

January-March 2023 season at the Finborough Theatre

The UK premiere

THE JOURNEY TO VENICE

(*Reisen til Venezia*)

by Bjørg Vik

Translated by Janet Garton.

Directed by Wiebke Green.

Presented by Anarchy Division in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

"I've finally got to the age when I hear what I want to hear. Often I think that I've heard more than enough already."

The UK premiere of the award-winning ***The Journey to Venice*** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 2 March 2023 and Friday, 3 March 2023 at 7.30pm**).

Edith and Oscar Tellmann have been together since before they can remember.

When their family life took a turn, the couple found solace in travel and adventure. But now they're well into their 80s, stuck in a drab flat, surrounded by cats, books, memories, and leaking pipes.

As they journey into old age, the couple invent a new way to travel together...

The Journey to Venice is a celebration of ageing, fantasy, love, and the sacrifices we make in order to keep on living.

The Journey to Venice is a modern Norwegian classic, winning the Norwegian Ibsen Prize in 1992 and televised in 1993. Recently revived in Norway, it has been staged in Germany, the Czech Republic and Denmark, and now receives its long-overdue UK premiere at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre.

Playwright **Bjørg Vik** (1935–2018) made her mark on Norwegian literature over a period of more than thirty years. Born in Oslo, she made her literary debut in 1963 and went on to publish twenty five works, including novels, short stories, plays, and radio-plays. During the 1960s and 1970s, her work presented an unusual and provocative image of the erotically active woman, and she co-founded the feminist magazine *Sirene*. In 1974, her *Two Plays For Five Women* was a hit throughout the Nordic countries, and played internationally including on Broadway. At the end of the 1980s, she published the semi-autobiographical Elsi Lund trilogy of novels, bringing her work to a new generation. Her many awards included the Norwegian Critics' Prize for Literature, the Norwegian Ibsen Prize, the Norwegian Broadcasting's Radio-Play Prize, the Riksmål Society Literature Prize, the Bookseller's Award, the Dobloug Prize, the Aschehoug Prize, the Cappelen Prize and the Amalie Skram Prize, and three nominations for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize.

Director **Wiebke Green** recently directed *The New York Times* Critics' Pick and OffWestEnd OnComm Winner *The Poltergeist* by Philip Ridley at the Arcola Theatre. Direction includes *Tarantula* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Beast will Rise* (Online for the New Normal Festival), *Sadness and Joy in the Life of Giraffes* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *This Might Not Be It* (R&D project with Bush Theatre and Broccoli Arts), and *Everybody Cares, Everybody Understands* (Vault Festival). She trained at the Orange Tree Theatre with an MA in Theatre Directing, and as Intern Director to Katie Mitchell on *Orlando* (Schaubühne Berlin) and *Anatomie eines Suizids* (Schauspielhaus Hamburg). Assistant Direction includes *Scrounger* (Finborough Theatre), *Dealing with Clair* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *The Beast of Blue Yonder*

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439

e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 003448268.

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PRESS INFORMATION

(ArtsEd), *The Frontier Trilogy* and *Sirenia* (Edinburgh Fringe). Her work with drama schools includes *Heather's Wedding* as a guest director for Mountview's Catalyst Festival ((Theatre503), *As You Like It* (MFA Shakespeare with the London School of Dramatic Art), and a forthcoming production for the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

COVID SAFE

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.

The press on director Wiebke Green

On *The Poltergeist* –

The New York Times Critics' Pick and OffWestEnd OnComm Winner

"One of those rare and unmissable pieces of theatre that will be talked about for years." ★★★★★ *TheatreWeekly*

"Compelling, absorbing, vital, frantic, unmissable." ★★★★★ *Everything Theatre*

"*The Poltergeist* crackles with intensity" ★★★★★ *The Stage* on *The Poltergeist*.

"An absolute triumph." ★★★★★ *Broadway World*

On *Tarantula* –

"A gripping performance of a chilling thriller." *A Younger Theatre* on *Tarantula*

"This is stirring stuff...one of the stand-out shows of the Vault" – *Reviews Hub* on *Everybody Cares*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023 AND FRIDAY, 3 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Box Office 020 7244 7439

No booking fees

Tuesday, 28 February – Saturday, 25 March 2023

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

Prices until 12 March 2023 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (28 February and 1 March) £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 and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on Saturday, 4 March 2023 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 14 March 2023 – 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 with one interval of fifteen minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Matilda Russell on e-mail 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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