



The London premiere

IT COMES IN WAVES

by James McDermott.

Directed by Jake Smith.

Presented by Eastern Angles in association with the the Seagull Theatre, Lowestoft, and Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Playwright **James McDermott** (*Jab*) and director **Jake Smith** (*Andy Capp – The Musical*, and *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*) return to the Finborough Theatre with the London premiere of *It Comes In Waves*, following a sell-out tour by acclaimed company **Eastern Angles**. It plays a strictly limited four week season from Tuesday, 2 March 2027 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 4 March 2027 and Friday, 5 March 2027 at 7.30pm**).

Lowestoft, Suffolk – a seaside town mourning the loss of its high street on a coastline that's crumbling like Rich Tea biscuits.

Three very different people meet in the town's 'Grief Café'...

After losing her hubby, ageing Crystal wants to live laugh love, but maybe she just needs to chill out.

After losing her Dad, teenage Jordan just wants to like get grieving over and done with, but grief is messy and comes in waves right?

Group leader Howard just wants to help everyone else... But can he finally help himself and confront his own repressed grief?

Drawing on the playwright's own experience of bereavement after losing his father during the pandemic, *It Comes In Waves* is a new comedy drama that laughs in the face of loss as it asks how we can help each other stay afloat when grief hits us.

Playwright **James McDermott** returns to the Finborough Theatre following the world premiere of *Jab* which was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best New Play in 2024 and transferred to Park Theatre in 2025. Writing for theatre includes *Time and Tide* (Park Theatre and National Tour), *Rubber Ring* (Pleasance London and National Tour), *More... Ghost Stories By Candlelight* (Shakespeare's Globe Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and National Tour), *The Birds and The Bees* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, and National Tour) and *Robin Good: The Politico-Panto* (Norwich Playhouse). Poetry collections include *Father Myself*, *Wild Life* and *Erased*. James has written multiple episodes of *EastEnders* and audio plays for BBC Radio 4. He is an Arvon writing tutor and lectures in creative writing at the University of East Anglia.

Director **Jake Smith** is the Artistic Director and CEO of Eastern Angles, the touring theatre company for the East of England. His productions at the Finborough Theatre include the UK premiere of Halley Feiffer's *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard* for which he was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best Director, and *Andy Capp The Musical*. Originating from the North East, he began his career as the Creative Learning Facilitator at Hull Truck Theatre before becoming Trainee Director at Chichester Festival Theatre under the tutelage of Jonathan Church, where he assisted directors such as Jonathan Kent, Howard Davies, Nadia Fall, Max Stafford Clark, and Jonathan Church. He has held positions as Resident Director at the Almeida Theatre, developing new work for the venue and was invited by the National Theatre to their Directors Programme in 2017.

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

PRESS INFORMATION

Direction includes *We Aren't Kids Any More* (Savoy Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* and *Teechers* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, and Eastern Angles), *The Deep* and *Stones in His Pockets* (Eastern Angles), *Into the Woods* (Southwark Playhouse), *Cinderella: A Fairytale* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Northern Stage, Newcastle), *The Crooked Spire – The Musical* (Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield), *The Wasp* and *Off the Wall* (The Customs House, South Shields), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (National Tour), *A Christmas Carol* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *West End Girls* (Live Theatre, Newcastle), *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Goodnight Mister Tom* and *Little Women* (East Riding Theatre, Beverley), *The Nutcracker Re-Mixed* (Gala Theatre, Durham), *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Henry V*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Hamlet* (Petersfield Shakespeare Festival) and *The Buried Moon* (Rose Theatre, Bankside, Theatre Royal Winchester and National Tour). Assistant, Associate and Resident Direction includes *Aspects of Love* (Lyric Theatre), *Back to the Future The Musical* (Opera House Manchester), *The Height of the Storm* (Wyndham's Theatre and National Tour), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (Theatre Royal Haymarket and National Tour), *The Last Ship The Musical* (Northern Stage, Newcastle and National Tour), *Stevie* (Hampstead Theatre) and *For Services Rendered*, *Miss Julie*, *Black Comedy*, *Way Upstream*, *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, *Gypsy* and *Pitcairn* (Chichester Festival Theatre).

The press on the Eastern Angles tour of *It Comes In Waves*

'Grief may seem an odd subject to base a comedy around, but McDermott has absolutely nailed the marriage of these opposites with *It Comes In Waves*. Eastern Angles has always had a strong reputation for its creative portrayal of the region's communities, landscapes and history, and director Jake Smith has continued that trend with this five-star production.' ★★★★★ *Suffolk On Stage*

'One of the play's greatest strengths is its ability to make audiences laugh while tackling such a difficult subject. It never shies away from loss, but shows how connection, conversation and shared experiences can help people carry it.'

★★★★★ *Theatre & Tonic*

'A play that never has to shout, rarely needs to raise its voice, but quietly lets its subject affect you. Sometimes it's the quiet ones that create the biggest impact' ★★★★★ *Broadway Baby*

The press on James McDermott's *Jab* at the Finborough Theatre

'The Covid-related play against which all others are measured.' *Londontheatre*

'A Covid-era defining play...An accomplished piece of writing.' *Theatre Weekly*

'Highly recommended, it's also essential.' *Fringe Review*

'James McDermott's raw, perhaps cathartic, two-hander, one of the first plays that doesn't just emerge as a by-product of the lockdown, but addresses its challenges and consequences head-on.' *Broadway World*

'Brilliantly written...a thought-provoking and powerful piece of theatre.' *All That Dazzles*

'Punchy, funny and moving.' *The Reviews Hub*

'Powerful, engaging...As though Strindberg had set one of his plays in the North of England.' *Ajh Loves Theatre*

'The personal and the panoramic are mirrored effortlessly and it is impossible to remain unaffected by McDermott's writing.' *The Spy in the Stalls*

'A finely written account of a marriage falling apart under the strains of lockdown brilliantly acted.' *Reviews Gate*

Eastern Angles is supported by Arts Council England



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2027 AND FRIDAY, 5 MARCH 2027 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 2027 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

Tuesday, 2 March – Saturday, 27 March 2027

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

Prices until 7 March 2027 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions.

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PRESS INFORMATION

Previews (2 and 3 March) £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, 6 March 2027 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 9 March to 21 March 2027 – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats. Friends Evening on Wednesday, 10 March 2027 at 7.30pm

Prices from 23 March 2027 to 27 March 2027 – 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**

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