

The Finborough Theatre is now fully air conditioned

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

July to September 2012 at the Finborough Theatre Season

Anna Collins and 31 Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

The first London production in more than 70 years

Cornelius

by J.B. Priestley.

Directed by Sam Yates. Designed by David Woodhead. Lighting by Howard Hudson. Music by Alex Baranowski.

Cast: Emily Barber. Alan Cox. Robin Browne. David Ellis. Andrew Fallaize. Col Farrell. Lewis Hart. Beverley Klein.
Jamie Newall. Xanthe Patterson. Simon Rhodes. Annabel Topham.

Director Sam Yates returns to the Finborough Theatre following his sell-out and critically acclaimed production of St John Ervine's *Mixed Marriage* in October 2011 with the first London production in more than 70 years of *Cornelius*, J.B Priestley's Chekhovian political drama, with **Alan Cox** in the title role, opens at the Finborough Theatre on Tuesday, 14 August 2012 (**Press Night: Thursday, 16 August 2012**) for a strictly limited four week run.

As unpaid bills flood in, Cornelius, partner at import firm Briggs and Murrison, is struggling to keep his creditors happy and his spirits up. With the collapse of foreign trade, and business changing from personalised service to catering for global mass markets, Cornelius is forced to confront the mental decline and suicide of his business partner Murrison, and his own impending bankruptcy.

Miss Porrin, the firm's loyal secretary, has been deeply in love with Cornelius for years, but her closeted world is challenged by the arrival of the young, free and optimistic typist, Judy, who shows Cornelius the life he could have once have led...

Cornelius, at once hilarious and heart-breaking, is one of Priestley's 'professional plays' investigating the relationship between business, the economy and the individual, directly questioning the ethics of Capitalism.

The colossal role of Cornelius was first played by Sir Ralph Richardson in the play's world premiere in 1935. Cornelius is a forgotten masterpiece from Britain's first state-of-the-nation playwright, J. B. Priestley.

Playwright **J.B. Priestley** was born in 1894 in Bradford, Yorkshire. His plays dominated the London stage from the 1930s to the 1950s with such classics as *Dangerous Corner*, *Eden End*, *Laburnum Grove*, *I Have Been Here Before*, *Time and the Conways*, *When We Are Married*, *Johnson Over Jordan*, *They Came to a City*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Linden Tree*, *Summer Day's Dream* and *The Glass Cage*. His many novels include *The Good Companions*, *Angel Pavement*, *Bright Day* and *Lost Empires*. During the Second World War, he established a new reputation as a broadcaster and social commentator. He died in 1984.

Director **Sam Yates** is Associate Artist at Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton, under Laurie Sansom. Previous direction for the Finborough Theatre includes *Mixed Marriage* by St John Ervine, and two plays by Nicholas de Jongh for *Vibrant - A Festival of Finborough Playwrights - To Keep the Ghost Awake* (2010) and *There Goes My Future* (2011). Direction includes *Lights* (National Theatre Studio), *Mrs P.* (Workshop for Mercury Musical Developments), *Electra* and *Oedipus* (Garrick Theatre, Stockport), *Clever* by Sally Woodcock (RADA reading), *Oleanna* (Hong Kong Arts Centre), *The Turke* (Arcola Theatre), *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* (ADC Theatre, Cambridge) and *Yeats' Purgatory* (Edinburgh Festival). Yates trained as Associate Director to Jamie Lloyd on *She Stoops To Conquer* (National Theatre), *Salome* (Headlong) and *The Little Dog Laughed* (Garrick Theatre), Michael Grandage on *Hamlet* (Donmar Warehouse at Wyndham's Theatre, Elsinore, Broadway), and *Madame De Sade* (Donmar Warehouse at Wyndham's Theatre), Trevor Nunn on *Birdsong* (Comedy Theatre), and as Assistant Director to Josie Rourke on *How To Curse* (Bush Theatre) and *Burying Your Brother*

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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Press Information

in *the Pavement* (National Theatre), Paul Raffield on *Hysteria* (Birmingham Rep), Rachel Kavanaugh on *Uncle Vanya* (Birmingham Rep) and Phyllida Lloyd on *Wise Children* (National Theatre Studio).

Alan Cox plays Cornelius.

At the Finborough Theatre, Alan appeared in *Chu Chin Chow* (2008) and *Atman* as part of *Vibrant – An Anniversary Festival of Finborough Playwrights* (2010).

Trained at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *The Caretaker* (Adelaide Festival and US Tour), *The Tempest* (Jericho House), *Blok/Eko*, *Hurts Given and Received*, *Found in the Ground* and *The Fence* (The Wrestling School), *Behind the Eye* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *50 Hour Improvathon* (Hoxton Hall), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Chester Performs), *Orwell: A Celebration* (Trafalgar Studios), *Frost/Nixon* (US Tour), *Natural Selection* (Theatre 503), *Passion Play* (Goodman Theatre, Chicago), *Translations* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *The Creeper* (Playhouse Theatre), *The Rubenstein Kiss* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Earthly Paradise* (Almeida Theatre), *John Bull's Other Island* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *The Flu Season* (Gate Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *The Duchess of Malfi* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Three Sisters* (Birmingham Repertory Theatre), *An Enemy Of The People*, *Wild Oats*, *Absolute Hell* and *The Seagull* (National Theatre), *The Lady's Not for Burning* and *On The Razzle* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Strange Interlude* (Duke of York's Theatre), and several productions for the Royal Shakespeare Company. He is a regular improviser with Ken Campbell's *School of Night*.

Film includes *Contagion*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *An Awfully Big Adventure* and *Young Sherlock Holmes*.

Television includes *A Voyage Around My Father*, *The Odyssey*, *Not Only But Always*, *Housewife 49*, *John Adams* and *Margaret*.

Emily Barber

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Orpheus and Eurydice* (National Youth Theatre), *Earthquakes In London*, *Henry IV Part II*, *When They Bloom* (RADA), *Liar* (Key Theatre, Peterborough), *Ms Minelli And the Daring Do* (Edinburgh Festival), *West End Live*, *The Hired Man* and *Fiddler On The Roof* (National Youth Music Theatre).

Robin Browne

Theatre includes *End Of The Rainbow* (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton, and Trafalgar Studios), *An Enemy Of The People* (Arcola Theatre), *Swing* (Kaos Theatre at BAC), *Allegiance* (Assembly Productions at the Edinburgh Festival), *As You Like It* (Theatre Royal Bath, Rose Theatre Kingston and US Tour), *The Constant Wife* (National Tour, Apollo Theatre and Lyric Theatre), *Office Games* (Pleasance London), *An Ideal Husband* (National Tour), *House and Garden* (National Theatre) and *The Perfect Murder*.

Television includes *Call The Midwife*, *Little Britain*, *Panorama – The Hutton Inquiry*, *Judge John Deed*, *The Hunter and the Hunted*, *The Final Passage*, *Wycliffe*, *Crime Monthly* and *Grange Hill*.

David Ellis

At the Finborough Theatre, David appeared in *The American Clock* (2012).

Theatre includes *The History Boys* (Greenwich Theatre), *AGM* (Soho Theatre), *The Ballard of the Copper Revolution* (Old Vic Tunnels), *Gangster of Love* (Charing Cross Theatre), *The Lodger* (Oval House Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (River House Arts Centre), *The Interview*, *Meat* (Southwark Playhouse), *Tales From the Tube* (Etcetera Theatre), *Newsrevue* (Canal Cafe Theatre), *Stitching* (Sell a Door Theatre Company), *The Railway Children* (George Square Theatre, Edinburgh) and *Sacrifice, Rob and the Hoodies* (Vienna's English Theatre).

Film includes *Casting*.

Andrew Fallaize

At the Finborough Theatre, Andrew appeared in *Men Without Shadows* (2007).

Theatre includes *Home* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Spanish Tragedy* (Arcola Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester), *Anatol* (Arcola Theatre), *The Robbers* (National Theatre Platform), *Venice Preserved* (Arcola Theatre), *Measure For Measure* (Young Vic Studio), *King Lear* (English Touring Theatre), *Original Sin* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *The Prince of Homburg* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *House/Garden* (National Theatre) and *The School For Wives* (BAC).

