

The Finborough Theatre is fully heated and air conditioned

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

Winter 2012 at the Finborough Theatre Season

Presented by Franklin Productions Ltd in association with Ground Rush Productions
and Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents
The World Premiere

The Soft of Her Palm

by Chris Dunkley.

Directed by Ola Ince. Designed by Daniel Harvey. Lighting by Elliot Griggs. Music and Sound by Max Pappenheim.
Movement Direction by Jenny Ogilvie.

Cast: Simon Bubb. Tilly Gaunt. Siubhan Harrison. Abigail Cole Jarvie. Carmelina Meoli. Sean Murray.

"Isn't it funny? The thoughts your brain is capable of having even while you're lying there, bleeding on the carpet?..."

The world premiere of a new play by award-winning playwright Chris Dunkley, ***The Soft of Her Palm*** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited run of nine performances - Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 7 October 2012 (**Press Night: Monday, 8 October 2012 at 7.30pm**).

The Soft of Her Palm is a devastating exploration of domestic violence, telling the story of Phil and Sarah's troubled and complex relationship. It begins in the present day, moments after Sarah has crashed her car outside Phil's house - by accident or on purpose? As we return to the past and the horrifying story unfolds, our allegiances shift as the truth is slowly revealed. Jumping from moments of sheer joy to volcanic ferocity and underscored with a vein of sharp, brutal humour, the shadow of violence creeps insidiously across the landscape of Chris Dunkley's painfully honest new play.

Playwright **Chris Dunkley** is currently commissioned by the Arts Council to research and write *The Precariat*, a new play that will premiere as part of the Finborough Theatre's *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* in November 2012. His play *Mirita* premiered at the Finborough Theatre, was named *Time Out* Critics' Choice, and transferred Off Broadway to the Cherry Lane Theatre, New York City, alongside his short play *Lisa Says*. Other theatre includes *Almost Blue* (Riverside Studios), *How to Tell the Truth* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough), *Lucy is a Minger* (Spinney Hill Theatre, Northampton) and *The Festival* (Wimbledon Studio Theatre). Radio includes *The All Colour Vegetarian Cookbook* and *The Architects*, both for the BBC. Chris has been Writer in Residence at Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton, and Writer on Attachment at the Royal Court Theatre. He was the 2002 winner of the International Student Playscript Competition and winner of the PMA writers' award in 2001.

Director **Ola Ince** is a former Resident Assistant Director and Senior Reader at the Finborough Theatre where she directed *Namaskar* as part of 2011's *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*. Trained at Rose Bruford College with a First Class Honours BA in Theatre Directing. Previous direction includes *Pets Corner* (Arcola Theatre), *One Million Tiny Plays About Britain* (The Clare Theatre, Young Vic), *Games* (Pleasance Theatre), *Far Away* (The Studio, Rose Bruford College), *The Inconvenient Store* (Tooting Hub), *The Frame* (Unicorn Theatre), *The Island* (Unicorn Theatre) and *Pop* (Warehouse Theatre). Ola has worked as an Assistant Director for the The Young Vic, Octagon Theatre Bolton, Tristan Bates Theatre, National Theatre Studio, King's Head Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company Fringe Festival. Most recently, she was Assistant Director to Sacha Ware on *Wild Swans* (The Young Vic).

The cast is:

Simon Bubb

Trained at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *The Habit of Art*, *War Horse* and *Saint Joan* (National Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *King John* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Philanthropist* (Donmar Warehouse), *24 Hour Plays* (Old Vic New Voices), *Hay Fever* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Unless* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough), *Stealing*

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

Sweets and Punching People (Theatre 503) and *The Edge of the Land* (Eastern Angles).

Television includes *EastEnders*.

Radio includes *The Archers*, *Clare in the Community*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *My One and Only*, *Pilgrim*, *Blurred*, *Life and Fate*, *The Haunted Hotel*, *The Spy*, *Disconnected* and *Nightingale Wood*.

Tilly Gaunt

Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *Translations* (Curve Theatre, Leicester), *The Yellow Wallpaper* (Royal Festival Hall), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Peter Pan*, *A Doll's House* and *Ruby Moon* (Northern Stage, Newcastle), *Noises Off* (National Theatre Tour and Piccadilly Theatre), *Charley's Aunt* (National Tour for Bill Kenwright Ltd), *Twelfth Night* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *The Memory of Water* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton and Guildford), *The Real Thing*, *Lovers* and *War* (Strindberg Intima Theatre, Stockholm) and *Silence* (National Theatre Studio).

Television includes several episodes of *Holby City*, *The South Bank Show*, *The Bill*, *People Like Us* and the BBC comedy *Moonmonkeys*.

For Radio, Tilly won the Carleton Hobbs Radio Award and has performed in over one hundred radio productions.

Siubhan Harrison

At the Finborough Theatre, Siubhan appeared in *In Quest of Conscience* (2011). Trained at the Guildford School of Acting.

Theatre includes *Earthquakes in London* (National Tour and National Theatre for Headlong), *Rich Isn't Easy* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Grease* (Piccadilly Theatre), *The Stripper* (National Tour), *Marguerite* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Marianne Dreams* (Almeida Theatre), *We Will Rock You* (Dominion Theatre), *Bad Girls the Musical* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Les Misérables* (Queen's Theatre), *Carmen* (New Vic and Regional Tour) *Castaway Café* (Edinburgh Festival), *Whale Music* (Medena Theatre) and a special concert version of *Les Misérables* performed at Windsor Castle for the Entente Cordiale.

Film includes the Cannes nominated film *The Man Who Met Himself*, *Well Prepared* and *Little Deaths* which opened the Glasgow Fright Fest last year.

Television includes *Al Murray's Happy Hour*, *Saturday Night Takeaway*, *This Morning*, *The Alan Titchmarsh Show* and *The Song of Lunch*.

Abigail Cole Jarvie

Abigail trains at Phoenix Theatre School.

Theatre includes *Annie*, *Christmas Production* and *Fairytales Mashup!* (Phoenix Theatre School).

Carmelina Meoli

Carmelina trains at Stagecoach.

This is Carmelina's professional stage debut.

Sean Murray

At the Finborough Theatre, Sean appeared in *Death of Long Pig* (2009).

Other theatre includes *The Tempest* (Theatre Royal, Bath), *Kes* (Catherine Wheels Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *The English Game* (Headlong), *The Home Place* (Comedy Theatre), *Buried Child* (National Theatre), *Jane Eyre* (Shared Experience), *The Crucible* (The Touring Consortium), *The Terrible Voice of Satan* (Royal Court Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Phoenician Women*, *The Virtuoso*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Woman Killed with Kindness* and *Amphibians* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Fairy Queen* (Aix-en-Provence), *Androcles and the Lion*, *Judy*, *Tartuffe*, *The Life of Galileo*, *The School for Scandal*, *The Rivals*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Othello* (Bristol Old Vic Theatre), *For King and Country* (Greenwich Theatre), *The Misanthrope* (Cambridge Theatre Company), *Loot* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester), *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Peter Pan* (Redgrave Theatre, Farnham) and *Murder on the Nile* (Worthing Theatre).

Film includes *The Truth*, *Finding Mallory*, *A Rather English Marriage* and *Hamlet*.

Television includes *Robin Hood*, *Casualty*, *Judge John Deed*, *Dunkirk*, *Holby City*, *Serious and Organised*, *Silent Witness*, *Without Motive*, *Berkeley Square*, *Seaforth*, *The Bill*, *The March*, *A Wing and a Prayer*, *Peak Practice*, *Smokescreen*, *The Advocates*, *South of the Border*, *The Country Boy* and *EastEnders*.

The Press on playwright Chris Dunkley

"Dunkley shows the impact of the war... with effective simplicity... an 80-minute drama that offers no simple moral choices but movingly conveys the corrosiveness of conflict." *The Times* on *Mirita*

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"This random mixture of absurdity and violence makes Dunkley's play so believable..." *The Guardian* on *How to Tell the Truth*

"Fine, focused writing, which pushes the story forward with every exchange, yet never settles for anything pat. Wonderful." *Time Out* on *Mirita*

"This tremendously moving indictment of war deserves as wide an audience as possible." *The Stage* on *Mirita*

"This sharp and gripping play... the perfect antidote to the warlike bluster of politicians and the hand-wringing impotence of the rest of us. *Mirita* is a study of the absurd clockwork of human survival. It could hardly provide more timely theatrical therapy." *WhatsOnStage* on *Mirita*

"Chris Dunkley's adaptation... has genuine panache." *The Guardian* on *Almost Blue*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2012 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, Mondays and Tuesdays, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 October 2012

Sunday and Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Tuesday matinees at 2.00pm.

Tickets £14, £10 concessions.

Performance length: Approximately 1 hour 20 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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