ting Tang Mine*, *Fathers And Sons* and *Six Characters In Search Of An Author* (National Theatre) and *Richard III* (Royal Shakespeare Company). Film includes *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *The Lady*, *Before The Rain*, *Decameron* and *Henry V*. Television includes *Extras*, *Absolute Power*, *Lewis*, *Heartbeat*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Spooks*, *Silent Witness*, *The Government Inspector*, *Monsignor Renard*, *McCallum*, *The Sculptress*, *Black Hearts In Battersea*, *Rumpole*, *Lipstick On Your Collar*, *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and *Miss Marple*.

The Press on playwright Sally Woodcock

"Woodcock is master of the comic monologue" *The Scotsman*

"Woodcock's attention to detail is both subtle and delicious" *The Stage*

"Great comic material" *The Village Voice*

The Press on director Gareth Machin

"Fifty minutes of glittering perspicuity, taut as a tourniquet." **** Four Stars, *Time Out* on *Three More Sleepless Nights* (National Theatre)

"One of the most spectacular sights we'll see in British theatre this decade" **** Four Stars *The Guardian* on *Up The Feeder Down the Mouth and Back Again* (Bristol Old Vic)

"With his scrupulous care for the minutiae, Gareth Machin is developing a niche for himself as a crafter of precision work in which the director's hand is almost invisible, yet absolutely crucial. This staging has not a hair out of place."

The Independent on *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Bristol Old Vic)

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 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, 1 November – Saturday, 26 November 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 (1 November–13 November 2011) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday evenings £13 all seats.

Previews (2 and 3 August) £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.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four (15 November–26 November 2011) – Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £15 all seats.

Performance length: Approximately two hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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Press Information

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

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