



Floodtide presents the World Premiere of

FAIR

by Joy Wilkinson.

Directed by Helen Eastman. Designed by James Cotterill.

Lighting Design by Neill Brinkworth.

Cast: Jonathan Jaynes, Rebecca Everett and Matthew Wilson.

I'm not racist. The problem isn't cohesive fucking blah blah blah. The problem's simple. We pay top dollar for the shittest health, housing, schools and you name it cos your government wants its global economy so we have to give up everything and whatever's left gets diverted to your diverse mates.

Burnley writer, Joy Wilkinson, confronts the racism brewing in Britain's northern towns and beyond. What's turning young people to the right? How and why are the BNP managing to recruit?

This is a dizzying new play for the summer, set in the heat of the fairground. Upside down on the Revolution ride, Railton meets Melanie. A spin on the waltzer, some chips and a spliff and it goes off like fireworks until she discovers his politics and the relationship implodes. Except this time Melanie can't just pack her backpack and get away. This time she has to stay and face Railton as they clash over their dads' plans to mark one year on from the race riots. Which is more fitting for Britain today – a traditional English fair or a multi-cultural mela? After this rollercoaster of a play it's not so easy to tell right from left, wrong from right, black from white.

Joy's writing penetrates the attitudes and prejudices of this community in a witty and theatrical way that puts a whole new spin on northern drama, with waltzers for settees and Pepper's Ghosts flickering in the twilight. Her first play, *Felt Effects*, was joint winner of Soho Theatre's prestigious Verity Bargate Award. Her other plays include *Interior Design for the Undead*, winner of the International Student Playscript Competition, and *The Aquatic Ape*, performed in the 5065 Lift at last year's Edinburgh Festival – "Outlandishly brilliant...It is well written, sparky, clever and funny" *****Three Weeks*. This is Joy's first full production in London.

***Fair* and *Felt Effects* are being published in a joint volume by Nick Hern books.**

Floodtide continues its programme of challenging new plays, after successes such as *Hyperlynx* at the Tricycle, *Wild Raspberries* at the Glasgow Citizen's Theatre and *Wolf Game* at The Union. It's recent *Change* project brought together ten of London's most interesting young writers, including Joy Wilkinson, with ten directors and forty actors to create a UK election special.

On Floodtide's work: *'If only world leaders possessed such foresight'*. The List

'A welcome antidote to despair'. The Sunday Herald *'Questions all motivations...'* The Independent

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

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Helen Eastman returns to the Finborough after her acclaimed production of *The Monument* in 2003. In the interim Helen has directed two operas – *Hansel and Gretel* at Cork Opera House (as a celebration of their 150th anniversary and status as European Capital of Culture) and the world premiere of *Bug Off!* for a Northern Ireland tour. She has assisted Michael Attenborough at The Almeida and, for Floodtide, initiated and directed the Change project. She has been made honorary fellow in contemporary performance practice at Westminster University and a Projects Associate for the Almeida.

On Helen's work:

"Five stars. Deserving of a longer run and a wider audience, this is extraordinary stuff." *What's On, The Monument*.

"A provocative experience. You leave the auditorium with a knot in the gut, and damp earth in your nostrils." *Time Out on The Monument*

Sunday Times Pick of the Fringe for *The Cure at Troy*

"Five Stars. A must see. Superbly acted and stylishly staged." *Three Weeks* on *The Cure at Troy*

"Five Stars. This is exactly the sort of quietly brilliant theatre that so often gets missed" *Three Weeks* on *Wild Raspberries*

James Cotterill trained in Theatre Production at RADA before completing the Motley Theatre Design Course. Recently he has designed *Big Sale* (Protein Dance), *The Fool* (Vanbrugh Theatre, RADA) and *The Cudgel and the Rapier* (Liquid Theatre/BAC). As assistant designer to Dick Bird he has worked on *Tejas Verdes* (The Gate), *The Gondoliers* (Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf), *Lear* (Sheffield Crucible), *Dirty Wonderland* (Frantic Assembly), *The Gambler* (Maastricht) and currently *Fatal Harvest* (Royal Court).

Jonathan Jaynes, whose distinguished career had included playing Caliban in *The Tempest* and Gora in *Wicked Yaar!* at the National Theatre, Judd in *Bouncers* at Hull Truck Theatre Company, Harry Doulton in *Equus* at Salisbury Playhouse and Jack in *Happy Families* and Levin in *Anna Karenina* at Watford Palace is joined on stage by two new LAMDA graduates, Blackburn-born **Matthew Wilson** and **Rebecca Everett**.

www.floodtide.org.uk

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH 2005 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, AUGUST 16TH 2005 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Production photos available on request from August 4th

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

Tuesday August 16th - Saturday, September 3rd 2005

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

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

Previews (August 16th and 17th) £8 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on **020 7244 7439** or e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk
or, for urgent enquiries only, please, mobile **07977 173135**

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