

The Finborough Theatre is now fully air conditioned,
and offers STAGETEXT captioned performances.

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

Summer Season | April to July 2012

Snapdragon Productions and Nicola Seed in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

The London Premiere

The Drawer Boy

by Michael Healey.

Directed by Eleanor Rhode. Designed by Molly Inchcomb.

Lighting by Howard Hudson. Sound and Original Composition by George Dennis.

Cast: John Bett. Neil McCaul. Simon Lee Phillips.

"The Drawer Boy is a beautifully written play. It moves from toughness and hilarity to something devastating and tender...It is one of the few plays to create an authentic tradition in our culture." Michael Ondaatje

The London premiere of the multi-award winning international hit play from one of Canada's leading playwrights, Michael Healey, *The Drawer Boy* opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited four week run, opening Tuesday, 19 June 2012 (Press Night: Thursday, 21 June 2012), starring John Bett, Neil McCaul and Simon Lee Phillips.

Miles, an energetic and idealistic young actor, knocks on the door of an isolated farmhouse in rural Canada, seeking material for a new play he's working on. He discovers Morgan, a gruff farmer working tooth and nail to survive, and Angus, his lifelong friend, who has long since lost track of the world.

But when the farmers let the city-boy into their home, Miles' search for a story gradually unearths a devastating truth that threatens to destroy the tranquil lives of his hosts forever.

Beautifully written, funny and moving, *The Drawer Boy* is a multi-award winning bitter-sweet tale of the power of storytelling, friendship, and the very thin line between truth and fiction.

The Drawer Boy premiered at Toronto's acclaimed Theatre Passe Muraille, winning the Dora Mavor Moore Award (Canada's leading theatre award) for Best New Play, as well as the Chalmers Canadian Playwriting Award and the Governor General's Literary Award. It has been produced across North America and internationally, and has been translated into German, French and Japanese.

Playwright Michael Healey trained as an actor at Toronto's Ryerson Theatre School. He began writing for the stage in the early nineties and his first play, *Kicked*, was produced at the Fringe of Toronto Festival in 1996. He subsequently toured the play across Canada and internationally, and in 1998 it won Canada's leading theatre award – the Dora Mavor Moore Award – for Best New Play. His plays include *The Road To Hell* (co-authored with Kate Lynch), *Plan B* (which again won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in 2002), *Rune Arlidge* (nominated for the Governor General's Award in 2004), *The Innocent Eye Test* (Manitoba Theatre Centre and Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre 2006), and *Generous* (winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in 2007) which received its European premiere at the Finborough Theatre in August 2009 and was revived by popular demand for a full length run in January 2010 and was named *Time Out* Critics' Choice. *Courageous* - the sequel to *Generous* - premiered at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto in January 2010, and went on to win the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play. Michael Healey was Playwright-in-Residence at the Tarragon Theatre from 2000-2011. He recently resigned his post after controversy arose over programming his latest work - *Proud* - which satirises Canada's current political administration.

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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Director Eleanor Rhode is a former Resident Assistant Director at the Finborough Theatre where she has directed both sell-out runs of *Generous* by Michael Healey, *The December Man* (*L'homme de décembre*) for 2009's *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*, *Barrow Hill* for *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights* in 2010 and *Sihanoukville* for *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* in 2011. She was also Assistant Director on *Trying* and *S-27*. Eleanor graduated from Mountview in 2008. She went on to train at the National Theatre Studio in 2009 and is a former Staff Director at the National Theatre. Other directing includes *The Gypsy Thread* (National Theatre Studio), *The Error of Their Ways* (Cockpit Theatre), *A Number* (Camden People's Theatre), *This Lime Tree Bower* (Edinburgh Festival), and staged readings of *The Geese of Beverly Road* (Theatre 503) and *Photos of You Sleeping* (Hampstead Theatre). As Associate Director, she has worked on the London transfer of *Lie of The Land* (Arcola Theatre). Eleanor is the Artistic Director of Snapdragon Productions.

