

The world premiere

MEN'S BUSINESS

by Simon Stephens.

A version of *Mannersache* by Franz Xaver Kroetz. Based on a literal translation by Bettina Auerswald.

Directed by Ross Gaynor. Designed by Andrew Clancy. Lighting by Jess F. Kane.

Presented by Glass Mask Theatre in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Lauren Farrell. Rex Ryan.

Following a sell-out run at Glass Mask Theatre in Dublin, the world premiere production of ***Men's Business*** by Tony and Olivier Award winner Simon Stephens opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 18 March 2025 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 20 March 2025 and Friday, 21 March 2025 at 7.30pm**).

A love story set in the back room of a butcher's shop with a brutal bastard of a dog howling in the yard next door.

Charlie's faith in the possibility of love can't be dimmed. No matter what deranged brutalities life throws at her.

Victor doesn't take his builder's boots off for dinner, has a rule to never go to a woman's flat in case she gets 'ideas', and doesn't like secrets...or dogs...

But could he be the one she's been waiting for?

Men's Business is the world premiere of Tony and Olivier Award winner Simon Stephens' new version of Franz Xavier Kroetz's rarely performed masterpiece *Mannersache*, and is also the London debut of acclaimed new company Glass Mask Theatre from Dublin, featuring actor **Rex Ryan** (multiple nominations for Best Actor Awards including *Broadway World* and the Manchester Theatre Awards).

Multi-award-winning playwright **Simon Stephens** is one of the UK's most prolific contemporary playwrights and his work is produced across the world. The author of more than twenty stage plays, he is a former tutor on the Royal Court Young Writers Programme. His many awards include the Olivier Award for Best New Play for *On the Shore of the Wide World*, and the Tony Award for Best Play for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and the Pearson Award for Best New Play for *Port*. His plays include *Bluebird* and *Heron* (Royal Court Theatre), *Port* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *One Minute* (Crucible Theatre and Bush Theatre), *Christmas* (Bush Theatre), *Country Music* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *On the Shore of the Wide World* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and National Theatre), *Motortown* (Royal Court Theatre Downstairs), *Pornography* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hanover, Edinburgh Festival, Birmingham Rep, and Tricycle Theatre), *Harper Regan* (National Theatre), *Sea Wall* (Bush Theatre and Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh), *Heaven* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh), *Punk Rock* (Lyric Theatre Hammersmith and Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *The Trial of Ubu* (Essen Schauspielhaus and Toneelgroep Amsterdam), *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky*, co-written with David Eldridge and Robert Holman (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Marine Parade* co-written with Mark Eitzel (Brighton International Festival), *T5* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh), *Wastwater* (Royal Court Theatre Downstairs), *Morning* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), an adaptation of *A Doll's House* (The Young Vic), an adaptation of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (National Theatre), *Blindsided* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Birdland* (Royal Court Theatre), *Carmen Disruption* (Deutsches Schauspielhaus and Almeida Theatre), *The Funfair* (Home, Manchester),

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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PRESS INFORMATION

Heisenberg (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Song From Faraway* (The Young Vic), *The Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre), *Nuclear War* (Royal Court Theatre), *Obsession* (Barbican Centre), *Lightfalls* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Morning Sun* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Blindness* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Fortune* (Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre). He is also a Professor at the Writing School of Manchester Metropolitan University.

Director **Ross Gaynor** is a theatremaker from Dublin. He is a graduate of the Lir Academy and University College Dublin where he received the Ad Astra scholarship for Drama. Direction includes the smash hit production of Simon Stephens' *Country Music*, and Stephen Jones' *A Ghost Story* (Glass Mask Theatre, Dublin). As an actor, theatre includes *Celebrity* (Glass Mask Theatre, Dublin), *The United States Versus Ulysses* (Pavillion Theatre, Dublin, and Town Hall Theatre, Dublin), *The Rice Krispie Killer* (Glass Mask Theatre, Dublin), *The New Electric Ballroom* and *Piaf* (Gate Theatre, Dublin), *Gravity [A Love Story]* (Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick), *All The Angels* (Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin), *The Valley of The Squinting Windows* (City Theatre Dublin), *Bullfight on Third Avenue* (Bewleys Café Theatre, Dublin), *Mozart's Der Schauspieldirektor* (Irish National Opera), *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Project Arts Centre, Dublin), *The Train* (Abbey Theatre) and his own one-man play *I AM A BIRD NOW* (Theatre Upstairs, Dublin). Film includes *King Frankie* and *Cave*. Television includes *Valhalla*, *Normal People*, *Blasts From the Past*, *Bernard Dunne's Mythical Heroes*, *Resistance* and *What Richard Did*.

