

September – December 2021 season at the Finborough Theatre

The Great Britain Premiere

YES SO I SAID YES

by David Ireland.

Directed by Max Elton. Designed by Ceci Calf. Lighting by Arnim Friess. Costume Design by Isobel Pellow.

Sound Design and Composition by Jack Baxter. Produced by Sarah Roy.

Presented by 19th Street Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Kevin Murphy. Daragh O'Malley. Owen O'Neill. Declan Rodgers. Laura Dos Santos. Kevin Trainor.

"It's harder to kill people when there's a peace process on."

The Great Britain premiere of award-winning playwright David Ireland's ***Yes So I Said Yes*** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 25 November 2021 and Friday, 26 November 2021 at 7.30pm**).

Ulster Loyalist Alan Black is kept awake every night by his neighbour McCorrick's dog barking. To add to his difficulties, McCorrick refuses to acknowledge that he even owns a dog, let alone one that is creating a disturbance.

In a Northern Ireland he barely recognises, where politics has proved just to be the continuation of war by other means, a disconsolate Alan sets out to rid himself of the incessant noise.

As he seeks help from authority figures, he finally – as a very last resort – turns to the only voice he can really trust, Eammon Holmes...

Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the partition of Ireland and the foundation of Northern Ireland, ***Yes So I Said Yes*** is a blackly comic, ferocious, dystopian satire about what it's like to feel alone in a place where everyone else is conspiring to erase you and your history.

Covid-Safe

As an intimate theatre venue, we are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of performers, staff, and audience members during the current pandemic. We have reduced our audience capacity to 80% and temporarily increased our ticket prices to reflect this. Due to the size of our auditorium, we will ask audiences to wear a face covering throughout their visit including during the performance. We will also be asking audience members to provide the following evidence on arrival at the venue of either double vaccination, negative test results, or a recent infection. We will be 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.

As a special event on Wednesday, 1 December, there will be a Q&A session after the performance of ***Yes So I Said Yes*** which will take place in the theatre auditorium. It will feature playwright David Ireland via Zoom, director Max Elton and cast members. The event will be moderated by Sue Healy, Literary Manager of the Finborough Theatre. Performance + Q&A tickets must be purchased together for this special performance and will be £30 (£28 concessions) for the performance and Q&A.

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Playwright **David Ireland**, the multi award-winning author of *Cyprus Avenue*, returns to the Finborough Theatre following the critically acclaimed English premiere of *Everything Between Us*; and director **Max Elton** returns to the Finborough Theatre following his “excellent production” (*The Guardian*) of Israel Zangwill’s play *The Melting Pot*.

Playwright **David Ireland** was born in Belfast and brought up in County Down. He was Playwright-in-Residence at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, in 2011-2012. In 2010, *Everything Between Us*, first produced by Solas Nua and Tinderbox Theatre Company, was performed in Belfast, Scotland and Washington, D.C., winning the Stewart Parker Trust BBC Radio Drama Award and the Meyer-Whitworth Award for Best New Play. It received its English premiere at the Finborough Theatre in 2017. *Yes So I Said Yes* was first performed at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast, in 2011 as part of the Belfast Festival and then on a tour of Northern Ireland, where its performances in Omagh led to the theatre being picketed by a local church group. *Cyprus Avenue* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre before transferring to the Public Theater, New York City, the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and the Metropolitan Arts Centre, Belfast, winning *The Irish Times* Theatre Award for Best New Play, and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Drama. It returned to the Royal Court Theatre in 2019. It received over 100,000 views online. In 2018, Ireland’s *Ulster American* was performed by the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, as part of their Edinburgh Festival season, where it was awarded the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award, and won Best Female Performance, Best New Play and Best Production at the Critics’ Awards for Theatre in Scotland.

Director **Max Elton** directed the critically acclaimed production of David Ireland’s *The End of Hope* in Soho Theatre’s main space in a co-production between Soho Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. He wrote and directed *Big Brother Blitzkrieg* (King’s Head Theatre), and other direction includes *The Melting Pot* (Finborough Theatre), *Stripped* (King’s Head Theatre) and *Leftovers* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

The cast is:

Kevin Murphy | Paddy / James Craig

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *On McQuillan’s Hill* and *Over the Bridge*.

