

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

January to March Season 2013

Graham Cowley for Two's Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre
presents

The first London production for more than 80 years

LONDON WALL

by John Van Druten

Directed by Tricia Thorns. Designed by Alex Marker. Lighting Design by Duncan Coombe. Costume Design by Emily Stuart.

Cast: Maia Alexander. Emily Bowker. Marty Cruickshank. Jake Davies. Alix Dunmore. Timothy O'Hara. Alex Robertson. Cara Theobald. David Whitworth.

The Finborough Theatre's remarkable series of rediscovered plays from the early 20th century continues with John Van Druten's *London Wall*, opening on 29 January 2013 (**Press Night: Thursday, 31 January 2013 at 7.30pm**) for a strictly limited four week season, and presented by the acclaimed Two's Company, returning to the Finborough Theatre following their sell-out 2005 production of the Great War classic *Red Night*.

London Wall is a wryly comic look at the life of women office workers in the 1930s. In a solicitor's office in the City, Brewer, the office manager, sees pretty new 19-year-old typist Pat as fair game. As some of the more experienced secretaries try to warn her, and others leave her to her fate, her steady boyfriend – an idealistic young writer – desperately tries to win her back. Meanwhile, cynical Miss Janus' romantic life seems to be over as she is jilted by her lover at the desperate age of 35...

First performed in the West End in 1931 starring a young John Mills, filmed in 1932, televised in 1963, but unseen since then, *London Wall* is a surprisingly modern look at men's continuing inability to see women as professional equals and colleagues.

Playwright **John Van Druten** (1901-1957) was one of the most successful West End and Broadway playwrights of the 1930s and 1940s. He was known for his witty and urbane observations of contemporary life and society. His first play *Young Woodley* was originally banned in London by the Lord Chamberlain, but went on to have successful runs in the West End and on Broadway. It was revived at the Finborough Theatre in 2006. He later emigrated to America where his plays included *The Voice of the Turtle* (1943) which ran for three seasons in New York and was filmed with Ronald Reagan. He remains best known for his 1951 play *I Am a Camera*, based on Christopher Isherwood's short stories, which formed the basis of the musical *Cabaret*.

Director **Tricia Thorns** started her career as an actor in John Neville's company at the Fortune Theatre following a Classics BA from Nottingham University. As an actor, she performed widely on stage, in films and in television. As a director, her work includes *My Real War 1914?* (Trafalgar Studios and National Tour), *Red Night* (Finborough Theatre), *The Searcher* (Workshop production at Greenwich Theatre), *What the Women Did* (Southwark Playhouse), *Forgotten Voices of the Great War* (Pleasance London), *Ex* and *Black 'Ell* (Soho Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Dulwich Picture Gallery), *Peer Gynt* (Alley's Theatre) and *Passion Play 2000*, a huge community play which she also wrote.

Maia Alexander

Trained at RADA.

Theatre includes *One Day When We Were Young* (Paines Plough), *The Sound Of Heavy Rain* (Paines Plough), *All About My Mother*, *The Crucible*, *The Young Idea* and *Othello* (Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre at RADA) and *The Workroom* (GBS Theatre at RADA).

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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Emily Bowker

At the Finborough Theatre, Emily appeared in *Too True to be Good* (2009) and *Somersaults* (2013).

Trained at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Our Country's Good* (National Tour), *Daisy Pulls it Off* (National Tour), *Poor Cousin* (Hampstead Theatre), *Hay Fever* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *250 Words* (The Young Vic), *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Travesties* (Birmingham Rep), *Present Laughter* (Clwyd Theatr Cymru), *Antigone* (Bristol Old Vic), *Shakespeare and Co* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury, and Tour), *Mister Murdery* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *A Bigger Banner* (Theatre Uncut at the Latitude Festival), *Devon Country* (The Tobacco Factory), *Births, Marriages and Deaths* (High-Hearted Theatre), *Great Undertaking in Little America* (Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham), *Look Back in Anger* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Garrick Theatre, Lichfield), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ripley Castle, Harrogate), *Noises Off* (Torch Theatre, Milford Haven), *Lie of the Land* (Arcola Theatre) and *Reunion* (Theatre 503).

Film includes *Tezz* and *City Rats*.

Television includes *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Holby City*, *Torchwood*, *The Bill*, *Doctors*, *Shameless*, *Wire in the Blood* and *When Calls the Heart*.

Radio includes *High Table*, *Lower Orders*, *Swimming Lessons*, *Roundabout and Mortar*.

Marty Cruickshank

Trained at Drama Centre.

Theatre includes *The Heresy of Love* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Pygmalion* (Chichester Festival Theatre and the Garrick Theatre), *Gates of Gold* (Library Theatre, Manchester), *In Parenthesis* (Churchill Theatre, Bromley), *Charley's Aunt* (National Tour), *Tartuffe* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *Riders to the Sea*, *The Tinker's Wedding* (Southwark Playhouse), *Quartermaine's Terms*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Summer Lightning* (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton), *Hamlet*, *Love in a Wood* (The Royal Shakespeare Company), *Two Clouds over Eden* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester) and *Major Barbara* (Piccadilly Theatre).

Film includes *I*, *Anna*, *The Fool*.

Television includes *Lewis*, *Doctors*, *EastEnders*, *Spooks*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Kavanagh QC* and *Unnatural Pursuits*.

Radio includes *Up The Garden Path*.

Jake Davies

Trained at The BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology.

Theatre includes *Something for the Winter* (Southwark Playhouse), *Foster* (Lion and Unicorn Theatre), *Overkill* (Warehouse Theatre, Croydon), *After the Storm* (Fairfield Halls and Bloomsbury Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Churchill Theatre, Bromley) and *Guys and Dolls*, *Animal Farm*, *The Vackees* (Bob Hope Theatre, Carshalton).

Film includes *Leave to Remain*, *Charlie Says* and *Volume*.

Television includes *A Mother's Son*, *Bad Education*, *Holby City* and *Call the Midwife*.

Alix Dunmore

Trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Bristol Old Vic), *A Winter of War* (Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham), *Separate Tables* (The Mill at Sonning), *Arrows* (Greenwich Playhouse), *After Liverpool* (Edinburgh Festival), *Nature Adores a Vacuum* (Soho Theatre), *The Dead Guy* (English Theatre, Frankfurt), *Top Girls* (National Tour for Out of Joint) and *Happy Birthday Wanda June* (Old Red Lion Theatre).

Television includes *Casualty* and *High Society's Favourite Gigolo*.

Radio includes *The Simon Day Show* and *49 Cedar Street*.

Alix is a founder member of The Fitzrovia Radio Hour and has performed with them at Shakespeare's Globe, the Rose Theatre, Kingston, Trafalgar Studios, Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, and Theatre Royal York.

Timothy O'Hara

Trained at Webber Douglas Academy/The Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Have I None* and *Chair* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Coffin* (King's Head Theatre), *There Will Be More* and *The Pope's Wedding* (The Cock Tavern).

Film includes *Sherlock Holmes*.

Television includes *Casualty* and *Clone*.

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Alex Robertson

Trained at RADA.

Theatre includes *Horse Piss For Blood* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth), *Speechless* (Shared Experience), *Backbeat* (Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow), *Artist Descending A Staircase* (LeNez Productions), *Orestes* (Shared Experience), *By Parties Unknown* (Sincera), *Woman In Mind* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The School For Wives* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Bear Hug* (Royal Court Rgeare) and *The Soldier* (Edinburgh Festival).

Television includes *First Light*, *Fanny Hill*, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *The Quatermass Experiment* and *Vernon*.

Radio includes *Armada*.

Cara Theobald

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Television includes *Downton Abbey*.

David Whitworth

At the Finborough Theatre, David appeared in *Rigor Mortis* (2011).

Theatre includes *London Assurance* (National Theatre), *Vieux Carre* (King's Head Theatre and Charing Cross Theatre), *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *Aladdin* (Bristol Hippodrome), *The Thunderbolt*, *Mary Goes First*, *Double Double*, *Trifles* and *King Lear* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *Wuthering Heights* (Birmingham Rep), *As You Like It* (Nottingham Playhouse) and *The Mousetrap* (St. Martin's Theatre).

Film includes *Love's Kitchen* and *Little Dorrit*.

Television includes *The Bill* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Two's Company was founded by Graham Cowley (producer for Out of Joint since 1998), Tricia Thorns and Ian Talbot OBE (former Artistic Director of the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park) in 2003. Its main concern as a company has been to uncover forgotten gems of 20th century theatre, noted in their day but forgotten as the tides of fashion changed. *The Forgotten Voices of the Great War* series of nine plays written during the First World War or soon after brought great acclaim. Graham Cowley says "It continues to surprise us that plays written over 80 years ago can speak to us with such relevance and clarity."

Reviews for Two's Company's 2005 production of *Red Night* at the Finborough Theatre

Time Out Critics' Choice

★★★★ Four Stars *What's On In London*

"A memorable evening of theatre...another triumph for the Finborough" John Thaxter, *What's On In London*

"A terrific rediscovery of a piece unseen for 70 years" Timothy Ramsden, *Reviewsgate*

"Tricia Thorns' strongly cast revival...reveals a riveting drama in its own right, leavened by phlegmatic humour and ironic songs" John Thaxter, *What's On In London*

"Tricia Thorns' beautiful production subtly ekes out moments of genuine, heartfelt honesty one minute and euphoric comradeship the next." Adam Taylor, *Rogues and Vagabonds*

"Thorns' production manoeuvres a cast of 10 with great skill around the tiny Finborough stage" Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Director Tricia Thorns creates a strong sense of camaraderie underscored by mortal danger" Fiona Mountford, *Evening Standard*

LISTINGS INFORMATION

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 31 JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2013 AT 1.00 PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

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

Tuesday, 29 January – Saturday, 23 February 2013

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday matinees 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from the second week of the run).

Ticket Prices for Weeks One and Two (29 January – 10 February 2013) – Tickets £14, £10 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £10 all seats, and Saturday evenings £14 all seats. Previews (29 and 30 January) £9 all seats.

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

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Press Information

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£10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 2 February 2013 when booked online.

Ticket Prices for Weeks Three and Four (12 – 23 February 2013) – 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

Anne Mayer, Press Agent for Two's Company, on **020 7254 7391** or **07764 192842** or **annemayer@btopenworld.com**

or

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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