

#FinboroughFrontier

The online world premiere, returning by popular demand

AN EARL'S COURT MISCELLANY

Devised and Directed by Catherine Harvey.

Poetry by Anon, Edwin Arnold, Emily Bronte, Lewis Carroll, S. J. Cohen, Emily Dickinson, Henry Austin Dobson, Arthur Conan Doyle, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Amy Glynn, Ivor Gurney, Thomas Hardy, Clifford Harris and James W. Tate, Catherine Harvey, T.E. Hulme, Jean Ingelow, John Keats, Amy Levy, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Amy Lowell, Spike Milligan, Henry Newbolt, Edgar Allan Poe, Beatrix Potter, M.C.R., Christina Rossetti, Gillian Shearer, John Suckling, Arthur Symons, Oscar Wilde and W. B. Yeats.

Prose by Benjamin Brierley, Mary Louisa Molesworth, Emmeline Pankhurst and Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Music and Songs by Charles Coborn, Florrie Forde, Fred Gilbert, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, Traditional and Lesley Wilson.

Director of Photography and Assistant Direction by Erica Miller.

Presented by Rhyme & Reason in association with Roguegunners Productions, and in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre as part of #FinboroughFrontier

Cast: Louise Ashcroft. Louise Bangay. Jeryl Burgess. Olivette Cole-Wilson. Rufus Graham. Catherine Harvey. Sue Moore. Annabel Mullion. Peter G. Pearson. Ninka Scott. Lesley Stone. Lizzie Tranter. Elaine Wallace.

"Passion has left its mark on this place..."

Returning for one month to accompany the launch of our new interactive **An Earl's Court Walking Tour** (premiering on 15 May 2023), we are re-releasing **An Earl's Court Miscellany**, a celebration of the vivid history and personalities of Earl's Court featuring poetry, prose and music. Filmed in and around the local area, **An Earl's Court Miscellany** will be available to watch **free-to-view** on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel from **Monday, 15 May 2023 at 6:00pm to Thursday, 15 June 2023 at midnight**, and showing concurrently with subtitles on Scenesaver.

There's a room for rent in the Earl's Court area. With original features and a bohemian feel, the rent is reasonable and location ideal. Will you rent the room?

Walk with us in verse and song, guided by your future Landlady, and take in the spirit of Earl's Court. Encounter its revolutionaries, poets, musicians and dancers. Its wartime and sporting heroes, inventors and romancers. Get to know your neighbours and their fetishes. And when day falls into night, witness our humanity – and the ghosts that haunt the place.

From the music hall to the coffee house, past and present collide as Rhyme & Reason trace the echoes left by those who lived, died or were buried in the Earl's Court area. Those featured include children's writers Mary Louisa Molesworth, and Beatrix Potter who was inspired by her walks in Brompton Cemetery to create some of her best-loved characters; Sir Henry Cole, founder of the V&A and Prince Albert's right hand man in the creation of the 1851 Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace; James Bohee, a Canadian banjo player of Caribbean descent who introduced Victorian audiences to black American music and tutored the future King Edward VII; John Wisden, the founder of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*; music hall singer Charles Coborn; universal suffrage campaigner Emmeline Pankhurst; and poets Ivor Gurney,

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. 3448268.

Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

PRESS INFORMATION

Jean Ingelow, who came close to becoming our first female Poet Laureate in 1896, and Henry Austin Dobson (commemorating the centenary of his death in 1922) – whose good friend Lewis Carroll often came round to visit...

