

March-July 2023 season at the Finborough Theatre

The world premiere

## A BRIEF LIST OF EVERYONE WHO DIED

by Jacob Marx Rice.

Directed by Alex Howarth. Set Design by Alex Howarth and Alice McNicholas. Costume Design by Alice McNicholas.

Lighting and Video Design by Rachel Sampley.

Presented by Amelia Campbell for Patch of Blue Theatre in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Kathryn Akin. Amelia Campbell. Alejandro De Mesa. Vivia Font. Siphiwo Mahlentle.

*"Death is the most natural thing in the world."*

*"Natural doesn't mean good. Hurricanes are natural. Haemorrhoids are natural."*

The world premiere of Jacob Marx Rice's ***A Brief List of Everyone Who Died***, directed by acclaimed director **Alex Howarth**, recently named by *The Guardian* as one of 'Ten Stage Sensations to Watch Out For in 2023', opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 (**Press Nights: Thursday 18th May and Friday 19th May at 7.30pm**).

Graciela would really like everyone to stop dying. After the scarring loss of her beloved dog Buster at the age of five, Graciela decides that no one she loves will ever die.

But stopping death is easier said than done. Time rolls on inescapably and, as she grows, Graciela will, like everyone else, gain and lose the people most important to her to the eternal absence of mortality.

Wickedly funny and deeply humane, *A Brief List of Everyone Who Died* tells the story of all the deaths that make up a life.

An online rehearsed reading of *A Brief List of Everyone Who Died* was shown by the Finborough Theatre in 2021, and was a finalist for the OffWestEnd Awards OnComm Award. Jacob Marx Rice's play *Chemistry*, also directed by Alex Howarth, was critically acclaimed at the Finborough Theatre in 2019, and is currently in pre-production for a movie adaptation.

This production contains strong language, sexual references and sensitive subject matter.

Playwright **Jacob Marx Rice** returns to the Finborough Theatre following his production of *Chemistry* in 2019. He is a playwright and screenwriter, based in Queens, New York. *Chemistry* also won the Excellence in Playwriting Award and FringeFAVE at the NY Fringe Festival, Producer's Pick at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival, and Producer's Encore Pick at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Jacob's film adaptation of the play was a semifinalist for the Nicholl Fellowship from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and is currently in development with the production company Anonymous Content. Jacob's plays have been produced and developed at Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The New Ohio, The Flea Theater, Atlantic Theatre Stage 2, and others. He has won the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Faculty Award from the NYU/Tisch Department of Dramatic Writing and a Sloan Foundation Screenwriting Grant. Jacob was the 2017 Playwright Observer at the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. He also wrote the screenplay

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for *See Through* featuring Tony-nominated actor Lauren Ridloff (*The Sound of Metal*, *Marvel's Eternals*), which has been featured at the Austin Film Festival, the Cannes' Festival's Short Film Corner, and film festivals across the United States.

Director **Alex Howarth's** productions at the Finborough Theatre include Jacob Marx Rice's *Chemistry*. He was recently named as one of 'Ten Stage Sensations to Watch Out For in 2023' by *The Guardian*.

Coming from the North West and a background of working in care, Alex is passionate about amplifying under-represented and northern voices. His play *Cassie and the Lights* (VAULT Festival, Adelaide Fringe and Underbelly) was based on a true story and interviews with children in the care system and is currently being developed for television. Nominated for the BBC Writer's Room Popcorn Award and the SitUp Award for social change, as well as winning Best Theatre at Adelaide Fringe, it will transfer to 59E59 Theaters, Off Broadway New York City this June.

He conceived, directed and co-wrote *We Live By the Sea* which has been seen internationally including 'Brits Off Broadway' at 59E59 Theaters, New York City, where it received Critic's Pick and Top Theatre of the Year in *The New York Times*; and at the Adelaide Fringe, Australia, where it won Best Theatre, Critic's Choice and the Grahame F. Smith Peace Foundation Award for promoting human rights. It was nominated for the Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival, and Best Production and Best Ensemble at the OffWestEnd Awards.

