

Concordance presents

THE FINBOROUGH GAETIES – BRITISH MUSICAL THEATRE 1870-1914

Our Miss Gibbs

Music by Lionel Monckton and Ivan Caryll. Lyrics by Adrian Ross and Percy Greenbank. Book by J. T. Tanner.

Directed by Pia Furtado. Musical Direction by Timothy Henty.

A CONCERT PRODUCTION OF THE NEW GAITY THEATRE'S FIRST HIT MUSICAL

The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre continues its Finborough Gaieties season, reviving the best of British Musical Theatre from 1870-1914. The first musical in the series *Florodora* starred Olivier Award nominee Rosemary Ashe and Simon Butteriss, was critically acclaimed and sold out. Now, for a limited run of three Sunday concert performances, we present Lionel Monckton's *Our Miss Gibbs* in its first professional London revival in nearly a century.

Miss Gibbs is a beautiful Yorkshire girl who sells sweets at Garrods' store and is plagued by the attentions of young male customers, who are making themselves sick buying all her sweets. Miss Gibbs has fixed her heart on a handsome young bank clerk who – as one would expect – is in reality an Earl's son in disguise - Lord Eynsford. Miss Gibbs' cousin, Timothy, complicates the situation further by becoming entangled with a petty criminal and inadvertently stealing the famous Ascot Gold Cup (which belongs to the Earl). The story reaches its climax at the Franco-British Exhibition in White City where the characters gather for the marathon race...

Director **Pia Furtado's** credits include the acclaimed UK premiere of Jason Robert Brown's *Parade* at the Edinburgh Festival, which was voted Critic's Choice and Best Musical for the Three Weeks award and Reprieve Award. Musical Director **Timothy Henty** is a conductor with the Royal Ballet, and was the acclaimed Musical Director of *Florodora*.

Composer **Lionel Monckton** (1861-1924) was one of England's most celebrated composers of musical comedies in the Edwardian era and had numerous successes including *A Country Girl*, *The Cingalee*, *The Arcadians* and *The Quaker Girl*. Married to musical star Gertie Millar, he is buried near the Finborough Theatre in Brompton Cemetery. **Ivan Caryll** (1861-1921) worked as the conductor and composer for the Gaiety Theatre. With book by **J T Tanner** (1858-1915), lyrics by **Adrian Ross** (1859-1933) and **Percy Greenbank** (1878-1968), *Our Miss Gibbs* was one of the most successful shows of its time, running for 600 performances.

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR FLORODORA

"Floro-adorable!" Jack Hughes, Rogues and Vagabonds

"The big hit of 1899, lovingly revived in a concert version...The piece...could hardly be better done." Michael Billington, The Guardian

"Not revived professionally for decades, this 1899 musical comedy is the enterprising choice...Described as a concert performance, the show offers more" George Hall, The Stage

"Wherever musical comedy died, or turned into The Musical, its rebirth in an Earl's Court fringe theatre seems unlikely. But if *Florodora's* 3 performances are the success they utterly deserves to be then musical comedy composer Lionel Monckton may soon be toe-tapping to his own tunes from his nearby grave. For he's also on Finborough Artistic Director Neil McPherson's not-so-little list of composers due for revaluation." Timothy Ramsden, Reviewsgate

PRESS NIGHT: SUNDAY, 30 APRIL 2006 AT 8.00PM

PHOTOCALL: by arrangement. Please email admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

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 0870 4000 838 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sunday, 30 April; Sunday, 7 May and Sunday, 14 May 2006 at 8.00pm

Tickets £18, £14 concessions. Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours with one interval.

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