

New Writing at the Finborough Theatre Season

November 2011 to January 2012

Papatango Theatre Company in partnership with the Finborough Theatre present four world premieres

The Papatango Playwriting Festival 2011

Foxfinder by Dawn King

Directed by Blanche McIntyre. Designed by James Perkins. Lighting by Gary Bowman. Sound by George Dennis.

Cast: Kirsty Besterman. Tom Byam Shaw. Becci Gemmell. Gyuri Sarossy.

Papatango have teamed up with one of London's leading new writing venues, the Finborough Theatre to present the winning entries in the 2011 Papatango Playwriting Competition 2011, featuring this year's winning play *Foxfinder* by Dawn King which will play for a four week limited season from 29 November (Press Night: **Thursday, 1 December 2011 at 8.30pm**).

"You, Foxfinder, must be clean in body and mind. Always remember that the smallest fault in your character could become a crack into which the beast may insinuate himself, like water awaiting the freeze that will smash the stone apart."

William Bloor, a *Foxfinder*, arrives at Sam and Judith Covey's farm to investigate a suspected contamination. What follows will change the course of all their lives, forever. *Foxfinder* is a gripping, unsettling and darkly comic exploration of belief, desire and responsibility.

Playwright **Dawn King** was one of ten writers from across the UK chosen for the BBC Writersroom 10 scheme, a prestigious mentoring and support programme. Through this she is developing a new play with West Yorkshire Playhouse. She is also currently writing *My One and Only*, an afternoon play for BBC radio 4. Her episode of horror series *The Man in Black* will broadcast on BBC radio 4 Extra later this year. Previous radio work includes afternoon play 28 and episodes for the first and second series of science fiction drama *Planet B* for BBC radio 7. She was made co-series leader for the third series. Her recent theatre work includes *Water Sculptures/Zoo* double bill (Union Theatre), *Face Value* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough), *The Bitches' Ball* (Hoxton Hall), National Tour and Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh) and *Doghead Boy and Sharkmouth Go To Ikea* (The Junction, Cambridge). Previous work has received performances, workshops and readings at; Royal Court Theatre, Soho Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Theatre503, Arcola, Old Red Lion, Etcetera Theatre, The Latitude Festival, Resonance FM and The Union Theatre. Dawn was a member of both the Soho Theatre and Royal Court Theatre Young Writers' Programmes and holds an MA distinction in Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths University, London. www.dawn-king.com

Director **Blanche McIntyre** returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed the sell-out productions of *Accolade* and *Molière or the League of Hypocrites*. She was the winner of the first Leverhulme Bursary for Emerging Theatre Directors. She was Associate Director at Out of Joint in 2010, and Director in Residence at the National Theatre Studio London and the Finborough Theatre in 2009. Directing includes *When Did You Last See My Mother?* (Trafalgar Studios), *Pinching For My Soul* (Focus Theatre, Dublin), *Robin Hood* (Latitude), *Open Heart Surgery* (Soho Theatre and Southwark Playhouse), *Wuthering Heights* (National Tour), *The Revenger's Tragedy* (BAC), *The Master and Margarita* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Three Hours After Marriage* (Union Theatre), *Doctor Faustus*, *The Devil Is An Ass* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde as Told to Carl Jung by an Inmate of Broadmoor Asylum* (White Bear Theatre), *Cressida* and *The Invention of Love* (Edinburgh Festival), *Prometheus Bound* (Burton Taylor Theatre, Oxford). She was also Associate Director on *The Big Fella* (Out of Joint 2010 and 2011 tours). Blanche also works as a writer and librettist.

The cast comprises:

Kirsty Besterman

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Holding Fire!* and *Liberty* (Shakespeare's Globe), *King Lear* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Rivals* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Othello* (Cheek By Jowl), *Amy's View* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Plunder* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury),

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

Press Information

Edmond (Wilton's Music Hall), *Twelfth Night* (Ludlow Theatre Festival), *People Are Stupid: A Political Memoir* (Arcola Theatre) and *Private Lives* (Simply Theatre).

Television includes *Foyle's War*, *Doctors* and *Peter Ackroyd's London*.

Radio includes *The Girl Who Was Going To Die* and *Words and Music – Solitude*.

Tom Byam Shaw

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *The Tempest* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Salome* (Headlong Theatre) and *Les Parents Terribles* (Donmar Warehouse at Trafalgar Studios).

Film includes *Grand Street*.

Television includes *A Room With A View* and *The Bill*.

Tom has been longlisted for the Milton Shulman Award for Outstanding Newcomer in the *Evening Standard* Theatre Awards 2011.

Becci Gemmell

Trained at Drama Studio London.

Theatre includes *66 Books* (Bush Theatre), *Lark Rise to Candleford* (National Tour), *Eurydice* (Young Vic and National Tour), *F*cked* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *As You Like It* (The Curve, Leicester), *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* (Southwark Playhouse), *Uncertainty* (Latitude), *Mad Funny Just* (Theatre 503), *Gleaming Dark* (Trafalgar Studios), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oxford Shakespeare Company), *Winter* (Soho Theatre Studio), *Anniversary* (The Old Vic 24 Hour Plays), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Guildford Shakespeare Company), *Air Guitar* (Bristol Old Vic Studio) and *Volpone* (Wilton's Music Hall).

