

AFTER HAGGERTY

by David Mercer. Directed by Kirsty Housley. Designed by Ellan Parry. Sound by Matt Downing. Presented by The Circuit.
Cast: David Cann. Jon Foster. Cristina Gavin. Bernard Kay. Guy Lewis.

THE FIRST LONDON REVIVAL OF DAVID MERCER'S POLITICAL MASTERPIECE

"There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part...and you've got to put your bodies up against the gears, and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus. And you've got to make it stop." – Mario Savio, Berkeley, 1964

1968. The Eastern Bloc in crisis, America at war, Paris torn apart by riots... The world is in uproar and things will never be the same again. Drama critic Bernard Link has just moved into his new London flat, previously owned by the mysterious Haggerty. Soon Bernard's calm is shattered by the arrival of Claire - a loud American with child in tow demanding to know the whereabouts of her husband, Haggerty - and Bernard's father on a visit from Yorkshire, railing at everything from Bernard's cowardice to "homos and blackies"... As Bernard comes to terms with his travels around the world, his domestic chaos and the experimental theatre troupe that drives him to drink, the packages from Haggerty begin to arrive...

Playwright **David Mercer** was born in Yorkshire in 1928. Best known for his screen work including the modern classic *Morgan: A Suitable Case for Treatment* and *In Two Minds*, filmed as *Family Life* by director Ken Loach, Mercer's plays include *Belcher's Luck*, *The Buried Man*, *A Climate of Fear*, *Cousin Vladimir*, *Duck Song*, *Flint*, *The Governors Lady*, *Huggy Bear*, *Let's Murder Vivaldi*, *No Limits to Love*, *Ride a Cock Horse*, *Then and Now*, *Where the Difference Begins* and *You Me and Him*. He died in 1980, aged just 52. *After Haggerty* was first presented by the RSC in 1970 and was Mercer's first major stage success, and now receives its first ever London revival at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre, well known in recent years for its rediscovery of unjustly neglected drama.

Directed by exciting young director **Kirsty Housley** whose credits include *Blue Jam* by Chris Morris (Etcetera Theatre, Riverside Studios and BAC) which was named Critics' Choice by *Time Out*, *Guardian* and *Evening Standard*; *Wuthering Heights* (BAC), *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer, adapted by Simon Block; *Nymphs and Shepherds* by David Hines; *Henry IV* by Luigi Pirandello; *The Chic Nerds* by Ronan O'Donnell (all for the Etcetera Theatre); and, as the first winner of the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award in 2003 - *Cue Deadly: A Live Film Project* (Riverside Studios).

The cast includes **David Cann** who returns to the Finborough following his acclaimed performance as W.H. Davies in Laura Wade's adaptation of *Young Emma*. His many TV and Film credits include *Bridget Jones Diary*, *Brass Eye*, *Silent Witness*, *People Like Us*, *Jam*, *Black Books*, *Bad Girls*, and *Eastenders*; **Bernard Kay's** many credits include *An Inspector Calls*, *Platonov* (Almeida) and TV credits including *Foyle's War*, *Sweeney!*, *Dr Who*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Avengers* and *Z Cars*; **Jon Foster's** credits include *A New Way to Please You*, *Sejanus: His Fall*, *Speaking Like Magpies*, *Thomas More* (all for the Royal Shakespeare Company); **Cristina Gavin** appeared at the Finborough in last year's *Etta Jenks* - her US TV credits include *Babylon 5* and *Days of Our Lives*; and **Guy Lewis** whose credits include *Telstar* (New Ambassadors), *Dr Faustus* (Royal National Theatre) and *The Graduate* (Gielgud Theatre).

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2006 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2006 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0870 4000 838 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 23 May – Saturday, 17 June 2006

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.30pm.

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.

Previews (23 and 24 May) £8 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact
Neil McPherson on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone +44 (0)20 7244 7439 Fax +44 (0)20 7835 1853
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson