

November 2023 – February 2024 season at the Finborough Theatre

The world premiere

## JAB

by James McDermott.

Directed by Scott Le Crass.

Presented by Free Run Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre .

Supported by Sue Pomroy of SJP Management.

Cast: Kacey Ainsworth. Liam Tobin.

*"Last twenty nine years. You haven't had to make any decisions. I've paid every bill, made every sacrifice... But now... You made a choice. You're gonna have to face the consequence".*

The world premiere of **Jab** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 22 February 2024 and Friday, 23 February 2024 at 7.30pm**).

Anne is tired. Tired of menopause. Tired of working in a dying NHS. And tired of her lazy sexist *Daily Mail* reading husband Don. But they've been together twenty nine years. They know each other inside out. They've survived so much.

Then COVID plunges the country into lockdown, forcing them to isolate together. After all, the home is a place of safety... isn't it?

As the world falls apart outside, Anne and Don's marriage slowly falls apart inside. But soon there will be a solution. Won't there?

Inspired by true events, *Jab* is a coruscating new black comedy, exploring power, gender, domestic violence, conspiracy theories, ignorance, and the limits of love.

**Kacey Ainsworth** and **Liam Tobin** star in this stunning new British play, directed by **Scott Le Crass**, recently nominated for Best Creative West End Debut at *The Stage Awards* for his production of *Rose*, starring **Maureen Lipman**.

Playwright **James McDermott** productions include *Time and Tide*, nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best New Play and long-listed for the Bruntwood Prize (Park Theatre and East of England Tour) and *Rubber Ring* (Pleasance London and UK Tour). Both plays are published by Samuel French. Their other plays include *Acid's Reign* (Vault Festival) and *The Birds and The Bees* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, and East of England Tour). James's poetry collections include *Wild Life* (Nine Arches Press), *Erased* (Polari Press) and *Manatomy* which was long-listed for Polari's First Book Prize (Burning Eye Books). James has written plays for BBC Radio 4, and is one of the writers on *EastEnders*. They teach scriptwriting for the National Theatre and Arvon, and also lecture in creative writing at the University of East Anglia.

Director **Scott Le Crass** directed the revival of Martin Sherman's *Rose*, starring Maureen Lipman, which was streamed online in 2020, screened on Sky Arts in 2021, and in 2022 it was presented onstage at Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester, and Park Theatre where it won an OffWestEnd Award for Best Solo Performance. In 2023, *Rose* transferred to the West End, and Scott has been shortlisted for Best Creative West End Debut at *The Stage Awards*. He was nominated for both OffWestEnd and Broadway World Awards for Best Director for *Rose*. Scott is just about to direct *Toxic* by Nathaniel Hall at HOME, Manchester.

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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## Acclaim for playwright James McDermott

"Catch it if you can. So moving, funny, truthful and compelling. Beautifully performed by a wonderful cast of actors"

Stephen Fry on *Time and Tide*

"Bold, graphic, startling" Julian Clary on *Manatomy*

"Hilarious and honest" Jonathan Harvey on *Manatomy*

★★★★★ "One of the best pieces of new writing I have seen in the last few years." *Pocket Size Theatre* on *Time and Tide*

★★★★★ "A humorous and moving portrayal of trapped lives...peppered with brilliant one liners and moments of poetic excellence" *Theatre News* on *Time and Tide*

★★★★★ "Touching, truthful, funny." *The Reviews Hub* on *Time and Tide*

★★★★★ "A small, detailed and touching play, it astutely balances its humour with moments of tension and quiet revelation" *Unrestricted Theatre* on *Time and Tide*

★★★★★ "It's always good to see a new talent emerging and in James McDermott that is clearly and pleasingly what we have" *Sardines Magazine*

## The press on director Scott Le Crass

★★★★★ "A directorial triumph for Scott Le Crass." *Broadway Baby* on *Rose*.

★★★★★ "Director Scott Le Crass recognises the need for simplicity and understatement." *WhatsOnStage* on *Rose*.

★★★★★ "Speaking of direction, this is a masterclass." *All That Dazzles* on *Country Music*.

★★★★★ "Scott Le Crass' directorial style matches Stephens' unfussy writing. It's quietly confident, never unnecessarily showy, and infused with a sense of Le Crass' evident love for the play." *The Stage* on *Country Music*.

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2024 AND FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM**

**Covid Safe – Masks are mandatory at all Sunday matinee performances.**

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, 20 February – Saturday, 16 March 2024

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

**Prices until 3 March 2024** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (20 and 21 February) £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, 24 February 2024 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 5 March 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 75 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Ellie Renfrew** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07384 379624**

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