Film includes *Red Lights*.

Television includes *Land Girls*, *Home Time*, *Meeting* and *Angel of Death – The Story of Beverly Allitt*.

Gyuri Sarossy

At the Finborough Theatre, Gyuri appeared in *Hangover Square* (2008) and *Moliere or the League of Hypocrites* (2009).

Trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Other theatre includes *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Earthquakes in London* (Headlong Theatre), *Balmoral*, *Man and Superman*, *Galileo's Daughter*, *Don Juan* (The Peter Hall Company), *As You Like It* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (Liverpool Playhouse and Chichester Festival Theatre), *Twelfth Night*, *Uncle Vanya* (Donmar Warehouse), *Luther* (National Theatre), *The Hypochondriac* (Almeida Theatre), *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus* (The Tobacco Factory), *Rope* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The Promise* (Tricycle Theatre), *The Tempest* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Romeo and Juliet* (Leicester Haymarket), *Simplicity* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *A Christmas Carol*, *The Bald Prima Donna* (Bristol Old Vic) *The Biting Point* (Theatre 503) and *Summer in the City* (BAC).

Film includes *Another Life*, *After Death*, *Sheepish*, *Spirit of the Fox* and *Jean*.

Television includes *Einstein and Eddington*, *Tchaikovsky*, *Judge John Deed*, *Egypt*, *The Bill*, *Holby City*, *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, *Blue Dove*, *Belfry Witches*, *Up Rising* and *Kavanagh QC*.

Radio includes *Getting Nowhere Fast* and *Twenty Cigarettes*.

Papatango was founded by Matt Roberts, George Turvey and Sam Donovan in 2007. The company's mission is to find the best and brightest new talent in the UK with an absolute commitment to bring their work to the stage. Since then, Papatango have produced eight pieces of new writing in such venues as the Tristan Bates Theatre, the Old Red Lion Theatre and the Pleasance London. 2009 saw the launch of their first Papatango New Writing Competition, which each year has gone from strength to strength. Now in its new home - the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre - this year's competition received over 600 entries from all over the UK. This year's judges included Con O'Neill (Actor), Catherine Johnson (Playwright), Matt Charman (Playwright), Colin Barr (BBC Director and Producer), Tamara Harvey (Director), Ruth Carney (Director), Neil McPherson (Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre), Van Badham (Literary Manager of the Finborough Theatre) and Tanya Tillett (Literary Agent, The Rod Hall Agency).

The Press on *Accolade*, director Blanche McIntyre's last production at the Finborough Theatre

***** Five Stars Financial Times, Fringe Review and West London Living

Time Out Critics' Choice and Show Of The Week

**** Four Stars Time Out, Musicomh.com, WhatsonStage, The Guardian, Evening Standard, The Public Reviews, TNT The British Theatre Guide - Alternative Top 5 Shows

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Press Information

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

"The reviewers' cliché "Neglected plays are usually neglected for a good reason" carries the implicit qualifier "...except when the Finborough stages them." The more obscure revivals presented by this little studio theatre are almost always worthwhile, often impressive and sometimes revelatory. With Emlyn Williams' 1950 drama, here receiving its first revival, we are well into revelation." Ian Shuttleworth, *Financial Times*

"Blanche McIntyre's superbly acted production captures precisely the feel of a period of double-lives and double-standards" Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"A forgotten gem... *Accolade* is humorous, humane and subtle in its suspenseful twists, and McIntyre's up-close staging enthalls. A talented young director and an exceptional fringe revival" Kate Bassett, *Independent on Sunday*

With a fraction of the budget and playing space, this is the production last year's National Theatre revival of Rattigan's *After The Dance* wanted to be – and perhaps the play it wanted to be as well" – Ian Shuttleworth, *Financial Times*

"Director Blanche McIntyre unearths a potent broadside directed at English prurience and hypocrisy... Witty and sad, tense but chary of melodrama, 'Accolade' is an elegantly understated piece with a palpable fury in its depths... blessed with just about the finest cast I've ever seen in a fringe show" – Andrzej Lukowski, *Time Out*

"At this early date, *Accolade* already classifies as one of the defining rediscoveries of this theatrical year... The praise afforded *Accolade*, one senses, has only just begun" – Matt Wolf, *New York Times*

"Blanche McIntyre's suspense-filled, utterly authentic exhumation... Upcoming director McIntyre is alive to the play's every emotional nuance... McIntyre's first-rate production ensures that its dilemmas remain timeless and gripping" – David Benedict, *Variety*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2011 AT 8.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Listings Information

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 29 November – Friday 23 December 2011

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 8.30pm, with matinees on Saturday at 3.00pm and Sunday at 4.30pm (as listed in the schedule below)

Prices for Weeks 1 and 2 (29 November – 11 December 2011) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday evenings £13 all seats.

Previews £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 3 and 4 (13 December – 23 December 2011) Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £15 all seats.

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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