

**writers-in-residence season** In Extremis Theatre in association with Theatre West and Concordance presents the London Premiere of

## LULLABIES OF BROADMOOR

A doublebill of new plays by **Steve Hennessy**

Directed by Caitriona McLaughlin. Designed by Colin Williams. Lighting by Tim Bartlett. Sound by Hoxa Sound. Costumes by Penn O'Gara. Photography by Ian Wilmot.

Cast includes: Chris Courtenay. Marc Danbury. Natalie Hobday. Andrew Michell. Charlotte Pyke.

Two plays, three murderers! Murder at the Finborough, and this time, it's local ... *Lullabies of Broadmoor* weaves the stories of three notorious London murders into a picture of life in the "Gentlemen's Block", a wing of Broadmoor reserved for murderers who regarded themselves as a cut above the average killer.

**The Murder Club** is set in 1922. Murder is in the air. The British Government is engaged in a genocidal war in Iraq using poison gas and other weapons of mass destruction and two notorious murderers are meeting in Broadmoor for the first time. Small time conman Ronald True murdered the prostitute Olive Young at number 13 Finborough Road, just down the street from the theatre. Embittered out of work actor Richard Prince murdered matinee idol William Terriss at the stage door of the Adelphi Theatre. Now the two men have been put in charge of an evening of entertainment at Broadmoor. Propaganda and reality, fact and fiction, real life and theatre, madness and sanity. The lines all shift uneasily in this psychological thriller. Presented with the support of The Friends of Brompton Cemetery across the road from the theatre where William Terriss lies buried, *The Murder Club* has been specially commissioned for the Finborough Theatre to tell the infamous history of the local area...

**Wilderness**, also based on a true story, describes a journey from the battlefields of the American Civil War to the cells of nineteenth century Broadmoor by way of one of the most famous murders in Victorian Lambeth. This is the story of William Chester Minor, one time surgeon in the American Union Army and a major contributor to the Oxford English Dictionary. A rich, dark, Gothic tragicomedy about war, murder, madness and redemption. Strong language and sexual content mean this production is not suitable for children.

Playwright Steve Hennessy was born in 1958, and has had eleven plays staged in Bristol and four radio plays broadcast in Britain and Ireland. He is writer-in-residence at the Finborough Theatre. His play *Still Life* won the Venue Magazine Best New Play 2001 Award and was recently revived, touring to Bath, Bristol and Manchester. In Extremis Theatre brings this production direct from its sell out run in Bristol to the capital. Acclaimed young Irish director Caitriona McLaughlin directed Patrick McCabe's *Frank Pig Says Hello* at the Finborough Theatre in 2002 and Ronny Jhutti's *Unsung Lullaby* in 2001.

### WHAT THE PRESS SAID IN BRISTOL

"Pulls absolutely no punches whatsoever in telling this extraordinary true story, welding together treacle – dark comedy, dream – play surrealism and pastiche Gothic 'penny dreadful' to powerful effect." *Venue Magazine*

"Vitality, pathos and humour all combine admirably in Steve Hennessy's dense and powerfully convincing script." *Epigram*

"A most wonderful story. Hennessy's writing is great too, wonderful three dimensional characters ... plenty of humour." *Bristol Evening Post*

"Darkly funny ... frequently disturbing ... a combination of acute psychological insight and political and historical breadth ... A rich mix of characters and themes ... four finely judged performances from Chris Courtenay as Prince, Andrew Michell as True, Marc Danbury as Coleman and, above all, Charlotte Pyke as Olive." Tom Philips, *Venue Magazine*

"Chris Courtenay's Prince and Andrew Michell's True are played off beautifully against Marc Danbury's excitable prison guard, Mr Coleman, but it is Charlotte Pyke, as the murdered girl, who really steals the show." Rebecca Gilbert, *Bristol Evening Post* \*\*\*\* Four Stars

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH 2004 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH 2004 AT 1.00 – 1.30 P.M.**

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

(Five minutes from Earl's Court Underground and West Brompton Underground and National Rail)

Box Office 020 7373 3842 [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Tuesday, January 6th – Saturday, January 31st 2004**

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

Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Tuesday Evenings and Previews (January 6th and 7th) £8 all seats. Saturday Evenings £10 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2.5 hours.

For more information, interviews, black-and-white and colour images, contact **Steve Hennessy** on **07790 980688** or **[steve.hy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:steve.hy@blueyonder.co.uk)** OR **Neil McPherson** on **020 7244 7439** or **[admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)**

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 Box Office 020 7373 3842  
[admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson