

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

New Writing at the Finborough Theatre Season

November 2011 to January 2012

Rowan Rutter in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

The English premiere/The English language world premiere

ATMAN

by Iain Finlay Macleod

Directed by Jacqui Honess-Martin. Designed by Kate Lane. Lighting by Neill Brinkworth.

Cast: Lucy Griffiths. Matthew Spencer.

The English premiere and the English language world premiere of a new play by one of Scotland's most successful Scots Gaelic writers, Iain Finlay Macleod, *Atman*, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited run of six Sunday and Monday performances from 6 November 2011 (**Press Night: Monday, 7 November 2011**).

The boundaries of existence have been mapped, all languages have been accounted for and the library is embarking on a new project to capture every possible story. A, a librarian, is lonely and B, his therapist, struggles to care. Until A brings B a book that details every moment of his life to date and B suggests some redrafting.

A chilling insight into the dizzying power of fiction inspired by the works of Jorge Luis Borges, the master of magical realism.

Atman was first performed in Scots Gaelic by Tosg Theatre Company on a Highlands tour and now receives its English language world premiere, following a reading as part of *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights* in 2010 starring Jasper Britton and Alan Cox.

Playwright **Iain Finlay MacLeod** made his English debut at the Finborough Theatre in 2009 with *I Was A Beautiful Day* in a production which has recently transferred to the Tron Theatre, Glasgow. He is one of Scotland's most prolific contemporary Scots Gaelic writers, having written many works for theatre, radio, film and television. Writing in both English and his native Scots Gaelic, Iain has also directed numerous documentaries on Celtic folklore and arts, and was series director of the BAFTA-winning show *TACSI*, which won Best Arts Series in the Scottish BAFTA's and Best Entertainment Programme at the Celtic Film and Television Festival. Television includes *Machair* which won a Writers' Guild Award for Best Foreign Language Serial Drama. His work for theatre includes *Somersaults* (National Theatre of Scotland and the Traverse Theatre), *St Kilda* (Gaelic Arts Agency), *Broke*, *Homers*, *Alexander Salamander* and *Road from the Isles* (Traverse Theatre), *Salvage* (Tosg Theatre Company) and *Cliff Dancing* (National Gaelic Youth Theatre). His work for BBC Radio 4 includes *The Watergaw*, *The Gold Digger* and an adaptation of Angela Carter's *The Kitchen Child*. Other radio includes *Frozen* and an adaptation of *The Pearlfisher* for BBC Radio Scotland. His film work includes *The Inaccessible Pinnacle* (Young Films). He is also the author of several novels.

Director **Jacqui Honess-Martin** is Artistic Director of InSite Performance for whom she is currently developing the UK premiere of *Larisa and The Merchants* by Alexander Ostrovsky in a new version by Samuel Adamson. Her directing credits include: *SMITH*, performed in the Enlightenment Gallery at the British Museum; *Antigone*, performed in the disused Walworth Council Chambers; and *Auricular: Live Audio Drama* at Theatre 503. She has assisted in the West End and at the Royal Court Theatre. Jacqui took part in the 2011 National Theatre Studio's Directors' Course. As a playwright, Jacqui wrote *Tell Out My Soul* which was part of Summer Play Festival at the Public Theater, New York, in 2008. Jacqui is Literary Associate at Cambridge based Menagerie Theatre Company and was also Assistant Producer at Cheek by Jowl from 2004–2008.

The cast is:

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

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Lucy Griffiths. Theatre includes *Arcadia* (Duke of York's Theatre). Television includes, *Awakening*, *The Little House*, *Lewis*, *Collision* and *U Be Dead* (all ITV) and Marian in two series' of *Robin Hood* (BBC).

Matthew Spencer. Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Theatre includes *This Happy Breed* (The Peter Hall Company at the Theatre Royal Bath), *War Horse* (National Theatre at the New London Theatre) and The Life and Adventures of *Nicholas Nickleby* (Chichester Festival Theatre, National Tour, Toronto and West End), *Tartuffe* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury) and *Bent* (Trafalgar Studios).

The press on playwright Iain Finlay Macleod's *I Was A Beautiful Day* at the Finborough Theatre, 2009

**** Four Stars Whatsonstage.com and RemoteGoat.com

"Strangely compelling...There isn't long to catch this play, and it would be a shame to miss it. *I Was a Beautiful Day* is a kind of lyrical Scots version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*." Michael Spring, *Theatreworld*

"Impeccably played by all concerned and wonderfully evocative of the Scottish islands and their place in history....This is a wonderfully lyrical evocation of what it is to belong, and is at once both moving and uplifting." Michael Spring, *Theatreworld*

"Macleod's love for the Gaelic language, its oral tradition and Lewis itself is clearly evident throughout the text." Matt Boothman, *British Theatre Guide*

"Writer Iain Finlay Macleod has created a wonderful evocation of a man with real connections to history and to the land. This play is funny, exciting and uplifting. Catch it if you can." Michael Spring, *Theatreworld*

The press on director Jacqui Honess-Martin

"*SMITH* is a good yarn, and the promise shines through, particularly in the exploration of our personal connection to history. There is a cracking young cast, too, who swap roles to excellent effect...it is also a potent reminder that human stories lurk behind the inert artefacts preserved in glass cases." Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian* on *SMITH*

"Clever, imaginative stuff...*SMITH* breathes new life into the treasures of the British Museum. Folk sitting on the floor of the Enlightenment Gallery, listening to the earliest stories of mankind: the very essence of theatre, surely, and of this great temple of knowledge." *WhatsOnStage*

"For an altogether more inspiring kind of experience, you should hasten to the British Museum...*SMITH* could hardly do more to inspire you to pay a return visit to the museum's collections by day." Dominic Cavendish, *The Daily Telegraph*, on *SMITH*

"What impressive, echoing resonance this setting lends to the drama...A triumph on every level" *The Evening Standard* on *Antigone*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 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, 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 November 2011

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

Performance length: Approximately one hour with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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>

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

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