

The 45th anniversary production

ANNIE WOBLER (REVISITED)

by Arnold Wesker.

Presented by the Finborough Theatre and the Pleasance.

Performed by Nichola McAuliffe.

In the Finborough Theatre's very first full co-production, **Annie Wobler (Revisited)** will play at the Pleasance Edinburgh during the Edinburgh Festival, and then transfer to the Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited four week run, opening on Wednesday, 2 September 2026 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 3 September 2026 and Friday, 4 September 2026 at 7.30pm**).

In 1981, playwright legend Arnold Wesker (the *Roots* trilogy, *Chips With Everything*, *The Kitchen*) wrote *Annie Wobler* especially for his friend, Olivier Award winner Nichola McAuliffe. Two years later, it was produced in Birmingham, on the London Fringe and transferred to the West End.

And now 45 years later, Nichola McAuliffe returns with *Annie Wobler (Revisited)*, a new version of the original play cycle for the 21st century.

In three short plays, Nichola McAuliffe's *tour de force* performance presents us with three very different Annie's:

Anna – a Gen Z graduate battling her anxiety...

Annabella – the fey hit novelist who becomes an uncompromising cougar...

Annie – a homeless geriatric revisiting her past late at night in a railway station.

Without natural or constructed beauty to smooth the way, each Annie constructs a mask to present to the world, confronting their 'Imposter Syndrome' with defiance, courage and, above all, humour...

Nichola McAuliffe returns to the Finborough Theatre after acclaimed performances as Sybil Thorndike in Nicholas de Jongh's *Plague Over England* and Wallis Simpson in Lena Farugia's *Untitled*. Her many other credits include the title role in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Kiss Me Kate* for which she won an Olivier Award. She was also nominated for an Olivier Award for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (London Palladium). She won the Clarence Derwent Award for her performance as Queen Victoria in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Poppy* (Adelphi Theatre), and the Manchester Evening News Award for Best Actress for her performance as Gina Ekdal in Peter Hall's production of *The Wild Duck*. She is the only person to have won the Edinburgh Stage Award twice – for Alan Bennett's *Bed Among the Lentils* and *Katy* in her own play *Maurice's Jubilee*. Her play *A British Subject*, produced by The Pleasance, played Edinburgh, London and New York and was nominated for an Amnesty Award. Her play *Maurice's Jubilee* has recently opened at the National Theatre of Hungary, and has been presented at the National Theatre of Belarus and the Moscow Art Theatre starring Oleg Tabakov where it won the Stanislavsky Award for Services to the World of Theatre. Television credits include seven series; as Sheila Sabatini in ITV's *Surgical Spirit*, and, more recently, Hugo Blick's *The English* as the iconic Black Eyed Mog, *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, *EastEnders*, *Coronation Street* and the film *Living* starring Bill Nighy. Her film adaptation of *Maurice's Jubilee* is in pre-production.

Playwright **Arnold Wesker**, one of the original 'Angry Young Men', was one of the legendary figures of post-war British theatre, and the author of more than forty stage plays which have been translated into 20 languages and performed worldwide. He was born in Stepney in 1932, into a working-class Jewish family. He was 26 when his first full-length play, *Chicken Soup with Barley*, was staged at the Royal Court Theatre in 1958. This was followed by *Roots*

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e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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PRESS INFORMATION

(1959) and *I'm Talking About Jerusalem* (1960), together forming what became known as the 'Wesker Trilogy.' His other well-known plays include *The Kitchen* (1957) and *Chips with Everything* (1962). Alongside his writing, Wesker was a passionate advocate for accessible arts education. In 1961, he founded Centre 42, an initiative aimed at bringing art, music, and theatre to working people across Britain. Though ultimately short-lived, the project reflected his lifelong belief in the transformative power of culture. He was knighted in 2006 for services to drama, and died in 2016.

The press on the original West End production of *Annie Wobbler*

'Nichola McAuliffe's stunning one woman show...a rare tour-de-force which demands to be seen.' Ann McFerran, *Time Out*

'Ms McAuliffe's all-conquering virtuosity....[she] gets the chance to offer three rich, ripe varied character studies...throughout the evening, she seizes ravenously on the raw, red theatrical meat with which Mr Wesker has so thoughtfully provided her.' Nicholas de Jongh, *The Guardian*

'Truly stunning....powerful stuff indeed. And most skillfully built up to make a very disturbing piece of theatre.' Jo Stanley, *Morning Star*

'No mean triumph for Ms McAuliffe, an actress of glowing sensuality and spirit whose virtuosity in creating these three contrasted figures is quite extraordinary.' *Kensington and Chelsea Times*

'A performance of immense dexterity and charm.' *What's On in London*

'Wesker's writing...bristling with humour and observation...the performance confirms two things: that Wesker can write good monologues, and that McAuliffe is excellent...there's a touching vulgarity about her stunning on-stage transformations.' *The Sunday Times*

'Her lightning changes of appearance...are thrilling: even more thrilling are her lightning changes of personality.' *The Sunday Telegraph*

'Very funny indeed... A handful of razor sharp cameos with insight and panache...Ms McAuliffe changes characters and clothes – it seems like skins – to become very different women in various stages of self-discovery.' Ann McFerran, *Time Out*

'Nichola McAuliffe's versatility and rich comic spirit ensures these three vignettes are never less than entertaining.' Carole Woddis, *City Limits*

'Joan Plowright, at the end of the Fifties, rose to fame and marriage with her memorable portrayal of Wesker's gutsy heroine of *Roots*. And now half a century later, we have Nichola McAuliffe bidding fair for the spotlight of fortune with not one but three separate characters created by Wesker especially to suit her wide and quirky round of characterisations...of Miss McAuliffe's outstanding ability to give Wesker's women life and vitality of their own there can be no doubt. A truly commendable feat.' Jack Tinker, *Daily Mail*

Writers and the press on playwright Arnold Wesker

'With Pinter and Bond he is an essential figure in the cultural landscape.' - Michael Kustow

'The passion of Mr Wesker's themes is matched by the living fire in his writing...its quality is undiminished by the passing years' - Bernard Levin

'Arnold Wesker...the unique outsider in the British theatre.' - Ronald Bryden

'Arnold Wesker is that rarity, a playwright who writes good, gritty parts for women, revelling in their ability to fight back against life's injustices with courage and humour.' *Time Out*

'From his earliest plays, Wesker has always delineated women with understanding and sympathy. Both these qualities are present here...each character convinces one equally of the depth of her suffering and of the resilience of her spirit' - Francis King, *The Sunday Telegraph*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026 AND FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Box Office 020 7244 7439

No booking fees

Wednesday, 2 September – Saturday, 26 September 2026

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

Prices for Week One – Tickets £25, £23 concessions.

Previews (2 September) £15 all seats.

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

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£15 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on Saturday, 5 September 2026 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices for Weeks Two and Three – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats.
Friends Evening on Wednesday, 9 September 2026 at 7.30pm

Prices for Week Four – Tickets £29, £27 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £27 all seats.
No concessions on Friday or Saturday evenings.

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

Performance Length: Approximately 75 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Finborough Theatre on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **020 7244 7439**

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