The cast includes:

John Bett

Theatre includes *The Enquirer* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Hamlet*, *We the People*, *Love Labour's Lost*, *In Extremis*, *Liberty*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The Bacchae* (National Theatre of Scotland and New York), *According to Ben*, *The Tobacco Merchant's Lawyer*, *Genesis Rock*, *Laughing at the Fuhrer* (Òran Mór, Glasgow), *The Government Inspector* (Tron Theatre, Glasgow, and Tour), *The Sleeping Beauty* (His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen), *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (Queen's Hall), *Scenes from An Execution* for which John was awarded Best Actor in the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland (Dundee Rep), *Translations* (Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow), *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *A Christmas Carol* for which John was nominated for Best Actor in the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland, *As You Like It*, *Three Sisters*, *Macbeth*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *The Marriage* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Damages* (Bush Theatre), *Remembrance of Things Past* (National Theatre) and *The Great Northern Welly Boot Show* (Edinburgh Festival and The Young Vic). John was a founder member of 7:84 Theatre Company, appearing in the original production of *The Cheviot*, *The Stag* and *The Black, Black Oil* (Scottish Tour).

Film includes *Tamara Drewe*, *The Golden Compass*, *Doctor Sleep*, *Mistgate*, *Shallow Grave*, *The Young Visitors*, *Sacred Hearts*, *Scotch Myths*, *Gregory's Girl*, *Tess*, *Blast* and *the Caledonian Account*.

Television includes *Rab C Nesbitt*, *New Town*, *Rebus*, *The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle*, *Casualty*, *The Creatives*, *Murder Rooms*, *Secret Scotland*, *Vanity Fair*, *Truth or Dare*, *Woodcock*, *Para Handy*, *Jute City*, *Down Among the Big Boys* and *Inspector Morse*.

He also works extensively as both a writer and director for stage, radio and television. He co-wrote and directed all of Dorothy Paul's shows including *See That's Her* which won a BAFTA Light Entertainment Award. His recent play *Talk About It* won a Scotsman Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival.

Neil McCaul

Theatre includes *Twelfth Night* (Singapore Repertory Theatre), *A Round Heeled Woman* (Riverside Studios and Aldwych Theatre), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Hull Truck Theatre, Hull), *Fings Ain't What They Used to Be* (Union Theatre), *Oedipus* (National Theatre), *Calendar Girls* (Noël Coward Theatre), *Sylvia* (Apollo Theatre), *June Moon* (Vaudeville Theatre), *Privates on Parade* (Piccadilly Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Trelawny of the 'Wells'* (Old Vic Theatre), *Once Upon A Time At The Adelphi* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Flying Under Bridges*, *Cor Blimey* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Brighton Rock* (Almeida Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (English Touring Theatre), *Blackbird* (Southwark Playhouse), *Mr England* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *Spend Spend Spend* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Sus* (Greenwich Theatre), *Spin* (White Bear Theatre and BAC) and *Habeus Corpus* (Oxford Playhouse).

Film includes *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Billy the Kid and the Green Baize Vampire*.

Television includes *Holby City*, *Foyle's War*, *Doctors*, *Blue Murder*, *Nostradamus*, *Most Mysterious Murders*, *Fifty Five Degrees North*, *Crossroads*, *Hearts and Bones*, *Lock, Stock, People Like Us*, *Where The Heart Is*, *A Wing and a Prayer*, *Father Ted Christmas Special*, *Get Real*, *Comedy Nation*, *Does China Exist?*, *Time After Time*, *Class Act*, *Up the Garden Path*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Take Me Home*, *The Upper Hand*, *The Peter Principle*, *Into the Fire*, *Casualty*, *Mary Rose* and *Minder*.

Simon Lee Phillips

Simon previously appeared at the Finborough Theatre in the original run of Michael Healey's *Generous* (2009) and *Oohrah!* (2009). Other theatre credits include *The Bridge Project: Richard III* (The Old Vic / BAM/ International Tour), *Inherit the Wind* (The Old Vic), *Dogfight* (Arcola Theatre), *Salsa Saved the Girls* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Carve* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night* (Guildford Shakespeare Company), *The Infant* (Old Red Lion Theatre and Edinburgh Festival) and *Resistance* (National and European Tours). Film includes *Red Lights*, *The Passing*

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Place, Me and Orson Welles, and *Burlesque Fairytales*. Television includes *Ocean of Fear: Worst Shark Attack Ever*, *Blood in the Water* and *Banged Up Abroad*.

Snapdragon Productions is led by Artistic Director Eleanor Rhode and Producer Sarah Loader, who founded the company in 2009. Their productions include the European premiere of Michael Healey's *Generous* (Finborough Theatre) which enjoyed two sell-out runs and was named *Time Out's* Critics' Choice; the award-winning European premiere of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *Me and Juliet* (Finborough Theatre); *Anna Karenina* (Arcola Theatre); and a co-production of the world premiere of Anders Lustgarten's *A Day at the Racists* (Finborough Theatre and the Broadway Theatre, Barking) which was nominated for the 2010 TMA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Regional Theatre and won the playwright the Inaugural Harold Pinter Award for Playwriting. Forthcoming productions at the Finborough Theatre include the world premiere of Jane Wainwright's *Barrow Hill* in August 2012 and the first London revival in over thirty years of Hugh Leonard's *A Life* in October 2012.

