

The Steam Industry in association with Concordance present

LOYALTIES

by John Galsworthy. Directed by Phil Willmott.

A RARE REVIVAL OF THE SOCIETY DRAMA BY JOHN GALSWORTHY

"Loyalties come before everything."

"Ye-es; but loyalties cut up against each other sometimes, you know."

In the aftermath of the First World War, a wealthy young Jew goes to a weekend house party where he is robbed of a large sum of money by one of the guests – who then close ranks behind the culprit, a dashing but impoverished English war hero... As the victim is forced to seek the truth, the loyalties of religion, class, ethics, prejudice and honour clash headlong in a searing indictment of the latent racism underpinning the British upper-class.

Originally produced in the West End in 1922, the original production ran for more than 400 performances. The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre has become well known in recent years for its rediscovery of unjustly neglected drama and now – this is the first London revival in nearly 75 years.

John Galsworthy (1867-1933), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, is today best known for *The Forsyte Saga*, but was also a leading dramatist of social reform in such plays as *The Silver Box*, *Strife*, *The Skin Game*, *The Mob* and *Justice* – which led the Home Secretary Winston Churchill to institute a major prison reform. In 1924, he founded PEN, the international writers organisation.

Director **Phil Willmott** returns to the Finborough following his acclaimed 25th anniversary production of *Trelawny of the Wells*. He is Director of The Steam Industry whose many productions have included *Agamemnon*, *Androcles and the Lion*, *Oedipus*, and *The London Nativity* at The Scoop amphitheatre on The South Bank. Willmott has also recently directed the 2004 company of *Fame* at the Aldwych Theatre, *Around the World in Eighty Days* at Liverpool Playhouse and on tour, *Master Harold... and the boys* at Liverpool Everyman, *Rent* in Dublin, *Pal Joey* at Nottingham Playhouse, *Kiss of The Spiderman* and Britain's first large stage production of *Angels in America* at Sheffield Crucible.

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR PHIL WILLMOTT

"Glorious...attention grabbing family entertainment...inspired exuberance...unforgettable" *Time Out* on *Androcles and the Lion*

"Intensely powerful" *The Times* on *Agamemnon*

"Phil Willmott proves why he is one of the most versatile, best and amazingly prolific directors around with this revival..." *The Guardian* on *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*

"This is nothing less than a production to cherish" *Evening Standard* on *Titus Andronicus*

"It's hard to top a Phil Willmott show" *The Daily Mail*

"This triumphant revival...total delight...a production bursting with theatrical atmosphere... Willmott loves theatre in all its variegated forms and nothing could exemplify it better than this production – marking the Finborough's 25th anniversary and Willmott's ten-year association with them" Carole Woddis, *What's on in London* on *Trelawny of the Wells*.

"An exuberant celebration of the irrepressible urge to make theatre...Vigorous and sparky...it squeezes from Arthur Wing Pinero's 1898 period piece every drop that it has to offer." Michael Portillo, *The New Statesman* on *Trelawny of the Wells*.

"For its silver jubilee production the finborough theatre has resurrected and re-examined Pinero's delicious little melodrama, giving it new life without losing its inherent moral thread." Paul Vale, *The Stage* on *Trelawny of the Wells*.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 27 APRIL 2006 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 25 APRIL 2006 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0870 4000 838 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 25 April - Saturday, 20 May 2006

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 Fax 020 7835 1853
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

finboroughtheatre

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.30pm.
Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.
Previews (25 and 26 April) £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 **07977 173135**

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED *Telephone* 020 7244 7439 *Fax* 020 7835 1853
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk *www*.finboroughtheatre.co.uk *Artistic Director* Neil McPherson

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