

# Viral Sutra

**The London Premiere of a new play from Finborough Theatre Playwright-in-Residence, David Carter**

Directed by Alison Comley. Designed by Ann Stiddard and Colin Williams.

Lighting by Tim Bartlett. Sound by Richard Jeffrey-Gray

Presented by Chrysalis Theatre in association with Theatre West and Progress Cymru

Cast: John De Barham. Dee Sadler. Ryan Stuart. Simon Winkler.

In 1998, David Carter entered a treatment centre for heroin and crack cocaine addiction after contracting the HIV virus. In 2003, he contracted AIDS and started taking retroviral medication. In 2004, he wrote his first play. In 2005, he wrote *Viral Sutra*.

**VIRUS:** Group of submicroscopic entities capable of replication only within the cells of a living organism.

**SUTRA:** A collection of sayings or stories.

**VIRAL SUTRA:** The story of an everyday HIV virus struggling for survival, wondering about God, the nature of self, the reason for existence, and the threat posed by readily available condoms.

In the strange, otherworldly landscape of *Viral Sutra*, the complex interaction between a disease and the human body is played out on stage. Set in the body of the playwright with the actors as components of a deadly virus, the play is the story of infection told from the virus' point of view.

After an acclaimed run in Bristol last year, *Viral Sutra* plays at the Bristol Old Vic before its London premiere at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre where David Carter is currently a Playwright-in-Residence – as the opening production in a season of new British plays.

Playwright **David Carter** burst onto the new writing scene when his first three plays were all produced in Bristol in just over twelve months, establishing him as a strong and original new voice for the theatre. Out of Joint's Max Stafford-Clark workshopped *Reception* at the Soho Theatre where it was given a rehearsed reading in 2005.

## **PRESS ACCLAIM FROM THE BRISTOL PRODUCTION OF VIRAL SUTRA**

"Moving and powerful" - Max Stafford-Clark

"Resounds with brutal truth...Excellent, thought – provoking stuff" - *Metro*

"Chillingly black comedy...packed with witty writing" – *BBC*

"Poignant...Edgy, wacky and brutally honest black comedy...visceral and intelligent...A brave, madcap romp through a minefield." – *Venue Magazine*

"Exceptional...sizzling with vigour and talent...charged with intensity" - *Entwine Magazine*

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 17 AUGUST 2006 AT 7.30 PM**  
**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2006 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED  
 Box Office 0870 4000 838 Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Tuesday, 15 August – Saturday, 2 September 2006**

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

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.

Previews (15 and 16 August) £8 all seats.

Performance length: Approximately 55 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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