Actor, writer and director **Catherine Harvey** is Artistic Director of Rhyme & Reason. Catherine directs and curates Rhyme & Reason's shows, drawing on the work of both popular and less well-known poets, as well as music and song. As an actor, she has worked in venues including the Finborough Theatre, the Bush Theatre, Arcola Theatre, the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, and Clwyd Theatr Cymru. As a playwright, she has had work performed at venues including Bolton Octagon Theatre, the Bush Theatre, Arcola Theatre, Soho Theatre, the Old Red Lion Theatre, Theatre503, Morden Hall Park, the 24:7 Theatre Festival, Manchester, and Pleasance Edinburgh. As a director, she has worked on new writing at the Bush Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, Soho Theatre, The Cockpit, 24:7 Theatre Festival, Manchester, and Pleasance Edinburgh, as well as working with comedians who have performed at the Camden, Brighton, Melbourne and Edinburgh Festivals, and on national and international tours – including stand-ups Mary Bourke (Best of Irish, *Time Out* Critics Choice), Sajeela Kershi (Asian Woman of the Year - Arts and Media, *The Times* Top 6 Female Acts), Funny Women winner Suzy Bennett (*Time Out* Top 10 Acts to Watch) and Louise Mai Newberry aka 'Precious Jade' (WOW at South Bank Centre and Yellow Earth's *Dim Sum Nights*). Catherine is also series producer of Radio 4's long-running poetry series *Tongue and Talk: The Dialect Poets* (produced by Made in Manchester), which has travelled as far afield as Aberdeenshire, Northern Ireland, South Wales, Liverpool and the Forest of Dean, seeking out wonderful poetry written in local dialect. *Tongue and Talk* has frequently featured on Radio 4's *Pick of the Week* and been chosen as pick of the day in a range of newspapers – including *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Daily Mail* – and even mentioned in the Manx Parliament, Tynwald.

The poetry performance group **Rhyme & Reason** was co-founded by actors and poetry enthusiasts Catherine Harvey, Jonathan Cullen and Peter Kenny under the mentorship of the late Clive Swift to create bespoke live poetry events. The group's rolling membership includes actors who have worked in the West End, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre, as well as contributing to Arts programmes on Radio 3, 4 and the World Service. Catherine Harvey is the current Artistic Director, devising and directing their frequently sold-out shows, which the group have performed at venues as diverse as Dr Johnson's House, the Poetry Café, St Mary's Church, Bow, and the Tristan Bates Theatre. When Covid hit, Rhyme & Reason took their work online, with Zoom performances that have been watched as far afield as Newfoundland, Japan and the Isle of Man.

Roguegunners Productions is a modern media company run by Johnny Blanchard and Erica Miller, concentrating on digital film, serials and theatre. Working with their own original material and work from other talented creators, they create unique experiences for the new age of film and theatre. Their recent sci-fi short *Control* has won many awards including New Fort International Film Festival – Best Female Director of a Short Film; Hodu International Film Festival – Best Film on Women Short Film, Best Sci-Fi Short Film, Best Director of an International Short Film; Indo French International Film Festival – Best Debut Filmmaker of a Short Film, Best Sci-Fi Short Film; Havelock International Film Festival – Best International Short Film, Best Mobile Short Film; and International Motion Picture Festival of India – Best International Sci-Fi Short and Best Director International Short Film. Their children's film *ScreenTime* won Best Children's Short Film at the *International Motion Picture Festival of India* and their short *Lost and Found* is currently in post-production. Recent theatre includes *Shorties*, a short play event, at Ramjam Records.

Director of Photography and Assistant Director **Erica Miller** trained at the Young Vic and StoneCrabs Theatre. Theatre direction includes *Harrow's Angels* (Harrow Arts Centre), *Amsterdam* (ArtsEd), *Pathways* (Extant), *Stray Dogs* (Bread and Roses Theatre and Brighton Fringe), *Tell It Slant* (Hope Theatre), *The Lying Kind*, *Radiant Vermin* and *Shorties* (Ramjam Records), *Patience* (*Black Lives, Black Words* at the Bush Theatre), *Ashes of Roses* and *A Poison Tree* (*The Miniaturists* at the Arcola Theatre), *The Job* and *Treading Water* (Pleasance Edinburgh) and *Meat* (*Bush Bazaar* at the Bush Theatre). Film direction includes two award-winning shorts – the sci fi film *Control* and the fairy tale *ScreenTime* – for Roguegunners Productions, *Lost and Found*, *A Night of Dogs*, *A Stepmother Speaks*, *A Door*, *A Coin In Somebody Else's Pocket*. She also directed the audio play *Eulogies* (Fizzy Sherbet Podcasts). Erica is co-artistic director of Roguegunners Productions and Merry Spinsters Theatre Company.

