



The world premiere

## I.17AM, OR UNTIL THE WORDS RUN OUT

by Zoe Hunter Gordon

Directed by Sarah Stacey.

Set Design by Mim Houghton. Sound Design by Sarah Spencer. Lighting Design by Catja Hamilton.

Costume Design by Anouk Mondini. Dramaturgy by Sarah Stacey.

Presented by ZAVA Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Catherine Ashdown. Eileen Duffy.

Edinburgh Fringe First Award winner **Sarah Stacey** directs the world premiere of ***I.17am, or until the words run out*** by **Zoe Hunter Gordon**, at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 12 February 2026 and Friday, 13 February 2026 at 7.30pm**).

*One night, two friends, a dead man's room.*

How well do you know the people you love?

Katie and Roni were best friends, until they weren't.

Now Katie's brother is dead, and the two girls unexpectedly find themselves together again – in his bedroom.

Tonight they're going to tell each other the truth.

Because the truth will set you free – won't it?

A claustrophobic, unexpectedly funny new play about friendship, lies and the things we can't say to the people we need most.

First developed with support from HighTide, *I.17am...* now receives its world premiere, following a critically acclaimed sell-out preview run at Theatre503.

Playwright **Zoe Hunter Gordon** is an Anglo-Scots writer and filmmaker. Her plays include *Cecilia*, shortlisted for the Yale Drama prize (King's Head Theatre), *I.17am, or until the words run out* longlisted for the Theatre503 International Playwriting Award, and the three times OffWestEnd Award nominated *Gap in the Light* (Engineer Theatre at the New Diorama Theatre). Work for screen includes *Better* (BFI Network at the London Film Festival), *Our Fathers* (Scottish Documentary Institute, Glasgow Film Festival and BBC Scotland) and *ill, actually* (BBC4). Zoe trained as a writer on the Soho Theatre Writers Course, Bristol Old Vic New Voices, the Easter Residency at North Wall, Oxford, and the Lyric Hammersmith Writer's Course. She is also a part-time lecturer on the BA Film and Television Practise at London South Bank University.

# PRESS INFORMATION

Director and Dramaturg **Sarah Stacey** is an award-winning director, specialising in new writing. She trained on the Birkbeck Theatre Directing MFA, including residencies at the Royal & Derngate, Northampton and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She was a 2023 JMK finalist.

Direction includes the Fringe First winning *Beasts: Why Girls Shouldn't Fear the Dark* (Omnibus Theatre and Edinburgh Fringe), *lenny.* (Omnibus Theatre), *Utoya* (Arcola Theatre), *BASIC BALD B\*TCH* (Brixton House), *If. Destroyed. Still. True.* (The Hope Theatre) and *One Kiss* (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry).

Associate and Assistant Direction includes *Midsomer Murders* (UK Tour), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (RSC and Barbican Theatre), *Summer 1954* (UK Tour), *Unexpected Twist* (UK Tour), *The Two Popes* (UK Tour), *Alone in Berlin* (UK Tour), *Ghosts* (Royal & Derngate), *Macbeth* (English Touring Opera), the Olivier Award nominated *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Theatre Royal Stratford East) and the Olivier Award winning *The Worst Witch* (Royal & Derngate and Vaudeville Theatre).

She also works as a dramaturg and is a reader for the Papatango and Bruntwood Prizes.

**ZAVA Productions** is an independent production company championing emerging writers and specialising in the development of original plays and musicals that reflect and question the society we live in. Previous productions include the UK premiere of *Hide and Seek* (VAULT Festival and Park Theatre), the UK premiere of the OffWestEnd Award nominated *Utoya* (Arcola Theatre), and the one woman musical *Miss I-Doll* (The Other Palace). [www.zavaproductions.com](http://www.zavaproductions.com)

The cast is:

**Catherine Ashdown** | Katie

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *GRUD* for which she was nominated for the OffWestEnd Award for Lead Performance (Hampstead Theatre), *1.17am, or until the words run out* (Theatre503), *The Definition* (Battersea Arts Centre) and *The Hunt* (Union Theatre).

Short Film includes *Homesafe*.

**Eileen Duffy** | Roni

Trained at Drama Centre London.

Theatre includes *1.17am, or until the words run out* (Theatre503), *Life With A Little L* (Riverside Studios) and *I Hear The Fire* (Bunker Theatre).

Short Film includes *CUCKOO* and *Rotten*.

Television includes *The Kollective* (Hulu) and *Payback* (ITV).