The cast includes:

Lauren Farrell

Trained at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and Bow Street Academy. Theatre includes *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Gate Theatre, Dublin, and National Theatre), *Stuck on a Puzzle* and *A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man* (New Theatre, Dublin). Television includes *The Dry*, *Smother* and *The Doll Factory*.

Rex Ryan

Trained at the Gaiety School of Acting, Dublin. Rex was received multiple nominations for Best Actor awards, including being nominated twice by *Broadway World* for his roles in *Tonight with Donny Stixx* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin) and *Quicksand* (New Theatre, Dublin), at the Manchester Theatre Awards for *Pilgrim*, and at the Dublin Fringe for *The Birthday Man*. Theatre includes *Bullfight on Third Avenue* (Bewleys Theatre, Dublin), *Quicksand*, *Hamlet* (New Theatre, Dublin), *Port Authority*, *The Memory Stick*, *BUG* and *Made In China* (Viking Theatre, Dublin), *Hollow Ground* (Theatre Upstairs, Dublin), *The Motherfucker With The Hat* (New Theatre, Dublin), *The Circus Of Perseverance* (Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin), *Celebrity*, *One Hour to Ron Montana*, *Summerhill*, *Pop Tart Lipstick*, and *Our Shaman of Dublin One* (Glass Mask Theatre, Dublin). Television includes *Quantico*, *Harry Wild*, *Borderline*, *That Dirty Black Bag* and *El Cazador*. Film includes *Monged* and the award-winning short *Solitaire*. Rex is Artistic Director of Glass Mask Theatre, a new writing theatre in the heart of Dublin that features the work of emerging and established Irish playwrights, of which he is Artistic Director.

Previous acclaim for playwright Simon Stephens

"One of the most important and exciting British playwrights working today." *Variety*
"A brilliant writer of immense imagination with an acute observation of people's foibles". *The Independent*
"Marvellous and moving." *Daily Telegraph* on *Country Music*
"Stephens, who has already written the best play of the year (*Harper Regan*), has come up with another cracker – one that searches for new forms to say new things. He observes his characters with an almost forensic detachment and yet he makes us love them too. A play of grace and terror." *The Guardian* on *Pornography*
"The dialogue has a rare quality of moment – by – moment intensity." *The Guardian* on *Blindsided*
"Mr. Stephens ... is an uncanny subtle dramatist who never wears his depths on the surface ... he probes clichés until they fall apart, before reassembling them into solid but transformed shapes, reminding us why such clichés have become enduring elements of our collective mythology." *The New York Times* on *Heisenberg*
"Stephens packs more into these twenty-five minutes than most writers manage in a full-length drama." *This is London* on *Sea Wall*

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"Beautifully crafted...uses chance encounters and casual camaraderie to stir the deep well of human experience." *What's On on Christmas*

"There is a huge talent in Stephens's writing. The play is constructed with skill, yielding its dark secrets slowly, and the terrifying violence is set against moments of beautiful tenderness." *The Daily Telegraph on Herons*.

"The insecurities of childhood, tense family relationships, and the wonder and disappointment of young love are caught with rare perception." *The Daily Telegraph on Port*

"Its power comes from its absolute authenticity...atmospheric and grimly compelling." *The Independent on Morning*

"Theatrically daring and uncompromising." *The Financial Times on Morning*

"Mr. Stephens, one of the most quietly original British playwrights working today, has the gift (or curse) of perceiving human unhappiness with an almost clinical verisimilitude, unclouded by sentimentality or sensationalism." *New York Times*

The press on director Ross Gaynor

"Seventy minutes of theatrical dynamite, Gaynor's assured direction navigates to the heart of *Country Music* by eliciting four outstanding performances." ★★★★★ *The Arts Review on Country Music*

"Under Ross Gaynor's direction, the ever-present threat is alive. I can't think of a better way to spend your evening." ★★★★★ *Irish Independent on Country Music*

"Sometimes great things can happen, even on the coldest most bleak February evenings. This is one of them...In the handling, there needs to be an emotional awareness in the approach by director and cast – this production has both... Heart scorching." ★★★★★ *The Daily Mail on Country Music*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025 AND FRIDAY, 21 MARCH 2025 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025 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, 18 March – Saturday, 12 April 2025

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

Prices for Week One – Tickets £20, £18 concessions. Previews £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 the first Saturday evening of each run, when booked online only.

Prices for Week Two – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four – 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 75 minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Finborough Theatre on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **020 7244 7439**

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

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