

# Press Information

## FINBOROUGH

theatre

Concordance presents

# Natural Inclinations

The world premiere of a new play by **Roger Kirby**

Directed by **Steven Little**. Designed by **Nicolai Hart-Hansen**. Costume Design by **Mia Flodquist**. Original Music by **Lucy Melvin**.

Cast includes: **Megan Fisher**. **Kristin Milward**. **Simon Muller**. **Oliver Senton**. **Ralph Watson**. **Lucy Melvin**. **Jane Watkins**.

*NATURAL INCLINATIONS* - The World Premiere of a new play by **Roger Kirby**

**"NATURAL INCLINATIONS GIVE RISE TO A TERRIFIC EVENING...."**

"It is enormously refreshing these days to hear a play that not only flatters one in that it assumes one has a brain, yet further flatters one in that it assumes one uses it. *Natural Inclinations* is just such an evening....a refreshing evening in the theatre....Kristin Milward glistens with venomous seduction. The Earl of Eglinton too is a vile charmer, and in the powerful hands of Oliver Senton can chill the spine as well as fascinate. ...a sensitive performance by Megan Fisher... As Boswell, Simon Muller is....like the young Dirk Bogarde. The coup of the evening however, belongs to Ralph Watson in the two roles of Boswell's father Lord Auchinleck and Samuel Johnson ....It has been a long time since I have seen a Fringe production so handsomely dressed with costumes bordering on Shaftesbury Avenue quality. I would urge you to go to see this play. It complements your intelligence, it is delightful to look at and a joy to hear. It is also one of the few plays you will see that is almost entirely underscored with music specially composed for the event and beautifully played." Paul Nelson, *Indie London*

"There can be no doubt that *Natural Inclinations*, as presented by Concordance at the Finborough Theatre and directed by Steven Little, is entertaining, intriguing and utterly free of banalities. By the standards of theatres beyond the West End, it is an exceptional piece of production, with its BBC wigs, live music and striking set design by Nicolai Hart-Hansen. It also benefits from some strong performances from Ralph Watson as both Johnson and Boswell's father, and Oliver Senton on preening, wicked form as the not-so-good Earl. They make the most of the marvellous characters created by [Roger] Kirby, with Johnson inventing so many aphorisms that he forgets which ones are his, and Eglinton offering Boswell a wager of five guineas that he can deflower the virtuous Margaret. Simon Muller makes a believably baffled but ambitious young literary lion....

An audience looking for titillation and intrigue won't be disappointed.... *Natural Inclinations* marks a highly promising debut from an already assured and capable writer." Michael Caines, *Theatreworld Internet Magazine*

"Whoring and boozing can be hard work if you are afflicted with a conscience....In *Natural Inclinations*, Roger Kirby has taken a clutch of historic, bookish figures and given them fresh dramatic existence. So much more than chronicled re-enactment, his play is a richly intelligent and witty exploration of the influence of free will and liberty over the affairs of the mind and the heart. ....Simon Muller's frantic and malleable Boswell is driven on in pursuit of carnal pleasures by fellow bawds Earl of Eglinton and the physically accommodating Mrs Leonora Donne.... ....two show-stealing performances by Oliver Senton as the commandingly cocksure Eglinton, and a deliciously rambunctious Samuel Johnson, played by Ralph Watson. Mia Flodquist's lush costumes and Nicolai Hart-Hansen's perspective set provide subtle support to their performances and give this production an assuredly coloured authenticity." Rochard Stearn, *Time Out*

"Little's direction allows the actors to delve deeply into their roles as possible, resulting in some fine performances. Simon Muller is particularly engaging as the troubled and misguided Boswell. But it's Ralph Watson's double duty as Bossie's Father Lord Auchinleck and mentor Dr Samuel Johnson that brings all the pieces together. The numerous scenes in which he and Miller share the stage as father and son or student and mentor, featuring much friendly banter, tomfoolery and crisp dialogue punctuated by witty observations and crisp one liners. This is a tale about gratification in all spheres of human activity...."

Ian Maxen, *What's On*

**"Neatly staged....Steven Little achieving - with the aid of designer Nicolai Hart-Hansen - a stylish production which even incorporates two musicians...Simon Muller has considerable presence as Boswell, continually tempted by Oliver Senton's lubricious Earl of Eglinton" Peter Hepple, The Stage**

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Theatre Director **Neil McPherson**

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Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED The Steam Industry is a member of the ITC.

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"Of all the sexual aberrations, perhaps the most peculiar is chastity" *Remy de Gourmont*

James Boswell, the friend of Dr Samuel Johnson, is tortured by his inability to control his desires, especially where women are concerned. He aims to marry his cousin, Margaret, but the temptations of the flesh assure that Boswell's path toward her will be neither straight nor narrow...

Concordance presents the world premiere of a witty and thought-provoking new play by a new American playwright. The production of *Natural Inclinations* is created by the UK's most exciting young theatre practitioners including:

Director **Steven Little** has recently completed a year as director on attachment at the Royal National Theatre Studio through the Quercus Bursary including taking part in Peter Brook's directors workshop and assisting Patrick Marber on *Howard Katz* and Sir Peter Hall on *Bacchai* (RNT). Other credits include Assistant Director for *Guys and Dolls* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield) and Staff Director during the 1999 and 2000 seasons at Chichester Festival Theatre which included directing Alexander Gelman's *A Man with Connections* which also transferred to the Finborough Theatre and the Arches Theatre, Glasgow in a co-production with his own company Theatre Informer.

Designer **Nicolai Hart-Hansen** has won acclaim for his innovative designs including most recently for Tom Kempinski's Season of New Plays at the New End.

Producer **Neil McPherson** has been Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre since 1999. He has presented over twenty productions in London and the regions including the hugely successful long-overdue London premiere of Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*

### PRESS ACCLAIM FOR STEVEN LITTLE'S DIRECTION

"Steven Little's simple, unpretentious productions plays this balance to perfection. The result is one of the finest shows ever to emerge from Scotland's shoestring drama scene, a brilliant engrossing evening" Joyce McMillan, *The Scotsman*

"Steven Little's fine production" Mark Brown, *Scotland on Sunday*

"This is a superb production of a difficult play...the masterful touch of director Steven Little" Drew McAdam *Edinburgh Evening News*

"Compelling...a taut, tough evening with plenty of amusement and heart-tugging detail." Rachel Halliburton, *Evening Standard*

"Steven Little's production fits neatly into the claustrophobic Finborough space" Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"This taut two-hander...a gripping duel" Paul Taylor, *The Independent*

[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

[www.concordance.org.uk](http://www.concordance.org.uk)

supported by The Jerwood Space

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 2002 AT 7.00PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 2002 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

### LISTINGS INFORMATION

Finborough Theatre, Finborough Arms, 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

**Tuesday, September 17th-Saturday, October 12th 2002**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm.

Sunday Matinee at 3.30pm.

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 2002 AT 7.00PM**

Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Tuesday Evenings and Previews – £8 all seats.

For more information and images, contact

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