

March 2024 - July 2024 season at the Finborough Theatre

The world premiere

FOAM

by Harry McDonald.

Directed by Matthew Iliffe. Set Design by Nitin Parmar. Costume Design by Pam Tait. Lighting Design by Jonathan Chan. Sound Design by David Segun Olowu. Fight and Intimacy Direction by Jess Tucker Boyd. Assistant Direction by Tania Khan.

Presented by Croft & Dye Productions and Salt Lick Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Matthew Baldwin. Keanu Adolphus Johnson. Jake Richards. Kishore Walker.

"You forget I knew you were a queer long before I knew you were a fascist."

The world premiere of ***Foam*** by Harry McDonald, directed by acclaimed director **Matthew Iliffe** (*Bacon*, *The Niceties*, *Maggie May*) opens at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on **Tuesday, 19 March 2024 (Press Nights: Thursday, 21 March 2024 and Friday, 22 March 2024 at 7.30pm)**.

1973, a public lavatory. Nicky shaves his head, watched by an older man.

Publicly, Nicky is a skinhead. And a Neo-Nazi. But right now, in this place, that doesn't matter.

He's not the first man Nicky meets in a public toilet, and he won't be the last...

Spanning twenty years and inspired by a true story, *Foam* examines the nature of identity and the consequences of right-wing extremist ideology against the backdrop of London's skinhead and gay scenes of the 1970s and 1980s.

With right-wing extremism again on the rise, *Foam* confronts the flashpoint where the terrifyingly personal and the violently political collide.

The second play by new British playwright **Harry McDonald**, *Foam* is directed by **Matthew Iliffe** who returns to the Finborough Theatre where he most recently directed the multi-award-winning world premiere of Sophie Swithinbank's *Bacon* for which he was named Best Director of a Play at the OffWestEnd Awards. Following its Finborough run, *Bacon* has been seen in London, Bristol, Edinburgh and New York City.

Foam contains strong language and reference to and depiction of sexual acts, drug use and physical, sexual and racist violence. Age guidance 16+.

Playwright **Harry McDonald**'s debut play, *Don't Smoke in Bed*, premiered at the 2023 VAULT Festival. His short fiction has been published by *Another North*, and he has also created work for the *Liverpool Everyman's Love Liverpool project*. Between 2016-2019, he published a blog of theatre criticism.

Director **Matthew Iliffe**'s productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Bacon* for which he won an OffWestEnd Award for Best Director (Finborough Theatre, Riverside Studios, Summerhall Edinburgh, Bristol Old Vic and SoHo Playhouse, New York City), Eleanor Burgess' *The Niceties*, and Lionel Bart and Alun Owen's musical *Maggie May*.

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. 03448268.
Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

PRESS INFORMATION

Direction includes *Breeding* (King's Head Theatre), *Four Play* (Above The Stag Theatre) and *The Burnt Part Boys* which was nominated for the OffWestEnd Award for Best Director and Best Musical Production (Park Theatre). Assistant Direction includes assisting Polly Findlay on *Assassins* (Chichester Festival Theatre), Daniel Evans on *Black Superhero* (Royal Court Theatre), Hannah Chissick on *Brass* (National Youth Music Theatre at Hackney Empire), and as Associate Director on *Musik* (Leicester Square Theatre). Matthew graduated from the University of Bristol with a first-class honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies, and trained on the National Theatre Directors Course 2023, and the StoneCrabs Young Directors Programme 2015.

The cast is:

Matthew Baldwin | Mosley / Craig

Theatre includes *46 Beacon* (Hope Theatre) and *The Clouds* (ADC Cambridge).

Film includes *Greed*.

Television includes *Riviera*, *The Crown*, *EastEnders*, *The Act* and *The Dark Room*.

Keanu Adolphus Johnson | Bird / Nurse

Trained at Italia Conti.

Theatre includes *Backstairs Billy* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Kinky Boots* (National Tour), *Aladdin* (Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford), *Dick Whittongton – A New Dick In Town* (Above The Stag Theatre), *Never Lost At Home* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich), *Heron* (Italia Conti), *Red Velvet* (Italia Conti), *The Laramie Project* (Italia Conti) and *A Place For Me* (Lighthouse Theatre).

Jake Richards | Nicky Crane

Trained at Arts Ed where he was nominated for an Laurence Olivier Bursary Award and awarded the Leverhulme Arts Scholarship.

Theatre includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Changeling Theatre), *Germ Free Adolescent* (Bunker Theatre) and *This Wounded Island* (Theatre503).

Television includes *The Larkins II*.

Kishore Walker | Gabriel / Christopher

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Theatre includes *Passing* (Park Theatre) and *The Boys Are Kissing* (Theatre503).

Television includes *Queenie* and *Doctors*.

The press on director Matthew Iliffe's production of *Bacon at the Finborough Theatre*

"A slick, intense production of a piece of gutsy new writing ... Iliffe's nuances direction draws the audience in." ★★★★★ *The Stage*

"This is quite some calling card ... director Matthew Iliffe delivers a tensely posied and confident production of delicate equilibrium". ★★★★★ *iNews*

"This is a breath-taking piece of work ... Director Matthew Iliffe does an extraordinary job." ★★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

"Iliffe's direction, and two terrific central performances, make this an unmissable piece of theatre." ★★★★★ *Theatre Weekly*

"A masterclass in acting, directing, and writing." ★★★★★ *To Do List*

"Direction by Matthew Iliffe is perfectly paced ... Powerful and tense, this is a play not to be missed". ★★★★★ *BritishTheatre.com*

"Director Matthew Iliffe mines every twist, awkwardness and surprise for emotional impact." ★★★★★ *The Arts Desk*

The press on Harry McDonald's *Don't Smoke in Bed* at the Vault Festival

"Harry McDonald's script is smart... tastefully managing to add humour throughout while dealing sensitively with such a heavy topic." *Everything Theatre*

"A remarkably tense experience... a play that is, at times, brutal in its unflinching look at trauma." *Ought To Be Clowns*

"Thought-provoking insight." *Everything Theatre*

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"Lingers in the mind...a significantly different theatrical experience to anything else I've seen at the 2023 VAULT Festival thus far." *Ought To Be Clowns*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2024 AND FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024 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, 19 March – Saturday, 13 April 2024

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

Prices until 31 March 2024 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (19 and 20 March) £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, 23 March at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 2 April 2024 – 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 90 minutes with no interval.

Covid Safe performance – Masks are mandatory at the first Sunday matinee performance.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Ellie Renfrew on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07799 642410**

or

Kate Morley on email kate@katemorleypr.com or **07970 465 648**

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

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