He adapted and directed the world stage premiere of *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, working alongside the film's writer, Oscar nominee Peter Hedges.

Recent theatre includes *Medea* (Guildhall Amphitheatre) which won the Owl Schreame Award for Innovation in Classical Theatre, *The Greatest Hits of Lily and John* (The Other Palace), *Sweeney Todd* (Italia Conti), *Richard II* (Central School of Speech and Drama), the European premiere of *[title of show]* (Edinburgh Fringe), *The Memory Show* (Drayton Arms Theatre), *Back to Blackbrick* (Arts Theatre and Tour), *Outlier: A New Opera* (Tete a Tete Opera), *Misterman* (New Wimbledon Theatre and Brockley Jack Theatre), *Two Sides* (Arcola Theatre), *Oh! You Pretty Things* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Fall* (Old Red Lion Theatre and Tour), *Beans on Toast* (Theatre503 and Tour), and *The Red Light* (Union Theatre).

Associate and Assistant Direction includes assisting Richard Eyre on *La Traviata* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden) and Jeff Clarke on *Orpheus In the Underworld* (Buxton Opera House).

He leads research and development periods for new writing and has worked extensively in theatre with people with disabilities, having created performances with deafblind adults for the charity Sense, and recently co-created one man show *Strictly Lawrie* with disabled artist Lawrie Morris.

The cast is:

**Kathryn Akin** | Anne / Medical Resident / Lily

Theatre includes *Anyone Can Whistle* (Southwark Playhouse), *Death Takes a Holiday* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Next to Normal* (Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, Theatre Calgary and Citadel Theatre, Edmonton), *Calendar Girls* (Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto), *The Immigrant* (Toronto Centre for the Arts), *Carousel* (Savoy Theatre), *Gone With the Wind* (New London Theatre), *The Witches of Eastwick* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), *Sunset Boulevard* (Adelphi Theatre), *Taboo* (New End Theatre, Hampstead), *Gypsy* (Dundee Rep), *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Smudge* (Oval House), *The Typographer's Dream* (Pleasance Edinburgh), *Dorothy Fields Forever* (King's Head Theatre), *Trance* (White Bear Theatre), *The Wizard of Oz* (Bristol Old Vic), *Martin Guerre* (Leeds Playhouse and National Tour for Cameron Mackintosh), *Celle-La/That Woman* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, and Tramway, Glasgow), and principal roles in Canada's leading theatres including the Shaw Festival Theatre, the Stephenville Theatre Festival, Young People's Theatre, National Arts Centre and the Grand Theatre.

Film includes *Barbie*, *Snow White* and *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*.

Television includes *How (Not) to Kill Your Husband*, *Cambridge Spies*, *Air Crash Confidential* and *Street Legal*.

Radio includes *Sunnyville*, *Afghanada*, *Peyton Place*, *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, *Bel Canto*, *Helpless* and *With Great Pleasure*.

Kathryn is also a very experienced voice artist.

**Amelia Campbell** | Cass

Trained at Actors Centre Australia.

Theatre includes *MARS: An Interplanetary Cabaret* and *The Sandpiper* (Old 505 Theatre, Sydney), *Playlist* (Seymour Centre, Sydney), *Chemistry* (Sydney Fringe Festival), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (National Institute of Dramatic Art), *Portia Coughlan*, *Hamlet* and *Children of the Sun* (Actors Centre Australia).

Film includes *Out on a Limb* and *She's Gone*.

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

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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## **Alejandro De Mesa** | Raul / Nurse

Theatre include *La Bayadère* and *The Exterminating Angel* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), *Your Connection Is Not Private* (Coney), *Turmoil* (Courtyard Theatre) and *Dis Place* (Camden People's Theatre).

Film includes *Pokémon Detective Pikachu* and *Snow White*.

Television includes *The Coroner* and *Devs*.