The cast is:

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Louise Ashcroft

Trained at Birmingham School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* (Gateway Theatre, Chester), *Into the Woods* (Birmingham Hippodrome), *The Magic Flute* and *The Green Wolf* (Liverpool Playhouse), *23 Songs for a Madwoman* and *One Million Tiny Operas about Britain* (Ensemble 10/10 and The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra), *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Bridewell Theatre) and *Girls' Night Out* (Warehouse Theatre).

Film includes *The Ultimate Truth* and *Percy Liffar*.

Television includes *The Bill* and *Little Miss Jocelyn*.

Radio includes *The Hear and Now Show* and *Tongue and Talk: The Dialect Poets*.

Louise Bangay

Trained at Drama Studio London, Laban Dance Centre and Hull University.

Theatre includes *La Cage Aux Folles* (Park Theatre), *Handbagged* (New Vic Theatre, Stoke), *Penetration* (Cockpit Theatre), Trevor Nunn's productions of *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Chichester Festival Theatre) and *Rock 'n' Roll* (Royal Court Theatre and Duke of York's Theatre), *Poor Beck* (Royal Shakespeare Company at The Other Place and Soho Theatre), *Macbeth*, *King Lear* (Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Albery Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (New Vic Theatre, Stoke, and Oldham Coliseum), *Folk* (National Theatre Studio), *One of Those* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Song of Lunch* (The Tabernacle), *Summer Begins* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Lesson* (Arcola Theatre), *Mercy Fine* for Clean Break (Southwark Playhouse and National Tour), *Romeo and Juliet* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Mouth to Mouth* (Royal Court Theatre and Albery Theatre), *Still Life* (London Play Festival), *Two* (British Council Tour, Brazil), *Nascendo* (Tricycle Theatre), *Ben Hur* (BAC), *Horace*, *Katerina* and *The Cenci* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Miss Julie* (The Young Vic), *Rick's Bar Casablanca* (Whitehall Theatre) and *The Vanek Plays* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and Prague).

Film includes *My Dad's Christmas Date*, *Miss Willoughby and the Haunted Bookshop*, *York Witches Society*, *The Protector* and *Cocktail*.

Television includes *Whitstable Pearl*, *Casualty*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Holby City*, *Doctors* for which she was nominated for the British Soap Awards, *Holby Blue*, *The Bill*, *Imogen's Face* and *Bliss*.

Jeryl Burgess

Theatre includes *Happiness*, *The Swallow*, *Going Down to Morocco* and *Atra Bilis* (Cervantes Theatre), *Hamlet*, *Thebes* and *The Robbers* (New Diorama Theatre and Greenwich Theatre), *Humble Boy* (National Tour for London Classic Theatre), *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* (Union Theatre), *What's Your Issue* and *Gone to Pot* (Cockpit Theatre), *St George's Day* (Park Theatre), *Sleepers' Diner* (Arts Theatre), *Absolution* (Theatre503), *Memory of Summer* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Trash Christmas* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *Lines* (Rosemary Branch Theatre).

Film includes *Empire of Light*, *Heart of Stone*, *Excursion*, *Our Communist Life*, *Seven Lucky Gods* and *A Nightmare on your Street*.

Television includes *Killing Eve*, *Doctors*, *The Crown* and *PREMature*.

Olivette Cole-Wilson

Trained at Morley College and The Bridge Theatre Training Company.

Theatre includes *The Emperor Jones* (Gate Theatre and National Theatre), *Where Will We Live* (Camden People's Theatre), *The Female Edit* (Arts Theatre), *Blood Rites* (The Vaults) and *Reach Out and Touch* (Outbox Theatre Company).

Film includes *Unlocked*, *Souljah*, *The Jesus Lady*, *Tough in Spandex* and *The Love Letter*.

Television includes *Lawless*, *Remembering Haiti* and *The Promise*.

Rufus Graham

Trained at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Sankara* (Cockpit Theatre), *Passion of the American Rose* (Soho Theatre), *The Proposal* and *The Bear* (White Bear Theatre), *Every Night I Dream of Being Good* (The Yard), *SHORE* (Riverside Studios), *Un Chant d'Amour* (Gate Theatre), *Before I Sleep* (Brighton Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (King's Head Theatre), *Hell Screen* (Oval House), *The Taming of the Shrew* (European Tour for TNT Theatre) and *The Wallace* (Theatre Alba).