The Press on playwright Michael Healey

"Far and away the finest new Canadian drama to grace a Toronto stage this season. Richly textured, *The Drawer Boy* touches the heart and mind in equal measure." *The Toronto Star* on *The Drawer Boy*

"Wonderfully understated. Funny and deeply affecting." *The Toronto Sun* on *The Drawer Boy*

"A stunning and brave new play" *The Globe and Mail* on *Rune Arlidge*

"An ambitious work about humanity and fate that slyly has you laughing till the end when you suddenly realize it has not been a comedy at all, but a tragedy." *Eye Weekly* on *Rune Arlidge*

"Our most humanely intelligent playwright." *The National Post* on *Rune Arlidge*

"Absolutely outstanding, sizzling comedy." *CBC Radio* on *The Innocent Eye Test*

"Tear inducingly funny." *The Globe and Mail* on *Plan B*

"*Plan B* is, among other things, the best political play Toronto, or maybe Canada, has seen in years...shimmeringly accomplished but tantalizingly cool." *The National Post* on *Plan B*

The Press on Eleanor Rhode's production of *Generous* by Michael Healey at the Finborough Theatre

Time Out Critics' Choice

**** Four Stars *Time Out*

**** Four Stars *WhatsOnStage*

"Strikingly intelligent fun." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

"The dialogue and performances in this constantly surprising dramatic investigation into benevolence (think Neil LaBute, only warmer and funnier) are as good as anything you'll find in the West End." Robert Shore, *Time Out*

"Delivered here in a polished European premiere at the Finborough, *Generous* is a great play gone outstanding." Melissa Poll, *British Theatre Guide*

"Eleanor Rhode's production is bright, sharp, swift and well-acted." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Slick direction by Eleanor Rhode...*Generous* [is] an early high point in the London fringe calendar." Paul Vale, *The Stage*

"Canadian playwright Michael Healey has rarely been performed in Britain, but *Generous* suggests that he's too intriguing a writer to ignore forever." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

"This production is must-see material for those whose passion for great theatre is paralleled only by the love of a rousing post-show debate." Melissa Poll, *British Theatre Guide*

"Adeptly directed by Eleanor Rhode, *Generous* is engaging and genuinely thought-provoking throughout." Kelly Ann Warden, *WhatsOnStage*

"Canadian playwright Michael Healey's cerebral and extraordinarily true-to-life play *Generous*" Kelly Ann Warden, *WhatsOnStage*

"Healey's characters have a delectable knack for deconstructing their own and others' emotional strategies even as they're deploying them." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

"Michael Healey's sprightly comedy" Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Healey neatly shows the comic impurity of good intentions." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Healey's freewheeling, exuberantly loquacious drama." Robert Shore, *Time Out*

"Director Eleanor Rhode has assembled a talented cast." Quentin Letts, *The Daily Mail*

"Eleanor Rhode matches its seriocomic mood admirably, coaxing fine performances out of her cast." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

"Michael Healey's clever and witty play provides a thought-provoking look at the moral complexities of trying to 'do good'...Healey's dialogue crackles with both humour and tension" Elizabeth Fitzherbert, *WhatsOnStage*

"The entire company is packed with the most accomplished actors." Blanche Marvin, *London Theatre Reviews*

"A high-quality production that zings along from first to last." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviewsgate*

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"Director Eleanor Rhode grasps these high-octane minds in a fast, explosive production...the acting's undoubtedly fine throughout" Timothy Ramsden, *ReviewsGate*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 21 JUNE 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2012 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, 19 June – Saturday, 14 July 2012

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 30 June 2012). Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm.

Prices for Weeks One and Two (19 June–1 July 2012) – Tickets £14, £10 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £10 all seats, and Saturday evenings £14 all seats. Previews (19 and 20 June) £9 all seats.

£6 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 Saturday, 23 June 2012 when booked online.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four (3–14 July 2012) – Tickets £16, £12 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £12 all seats, and Saturday evenings £16 all seats.

STAGETEXT captioned performance for the deaf and hard of hearing – Saturday, 7 July 2012 at 3.00pm

Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

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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