

September – December 2022 season at the Finborough Theatre

The English premiere

NOT NOW

by David Ireland.

Directed by Max Elton. Designed by Ceci Calf. Lighting by Mattis Larsen. Sound Design and Composition by Jack Baxter. Presented by 19th Street Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Matthew Blaney. Stephen Kennedy.

"You're an Irish Daniel Radcliffe."

"I'm British!"

"You're a British Daniel Radcliffe. From Ireland."

Replacing the previously announced production of **Yes So I Said Yes** by David Ireland which has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts, **Not Now** by multi-award-winning playwright David Ireland has its English premiere at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season starting on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 3 November 2022 and Friday, 4 November 2022 at 7.30pm**).

The morning after his father's funeral, an unsure and still grief-stricken Matthew prepares to fly to London to audition for the prestigious drama school, RADA.

When his painter-decorator Uncle Ray interrupts his private rendition of Richard III's opening monologue to offer some unwanted direction and dubious career advice, Matthew starts to doubt whether he should really be leaving Belfast in the first place.

Or is Belfast where he truly belongs?

Originally presented by A Play, A Pie and A Pint at Glasgow's Òran Mór in May 2022 to critical acclaim, **Not Now** is a sharply written, heartfelt comedy about the past, identity and moving on – from the multi award-winning author of *Cyprus Avenue*.

Playwright **David Ireland** returns to the Finborough Theatre following the Great Britain premiere of *Yes So I Said Yes*, and the English premiere of *Everything Between Us*. Director **Max Elton** returns to the Finborough Theatre following his "brutally effective" (*The Stage*) staging of *Yes So I Said Yes*, and his "excellent production" (*The Guardian*) of Israel Zangwill's play *The Melting Pot*.

Playwright **David Ireland** was born in Belfast and brought up in County Down. He was Playwright-in-Residence at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, in 2011-2012. In 2010, *Everything Between Us*, first produced by Solas Nua and Tinderbox Theatre Company, was performed in Belfast, Scotland and Washington, D.C., winning the Stewart Parker Trust BBC Radio Drama Award and the Meyer-Whitworth Award for Best New Play. It received its English premiere at the Finborough Theatre in 2017. *Yes So I Said Yes* was first performed at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast, in 2011 as part of the Belfast Festival and then on a tour of Northern Ireland, where its performances in Omagh led to the theatre being picketed by a local church group. In 2021 *Yes So I Said Yes* had its Great Britain premiere at the Finborough Theatre, London, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the partition of Ireland. *Cyprus Avenue* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre before transferring to the Public Theater, New York City, the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and the Metropolitan Arts Centre, Belfast,

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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winning *The Irish Times* Theatre Award for Best New Play, and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Drama. It returned to the Royal Court Theatre in 2019. It received over 100,000 views online. In 2018, Ireland's *Ulster American* was performed by the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, as part of their Edinburgh Festival season, where it was awarded the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award, and won Best Female Performance, Best New Play and Best Production at the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland.

Director **Max Elton** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he directed the critically acclaimed sold-out Great Britain premiere of *Yes So I Said Yes* and a rediscovery of *The Melting Pot*. He wrote and directed *Big Brother Blitzkrieg* (King's Head Theatre), and other direction includes *The End of Hope* (Soho Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Stripped* (King's Head Theatre) and *Leftovers* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

The cast is:

Matthew Blaney | Matthew

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Blackout* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Michael Grandage Company at Wyndham's Theatre), *The Secret Love Life of Ophelia* (Greenwich Theatre Online), *The Best Pints* (White Bear Theatre) and *Cymbeline* (Told by an Idiot at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art).

Film includes *Belfast*.

Radio includes *Trelawny of the Wells*.

Stephen Kennedy | Ray

Theatre includes *Waves* (National Theatre and International Tour), *The Plough and the Stars*, *The Silver Tassie*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *England People Very Nice*, *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage*, *Women of Troy* (National Theatre), *Sweet Charity*, *The Vote*, *Juno and the Paycock* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Tempest* (Ustinov Studio, Bath), *La Traviata* (Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Paris, and International Tour), *Hamlet* (International Tour for Flute Theatre), *King Lear* (The Old Vic), *King John* (Rose Theatre, Bankside), *Elegy For Young Lovers* (English National Opera and The Young Vic), *The Cherry Orchard* (The Young Vic), *The Crucible* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Perth Theatre), *Tamburlaine* (Barbican Theatre and Bristol Old Vic), *The School for Scandal* (Barbican Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Birthday Party* (Bristol Old Vic), *Measure for Measure*, *Shadows* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Forty Winks*, *Loyal Women*, *Force of Change* (Royal Court Theatre) and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park).

Film includes *Notes on a Scandal*, *The Nan Movie*, *Braveheart*, *Private Peaceful*, *The Agent* and *Nothing Personal*.

Television includes *Father Brown*, *Dark Heart*, *Lucky Man*, *Silent Witness*, *Casualty*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *A Touch of Frost*, *The Bill*, *Making Waves*, *The Vice*, *On Home Ground*, *Ballykissangel*, *The Hanging Gale*, *Shockers* and *Screen Two*.

Radio includes the role of Ian Craig on BBC Radio 4's long-running series, *The Archers*.

The press on *Not Now* by David Ireland at Òran Mór, Glasgow

★★★★ **Four Stars**, *The Scotsman*, *The List*, *Glasgow West End Today*

"Achingly intimate and painfully real, Ireland's writing... creates an unfiltered freeze-frame of a family torn apart by death." Rachel Cronin, *The List*

★★★★ "His...wildness [is] reined in and magnificently well used, to provide the simmering power behind this brief dialogue for two characters." *The Scotsman*

The press on *Yes So I Said Yes* by David Ireland at the Finborough Theatre

★★★★ **Four Stars**, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Telegraph*, *The Stage*, *ReviewsGate*, *Broadway World UK* and *Close-Up Culture*

"Ireland's dexterous playwriting dovetails his political, ideological and humorous considerations seamlessly while Max Elton's fluid and surefooted direction steers the uniformly excellent performances from all of the cast, ensuring the excesses of Ireland's imagination are dramatised convincingly, uproariously and daringly." Dzifa Benson, *The Telegraph*

The press on playwright David Ireland's *Cyprus Avenue*

★★★★★ "I can't remember when I saw a play that was so utterly clear yet had such startling destination." *The Observer*

★★★★★ "Compulsive viewing." *Time Out*

★★★★★ "The most electric, unnerving, illuminating nights of theatre any of us can have seen for years." *Irish News*

The press on director Max Elton's production of David Ireland's *Yes So I Said Yes*

★★★★★ "The tiny Finborough is ignited by Max Elton's spot-on direction." *The Observer*

★★★★★ "Director Max Elton marshals a marvellous cast of six with the quick fluidity vital to farce." *The Guardian*

★★★★★ "Max Elton's fluid and surefooted direction steers the uniformly excellent performances from all of the cast" *The Telegraph*

★★★★★ "Elton's direction commands every inch of the Finborough's tiny space." *The Stage*

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 may be temperature-checked upon their arrival at the theatre, and masks are strongly recommended at all times, including during the performance.

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.

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER AND FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022 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, 1 November – Saturday, 26 November 2022

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

Prices until 13 November 2022 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (1 and 2 November) £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, 5 November 2022 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 15 November 2022 – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £23 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 50 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Matilda Russell on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07384379624**

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PRESS INFORMATION

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

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