

Charm Offensive presents

THE BRITISH PREMIERE OF THE PLAY BY FRANK McGUINNESS**GATES OF GOLD**

by Frank McGuinness. Directed by Gavin McAlinden. Designed by Vicki Fifield.

Cast: John Bennett. William Gaunt. Josie Kidd. Aoife McMahon. Alan Turkington.

Gates of Gold explores the nature of love and a unique partnership between two men, one a great actor now approaching the end of his life, and the other an eminent director. A passionate, witty and moving play, inspired by the true story of two of Ireland's greatest artistic figures - the founders of the Gate Theatre, Hilton Edwards and Mícheál MacLiammóir, it offers a fascinating glimpse of two lives devoted to each other and to the theatre they founded. Originally produced at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, in 2002, Frank McGuinness' play now receives its British premiere at the Finborough Theatre, directed by exciting new Irish talent **Gavin McAlinden**.



The distinguished cast is John Bennett, William Gaunt, Kika Markham, Aoife McMahon and Alan Turkington. **John Bennett's** many credits include *Richard II* and *Coriolanus* (Almeida Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (RSC), *Inner Voices* (Royal National Theatre) and many West End musicals including *On Your Toes*, *Marilyn*, *The Sound of Music* and *The King & I* and his Olivier Award nominated performance as Louis Epstein in *Jolson*. Many TV and Film credits include *The Pianist*, *The Fifth Element*, *Priest* and Philip Bosinney in the original *The Forsyte Saga*; **William Gaunt's** credits include *Humble Boy*, *Albert Speer*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Look Back In Anger*, *The Mysteries*, *An Inspector Calls* (all Royal National Theatre), and extensive TV credits including *Next Of Kin*, *The Champions*, *GBH* and *No Place Like Home*; **Josie Kidd** whose TV

credits include *Life Begins*, *Down to Earth*, *Hot Money*, *Murder in Mind*, *Peak Practice*, *Viking in My Bed* and *Silent Witness* and *Family Affairs*; **Aoife McMahon** who played Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast* (RSC), *Scenes from the Picture* (RNT) and the TV mini-series *Random Passage*; and **Alan Turkington** whose recent credits include *John Bull's Other Island* (Tricycle), *Pericles*, *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale* (RSC).

Frank McGuinness' plays include *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* (Abbey Theatre and Hampstead Theatre – winner of the *Evening Standard* Award for Most Promising Playwright), *Carthaginians* (Abbey and Hampstead), *Mary and Lizzie* (RSC), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Hampstead, West End and Broadway), *Mutabilitie* (Royal National Theatre), *Dolly West's Kitchen* (Abbey and Old Vic). His translations include *Rosmersholm* (RNT), *Peer Gynt* (Gate Theatre, Dublin, RSC and RNT), *A Doll's House* (Broadway), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (RNT), *Electra* (Chichester, Donmar Warehouse and Broadway), *The Storm* (Almeida), *Miss Julie* (Playhouse) and *Hecuba* (Donmar Warehouse).

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR THE GATE THEATRE DUBLIN PRODUCTION

"There is gold in Frank McGuinness's new play." Emer O'Kelly, *Sunday Independent*

"Comic and elegiac...one of his best plays, a moving meditation on the transience of love, life, and theatre" *The Guardian*

"This play enthralled me...There is something gorgeous about it" *The Financial Times*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH 2004 AT 7.30PM**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD 2004 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office Information 020 7373 3842 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk**Tuesday, November 23rd-Saturday, December 18th 2004**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinee at 3.30pm.

Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £10 all seats. Previews (November 23rd & 24th) £8 all seats. Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on 020 7244 7439 or e-mail **admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk**or, for urgent enquiries only, please, mobile **07814 912964**

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