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *Tartuffe* and *Juno and the Paycock* (National Theatre), *Honest* (Bewley’s Theatre, Dublin), *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (King’s Head Theatre), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Curve Theatre, Leicester), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Creation Theatre Company, Oxford), *True West* (English Theatre Company, Essen) and *Faustus* (Etcetera Theatre).

Television includes *Hope Street*, *Warrior*, *Doctors*, *The Whistleblower*, *The Bill*, *The Year London Blew Up* and *The Long Walk*.

Workshops and rehearsed readings include the National Theatre Studio, Hampstead Theatre, Gate Theatre, Curve Theatre and for Steven Berkoff.

Radio includes *The Burial at Thebes* and *Space 1889 – Red Devils*. He is also the narrator of the BBC documentary series *Mountain Vets*.

Daragh O’Malley | Alan “Snuffy” Black

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Mixed Marriage*.

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *The Irish Play* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (National Tour), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for which he was nominated for a Manchester Theatre Award for Best Actor (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Night Must Fall* (Salisbury Playhouse and York Theatre Royal), *The Last Ones* for which he was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best Actor (Jermyn Street Theatre) and *Dealer’s Choice* for which he received a Drama-Logue Award for Best Actor (Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles).

Film includes *The Jigsaw*, *La Rouge*, *Cal*, *Cutthroat Island*, *Puckoon*, *The Long Good Friday* and *Withnail and I*.

Television includes *Vera*, *Waking the Dead*, *Heroes and Villains*, *Camelot*, *The Royal*, *Silent Witness*, *Wire in the Blood*, *Shoot to Kill*, *Warriors*, *On Home Ground*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Cleopatra*, *In Deep*, *Confessional*, *Truckers*, *The Last Place on Earth* and as Regimental Sergeant Major Patrick Harper in the long running ITV Napoleonic drama series *Sharpe*.

Owen O'Neill | The Neighbour McCorrick

Theatre includes *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Garrick Theatre and Wyndham's Theatre), *The Kingdom* (Soho Theatre), *Twelve Angry Men* (Birmingham Rep and National Tour), *The Shawshank Redemption* (National Tour), *Absolution* for which he received an Irish Theatre Festival Award for Best Actor (East 59th Street Theatre, New York, and Edinburgh Festival), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Kilkenny Castle, Ireland), *The Odd Couple* (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh), *Red Noise*, *Ten Songs to Die For* and *Dead Meat* for which he received a Fringe First Award (Edinburgh Festival and International Tours).

Film includes *Mickeybo and Me*, *Michael Collins*, *The General* and *The MatchMaker*.

Television includes *Paradise Heights*, *The Bill*, *Performance* and *Sean's Show*.

Declan Rodgers | Edward Carson

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *On McQuillan's Hill*.

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *The Birthday Party* (National Tour), *I'm With the Band* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, and National Tour), *Can't Forget About You* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast, and Tron Theatre, Glasgow), *Shoot the Crow* (Trafalgar Studios), *Carousel* (Bush Theatre), *Service* (Theatre503), *Hope Dies Last* (Arcola Theatre).

Film includes *Shooting for Socrates*, *The Minnits of Anabeg* and *You Looking at Me?*

Television includes *Patrick Melrose*, *The Deceived*, *Six Degrees*, *Good Boy*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *In Cold Blood* and *Maru*.

Laura Dos Santos | Sinead / Aine

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Don Juan Comes Back From The War*.

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre credits include *My White Best Friend – North*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Conquest of the South Pole*, *The Sum*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Morris* (Liverpool Everyman), *Never Vera Blue* (Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival), *Our Country's Good* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton and National Tour), *Educating Rita* (Menier Chocolate Factory and West End), *We Will Be Gone* (Camden People's Theatre), *Look Back In Anger* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Stags and Hens* (Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool), *On The Middle Day* (Old Vic Theatre) and *In Your Hands* (New End Theatre).

Television includes *Little Boy Blue*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Doctor Who*, *Wallander*, *Bad Girls*, *Fingersmith*, *Innocent Party* and *The Bill*.

