

The Finborough Theatre is now fully air conditioned and heated

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

AGF Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents
The World Premiere

FOG

by Tash Fairbanks and Toby Wharton.

Directed by Ché Walker.

Designed by Georgia Lowe. Lighting by Arnim Friess. Costume Design by Rachel Szmuckler. Sound by Edward Lewis.

Cast includes: Kanga Tanikye-Buah. Benjamin Cawley. Victor Gardener. Annie Hemingway. Toby Wharton.

"I can see right inside you, Tennyson Tower. I see ya, Shelley. Yeah, ya can cover all da balconies from 'ere. 'Cept Wordsworth."

'Is dis where you'd put sniper?'

'What?'

'Place da man wi' da sub?'

'What you talkin' 'bout now?'

'In the war zone.'

'What war zone?'

'Dis is a war zone, ya get me? An' we gotta take 'em all out, see?'

The world premiere of *Fog* opens at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre on Tuesday, 3 January 2012 (**Press Night: Thursday, 5 January 2012 at 7.30pm**) for a limited four-week season, the final play in the New Writing at the Finborough Theatre Season, playing November 2011 to January 2012.

Fog is about two families: one white and dysfunctional, the other black and aspiring. Fog and Lou were put into care as young children by their soldier father, Cannon, following the untimely death of their mother.

Ten years later, Cannon returns, expecting to reassemble his family around him. But he feels a stranger in this 'new' England of broken promises. And nothing could prepare him for the damage that abandonment and an inadequate care system has wreaked on his kids. He desperately tries to repair what has been broken, but is it all too little too late?

Fog is the world premiere of a stunning new play, a unique collaboration between a male actor in his 20s and an established female writer/performer in her 60s, directed by multi-award-winning writer/director Ché Walker.

Playwright **Tash Fairbanks** was born in 1948. A writer, theatrical performer and playwright, she trained at E15 Acting School, and was a founder member of the lesbian feminist Siren Theatre Company in 1979. Her playwriting includes commissions for Theatre of Thelema, Women's Theatre Group, Graeae, Theatre Centre, Charter Theatre Company and Siren Theatre Company with such works as *Mama's Gone a Hunting* (1980), *Curfew* (1982), *From the Divine* (1983), *Now Wash Your Hands Please* (1984), *Pulp* (1985), *Hotel Destiny* (1987) and *Swamp* (1989) which have toured extensively in UK, Holland, Germany and USA. Film includes *Nocturne* (Channel 4). Her published work includes *Siren Plays* (Taylor and Francis) and *Fearful Symmetry* (Onlywomen Press). Her work as an actor includes productions for Sidewalk Theatre, Gay Sweatshop, Theatre of Thelema and Siren Theatre Company, as well as receiving a nomination from *Plays and Players* for Best New Actress of the Year.

Playwright **Toby Wharton** was born in 1984 and trained at RADA. Acting for theatre includes *Days of Significance* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Ajax* (Riverside Studios), *Transient* (Pleasance Edinburgh and Shunt Vaults Theatre), *Home* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Six Days* (Camden People's Theatre) and *Shalom Baby* (Theatre Royal Stratford East) as well as readings and workshops at the Royal Court Theatre, Young Vic Theatre, Soho Theatre and National Theatre Studio.

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

The Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268. Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

Press Information

Acting for film and television includes *Postcode*, *Bashment*, *Silent Witness*, *The Bill* and *The Gates*, a new sitcom for Sky 1. *Fog* is Toby's first play.

Director **Ché Walker** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he made his directorial debut with *Achidi J's Final Hours* in 2004, and where he directed two sell-out productions – *Etta Jenks*, starring Daniela Nardini and Clarke Peters (2005) and Rebecca Gilman's *Blue Surge* (2011). Other Theatre includes *Been So Long* (Young Vic Theatre and English Touring Theatre), *Extended Family* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Glory of Living* (BAC), *Estate Walls* and *Little Baby Jesus* (Oval House Theatre), *Lovesong* (English Touring Theatre and Edinburgh Festival), *Car Thieves* (National Theatre Studio) and *Dance for Me* (Tricycle Theatre). Ché's writing includes *Been So Long* (Young Vic Theatre and Royal Court Theatre), *The Frontline* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Iphigenia* (Southwark Playhouse), *Flesh Wound* (Royal Court Theatre), *Crazy Love* (Paines Plough), *Car Thieves* (National Theatre Studio), *Carmen* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *Dance For Me* (Theatre Royal Stratford East) and *Rootz Spectacular* (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry). He is also writing the book for *The Eighth*, a new musical with music and lyrics by Paul Heaton of The Beautiful South for this year's Manchester International Festival as well as writing his own musical adaptation of *The Bacchae* with Arthur Darvill for English Touring Theatre. This year, Ché will direct the feature film adaptation of his original musical, *Been So Long* from his own screenplay for Greenacre Films/UKFC and is also developing an original television series with the BBC.

The cast includes:

Kanga Tanikye-Buah

Trained at Arts Educational Schools London.

Theatre includes *The Tempest* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Sonnet Walk* (Shakespeare's Globe) and rehearsed readings of *Fog* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith) and *364* (The Lyric Lounge).

Film includes *English in Mind Level 4* and *English in Mind Level 5*.

Radio includes *Ethood* advert.

