

September-December 2022 season at the Finborough Theatre

The first UK production in 100 years

# THE CORAL

(*Die Koralle - Gas Trilogie*)

by Georg Kaiser.

Translated by B.J. Kenworthy.

Directed by Emily Louizou.

Set and Costume Design by Ioana Curelea. Movement Direction by Ioli Filippakopoulou. Music Composition by David Denyer. Presented by Collide Theatre in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

*"What is the goal?"*

*"The end of the struggle between rich and poor."*

In a production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre, the first UK production in 100 years of Georg Kaiser's prophetic play ***The Coral***, the first of his famous ***Gas*** plays, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 6 October 2022 and Friday, 7 October 2022 at 7.30pm**).

A millionaire and his double. A need for a revolution. A cycle of family trauma.

Join a father's quest to escape the horror of his past. Join his children's quest to change the status quo.

Brought up in poverty, the Millionaire is the autocratic boss of a factory, intent on acquiring as much wealth as possible in order to distance himself from his unhappy poverty-stricken childhood. He has hired his exact physical double, the Secretary, who impersonates him at public functions. The only physical difference between them is a piece of coral on the Secretary's watchchain...

The Millionaire's son and daughter feel utter disgust for their father's money and his ruthless exploitation of the poor. The last thing they want is to inherit the money and become like their father.

Part parable, part family drama, and part thriller, tragic yet deeply cynical, Georg Kaiser's symbolic and epic play is a radical exploration of humans' absurd and eternal entanglement with money, a world where the few have accumulated so much wealth and so much power to be able to destroy the many.

Playwright **Georg Kaiser** is one of Germany's greatest dramatists, best known to UK audiences for his Expressionist classic, ***From Morning to Midnight***. His plays, written just before and during a world war, ask vital questions about how we choose to lead our lives. First produced in 1918, and unseen in the UK since 1923, *The Coral* stands alone in its own right, but later became the first part of Georg Kaiser's classic *Gas* trilogy.

Collide's passion for an expressionist aesthetic and a dream-like visual theatrical language provides the perfect frame for this unique rediscovery of Georg Kaiser's unfairly neglected modern classic.

**COVID SAFE**

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439  
e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268.  
Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

# PRESS INFORMATION

As one of the most intimate theatre venues in London, we are taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of performers, staff, and audience members during the current pandemic.

Audience members may be temperature-checked upon their arrival at the theatre, and masks are strongly recommended at all times, including during the performance.

In order to ensure that the Finborough Theatre is still accessible for those who are CEV (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) or those who would just prefer it, **all Sunday matinee performances are Covid Pass Sundays when we will ask for proof of vaccination as well as mask wearing.**

We have reduced our audience capacity to 85% and adjusted our ticket prices to reflect this. We have been reviewing these protocols every month and will lift them as soon as it is safe to do so. For full information, please see our website.

Playwright **Georg Kaiser** (1878-1945) was born in Magdeburg, Germany. His first success was *The Burghers of Calais* (*Die Bürger von Calais*), first produced in 1917 at the height of the First World War. He followed this with a series of plays in which he showed man in deadly conflict with the modern world of money and machines: *From Morning to Midnight* (*Von Morgens bis Mitternachts*) (1916), and the *Gas* trilogy, consisting of *Die Koralle* (1917), *Gas I* (1918), and *Gas II* (1920). These plays established him as one of the leaders of the German Expressionist movement. His work was banned when the Nazis came to power and his books burned. Kaiser went into exile in Switzerland, where he continued his prolific output of over sixty plays until his death.

Director **Emily Louizou** trained on the MFA Theatre Directing at Birkbeck, University of London, following a BA in English at University College London. Direction includes the world premiere of Greek play *LABOR* (Poreia Theatre, Athens), a new dance-theatre version of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* (HOME Manchester, and New Diorama Theatre), the world premiere of contemporary opera *Troy* (Voila Festival, London), Heiner Müller's *Hamletmachine* (Site-specific, London), Euripides' *Bacchae* (Bloomsbury Theatre and The British Museum) and Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* (Camden Fringe). Most recently, Emily was a Resident Assistant Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company, working with Maria Aberg, Barbara Frey and Tiago Rodrigues in the Swan Theatre. Previous Assistant Direction includes Staff Director for OperaUpClose's Olivier-award winning *La Bohème*, assisting Robin Norton-Hale and taking the production on a national tour; and Resident Director at HOME Manchester, where she assisted Walter Meierjohann on *Uncle Vanya* and Bijan Sheibani on Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Whilst at HOME, Emily also directed the world premiere of Mexican play *Love of Fireflies*. Emily is currently an Associate Lecturer and Visiting Director at the University of the Arts London, and an Artist Fellow at the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre.

**Collide Theatre** is a London-based and female-led international company. Formed by director Emily Louizou in 2015, Collide's mission is to discover hidden gems and re-invent classic texts, merging storytelling with dance, live music and a highly visual language. Since its inception, Collide has created five critically acclaimed sold-out productions in London and Manchester, and has collaborated with more than 50 artists from around the world. In 2019, Collide was named by the New Diorama Theatre as "one of the ten most promising companies to watch". Since 2019 Collide has also been running - in conjunction with Oxford University - the 'Young Players of Collide' which aims to explore theatre-making as a tool for communication for students whose mother tongue is not English. [www.collidetheatre.com](http://www.collidetheatre.com)

## The press on director Emily Louizou

"Through the production's well-structured staging - with elements that combine the theatre of the Absurd with stark realism - it is interesting for one to notice how Louizou handles the very seasoned actors: Stelios Mainas (who gives an excellent performance) and Ioanna Pappa (whose presence is dark, enticing and menacing)."

*Vima*, Athens, Greece, on *Labor*

★★★★ "This staging of *Metamorphosis* is starkly original...provocative, engaging theatre." *The Panoptic* on *Metamorphosis*

"Intricately directed and adapted by Emily Louizou... perfectly captures the spirit of Kafka's text." *A Younger Theatre* on *Metamorphosis*

★★★★★ "A great play outstandingly directed and performed. Highly recommended." *PlaysToSee* on *Troy*

★★★★ "An excellent, pitch-perfect production" *Performance Reviewed* on *Tejas Verdes*

★★★★★ "An incredibly powerful production which rises to Kane's challenge" *PlaysToSee* on *4.48 Psychosis*

"Director Emily Louizou has realised a disciplined and greatly effective tragic production... A brilliant and lurid rendering of *Bacchae*... A sterling production with a pertinence that stands the test of time." *A Younger Theatre* on *Bacchae*

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e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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# PRESS INFORMATION

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2022 AND FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2022 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

Box Office 020 7244 7439

No booking fees

**Tuesday, 4 October – Saturday, 29 October 2022**

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

**Prices until 16 October 2022** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (4 and 5 October) £15 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£15 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 8 October 2022 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 18 October 2022** – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £23 all seats.

Group Bookings for all performances – 1 free ticket in every 10 purchased.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours and fifteen minutes including one interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Matilda Russell** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07384 379624**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>

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