Film includes *The Writers Group*, *Die With Me*, *Chosen*, *The Last Days of Jack Sheppard*, *Um Vegetariano ala Brasileira*, Ken Russell's *A Kitten For Hitler*, *The Heavy*, *Khuda Ke Liye (In The Name Of God)* and *Guiana 1838* (Best Film - Belize International Film Festival).

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Television includes *The Towers*, *Charlie*, *Bedlam*, *Great Battles - The Battle of the Bulge*, *Turner - Simon Schama's Power of Art* and *Scandal in Bohemia*.

Direction includes *Up Venice Creek* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *Dido and Aeneas* (Steiner Theatre).

Catherine Harvey

Productions for the Finborough Theatre include *Quality Street*, *17* and *Unburied* as part of *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*.

Trained at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Sticks and Stones* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Absent Friends*, *Humble Boy* and *Nightfall* (National Tours for London Classic Theatre), *The Purification of the Sacred Nymphs of Natterjack - Bush Bazaar* and *Geisha Girls - Bush Beano* (Bush Theatre), *New Views* (National Theatre), *Alison's House* and *The Ring of Truth* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *XY* (Papercut at Pleasance Edinburgh), *My Balloon Beats Your Astronaut* (Papatango at Tristan Bates Theatre), *Les Enfants du Paradis* (Arcola Theatre), *An Ideal Husband* (Clwyd Theatr Cymru), *Pericles* (Ludlow Festival), *Deirdre of the Sorrows* (Riverside Studios), *Charley's Aunt* (Norwich Playhouse) and *Erasmus Montanus* (Greenwich Studio at BAC).

Film includes Ridley Scott's *Napoleon*, *Oscar and Lucinda*, *Control*, *ScreenTime*, *Tuyen* and *Comedy Haemorrhage*.

Television includes *The Burning Girls*, *Murder on the Blackpool Express*, *Tommy and Tuppence - Partners in Crime*, *Holby City*, *Safe House*, *Restless*, *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale*, *Where the Heart Is*, *Casualty*, *Judge John Deed*, *A Wing and a Prayer* and *Red Dwarf*.

Radio includes five series of *Tongue and Talk: The Dialect Poets*, *Pandemic 1918*, *Colomendy: A Rite of Passage*, *Witness: The Last Keeper of the Light* and *Mistaken Point*, *Poetry Please*, *Words and Music*, *The Verb*, *Night Waves*, *With Great Pleasure*, *Orchestra Paloma*, *Artists With Designs*, *43 Years in the Third Form*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, and *Bangers and Mash*.

Sue Moore

Trained at Birmingham Theatre School.

Theatre includes *Tale of Two Cities* (National Tour), *The Net* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *The Coast - Seal Hugging* (Theatre N16).

Television includes *Nurses Who Kill*, *Human Blankets for the Elderly* and *Square*.

Annabel Mullion

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include the Jermyn Street Theatre transfer of the Finborough Theatre production of *The White Carnation*.

Trained at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *The Three Ages of Yeats* and *The Dead* (Coronet Theatre), *The Rivals* and *Coyote Ugly* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *An Inspector Calls* (Garrick Theatre), *Love in Idleness* (Apollo Theatre) and *Bodies* (Southwark Playhouse).

Film includes *Mission Impossible*, *Carrington*, *Mothers Milk*, *Final Portrait* and *Warning*.

Television includes *The Crown*, *Gentleman Jack*, *A Dance to the Music of Time*, *Law and Order*, *Lucan*, *Lewis*, *Wallander*, *Poirot*, *Doll and Em*, *Victoria*, *Patrick Melrose*, *Women on the Verge* and *The Pursuit of Love*.

She is a winner of the Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio Drama.

