

FINBOROUGH THEATRE

The London premiere, direct from a sell-out Northern tour

THE MOTH

by Paul Herzberg.

Directed by Jake Murray.

Set and Costume Design by Amelia Mitchell. Sound and Music by Paul C Clark. Projections and Film by Paul C Clark and Amelia Mitchell.

Presented by Andy Jordan Productions and Elysium Theatre Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Micky Cochrane. Faz Singhateh.

Following an award-winning Northern tour, Paul Herzberg's acclaimed new play, ***The Moth***, receives its London premiere at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited four-week season, playing 27 October to 21 November 2026 (**Press Nights Thursday, 29 October 2026 and Friday, 30 October 2026 at 7.30pm**).

A chance meeting on a train between John, a Black British journalist, and Marius, a White South African ex-soldier, sets in motion an escalating chain of events that reshapes their lives over the next thirty years – as John withholds forgiveness and Marius becomes increasingly obsessed with seeking it.

Finally, before the nation's television cameras, they face each other to confront the past and lay bare their conflicting truths.

Inspired by a true story, *The Moth* is a gripping new play that speaks directly to our times – a psychological thriller of memory, race, war, trauma, the legacy of Apartheid and the limits of forgiveness...

Originally developed from a ten-minute video monologue which has since had over 30,000 views, it was selected for 26 festivals across the world, winning the Kwanzaa Film Festival Best Monologue Award in New York City. The stage version took the North by storm on tour in 2025, playing to packed houses at venues including Live Theatre Newcastle, the Lowry Salford and Shakespeare North in Liverpool, it received rave reviews, and won actor **Micky Cochrane** the award for Best Performance at the North-East Culture Theatre Awards for his portrayal of Marius.

The Moth includes a brief cameo by **Bridgerton** star, **Adjoa Andoh** as the voice of John Josana's mother, Joy.

Playwright **Paul Herzberg** drew on his South African background and forced conscription into the army during the Angolan Border War, leaving the country thereafter. His lived experience of Apartheid and its reverberations to the present day drive the narrative. *"The Moth looks at racism through the eyes of two men in the present, who are forced to confront their troubled past after a chance encounter. It explores the nature of forgiveness: What it really is; Who has the right to confer it; Whether it has any meaning in the context of human progress."*

Director **Jake Murray** says *"I was astonished at the response to the play as it toured northern England. Audiences were hungry to be pulled into the world of these two men and wanted to talk about how it related to the present state of our world. It often incited fiery and stimulating discussion after a performance. I'm thrilled we're now sharing it with London audiences."*

Playwright **Paul Herzberg** began acting at South Africa's first multi-racial theatre, The Space, before coming to the UK in 1976. He has been an actor and writer for nearly fifty years, with plays and short stories produced by BBC Radio 4,

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

productions of his plays around the world, and an award-winning film, *Almost Heaven*. This is his fourth play about military experience. His previous play *The Dead Wait* was produced at the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester and the Park Theatre, it was shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award, nominated for 3 *Manchester Evening News* Awards including winning the award for Best Actor, and has been adapted for BBC Radio 4, ABC Australia and WDR Germany. As an actor, he has been seen at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, in the West End and on television and feature films including Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Mermaid Theatre), *Dancing At Lughnasa* (National Theatre of Ireland - Abbey Theatre), Gratiano in *The Merchant Of Venice* (Chichester Festival Theatre) and Shylock in *The Merchant Of Venice* (Arcola Theatre), *I.D.* (Almeida Theatre), *The Taming Of The Shrew* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Doctor's Dilemma* (National Theatre), and *Oslo* (Harold Pinter Theatre). Film includes *Cry Freedom* and *The Teacher*. Television includes *The Honourable Woman*, *Black Earth Rising*, *EastEnders*, *The Life And Loves Of A She Devil*, *Smiley's People*, and *Silo*.

