

January-June 2022 season at the Finborough Theatre

The world premiere of the award-winning new play

BACON

by Sophie Swithinbank

Directed by Matthew Iliffe. Set and Costume Design by Natalie Johnson. Lighting Design by Ryan Joseph Stafford. Sound Design by Mwen. Movement and Intimacy Direction by Jess Tucker Boyd. Casting Consultant – Nadine Rennie. Presented by Izzy Hayden for Salt Lick Productions Limited in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Corey Montague-Sholay. William Robinson.

*"I seen you looking at me. Like that.
You gonna deny it?
Go on. I swear down Mark – deny it."*

In a production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre, the world premiere of Sophie Swithinbank's award-winning drama **Bacon** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 3 March 2022 and Friday, 4 March 2022 at 7.30pm**).

Isleworth, London. It's Year 10's first day back at school. Mark is new and too scared to make friends. Darren is out-of-control and too scary to make friends. The two need each other, but neither of them would ever admit it.

Worlds apart, but more similar than they realise, the pair form a complex and manipulative relationship that leads them blindly into a murky and dangerous experiment...which will shape their lives for years to come.

An unashamed and unexpectedly humorous look at masculinity, sexuality and power, through a smudged and heated teenage lens.

First developed at the Soho Theatre in 2018, *Bacon* won playwright Sophie Swithinbank Soho Theatre's prestigious Tony Craze Award, and is also currently in development for a TV adaptation with a major production company.

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

COVID SAFE

As an intimate theatre venue, we are taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of performers, staff, and audience members during the current pandemic. We are asking audience members to provide a Covid pass proof of double vaccination **or** a negative test within the last 48 hours **or** evidence of infection in the past 180 days on arrival at the theatre, in addition to wearing a face covering throughout their visit including during the performance. We have reduced our audience capacity to 80% and temporarily increased 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.

Playwright **Sophie Swithinbank** won Soho Theatre's Tony Craze Award for *Bacon*. Her other plays include *Circle Game*, originally written for Oxford School of Drama, which was shortlisted for the Phil Fox Award 2020, *Even In Arcadia*

PRESS INFORMATION

(longlisted for the Verity Bargate Award), *The Fellowship* (Picturedrome, University of Northampton), *Where There Is Smoke* (National Theatre Learning), *Come Inside* (Bush Theatre) and *The Superhero* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith). She also teaches Playwriting at the University of Northampton.

Director **Matthew Iliffe's** productions at the Finborough Theatre include Eleanor Burgess' *The Niceties*, Lionel Bart and Alun Owen's musical *Maggie May*, Colleen Murphy's new play *Geography of Fire/La Furie et sa Géographie* as part of *Vibrant 2019 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* and the Finborough Theatre's lockdown online production of the classic Victorian comedy *Masks and Faces*. He previously directed Jake Brunger's *Four Play* (Above The Stag) and the European premiere of *The Burnt Part Boys* which was nominated for the OffWestEnd Award for Best Director and Best Musical Production (Park Theatre). Matthew graduated from the University of Bristol with a first-class honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies, and trained on the StoneCrabs Young Directors Programme, in association with The Albany. He has served as an assistant director for National Youth Music Theatre, Insane Root Theatre Company and Changeling Theatre, and as associate director on *Musik* (Leicester Square Theatre).

The cast is:

Corey Montague-Sholay | Mark

Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *Wendy & Peter Pan* (Leeds Playhouse), *She Stoops to Conquer and As You Like It* (Guildford Shakespeare Company), *The Whip*, *King John* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *This Island's Mine* (King's Head Theatre), *Henry V* (Shakespeare at The Tobacco Factory, Bristol), *The Enchanted* (Bunker Theatre), *Normal* (Rift Theatre), *Snow White* (Sixteenfeet Productions), *The Hotel Cerise* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Little Revolution*, *ICU* (Almeida Theatre) and *Carpe Diem* (National Theatre).

Short Film includes *Kite Strings*, *Angry Face*, *Callum*, *Our Night and Home*.

William Robinson | Darren

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *Romeo and Juliet* (National Tour) and *Target Man* (Kings Head Theatre). Theatre whilst training includes *Three Days in the Country*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Country Music* and *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings*. Film includes *Queens* and *Femme*.

Television includes *Masters of the Air* and *Cuffs*.

Previous acclaim for playwright Sophie Swithinbank

"One of the strongest and most exciting plays yet to have come through our ever growing and wider reaching Soho Young Company Writers' Labs." Steve Marmion, Artistic Director of Soho Theatre

"To date all of Sophie's work has been original, thoughtful and insightful, making her voice a very exciting and strident voice in the current theatre ecology." Ola Animashawun, Dramaturg, National Theatre

"*The Superhero* is laugh-out-loud funny. Swithinbank shows real potential in this off-beat, quirky comedy." *Starboard Festival* on *The Superhero*

"Swithinbank's comedic style takes familiar scenarios and gently but zaniily twists them to extract a constant stream of laughter from the audience" *Theatre South* on *The Superhero*

The press on director Matthew Iliffe

"Director Matthew Iliffe... doesn't disappoint, bringing the excellent script and intense performances together in a joyous union." ★★★★★ *TheatreWeekly* on *Four Play*

"Director Matthew Iliffe maintains a crackling intensity." ★★★★★ *ReviewsHub* on *Four Play*

"Matthew Iliffe's production maintains its grip... surely deserves a transfer to a bigger stage." ★★★★★ *The Times* on *The Niceties*

"If one test of a good play is the way it engages its audience long after they leave the theatre, then this one succeeded." *British Theatre Guide* on *The Niceties*

"The show, under Matthew Iliffe's direction, is also staged perfectly... unmissable musical theatre." ★★★★★ Jonathan Baz on *The Burnt Part Boys*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2022 AND FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM

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

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2022 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, 1 March – Saturday, 26 March 2022

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

Prices until 13 March 2022 – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £23 all seats. Previews (1 and 2 March) £14 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£14 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 5 March 2022 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 15 March 2022 – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £25 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 or **07384 379624**

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

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