Peter G. Pearson

Theatre includes *Their Finest Hour* (Waterloo East Theatre and South Hill Park Studio Theatre), *The Tempest*, *Measure for Measure*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Pravda* and *Dr Faustus* (Wilde Theatre, Bracknell), *Regulation 18B: No Free Man...* (National Tour), *Blue Stockings*, *Racing Demon*, *My Boy Jack*, *Taking Sides* and *The Hothouse* (Wokingham Theatre) and *Marking Time* (Man in the Moon Theatre).

Film includes *A Universe Apart*, *Off the Coast* and *Professional Foul*.

Radio includes *Poetry Please*, *Word of Mouth* and *Macbeth*.

Peter is an Honorary Professor at Imperial College London.

Ninka Scott

Trained at East 15 Acting School.

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Theatre includes *Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Cheek by Jowl at Theatre Space), *Nana* (Shared Experience at Mermaid Theatre), *Electra* (Chichester Festival Theatre and Donmar Warehouse), *Katarina* and *The Cenci* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith) and *Ken Campbell's Old King Cole* (Southwark Playhouse).

Film includes *Shadowlands*, *The Young Indiana Jones* and *Half Moon Street*.

Television includes *The Bill*, *The Jury*, *Cold Comfort Farm*, *The Moving Finger*, *Miss Marple*, *Loose End*, *Blind Justice*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Futures*, *The Borgias* and *Frankenstein's Baby*.

Lesley Stone

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Be Prepared* (Wandsworth Festival, Spirit of the Fringe Award, and Edinburgh Festival), *Didn't Die* (National Tour), *Infinite Riches* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *The Borrowers*, *Puff the Magic Dragon*, *Playing from the Heart* (Polka Theatre and National Tour), *Maria Stuart* (Union Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and *The Last Threads* (Scottish Tour).

Film includes *Man Dancin'*.

Television includes *Topsy and Tim*, *Playdays*, *Rides 2*, *The Josie Lawrence Show* and *The Paul Merton Show*.

Radio includes *Poetry Please*.

Lesley is a prolific songwriter and performs her own song 'Neighbours' in *An Earl's Court Miscellany*.

Lizzie Tranter

Trained at Elliott-Clarke.

Theatre includes *Tell It How It Was* and *Powder Room* (Artezium Studio Theatre, Luton), *Accidentally On Purpose* (Oxford Street Theatre), *Wartime Tales* (Southbank Centre), *The Bard* and *Daughters of Albion* (Neptune Theatre, Liverpool), *Alice in Wonderland* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Gateway Theatre, Chester).

Film includes *The Empty Mirror*, *Pop Songs*, *Wonderwoman* and *Love Letters*.

Elaine Wallace

Trained at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Theatre includes *Annie* (National Tour), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth), *Fat Pig* (Haymarket Theatre, Leicester), *Songs from the Front* (Donmar Warehouse), *42nd Street* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), *Me Myself and I* and *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (Everyman Theatre, Liverpool), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Clwyd Theatr Cymru), *Miss Julie* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *The Beautiful Game* (Drayton Arms Theatre), *Where the River Meets the Sea* (Bridewell Theatre), *Wirework* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *An Evening with Mitzi Wildebeest* (National and European Tour).

Television includes *Blue Pastures*, *The Bill*, *Thief takers*, *Sins on Saturday*, *A Very Open Prison*, *Would the Real Judy Garland Please*, *Mitzi Wildebeest*, *The Last Hours of Rue McClanahan* and *Bear With Me*.

Elaine is Artistic Director of the audio production company Voice Business whose radio plays include *Portrait of Doom* in the *Young Poland* Exhibition at the William Morris Gallery.

Available **FREE TO VIEW** on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel **#FinboroughFrontier**.

www.youtube.com/finboroughtheatre

Monday, 15 May 2023 at 6:00pm to Thursday, 15 June 2023 at midnight

Simultaneously available free with subtitles on Scenesaver

www.scenesaver.co.uk

Performance Length: Approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes.

#FinboroughFrontier

#FinboroughFrontier, the Finborough Theatre's online programme, is our recently inaugurated series of free-to-view digital releases, available free-to-view on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel, and available with subtitles on Scenesaver. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, its work has been primarily focused on our **#VoicesFromUkraine** **#Українськіголоси** **#Ukrayins'kiholosy** series, all now available to view online.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Matilda Russell on e-mail 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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