

THE WAR PLAYS**BEFORE TRAFALGAR by James Lansdale Hodson. WATERLOO by Arthur Conan Doyle.**

Directed by Rae Mcken.

Cast includes: **Tim Barlow**. George Dalton. James Finnigan. Tom Foster. Laura Freeman. Mat Laroche. Christian Olliver.

A unique doublebill of two one act plays not performed in the UK for many years.

Before Trafalgar – Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, this wonderful one act play by James Lansdale Hodson (author of the First World War play *Red Night* which is revived at the Finborough Theatre in November) charts the night before the greatest sea battle in British history on board Nelson's ship. Whilst Nelson plots to discover the most ingenious way to defeat the might of the French, he must also contend with issues closer to hand...

Waterloo – A one act play by the creator of Sherlock Holmes and sometime local resident, Arthur Conan Doyle. Sergeant Gregory Brewster is the very last survivor of those who fought at the Battle of Waterloo – and is now living in a pitiful situation, penniless and forgotten. When his grand-niece and a local sergeant come to visit, memories of old wounds and friends lost come flooding back... As the last survivors of the First World War pass away, a moving tribute to the forgotten survivors of war... *Waterloo* was one of the greatest roles of Sir Henry Irving, the first actor to be knighted. This production commemorates the centenary of his death.

Tim Barlow plays Brewster. He trained at Sandhurst, spent fifteen years in the regular army and Royal Malaysian Police, walked away from two plane crashes, three car accidents, a sinking ship, numerous ambushes and several tropical diseases before becoming an actor in 1969. He is an Associate Artist of Théâtre de Complicité. His many theatre credits include: For RSC: *Privates On Parade*, *Wild Oats*, *Cymbeline*, *As You Like It*. For Complicité: *Bigger Snacks Now* (Perrier award winner Edinburgh Festival. Voted by *The Daily Telegraph* as the piece that changed the face of theatre in the 20th Century), *My Army* (one man show, world tour). Fool in *King Lear* (Bristol Old Vic). Title role *King Lear* (Sheffield Crucible).

James Lansdale Hodson (1891-1956) was a Manchester born novelist and playwright. His novel *Return to the Wood* was adapted for the stage by John Wilson as *Hamp*, and in turn filmed by Joseph Losey as *King and Country*. *Red Night* has not been seen since the 1936 West End production with Robert Donat and John Mills.

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born in Edinburgh and remains best known as the creator of one of fiction's most enduring characters, Sherlock Holmes. As a schoolboy, the young Arthur Conan Doyle spent his summer holidays with his uncle, the *Punch* illustrator Richard Doyle, in Finborough Road...

Directed by up-and-coming young director **Rae Mcken** whose previous credits include *The Government Inspector* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), *Deadlock* (NYT), *Airswimming* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Romeo and Juliet* (Young Vic Studio), *Women Beware Women* (Lantor Theatre), *Black Ey'd Susan* (Astor Theatre), *Stamping, Shouting and Singing Home* (mac & National Tour) and *The Dumb Waiter* and *The Dwarfs* (Man in the Moon). As an Assistant Director, she has assisted at the Salisbury Playhouse, Nottingham Playhouse, Young Vic and the West Yorkshire Playhouse for such directors as Douglas Rintoul, Josette Bushell-Mingo and Ian Brown.

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH 2005 AT 8.00PM**PHOTOCALL: BY ARRANGEMENT. PLEASE EMAIL admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk**

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

Box Office 0870 4000 838 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sunday, December 4th and Monday, December 5th; Sunday, December 11th and Monday, December 12th;

and Sunday, December 18th and Monday, December 19th 2005. All performances at 8.00pm

Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with one interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on **020 7244 7439** or e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.ukor, for urgent enquiries only, please, mobile **07977 173135**

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