## The press on the preview run of *1.17am* at Theatre503

'Utterly compelling' ★★★★ *The Peg Review*

'An emotional tour de force.' ★★★★ *A Young(ish) Perspective*

'Beautifully crafted.' ★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

'Beautifully written.' ★★★★ *The Peg Review*

'Finely laced with comedic moments.' ★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

'Emotionally challenging, nerve-shredding and heartbreaking, this is a little gem of a play.' ★★★★ *The Peg Review*

'Writing and performances that are both raw and relatable.' ★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

'Director Sarah Stacey manages the tension beautifully.' ★★★★ *The Peg*

'Directed skillfully by Sarah Stacey.' ★★★★ *A Young(ish) Perspective*

'Its humanity breaks your heart.' ★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

## The press on playwright Zoe Hunter Gordon's previous plays

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e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 03448268.

Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

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On *Cecilia* at the King's Head Theatre:

'Taut, powerful, upsetting and deeply human exploration of a family, the limits of love, the depths of people... An intricate and impressive piece of work.' Barney Norris, Playwright.

'Extremely well written... the writing really is first class.' ★★★★ London Theatre One

'Excellent piece about a difficult subject.' ★★★★ Female Arts

On *Gap in the Light* with Engineer Theatre at the New Diorama Theatre:

'Superbly-crafted... entirely gripping... a uniquely unsettling theatrical experience.' ★★★★ The Stage

'An experience guaranteed to stay with you long after the performance.' ★★★★ Breaking the Fourth Wall

'Highly recommended.' ★★★★ Act Drop

'A unique piece of physical theatre and storytelling with a flawless first act.' ★★★★ London Theatre One

On *Better*, short fiction film for BFI Network at the London Film Festival:

'Fantastic. Remarkably compressed, beautifully observed. The writing is fully convincing.' Arjun Sajip, film journalist

'Poignant and beautifully executed.' Lillian Crawford, film critic on behalf of EFN jury

## **The press on director Sarah Stacey's previous productions**

On *Beasts (Why Girls Shouldn't Fear the Dark)* at Zoo Playground, Edinburgh Fringe:

Scotsman Fringe First Award Winner

'Staged with leonine sleekness... A fabulous, fluid piece of theatre.' ★★★★ The Stage

'A highly unique and flawlessly delivered show.' ★★★★★ Theatre News

On *lenny.* at the Omnibus Theatre:

Five Fringe Theatre Award Nominations including Best Production

'Sarah Stacey's direction heightens the intimacy of the piece... witty, heartfelt, and perfectly paced.' ★★★★★ Flicker

'Director Sarah Stacey has truly bonded with Webster's text... you feel as though you've been sucker-punched.' ★★★★★ The New Current

'Profoundly moving.' ★★★★ The Reviews Hub

'Director and Dramaturg Sarah Stacey lets the world building shine.' ★★★★ Liam O'Dell

On *Utoya* at the Arcola Theatre:

OffWestEnd nomination for Duo Performance in a Play

'Beautifully crafted... crisply directed by Sarah Stacey.' The Spectator

'Sarah Stacey's direction provides the perfect mix of crystal clear and mildly disorienting storytelling.'

★★★★★ Always Time For Theatre

On *If. Destroyed. Still. True.* at The Hope Theatre:

'Stunning and deeply moving.' ★★★★★ Broadway Baby

'Beautifully rendered in every aspect.' ★★★★½ London Pub Theatres

'Snappy, hard hitting and thoughtful.' ★★★★ The Reviews Hub

## **The press on ZAVA Productions' production of *Hide and Seek* at the VAULT Festival and Park Theatre**

'Engaging and exciting.' ★★★★★ London Theatre Reviews

'A gut-punch work. Dispassionate response is an impossibility.' ★★★★★ Lost in Theatreland

'An incredibly thought-provoking show that left the audience speechless...will stick with me for a long time.'

★★★★★ Stage To Page

'Shocking and darkly comic... sharply contemporary and yet completely universal.' ★★★★ Broadway World

'A real testament to exciting new writing.' ★★★★ The Spy in the Stalls

'Bold and unflinching.' ★★★★ London Theatre

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e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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# PRESS INFORMATION

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 AND FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

Box Office 020 7244 7439

No booking fees

**Tuesday, 10 February – Saturday, 7 March 2026**

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

**Prices until 15 February 2026** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions.

Previews (10 and 11 February) £15 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£15 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on Saturday, 14 February 2026 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Friends Evening on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 7.30pm

**Prices from 17 February to 1 March 2026** – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats.

**Prices from 3 March 2026 to 7 March 2026** – Tickets £25, £23 concessions. No concessions on Friday or Saturday evenings.

Group Bookings for all performances – 1 free ticket in every 10 purchased.

Performance Length: Approximately 70 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Finborough Theatre** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **020 7244 7439**

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

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