## **Vivia Font** | Gracie / Grace / Graciela

Theatre includes *Play On!*, *Villa* (The Wild Project, New York City), *Recent Alien Abductions* (Walkerspace, New York City), *underneathmybed* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, New York City), *Romeo and Juliet* (New York Classical Theatre, New York City), *The Art of Burning* (Huntington Theatre, Boston and Hartford Stage, Hartford), *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Tenth Muse* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Six Degrees of Separation* (Old Globe Theatre, San Diego), *Mariela in the Desert*, *Map of Heaven* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), *Native Gardens* (Merrimack Rep, Lowell) and *Mutual Philanthropy* (New Jersey Rep).

Film includes *Love, Repeat* and *Sarbane's Oxley*.

Television includes *Law & Order*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, *For Life* and *One Life to Live*.

## **Siphiwo Mahlentle** | Jordan / Melaku

Trained at Arts Educational Schools, National Youth Theatre and Identity School of Acting.

Theatre includes *All The Conversations We Haven't Had Yet*, *The Convert*, *Sucker Punch*, *Hamlet* (Arts Educational Schools) and *Scroogelicious* (Theatre Peckham).

Film includes *They'll Love You*.

## **COVID SAFE**

As one of the most intimate theatre venues in London, we are taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of performers, staff, and audience members during the current pandemic.

Audience members may be temperature-checked upon their arrival at the theatre, and masks are strongly recommended at all times, including during the performance.

In order to ensure that the Finborough Theatre is still accessible for those who are CEV (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) or those who would just prefer it, **mask wearing is mandatory for all Sunday matinee performances.**

We have reduced our audience capacity to 85% and adjusted our ticket prices to reflect this. We have been reviewing these protocols every month and will lift them as soon as it is safe to do so. For full information, please see our website.

## **The press on Chemistry by Jacob Marx Rice at the Finborough Theatre**

★★★★★ Five Stars, *Close-Up Culture*

★★★★★ Five Stars, *UK Theatre Web*

★★★★ Four Stars, *The Reviews Hub*

★★★★ Four Stars, *ReviewsGate*

★★★★ Four Stars, *The Stage*

★★★★ Four Stars, *Pocketsize Theatre*

★★★★ Four Stars, *The Crumb*

"Remarkable for its tender compassion" Michael Billington, *The Guardian* on *Chemistry*

"A moving, insightful love story... Rice has written a love story that treats heavy, complex subjects with confidence and compassion." *The Stage* on *Chemistry*

"It is thought-provoking and devastating as well as particularly beautiful. This is the best production I have seen all year" *Close-Up Culture* on *Chemistry*

"Alex Howarth has designed and directed a wonderfully sensitive, knowing, adult production. Every detail has purpose" *UK Theatre Web* on *Chemistry*

"Painful, but at times very funny." William Russell, *Reviewsgate*

"A roller coaster of a play that will tug at your emotions." Jeff Prestridge, *Close-Up Culture*

## **The press on director Alex Howarth**

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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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"Ten Stage Sensations to Watch Out For in 2023...Howarth clearly works with care, mirth and musicality" ★★★★★ *The Guardian* on *Cassie and the Lights*

"Bursts with life and quirkily observed truths, and it's guaranteed to break your heart" Critic's Best Shows of Edinburgh Fringe 2022 and ★★★★★ *The Stage* on *Cassie and the Lights*

"A tight and imaginative staging that creates an expansive world out of seemingly little." Critic's Pick and Best Theatre of the Year, *The New York Times* on *We Live By the Sea*

"A gorgeous, moving story about loss and personal triumph." *The Manhattan Digest* on *We Live By the Sea*

"Something very raw and beautiful" ★★★★★ *British Theatre Guide* on *We Live By the Sea*

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023 AND FRIDAY, 19 MAY 2023 at 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 16 MAY 2023 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, 16 May - Saturday, 10 June 2023**

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

**Prices until 28 May 2023** - Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (16 and 17 May) £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, 20 May 2023 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 30 May 2023** - Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £23 all seats.

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

Performance Length: Approximately 70 minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Matilda Russell** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07384 379624**

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

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