

The English premiere

## BERYL COOK: A PRIVATE VIEW

Written, Performed and Painted by Kara Wilson

*'I come alive in my paintings...I can never let myself go - yet through my paintings I can.'*

Direct from an acclaimed sell out run at the Edinburgh Festival, writer, actor and painter **Kara Wilson** brings the English premiere of **Beryl Cook: A Private View** to the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre for a four-week limited season on Tuesday, 1 October 2024 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 3 October 2024 and Friday, 4 October 2024 At 7.30pm**).

Beryl Cook's joyful and exuberant paintings are known and loved throughout the world, but little is known of the very private person behind them.

Instantly recognisable, her paintings depict characters that are fun-loving, uninhibited and larger than life. But in real life, the artist's own personality was very different.

In a stunning *coup de théâtre*, **Beryl Cook: A Private View** offers a rare glimpse into Beryl's private thoughts as she completes one of her bold and playful oil paintings live on stage.

Working closely with the artist's family, writer, actor and painter **Kara Wilson** offers a unique insight into the life and creative process of one of Britain's most loved artists.

Every performance is followed by a post-show discussion with Kara – and an opportunity to buy the artwork that was just painted in front of you...

Playwright, Actor and Painter **Kara Wilson** has written and performed five acclaimed plays about artists which have toured galleries, auction houses and theatres in Scotland, England, Poland, and New York City. Her stage roles include Monica in *Present Laughter*, Beth in *Otherwise Engaged*, Jenny in *Chapter Two* at the Theatre Royal Windsor and Elaine in *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* on national tour. She has made innumerable television appearances include classic serials such as *Children of The New Forest* and *Dombey and Son*; single plays including *Once In Every Lifetime* in which she starred opposite her husband Tom Conti; and many series including 39 episodes of *Adam Smith*. She also appeared in a major documentary on Charles Rennie Mackintosh for Channel Four. Feature films include *Jane Eyre* starring George C. Scott, *Reuben, Reuben* and *Heavenly Pursuits*. [www.karawilson.co.uk](http://www.karawilson.co.uk)

### Press acclaim for Beryl Cook: A Private View at the Edinburgh Festival

'A must for any Cook fans and those who wish to spend an entertaining, informative hour...A well-acted and produced, intriguing play.' ★★★★★ *British Theatre Guide*

'A wise and witty journey...Kara Wilson paints a gentle, charismatic portrait of the artist with delightful honesty, quiet emotion and satirical wit.' ★★★★★ *Edinburgh Guide*

'Paints a glorious portrait of a treasured artist...Both Wilson's script and portrayal of Cook are exceptional...The warmth and pace of her delivery, and her skill at storytelling, are highly engaging. By itself, Wilson's performance would be top notch, but she delivers this whilst simultaneously completing a highly accurate copy of a Cook artwork in oils, applying the final brushstroke just as the last line is uttered. Quite the masterpiece!' ★★★★★ *The Recs*

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2024 AND FRIDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**  
**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

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

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

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, 1 October – Saturday, 26 October 2024**

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

**Prices until 20 October 2024** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (1 and 2 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, 6 October 2024 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 22 October 2024** – Tickets £25, £23 concessions. No concessions on Friday or Saturday evenings.

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

Performance Length: Approximately 85 minutes.

**Covid Safe masked matinee** – Sunday, 6 October 2024 at 3.00pm.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Finborough Theatre** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or 020 7244 7439

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

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

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.