

Cape Theatre Ensemble/Kaap Teater Ensemble presents

The Parrot Woman

by Charles J. Fourie.

Directed and Designed by Neville Engelbrecht. Cast: Charles J. Fourie. Christine Trüter.

A UK PREMIERE DIRECT FROM SOUTH AFRICA FROM ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING PLAYWRIGHTS

Set against the harsh backdrop of the Boer War, a woman is found on a farm with the bodies of her husband and children. Before being brought to trial, she is guarded in a concentration camp by a traitorous soldier who battles with his own conscience. As the two of them attempt to escape the ravages of war, the truth surrounding the murder of her family is explosively revealed... First staged at the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, in 1990, *The Parrot Woman* has been performed throughout South Africa including seasons at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival where it won a Pick of the Fringe Award, The Hilton Arts Festival, Durban, and Theatre on the Bay, Cape Town.

The cast includes Christine Trüter (Yerma, Libertas Amphitheatre, Stellenbosch, Spanner, Spier Summer Festival, Cape Town, and the feature-film *Twelve Days of Terror*), in the role of an Afrikaner woman imprisoned in a British concentration camp; and Playwright/Actor Charles J. Fourie has written many critically acclaimed plays staged in South Africa and internationally. Recent productions of his work include *Big Boys* (West Coast Ensemble Theatre, Los Angeles and Warehouse Theatre, London), *Vrygrond* (Arena Theatre, Cape Town), *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife* with Samantha Bond in a staged reading at The Old Vic, *Crimebabies* (Market Theatre, Johannesburg), *Stander* (Baxter Theatre, Cape Town), *Demjanjuk* (Little Theatre, Cape Town) and *Vrededorp/Fietas* (Karoo Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn). Three of his plays have been adapted as feature films for South African TV. He has been the recipient of the South African Amstel Playwright of the year award on two occasions, the SACPAC playwright award, AA LIFE best new play award, and in 2005 he received the KKNK/Nagtegaal award for *Vrededorp/Fietas*. His extensive acting credits include *Grot van die kaalkoppe* (State Theatre), *Vleuels* (SABC), *Sodom* (Baxter Theatre), *My Verwoerd* (High Street Theatre), and *The Lighthouse keeper's Wife* (M-net).

Director/Designer Neville Engelbrecht works internationally. Recent credits include the multi-award-winning production of *Salaam Stories* by Ashraf Johardien (Baxter Theatre, Cape Town/Circle East Theatre Company, New York), *Sara Baartman* by Seoko Lee (South Africa/Seoul, Korea), *Snowman* by Greg MacArthur (Baxter theatre in association with the Canadian Arts Council). His current production 'Happy Endings' Are Extra was invited to the 2006 Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival. He has also worked with Athol Fugard (*Sorrows & Rejoicings*, Tricycle Theatre, London), Janet Suzman (*Hamlet*, Baxter Theatre) and Antony Sher (*Primo*, Baxter Theatre).

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR THE PARROT WOMAN

"Fourie's fragmentary writing style keeps you on your toes throughout the mesmerising performance." - Andrea Vinassa, *Mail and Guardian*, Johannesburg.

"...Tautly directed...a remarkable piece of theatre." - Marilyn Jenkins, *The Citizen*, Johannesburg.

"Gripping theatre" - Derek Wilson, *The Argus*, Cape Town.

"Disturbing, prophetic theatre." - Adrienne Sichel, *The Star*, Johannesburg.

PRESS NIGHT: SUNDAY, 28 MAY 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, 28 May and Monday, 29 May; Sunday, 4 June and Monday, 5 June;

Sunday, 11 June and Monday, 12 June 2006

All performances at 8.00pm

Tickets £10 all seats. Performance Length: Approximately 1 hour with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

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e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson