

writers-in-residence season

Bright Angel in association with Concordance presents

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED NEW PLAY

YOUNG EMMA

The secret memoir of W.H. Davies - adapted for the stage by Laura Wade

Directed by Tamara Harvey. Designed by Gabriela Csanyi-Willis. Lighting by Emma Chapman. Original Music by Owen Leech.

Cast includes: Will Barton. David Cann. Anna Ledwich. Margot Molinari.

Tamara Harvey, director of the UK national tour of *The Graduate* and the sell-out *Something Cloudy, Something Clear* at the Finborough Theatre (*Financial Times* and *Time Out* Critics' Choice) returns to open the Finborough Theatre's writers-in-residence season.

"I have come to the conclusion that the manuscript must be destroyed and not get into the hands of strangers... Please don't try to persuade me to do anything different, as a book that is not fit to be published now can never be fit."

Young Emma is the brutally honest tale of a man's search for a young wife among the prostitutes of 1920's London. Unpublished for over 50 years and never brought to the stage ... until now.

But who was its secret author? None other than the toast of the London literati, the one-legged Welsh poet W.H. Davies, then famous for his adventures across America in his bestselling book *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp*.

Few knew that the author of such verse as 'What is this life if full of care / We have no time to stand and stare?' had decided to "trouble no more about respectable women but to find a wife in the common streets".

Young Emma tells the unflinching, bawdy tale of Davies' escapades, the many women he bedded, the venereal disease he developed and his dream of escaping London life.

The Sunday Telegraph described the book as "a masterpiece, and stranger than any fiction", while Bernard Shaw called it "the record of a fully developed, vigorous, courageous, imaginative, and specifically talented adult - with the outlook of a slum boy of six or seven."

Writer-in-residence Laura Wade was born in 1977. Her other plays have been seen at the Bristol Old Vic, Sheffield Crucible and the Royal Court Young Writers Programme. This original adaptation of *Young Emma* has been commissioned for the Finborough Theatre by Artistic Director Neil McPherson

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 2003 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND 2003 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

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 020 7373 3842 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, December 2nd-Sunday, December 21st 2003

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

Tickets £10, £8 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £10 all seats. Previews (December 2nd and 3rd) £8 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on **020 7244 7439** or e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

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