Film includes *Who Can I Turn To?*, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, *Sirus* and *Fingers and Guns*.

Radio includes *Landmark*, *Tales From the Stave*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *How The White King Died*.

Col Farrell

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Theatre includes *Noises Off* (Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich), *Quartet* (Coliseum Theatre, Oldham, and Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich), *Cracks In My Skin* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *The Dresser* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Happy Days* (Arts Theatre), *Volunteers* (Gate Theatre), *The Taming Of The Shrew* (Haymarket Theatre, Leicester), *That Old Feeling* (The Old Mill, Sonning), *Kiss Me Kate* (Victoria Palace Theatre), *Guys And Dolls* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield) and *The Wars of the Roses*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*. (English Shakespeare Company). He was a member of the Peter Hall Company in 2003, and completed seasons at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon and at the Barbican Centre in 1996 and 1997. Television includes *New Tricks*, *Kingdom*, *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Midsomer Murders*, *In Loving Memory* and *Porridge*.

Lewis Hart

Theatre includes *Enlightenment Cafe* (LASTheatre), *Miller* (Such Stuff Productions), *Turning to the Camera* (Siege Perilous), *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Dunsinane* (National Theatre of Scotland and Royal Shakespeare Company), *Life Support* (Catapulting Cocoon), *Miller* (Miller Theatre Productions) and *The Cage* (BBL Productions).

Beverley Klein

Theatre includes *Me and My Girl* (Kilworth House), *Ephesus-Schmephesus* as part of *66 Books* (Bush Theatre), *Bernarda Alba* (Union Theatre), *The Kissing Dance* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Candide* (English National Opera at the London Coliseum and Japanese Tour), *Fiddler on the Roof* for which she received a *WhatsOnStage* nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical (Savoy Theatre), *Into The Woods* (Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House), *The Enchanted Pig* (The Opera Group, Linbury Studio Theatre and New Victory Theatre, New York City), *Restoration* (Headlong), *Jerry Springer – The Opera* (Assembly Rooms at the Edinburgh Festival), *The Holy Terror* (Duke of York's Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (Donmar Warehouse), *Wedding Day at the Cro Magnons* (Soho Theatre), *Six Characters Looking For An Author* (The Young Vic), *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* (Snarling Beasts) and *Piaf* for which she received a *Manchester Evening News* Best Actress Award (Nottingham Playhouse, York Theatre Royal and Oldham Coliseum), the original cast of *Les Miserables* (Royal Shakespeare Company, Barbican Theatre and Palace Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (*Manchester Evening News* nomination) and *Arms and the Cow* (Opera North), *Candide*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Honk*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Summerfolk*, *The Villains' Opera* (National Theatre) and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (TMA nomination for Best Supporting Performance in a Musical and *Six Pictures of Lee Miller* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

Film includes *Swinging With The Finkels*.

Television includes *Ripper Street*, *Casualty*, *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*, *Absolutely*, *Paris*, *Inspector Morse*.

Recordings include *Les Miserables* (Original London Cast and 10th Anniversary Concert), *Candide* (National Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Savoy Theatre).

Beverley will be appearing in *Sunday in the Park With George* at the Theatre du Chatelet, Paris in April 2013.

Jamie Newall

At the Finborough Theatre, Jamie appeared in *Eden's Empire* (2006).

Work in London and abroad includes *Next Time I'll Sing To You* (The Orange Tree Theatre), *Turandot* (The Hampstead Theatre), *Donkeys' Years* (UK No.1 Tour), *Hamlet* (Elsinore Theatre), *The Woman In Black* (The Fortune Theatre), *The Alchemist* (The National Theatre), *The Great Pretenders* and *Danton's Death* (The Gate Theatre), Time Out Award for *Never The Sinner* (Offstage), *Richard III*, *Henry V*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Hamlet*, *Red Noses*, *A Christmas Carol* (The Royal Shakespeare Company), *Another Country* (Queen's Theatre).