Radio and Audio includes *Belly of the Wolf*, *Emile Zola – Blood, Sex & Money*, for BBC Radio Produce, *A Steal*, *Take Me to Hope Street*, *The House of Mercy*, *Lennon: A Week In The Life*, *Life on the Edges*, *Educating Rita* and *The Omega Factor*.

Kevin Trainor | Dr. O'Hara / Lando Calrissian

Trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *An Octoroon* (National Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Twelfth Night*, *Solstice*, *Eric LaRue* and *Comedy of Errors* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Drama at Inish* (National Theatre of Ireland – Abbey Theatre), *Playboy of the Western World* and *Six Degrees of Separation* (The Old Vic), *Stones in His Pockets* (Theatre Royal Bath, Rose Theatre, Kingston, Ireland and UK Tour), *Saint Joan* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Gladiator Games* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Lost Monsters* (Liverpool Everyman), *2,000 Feet Away* (Bush Theatre), *Bent* (Trafalgar Studios), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *The Lovers of Viorne* (The Theatre Room), *Doctor Faustus* (West Yorkshire Playhouse and Glasgow Citz), *Titanic* (The Mac, Belfast), *Canary* (Hampstead Theatre, Liverpool Playhouse and English Touring Theatre), *By Jeeves* (Landor Theatre), *Fishbowl* (Theatre503) and *Duck* (Playground Theatre).

Film includes *Make It New John* and *Hellboy*.

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Television includes *The Café*, *Sherlock*, *John Adams*, *Endeavour*, *Utopia*, *Vera*, *London Irish*, *The Catherine Tate Show*, *Tripping Over*, *Titanic: Birth of a Legend*, *The Commander* and *Wodehouse in Exile*.

Radio includes *Ulysses*, *The Royal Game* and *Rasselas*.

The press on playwright David Ireland

On *Cyprus Avenue*

★★★★★ "I can't remember when I saw a play that was so utterly clear yet had such startling destination." *The Observer*

★★★★★ "Compulsive viewing." *Time Out*

★★★★★ "The most electric, unnerving, illuminating nights of theatre any of us can have seen for years." *Irish News*
On *Everything Between Us*

★★★★★ "David Ireland is our theatre's expert at exploring the psychosis underlying Ulster Protestant prejudice." *The Guardian*

★★★★★ "David Ireland drops more than a few depth charges in one of the best pieces about conflict in Northern Ireland yet written." *Irish Times*

The press on director Max Elton

On *The End of Hope* by David Ireland

★★★★★ "Explosive." *WhatsOnStage*

★★★★★ "Max Elton's production is outrageous from the very first beat, and never lets up." *Broadway World*

★★★★★ "Freewheeling, majestically entertaining." *The Times*

★★★★★ "Sharp, surreal romantic comedy." *Time Out*

★★★★★ "A high-powered, hugely entertaining hour." *The Stage*

On *The Melting Pot at the Finborough Theatre*

"Max Elton's excellent production is alert to the play's topicality" *The Guardian*

★★★★★ "Elton's direction sings...top dollar production deserves a bigger stage" *The Arts Desk*

The press on *Everything Between Us* by David Ireland at the Finborough Theatre

★★★★★ *Four Stars, The Guardian, The Stage, The Daily Star, Arts Desk, Broadway World, Theatre Full Stop and Paul in London*

"Emotionally rich, unapologetically hilarious, and compelling articulate...A scabrously funny two-hander that collides the past and the future of Northern Ireland." Fergus Morgan, *The Stage*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AND FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2021 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, 23 November – Saturday, 18 December 2021

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

Prices until 5 December 2021 – Tickets £23, £20 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £23 all seats. Previews (23 and 24 November) £14 all seats. Wednesday, 1 December – Show plus Q&A, £30 (£28 concessions)



PRESS INFORMATION

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

£14 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday 27 November 2021 at 7.30pm booked online only.

Prices from 7 December 2021 – Tickets £25, £23 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £23 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £25 all seats.

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

Performance Length: Approximately 95 minutes with no interval.

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 <https://finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources/>