

January-March 2023 season at the Finborough Theatre

The UK premiere

ONE WHO WANTS TO CROSS

(Un Qui Veut Traverser)

by Marc-Emmanuel Soriano.

Translated by Amanda Gann.

Directed by Alice Hamilton.

Presented by Clarisse Makundul Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

“In the water now up to the waist, there are some who struggle to walk, staying upright as best they can, holding what’s left of their belongings, clinging to one another, like soldiers returning from battle...”

Alice Hamilton directs the UK premiere of ***One Who Wants To Cross*** by award-winning French playwright **Marc-Emmanuel Soriano** at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 31 January 2023 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 2 February 2023 and Friday, 3 February 2023 at 7.30 pm**).

One Who Wants To Cross has no identity.

Their nationality has little meaning. They are from a country where leaving is forbidden.

They could be a factory worker, a geographer, or a journalist.

They could be escaping by beach, open sea, desert, or forest.

They are leaving everything behind them to reach the other side and make a new start over there, risking everything – including unimaginable suffering and often death.

Bringing a contemporary human tragedy into devastating focus, *One Who Wants To Cross* is a dramatic meditation on migrants, wherever their place of origin...

Recipient of multiple French awards (Centre National du Théâtre, Guérande, Influenscènes, TAPS, Panta Théâtre), *One Who Wants To Cross* received its world premiere at the Théâtre du Rond-Point, recorded for France Culture, and also been staged as a reading – including director Stanislas Nordey’s production at the Théâtre National de Strasbourg, starring Emmanuelle Béart. Acclaimed director Alice Hamilton now directs the UK premiere at the Finborough Theatre.

Playwright **Marc-Emmanuel Soriano** began his career as an actor in Paris (Théâtre National de la Colline, Théâtre du Rond-Point, Cité Internationale, Théâtre National de Strasbourg), then continued as an author for various companies (Théâtre de l’Envol, Amin Théâtre) and an agitator and transmitter of art with his company Théâtre Suivant. His other plays include *The Parliament of Forests*, *The Other Side*, and *Holy Day*.

Translator **Amanda Gann** is an actress and scholar in French and Theatre Studies. Trained in the US, France, and the UK, she collaborates with multilingual, interdisciplinary, and transnational companies such as the Poets’ Theatre, Boston, with whom she originated a bilingual production of Samuel Beckett’s *Not I/PasMoi* (MAC, Belfast). Now a doctoral

PRESS INFORMATION

student at Harvard University, she is writing a thesis on the interwar repertoire of the Théâtre du Grand-Guignol. Her recent translations include Jean-René Lemoine's *Face à la Mère* (Institut Français, London) and *L'Adoration* (Actions Caribéennes Théâtrales, New York City).

Director **Alice Hamilton**'s work includes *The Memory of Water*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Paradise*, *Every Day I Make Greatness Happen* (Hampstead Theatre), *Blood Wedding*, *Echo's End* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The March on Russia*, *German Skerries* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond) *While We're Here*, *Visitors* (Bush Theatre), *Orca*, *Orson's Shadow* (Southwark Playhouse), *Thirty Christmases* (Supporting Wall at the New Diorama Theatre), *Eventide* (Arcola Theatre and Tour), *Fear of Music* (National Tour for Up in Arms and Out of Joint), and *At First Sight* (Latitude Festival and Tour). She has worked as Staff Director at the National Theatre, and directed development workshops and rehearsed readings with the Royal Court Theatre, National Theatre, Almeida Theatre and High Tide.

Clarisse Makundul Productions is a new theatre production company dedicated to presenting diverse voices. It seeks to challenge beliefs, broaden minds and promote social discourse, offering a platform for storytellers and creators to collaborate and work on projects from inception of the idea to staging and production. Forthcoming productions include a rehearsed reading of *Facing Mother* by Jean-René Lemoine at the Park Theatre in November 2022, and a full production of *Under the Kundè Tree* by Clarisse Makundul in May 2023.

COVID SAFE WILL REPLACE NEARER THE TIME

As an intimate theatre venue, we are taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of performers, staff, and audience members during the current pandemic. We are asking audience members to provide a Covid pass proof of double vaccination or a negative test within the last 48 hours or evidence of infection in the past 180 days on arrival at the theatre, in addition to wearing a face covering throughout their visit including during the performance. We have reduced our audience capacity to 80% and temporarily increased 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, 2 FEBRUARY 2023 AND FRIDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023 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, 31 January – Saturday, 25 February 2023

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

Prices until 12 February 2022 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (31 January and 1 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 on Saturday, 4 February 2023 at 7.30 pm when booked online only.

Prices from 14 February 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 90 minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Matilda Russell on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07384 379624**

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

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. 3448268.

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