

Concordance presents

## Florodora

Music by Leslie Stuart. Lyrics by Ernest Boyd-Jones and Paul A. Rubens. Book by Owen Hall.

Directed by Nina Brazier. Musical Direction by Timothy Henty.

Cast: Rosemary Ashe. Simon Butteriss. Katie Foster-Barnes. Garrie Harvey. Alex Gaumond. Abigail Jaye. David O'Brien. Jane Quinn.

### A CONCERT PRODUCTION OF THE FIRST MUSICAL COMEDY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre revives for a limited run of Sunday concert performances, *Florodora*, the delightful musical comedy from 1899. A huge commercial and critical hit in London, New York and Paris, it was the first musical comedy of the twentieth century.

*Florodora* premiered in London on November 11th 1899 to rave reviews, and went on to run for a year in London. On Broadway, it became the first theatrical sensation of the new century, running for more than 500 performances. The sextet of 'Florodora Girls' as they were dubbed were described as "The most beautiful women on the stage" by one critic and guaranteed a sell-out at every performance – whilst its numbers includes the classic standard *Tell Me Pretty Maiden*. It now receives its first revival in London for many years...

Florodora is a small island in the Philippines where young native girls produce the 'Florodora' perfume. The beautiful Dolores is looking for love and has her heart set on Frank, the manager of the 'Florodora' business. However, Gilfain, the owner of the island, has his sights set on Dolores and wants to match Frank with his daughter, Angela, who in turn is in love with Captain Donegal. Meanwhile, Society widow Lady Holyrood has Gilfain in mind for herself...This tale of thwarted love takes us from the Philippines to Abercoed Castle in Wales, where the lovers are finally reunited.

The cast includes a host of West End and Opera favourites including **Rosemary Ashe**, who is currently appearing in *Mary Poppins*. Her credits include *Les Miserables*, *The Witches of Eastwick* and the original Carlotta in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Gilbert and Sullivan stalwart **Simon Butteriss** joins the cast fresh from the success of the Number One Tour of *The Mikado*. They are joined by young talents **Alex Gaumond** and **Abigail Jaye**, both appearing in *Scrooge* at the London Palladium.

Exciting young director **Nina Brazier's** credits include the critically-acclaimed tour of *Talking Heads* (Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds). She has worked as assistant director in theatre and opera for Sadler's Wells, The Sherman Theatre, Cardiff and the Haymarket Basingstoke. Nina is due to assistant direct Opera North's Number One tours of *De Rondine* and *Rigoletto* in 2006.

Musical Director **Timothy Henty** is a graduate and Gold Medal winner of the Royal College of Music and conducts with the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden. Timothy has had successful commissions conducting for the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and Concordia International Ensemble.

Composer **Leslie Stuart** (1864-1928) wrote for West End musicals and had single popular hits in several well-known shows. *Florodora* remains his most popular musical. Stuart collaborated with librettist **Owen Hall** (1853-1907), who had written successful scripts, including *A Gaiety Girl* and *The Geisha*. Despite his international success, gambling left him bankrupt when he died aged 54. Lyricist **Paul Rubens** (1875-1917) wrote for George Edwardes of the Gaiety Theatre and wrote many successful shows in his own right.

**PRESS NIGHT: SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH 2006 AT 8.00PM**

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Box Office 0870 4000 838 Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Sunday, January 8th; Sunday, January 15th and Sunday, January 22nd 2006**

All performances at 8.00pm

Tickets £15, £11 concessions. Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours with one interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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