

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

## FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

January to March Season 2013

Sion Alun Davies and Louise Best for Invertigo Theatre Company  
in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre

presents

The English premiere

# SAER DOLIAU

(*'Doll Maker'*)

by Gwenlyn Parry

Directed by Aled Pedrick.

Cast: Catherine Ayers. Steffan Donnelly. Seiriol Tomos.

*"Pam na cha' i lonydd gynnoch chi? Wnes i ddim byd i haeddu cael fy nhrin fel hyn."*  
*"Why won't you leave me alone? I've done nothing to deserve being treated like this."*

The English premiere of Gwenlyn Parry's modern Welsh-language classic, *Saer Doliau* (*'Doll Mender'*) – performed in the original Welsh – opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited run of nine Sunday and Monday evening and Tuesday matinee performances from Sunday, 3 February 2013 (**Press Night: Monday, 4 February 2013 at 7.30pm**).

Doll mender Ifans is peacefully at work in his wood workshop in rural Wales. Until suddenly his entire life is ripped apart by the unannounced intrusion of two strangers, a Girl and a Lad. As they torment him with their own secret agenda and mind games, Ifans loses his grip on his reality, leaving him adrift in a world which is changed too quickly. As the two strangers play one final deadly game, and he is left deserted by everyone, Ifans is left questioning the purpose of his entire existence...

This Welsh-language classic from 1966 is a fascinating study of our obsession with modernisation, the role of women in society and racial prejudice, while also asking searching questions about our conscience and existence itself.

*Saer Doliau* will be **performed in Welsh with English surtitles**.

Playwright **Gwenlyn Parry** (1932-1991) was one of the most prominent figures of twentieth-century Welsh-language literature. He wrote several key Welsh plays including *Y Tŵr*, *Saer Doliau*, *Tŷ ar y Tywod*, *Panto* and *Sal*. Described by Saunders Lewis as a 'dramatic poet' and 'master of extended images and a poet of pictures', Parry became a favourite with Welsh audiences for his unsettling style, fearless characterisation and black humour. His television work included helping to establish the scripts department of BBC Wales, while his plays – inspired by Ionesco and Brecht – heralded a new exciting era in Welsh theatre writing.

Director **Aled Pedrick** received the prestigious Bryn Terfel scholarship and trained as an actor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has been an acting coach at the Saturday Acting Academy and Belfast's Music Theatre 4 Youth, and has co-directed with Tom Daley and Richard Twyman. He was Assistant Director to Polly Teale on Shared Experience's production of *Speechless*. His acting experience includes *Teulu* (S4C), *The Pride* (English Theatre Company), *Spring Awakening* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru), *The Sanger* (Sherman Cymru), *The Nutcracker* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Attempts On Her Life* (Sherman Cymru), *Doctor Who* (BBC), *Gari Tryfan* (S4C), *Lewis* (ITV) and *Aki Nabalu* (Astro, Malaysia).

The cast is:

### **Catherine Ayers** | Merch

Trained at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Beauty and the Beast* (Sherman Cymru), *Attempts on her Life* (Sherman Cymru), *The Sale* (Made in Wales) and *Guys and Dolls* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama).

Film includes *Beryl*, *Cheryl* and *Meryl*.

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

# Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

Television includes *Pobl y Cwm*, *High Hopes*, *Teulu*, *Darn o Dir*, *Cowbois ac Injans*, *SOS Galw Gari Tryfan* and *Gari Tryfan a'r Drych i'r Gorffennol*.

Voice Over includes *Sabrina the Witch* and *Igam Ogam*.

## **Steffan Donnelly** | Llanc

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Romeo and Juliet* (Pendley Shakespeare Festival), *Play Development Workshop* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *I am Not Manuel* (Teatre Lliure, Barcelona), *NThe Liufe and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby Part One* (Guildhall School of Music and Drama) and *Century/Canrif* (National Youth Theatre Wales).

Film includes *Casanoira* and BAFTA-Award nominated *Love You, Joseff Hugh*.

Writing includes *No Other Day Like Today* (National Youth Theatre Wales), *Freefall* (Invertigo Theatre Company at the Barbican Centre), *Intelligent Conversation* (Royal Court's Young Writers Festival 2012), as well as several self-produced short films, screened at Electric December in Watershed Bristol, Portobello Film Festival, Jugendmedienfestival Berlin).

## **Seiriol Tomos** | Ifans

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *Y Storm/The Tempest* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru) and *Cariad Mr Bustl/The Misanthrope* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru).

Film includes *Woman of the Wolf* and *Elenya*.

Television includes *EastEnders*, *A Mind to Kill*, *Mulberry*, *Pobl y Cwm*, and *Iechyd Da*.

Voiceovers include *Sabrina the Witch* and *Traed Moch*.

**Invertigo Theatre Company**, co-founded by four recent graduates of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, is a new production company devoted to representing the lesser-known on the British stage. Winners of the Deutsche Bank Award for Creative Enterprises 2012, *Saer Doliau* is just one in a year long season of ambitious productions. The Deutsche Bank Award for Creative Enterprises scheme was set up in 1993 to offer practical and financial support to artists, craftspeople, designers and performers to start a business or carry out a project in that crucial year after leaving college. **[www.invertigotheatre.co.uk](http://www.invertigotheatre.co.uk)**

## **PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: By arrangement. Please email [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 February 2013**

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

Tickets £14, £10 concessions.

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

(Ticket prices may be subject to change)

**Performed in Welsh with English surtitles.**

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Neil McPherson** on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>