

Shapeshifter in association with Concordance presents

SOLDIERS

by Rolf Hochhuth. Translated by Robert David Macdonald. Directed by John Terry. Designed by Alex Marker.

Cast includes: Graham Bowe. Scott Brooksbank. Trevor Cooper. John Gorick. Stephen Kemble. Rebecca Peyton. Richard Sandells.

THE FIRST LONDON REVIVAL FOR 40 YEARS OF ROLF HOCHHUTH'S CONTROVERSIAL WORLD WAR TWO DRAMA, OPENING ON THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF "OPERATION GOMORRAH" - THE FIRESTORM RAID ON HAMBURG.

"Churchill is the element itself, the personification of the war-drive, the bloodstream of the century, in which more human beings have been done to violent death than ever before in world history."

From the controversial pen of German playwright Rolf Hochhuth (author of *The Representative*), *Soldiers* is a startling and vitally contemporary example of documentary theatre at its best and most dramatic. *Soldiers* delves into the shady and hotly contested history of Winston Churchill's role in the Second World War, and of the Allied bombing of German cities. This is the story of the Englishmen who, in setting Germany alight, helped to shape the forms of aerial warfare that continue to govern the international stage, and who first came to understand the consequences in both morale and morals.

Originally banned by the Lord Chamberlain and rejected by the National Theatre Board, this extraordinary play, which divided both historians and critics, receives its first London revival since its 1968 production. The original production received numerous security threats, and the producers had to employ security guards to instigate full searches of the theatre.

"One of the most extraordinary things that has happened to British theatre in my lifetime. For once the theatre will occupy its true place – at the very heart of public life" Kenneth Tynan on *Soldiers*.

"Full-bloodedly theatrical . . . A genuine sense of outrage." Irving Wardle, *The Times*

"Those who tried to ban the play, those who wish to see it banned are utterly mistaken. . . The argument is passionate and fierce. The language is magnificently Churchillian and totalling enthralling." David Nathan, *The Sun*

"An evening to savour and an evening to wonder about." Clive Barnes, *New York Times*

One of the UK's most exciting young directors, **John Terry's** work has been seen recently at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, and at the BAC. His recent production of *Unsent Letters* at the Orange Tree won great critical acclaim: "An evening to treasure" *What's On*. "A finely conceived production" *Time Out*. The play is translated by the late **Robert David MacDonald**, best known for his work at the Glasgow Citizens, who died earlier this year.

Trevor Cooper plays Churchill. His most recent stage credits include Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Prisoner's Dilemma*, *King John* (all for the RSC) and *The Iceman Cometh* (Almeida). Film credits include *Gangs of New York*, *Vanity Fair* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Recent TV credits include Captain Wills in *Longitude* (C4) and Otto Fischer in *Eroica* (BBC).

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, JULY 29TH 2004 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, JULY 27TH 2004 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, July 27th-Saturday, August 21st 2004

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 (July 27th and 28th) £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 or press@shapeshifter.org.uk

More information on www.shapeshifter.org.uk

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in May 2004 Rd MacDonald biography

Rd MacDonald multitasked as a director, actor, dramaturg, translator and a steady third of the triumvirate that ran Glasgow's Citizens theatre throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, stepping down only last year. As a translator his projects included key works by Schiller, Ibsen, Pirandello, Goethe and Goldoni - and you could add to these his own plays, such as Webster, Chinchilla and Summit Conference. His close friendship with German director Erwin Piscator and playwright Rolf Hochhuth led him to translate, and in two cases direct Hochhuth's plays Soldiers, The Representative and Judith. He translated more than 60 plays from 10 languages and directed more than 50.

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