

Finborough Theatre June-August 2022 season

The world premiere

## DARKIE ARMO GIRL

by Karine Bedrossian.

Directed by Anastasia Bunce.

Presented by Where's Betty Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

*"My name is Karen. I'm eight and half years old and I hate myself already."*

The world premiere of ***Darkie Armo Girl***, written and performed by **Karine Bedrossian**, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 14 June 2022 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 16 June 2022 and Friday, 17 June 2022 at 7.30pm**).

A true story.

1915. The Armenian Genocide. Families are marched across the Syrian desert to their death. Those who survive are scattered around the world.

1974. An Armenian family fleeing a civil war, arrive in the UK with £35, a suitcase and the address of a relative.

1976. One careless mistake. Nine months and one near fatal C-section later, Karen Mary Bedrossian is born into a perfectly fine life and grows up in a perfectly fine house in Richmond, Surrey. But inside her lies a secret deep, dark pain that rips her to shreds on a daily basis. By eighteen, she's homeless, penniless, and her only friends are a couple of heroin addicts and criminals. The solution? Start again. Become a famous pop star. Then everyone would love and admire her and she'd be whole.

Wouldn't she?

Developed with the Finborough Theatre, *Darkie Armo Girl* is a new solo play from British-Armenian writer and performer **Karine Bedrossian** about surviving life with the innocence of a child, but the destructive self-abandon of a suicide bomber.

On Wednesday, 22 June and Wednesday, 29 June there will be a Q&A session after the performance of *Darkie Armo Girl* which will take place in the theatre auditorium. It will feature performer and playwright Karine Bedrossian and director Anastasia Bunce. The event will be moderated by ..... . Invitation to these events is included with the cost of your ticket.

### 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 will be temperature-checked upon their arrival at the theatre, and **masks are mandatory at all times, including during the performance.**

# PRESS INFORMATION

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, **all Sunday matinee performances are Covid Pass Sundays when we will ask for proof of vaccination as well as mask wearing.**

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.

Playwright and Performer **Karine Bedrossian** is an actress, writer and film-maker, born in the UK to Armenian parents. She began her career as a recording artist, signed to Telstar Records. She later went on to work as an actress, playing the lead in *Hole In The Heart* (Teatro Technis) where she was reviewed in *The Guardian* as “one to watch”; the female lead in Richard Kalinoski’s *Beast On The Moon*, directed by Giles Croft (Nottingham Playhouse), TV dramas and independent British and international cinema. Karine recently wrote her first feature length screenplay, *Stripped*, and adapted it into a short film which she produced, directed and edited on an iPhone and which won ‘Best Lockdown Film’ in the Earl’s Court Film Festival 2020.

Director **Anastasia Bunce** trained in Theatre Directing at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, graduating in 2020. She is the Co-Artistic Director of Patch Plays, a company devoted to staging new work that explores animal ethics and sustainability. Direction includes OffFest nominated one woman show, *Meat Cute* (Chiswick Playhouse, Hen and Chickens Theatre and Bread and Roses Theatre), *Patch Plays Scratch Night* (Greenhouse Theatre), *REDACTED* (Mountview Catalyst Festival), *Di and Viv and Rose* (Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts), *Summer and Smoke* (Exeter Phoenix) and *Plucked* (Edinburgh Festival and Exeter Phoenix). Assistant Direction at the Finborough Theatre includes *Not Quite Jerusalem*. She is currently developing a new drama, *Blood On Your Hands*, for Cockpit Theatre in June 2022, and a Children’s musical with Patch Plays for Harrow Arts Centre in April 2022.

## The press on director Anastasia Bunce

“Inspired directing.” ★★★★★ Five Stars, *London Theatre 1* on *Patch Plays*

“Funny, engaging and utterly thought-provoking...*Meat Cute* provides deliciously crafted, beautifully balanced food for thought.” ★★★★★ Five Stars, *West End Best Friend* on *Meat Cute*

“Anastasia Bunce’s direction celebrates the farcical aspects of the piece...ensuring we never lose the energy that powers this fast paced play.” ★★★★★ Four Stars, *View from the Outside* on *Meat Cute*

“To think the company, Patch Plays (formed by Anastasia Bunce and Maria Majewska) were founded in 2020 is incredible and I look forward to seeing more of their work.” ★★★★★ Four Stars, *London Pub Theatre* on *Meat Cute*

“Bunce’s directorial style is one of the most memorable elements of this retelling.” *Exposé* on *Summer and Smoke*

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2022 AND FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2022 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, 14 June – Saturday, 9 July 2022**

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

**Prices until 26 June 2022** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (14 and 15 June) £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 on Saturday, 18 June 2022 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 28 June 2022** – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 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 75 minutes.

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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# PRESS INFORMATION

THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE IS COVID SAFE. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR LATEST POLICIES.

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 [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php)

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