Director **Jake Murray** is an award-winning theatre director and Artistic Director of Durham-based Elysium Theatre Company which tours new plays and classics across the North. He was Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester for seven years, where he directed the young Andrew Garfield in *Romeo and Juliet*. In recent years, he has diversified into film, audio plays and online work. His multi-award-winning *Covid 19 Monologues* conceived during lockdown have been seen internationally. His short film, *The Visit*, for Mancmade Productions has won awards in the UK, US and Spain.

The cast is:

Micky Cochrane | Marius Muller

Theatre includes *Carrying David* (Newcastle Theatre Royal, North East Tour, London and Northern Ireland), *Reiver - Tales From The Borders* (Northern Tour), *I, Daniel Blake* (UK Tour for Northern Stage), *The Pitmen Painters* (Oldham Coliseum) and *A Nightingale Sang* (Live Theatre, Newcastle).

Television includes *George Gently*, *The Dumping Ground* and *Man Down*.

Faz Singhateh | John Josana

Trained at Guildhall School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre Includes *The Night of the Iguana* (Noël Coward Theatre), *ear for eye* (Royal Court Theatre), *King Lear* (Shakespeare's Globe), *A Raisin in the Sun* (The Young Vic), *Romeo and Juliet* and *Strike in On My Birthday* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (Assembly Rooms Theatre, Durham and HOME, Manchester), *Playland* (Northern Tour) and *Othello* (Northern Tour).

Television includes *Coronation Street*, *Waterloo Road*, *Hollyoaks* and *Emmerdale*.

Andy Jordan Productions returns to the Finborough Theatre where it presented the acclaimed *Lies Where It Falls*. Concentrating on new writing, its 58 previous productions include *Strindberg's Women*, co-produced with Elysium Theatre Company (Jermyn Street Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Madness* (Edinburgh Festival), *Born in the USA / Leaving Vietnam* (Park Theatre and UK Tour), *Tilly No-Body* (Arcola Theatre), and *Dreamscape* (59E59 Street Theaters and SoHo Playhouse, New York and Omnibus Theatre).

The Moth is published by Methuen-Bloomsbury.

The press on the Northern tour of *The Moth*

'Evocative and as deeply human as it is disturbing... A sure sign of a remarkable and powerful play is that it stays with you long after the curtain call. Like a moth, this play will linger and flutter in your mind.' ★★★★★ *Northern Arts Review*

'I have never been kept on the edge of my seat so literally – worth every minute.' *Crack Magazine*

'A political thriller which directly confronts its darkness... A piece of theatre which lodges itself deep inside you, demanding reckoning long after the evening is over.' ★★★★★ *The Palatinate*

'A poignant reflection on race, war, history and identity... gripping, stellar performances by Faz Singhateh and Mickey Cochrane.' ★★★★★ *Love Manchester*

'Devastating exploration of violence and justice... a thought-provoking, haunting production.' *North East Volume*

'An impressive testament to forgiveness, a reckoning with history and an undeniably captivating drama.' ★★★★★ *Jadar*

'Paul Herzberg's two-hander is a nuanced take on familial responsibility, the ethics of searching for forgiveness, and history's grip on our adult lives.' ★★★★★ *North West End*

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439

e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk 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.

PRESS INFORMATION

'Incredibly authentic... a must see.' *Canal St News*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2026 AND FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 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, 27 October – Saturday, 21 November 2026

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

Prices until 1 November 2026 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions.

Previews (27 and 28 October) £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, 31 October 2026 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

30andUnder Evening on Saturday, 31 October 2026 at 7.30pm.

Prices from 3 November 2026 to 15 November 2026 – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats.

Friends Evening on Wednesday, 4 November 2026 at 7.30pm.

Prices from 17 November 2026 to 21 November 2026 – 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 2 hours including one interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Nancy Poole PR on 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypoolepr.com

Download press releases and images at [The Moth Press & Media Images - Google Drive](#) or

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g4N6hTdf7GvjUf2Im83HfeMjjYlaOYI>

or

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/>

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439

e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk 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.