Film includes *Circularity Thinking*.

Television includes *Silk*, *Doctors*, *The Bill*, *Casualty*, *Sex Guys and Videotape*, *Devices and Desires*, *Yes Prime Minister*, *Trelawny of the Wells*, *A Class of His Own*.

Radio includes: *Wives and Daughters*, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*, *The Secret Pilgrim*, *Hyde Park on Hudson*, *Flash For Freedom!*, *McClevy*, *Colonel Warburton's Madness*, *The Mouse That Roared*, *Baltasar and Blimunda*, *Friends Of Oscar*.

Xanthe Patterson

Theatre includes *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Closer* (Norwich Puppet Theatre) and *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, *Love of A Nightingale* (University of East Anglia).

Film includes *The Crackling Glade*.

Simon Rhodes

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Theatre includes *Billy Chickens Is A Psychopath Superstar* (Theatre503 at Latitude Festival), *Accomplice* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Colin Hout's Real Horror Show* (Leicester Square Theatre), *Descent* (OTB and Old Vic Tunnels), *Accomplice* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Trolls*, *Decade – 2008*, *You Shouldn't Have* (Theatre503), *The Hotel* (Edinburgh Festival), *Spud and Moose* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Check Out* (BAC), *Good Times Roll* (Royal Festival Hall), *Something Sweet* (Southwark Playhouse), *Enemies* (Almeida Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Barbican Theatre) and *The Rhinegold* (English National Opera).

Films include *The Sky In Bloom* and *Screwed*.

Annabel Topham

Theatre includes *Birdsong* (Comedy Theatre), *Laundry and Bourbon* (Madison Theatre Company), *Lady Julia* (In The Lamp Light) and *Hopscotch* (Caravanserai Productions).

Workshops include *Peter and Alice*.

The Press on Sam Yates' production of Mixed Marriage at the Finborough Theatre

★★★★ Four Stars, *Time Out*

★★★★ Four Stars, *The Guardian*

★★★★ Four Stars, *WhatsOnStage*

★★★★ Four Stars, *Fourthwall Magazine*

★★★★ Four Stars, *Exeunt Magazine*

Time Out Critics' Choice

"Not for the first time, one looks to the Finborough to come up with the most compelling play in London." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"This is a lean, potent drama that does not deserve to be forgotten." Andrzej Lukowski, *Time Out*

"No Irish play in recent months has given me more pleasure than this revival of a forgotten piece by St John Ervine.... urgent, powerful and still-topical...It has a raw, visceral power." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"The Finborough have billed their latest show as a "rediscovery" – and what a good one it proves to be...Sam Yates' exciting production assures us that the play's issues remain timeless." Alex Packer, *WhatsOnStage*

"A fine production by Sam Yates that, in compressing the four acts into an uninterrupted 80 minutes, gives the play a headlong momentum and never strikes a false note." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Under Sam Yates' direction the tension builds steadily to an impressive climax." Nicholas Hamilton, *The Stage*

"A muscular, sharp and engaging production by director Sam Yates. Ervine avoids preaching, and draws our attention to the development of a conflict with personal and political repercussions." Diana Damian, *Exeunt Magazine*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 16 AUGUST 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 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, 14 August – Saturday, 8 September 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 1 and 2 (14–26 August 2012) – Tickets £14, £10 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £10 all seats, and Saturday evenings £14 all seats. Previews (14 and 15 August) £10 all seats.

£6 tickets for under 30's for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£11 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 (28 August–8 September 2012) – Tickets £16, £12 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £12 all seats, and Saturday evenings £16 all seats.

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>

Additional Biographies

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Designer

David Woodhead

At the Finborough Theatre, David designed *Bed and Sofa* (2011).

