

FINBOROUGH THEATRE

The London premiere, direct from its sell-out regional tour

LOCAL

Written and Performed by Liz Richardson.

Directed by Amy Hailwood.

Set and Costume Design by Lizzy Leech. Lighting Design by Arnim Friess. Sound Design by Pierre Flasse. Video Design by Tripledot Makers. Movement Direction by Jennifer Kay.

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

Acclaimed solo playwright and performer **Liz Richardson** brings her new play *Local* to London, opening at the Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited three week run on Tuesday, 14 July 2026 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 16 July 2026 and Friday, 17 July 2026 at 7.30pm**).

A show exploring what it means to be local – whoever you are and wherever you're from.

Solo storyteller Liz revisits her childhood memories and home in rural Cumbria in an attempt to understand whether she still belongs there, or ever did.

In this multi-generational piece, Liz takes the audience on a journey through the landscape and environment of her home, spanning the decades from the early 1990s to today, as she reconnects with voices from the past and her young growing family now, and confronts head-on her devastating fear of loss...

In a solo performance that takes us from laughter to tears and back again, *Local* asks what it means to be 'local' to a place, whether you were born there or not – and, crucially, how do we each find our own sense of belonging?

Local is Playwright and Performer **Liz Richardson's** third solo play to be published, tour and gain critical acclaim. Her previous play *SWIM* enjoyed a sell-out two year national tour including seasons at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, and the Edinburgh Fringe at the Pleasance Courtyard, where it won the Pleasance Regional Theatre Partnership Award and was named among the 'Best Shows to Watch at the Fringe' by *i News* and *WhatsOnStage*, and was a Festival Pick in *The Times*. Like *Local*, *SWIM* and her first play *Gutted* are published and available from Bloomsbury/Methuen. All of her solo shows collaborate with creatives from different mediums and practices with a focus on projects which create and tell stories about and around community. Community partnerships have included the National Trust and the Outdoor Swimming Society, and co-productions with HOME Manchester, Theatre By The Lake, Keswick, and Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven.

Liz originally trained as an actor at East 15, and was an active member of actor-led, improvisational theatre company The Factory, creating and performing widely, including at Shakespeare's Globe, Soho Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, and for BBC Radio. As a stand-up comedian, she was a semi-finalist in Soho Theatre's Comedy Competition from which she was invited to appear with Amused Moose (BBC) and at the Hackney Empire alongside Jenny Eclair.

Director **Amy Hailwood** is a theatre director and socially engaged facilitator, based in Manchester, and with a strong commitment to the North-West. Direction includes *Joy Unspeakable* (Regional Tour for Ordinary Glory), *Re: Discover Festival* (Winner of Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Impact, Streetwise Opera and Bridgewater Hall, Manchester), *Today These Streets Are Ours* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Remote* by Stef Smith (Octagon Theatre Bolton

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

PRESS INFORMATION

and The Lowry, Salford, for NT Connections), *XYV* (Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester), *After Birth* (Co:LAB at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Memories of Partition* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Faraway, So Close* (Old Fire Station, Oxford). Assistant Direction includes assisting Roy Alexander Weise on *Robota* (Headlong), and Jude Christian on *Parliament Square* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and Bush Theatre). She is currently attached to Headlong Theatre as an Origins 6.0 director, and is also Artistic Director of award-winning theatre-for-social-change company Ordinary Glory.

The press on the regional tour of *Local*

'The genius of this solo writer-performer: you spend 75 minutes listening to her bearing all...and yet you come away feeling heard' ★★★★★ *Northern Arts Review*

'Evocative, emotional and uplifting to watch...well worth seeing.' ★★★★★ *North West End*

'Richardson's most engaging work to date.' *British Theatre Guide*

'Richardson is...a deeply engaging storyteller...a tender, intelligent piece that balances humour with insight.' *Upstaged Manchester*

'A deeply personal story, although one that will resonate with most people.' *Reviews Hub*

'Stellar performer Liz Richardson('s)...ability to laugh at herself, is what makes this play so special...the writing is beautiful.' *A Young(ish) Perspective*

The press on Liz Richardson's previous productions

On *SWIM* –

'Rich physicality... Richardson's skilled physicality and comic timing.' ★★★★★ *The Stage*

'Faultless. Richardson played our hearts like a musical instrument...a privilege to be there'. ★★★★★ *Northern Arts Review*

'Liz is the most natural performer, and this is the most human of plays...a performance to inspire and touch your soul.' ★★★★★ *Westmorland Gazette*

On *Gutted* –

'Funny, important and moving...brilliant character comedy from Richardson, a talented performer with real verve.'

★★★★★ *The Stage*

'Honest, articulate, candid...' ★★★★★ *BroadwayBaby*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 16 JULY 2026 AND FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 14 JULY 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

Tuesday, 14 July – Saturday, 1 August 2026

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

Prices for Week One – Tickets £20, £18 concessions.

Previews (14 and 15 July) £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, 18 July 2026 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Friends Evening on Wednesday, 22 July 2026 at 7.30pm

Prices for Week Two – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats.

Prices for Week Three – Tickets £29, £27 concessions. 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/>

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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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