Benjamin Cawley

Theatre includes *Sense* (Hen and Chickens Theatre), *Sticks and Stones* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Dunsinane* (Royal Shakespeare Company at the Hampstead Theatre), *Dark Carnival* (Old Vic Tunnels), *Crossing The Line*, *Patterns of Grace* (Hampstead Theatre), *Who Let the Dogs Out* (Soho Theatre), *O.O.L.P.O.S.P.*, *There is Nothing There* (Oval House Theatre) and *Other Voices* (Rose Theatre, Kingston).

Television includes *How TV Ruined Your Life* and *Flash Prank*.

Radio includes *Switching Lanes*.

Victor Gardener

Trained at Lee Strasberg Institute, New York, and Webber Douglas.

Theatre includes *Macbeth*, *Miss Julie*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Caretaker*, *Blood Wedding*, *Arturo Ui*, *Road*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Recruiting Officer*, *Europeans* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester), *Doorman* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth), *The Way of the World* (Wilton's Music Hall), *Bollywood Jane* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Macbeth* (Belfast Festival at Queen's), *Blocked* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *The Taming of the Shrew* (United States Tour), *Enjoy* (Theatre Royal Bath) and *Biblical Tales* (New End Theatre, Hampstead).

Television includes *Law and Order UK*, *Casualty*, *The Crux*, *Doctors*, *The Bill*, *Emmerdale* and *Murphy's Law*.

Film includes *Fortune's Smile*, *Postcode*, *The Fourth Dimension* and *Doctor Surreal*.

Annie Hemingway

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Richard III* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Baghdad Wedding* (Soho Theatre), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Birmingham Rep), *Chauntecleer and Pertelotte* (Old Red Lion Theatre and Brighton Fringe Festival), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Mrs Reynolds and the Ruffian* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Guildford Shakespeare Company), *TS Eliot Exchange Project* (Old Vic New Voices and Vineyard Theatre, New York) and *The Syndicate* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

The press on director Ché Walker's previous productions at the Finborough Theatre

"Fringe theatre is bristling with creativity and flare but is often overlooked. This seething mass of talent has risen to the surface at the Finborough with this transfixing production. Making his directorial debut, Che Walker creates a wonderfully tragic journey...this production is a triumph for all involved." Rob Speight, *The Stage* on *Achidi J's Final Hours*

"Che Walker's poised production" Dominic Maxwell, *Time Out* on *Achidi J's Final Hours*

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FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

"This is, by some distance, the best play that I have seen this year. Bracing, intense and tragic, it is evidently based on real life events. It is compellingly, convincingly performed and succeeds in combining its political message with a tragedy caused by human foibles...The Finborough Theatre often stages plays with political points to make and, on this occasion, records a resounding success." Glen Baker, *Morning Star* on *Achidi J's Final Hours*

"This sensitive and highly effective production, Walker is acutely attuned...Walker, directing a persuasive cast...creates a dark and compelling onstage world." Sam Marlowe, *The Times* on *Achidi J's Final Hours*

"Superbly directed by Ché Walker...an exciting, darkly comic evening." Aleks Sierz, *What's On in London* on *Etta Jenks*

"Ché Walker has revived it at the Finborough with great panache and a very strong cast." Philip Fisher, *British Theatre Guide* on *Etta Jenks*

"Ché Walker's spirited and thoroughly entertaining production" Robert Shore, *Time Out* on *Etta Jenks*

Blue Surge – *Time Out* Critics' Choice, **** Four Stars in *Time Out*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *London Theatre Reviews*, *The Public Reviews*, *WhatsOnStage* and *Evening Standard*.

"The direction is fluid and beautifully paced while the lights are carefully blended into the scenes... It is the Finborough at its best" Blanche Marvin, *London Theatreviews* on *Blue Surge*

"Ché Walker's intimate production is lit up by intelligent performances." Henry Hitchings, *Evening Standard* on *Blue Surge*

"Powerfully served...by Ché Walker's direction...This is an evening of great theatre." Jeremy Kingston, *The Times* on *Blue Surge*

"Ché Walker's production hits exactly the right note of pained intimacy." Michael Billington, *The Guardian* on *Blue Surge*

Audience members on rehearsed readings of *Fog*

"The dialogue is exquisite. It does more than simply jump off the page, it leaps out grabs you by the throat and smacks you around. A truly original well written piece that succeeds in doing what I always want from a good play. To learn. To think. To laugh. To cry. To feel." Roy Williams OBE, playwright.

"Beautifully pared down, the rhythms of life are really there. The writers have given a voice to those who have none." Jane Boston. Senior Lecturer and Head of International Voice, Central School of Speech and Drama.

"A vivid piece of writing, funny, sharp and intriguing." David Tucker, TV director.

"A play like this helps to dash the misconceptions that children get into the care system because of something *they* have done wrong. A moving experience to watch as the story unfolds and one that needs to be put there for the public to see." Pam Redican, Principal of Wings School, Cumbria and Nottinghamshire. Winner of the Pride of Britain Award for her dedication to the education and care of 'difficult' young people.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 3 JANUARY 2012 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

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

Tuesday, 3 January – Saturday, 28 January 2012

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 (3 January – 15 January 2012) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday evenings £13 all seats.

Previews (3 and 4 January) £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 (17 January – 28 January 2012) – 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

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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