David graduated from The *Liverpool Institute For Performing Arts* with a first class degree in Theatre and Performance Design and was a finalist in the Linbury Prize for Stage Design. Theatre includes *Sweet Smell of Success* (Arts Educational), *Love and Understanding* (BAC), *Twelfth Night* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Falsettoland* (Edinburgh Festival), *Six Ways* (Jermyn Street Theatre and Edinburgh Festival), Costume for *Knives in Hens* (Arcola Theatre) and *Kindertransport, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot and Hedda Gabler* (LAMDA). As an assistant to Christopher Oram, his work includes *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera), *Company* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *Passion, King Lear, Spelling Bee* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Don Giovanni* (Metropolitan Opera).

Lighting Designer

Howard Hudson

At the Finborough Theatre, Howard was the lighting designer for the European premieres of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Me and Juliet* (2010), *Bed and Sofa* (2011) and *The Drawer Boy* (2012).

Studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design. He won the Off West End Award for Best Lighting Design in 2011 and 2012. Theatre includes *Parade* (Southwark Playhouse), *State Fair* (Trafalgar Studios), *Cowardy Custard* (Yvonne Arnaud and National Tour), *Keeler* (New Victoria Theatre, Woking, and UK Tour), *Educating Rita* (English Theatre, Frankfurt), *Less Than Kind* (Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, and UK Tour), *A Tale of Two Cities* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Santa Claus and the Christmas Adventure* (Ambassadors), *The Glorious Ones, Ragtime, The Hired Man, Tomorrow Morning, Smokey Joe's Café, Hello Jerry!, Bent* (Landor Theatre), *Four Nights in Knaresborough* (Southwark Playhouse), *Allegro, Carnival* (Bridewell Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *Noel and Gertie* (Cockpit Theatre), *1936, The Tender Land, A Warsaw Melody* (Arcola Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Creation Theatre, Oxford), *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Union Theatre), *The Boyfriend* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *Burlesque, Romeo and Juliet, The Art of Concealment, The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Sweet Smell of Success* (Arts Educational Schools), *Uprising, Miranda, Gandhi in South Africa, People's Romeo* (Tara Arts and UK Tour), *The Shakespeare Revue* (New End Theatre, Cochrane Theatre and UK Tour), *Guys and Dolls, The Drowsy Chaperone, Buried Child, A Tale of Two Cities* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and *The Consultant* (Theatre 503).

Associate Designs with Mike Robertson include *Frances Rufelle, Lynda Carter, Caroline O'Connor* (Garrick Theatre), *Du ska få en dag i mårå...* (Norwegian Theatre, Oslo) and *Hair, Deathtrap, Five Guys Named Moe* (English Theatre, Frankfurt). www.howardhudson.co.uk

Composer

Alex Baranowski

At the Finborough Theatre, Alex was Sound Designer and Composer for *Mixed Marriage* (2011).

As Composer, Alex's work has included *Ballet Black* (Royal Opera House), *Hamlet* (National Theatre), *Earthquakes in London* (National Theatre and Headlong Theatre), *In The Dust* (2Faced Dance, Edinburgh and European Tour) and *Playsong* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

Music and Sound designs include *Betrayal, Othello, Hobson's Choice* (Sheffield Theatres), *DNA* (Hull Truck Theatre and National Tour), *The Sea Plays* (Old Vic Tunnels), *Salt, Root and Roe* (Donmar Warehouse at Trafalgar Studios), *The Faith Machine* (Royal Court Theatre), *Rose* (Pleasance Edinburgh), *Bassett* (National Theatre Connections) and *Herding Cats* (Theatre Royal Bath and Hampstead Theatre).

As an Associate, work has included *Frankenstein* (National Theatre - as Music Associate with Underworld), *The Merchant of Venice* (Royal Shakespeare Company - Music Associate/Co-orchestrator with Composer/Sound Designer Adam Cork), *Men Should Weep* (National Theatre - Music Associate with Composer Michael Bruce), *Women Beware Women* (National Theatre - Music Associate with Composer Olly Fox), *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* (National Theatre) and *Nation* (National Theatre - Music Associate with Composer Adrian Sutton)

Alex also works extensively as a Composer in Film and Television.

Current and forthcoming productions include *The Prophet* (Gate Theatre, London) and *The Village Bike* (Sheffield Theatres).

www.alexbaranowski.co.uk