

FLOODTIDE presents the world premiere of

THE GABRIELS

by Van Badham. Directed by Helen Eastman. Designed by James Cotterill. Lighting by Neill Brinkworth.
Sound Design by Matt Downing. Assistant Director Michael Longhurst
Cast: Kevin Colson. Polly Conway. Declan Harvey. Peter Leafe. Sasha Mitchell. Lois Norman. Anna Steel.

"Van Badham is one of the leading voices of [her] generation". Joyce McMillan, *The Scotsman*.

"Badham has made modern politics into a visceral, heartfelt experience." Matt Warman, *The Telegraph*.

After the success of *Fair* at the Finborough Theatre ('An evening that's as close to bliss as you can get', Aleks Sierz, *The Stage*, 'A very good play for today', Michael Billington, *The Guardian*), Floodtide return with a specially commissioned new play from Australian playwright Van Badham.

Lisa 'Bonnet' Nolan, is a cult comic writer. Her work's a mixture of future sci-fi and alternative lesbian graphic novels. She and her partner Jane have teamed up with a couple, Jerry and Allen, to parent a desperately wanted child through IVF. In her latest comic she's exploring a dreaded future of embryonic experiments, unstable genetic creations and the human products of ethical dispute. A Christian fundamentalist government has been elected, laboratories have been raided and scientific research has been shut down. The watchful gaze of an authoritarian state patrols everything from explicit literature to sexual behaviour but their puritanical society can't hide its genetic secrets forever. Meanwhile in Lisa's kitchen, her son from her previous marriage, has just arrived to visit with his profoundly Christian new girlfriend.....

This play was commissioned by Floodtide, with support from the Peggy Ramsay Foundation. Floodtide have worked with geneticists, faith leaders, ethicist and campaign group leaders to explore the complex world of contemporary genetics. The result is a brilliant new play that sweeps from comic book characters to biblical figures in a fast-paced, visual display of theatrical styles. The seven-strong ensemble play over thirty characters in a play that spans 3000 years of religious and scientific history.

Directed by **Helen Eastman**, whose recent production of *The Cure at Troy* was twice *Time Out* Critics' Choice. "Part of the joy of this production comes from...the physical strength of Helen Eastman's direction...a bold, vital, politically challenging production of an effortlessly brilliant play." *Time Out* on *The Cure at Troy*. Other credits include *Hansel and Gretel* (Cork Opera House), *Fair* and *The Monument* (Finborough), *Wild Raspberries* (Glasgow Citizens and *Bug Off* (Northern Ireland Tour). Helen continues her successful collaboration with **James Cotterill**, one of the winners of the Linbury Prize for Stage Design 2005.

West End stalwart Kevin Colson returns to the Finborough Theatre for the third time and is joined by newcomer Declan Harvey, who has received huge acclaim for his current performance in *Almost Blue* (Riverside Studios, Oxford Samuel Beckett Award). Anna Steel (last seen opposite John Leslie in the UK tour of *Pride and Prejudice*) and Polly Conway play red-head clones and Sasha Mitchell (*Map of Desire*, *World Cup 1966*) and Lois Norman (acclaimed for her title performance in Van Badham's *Camarilla*) play Bonnet and Jane.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH 2006 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD 2005 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

LISTINGS INFORMATION

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

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

Tuesday, 3 January - Saturday, 28 January 2006

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

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.

Previews (3 and 4 January) £8 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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or, for urgent enquiries only, please, mobile **07977 173135**

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