

# MEN WITHOUT SHADOWS

(*Morts Sans Sepulture*)

by Jean-Paul Sartre

Translated by Kitty Black. Directed by Mitchell Moreno. Cast includes: Martin Behrman. Charlie Covell. David Couch. Andrew Fallaize. Kevin Heaney. Sam Hodges. Jamie Lennox. Lawrence McGrandles Jnr. George Rainsford. Steven Sobal.

The first production in our [ **rediscoveries** season 2007 ] will be Jean-Paul Sartre's ***Men Without Shadows***, opening on 13 June 2007 for a four week run, and marking the sixtieth anniversary of the original London production – and the first time the play has been seen in London since then.

In occupied France in 1944, five resistance fighters are captured after a disastrous attempt to liberate a village. One by one, they are summoned for interrogation by their captors. What will be the value of staying silent, and what the price of talking?

With richly drawn characters and a gripping plot, Sartre explores the nature of truth and freewill in the brutal and morally ambiguous time of war. First staged in London by Peter Brook in 1947, this rediscovered existential thriller is as potent and provocative today as it was then.

**Jean-Paul Sartre** gained overnight fame in 1938 with his first novel, *La Nausee* (*Nausea*). On the outbreak of the Second World War, he was drafted into the French army and was later captured and held by the Germans as a prisoner of war for nine months. Returning to Paris on his release in 1941, Sartre participated in the creation of the underground group *Socialisme et Liberte* along with his life-long companion Simone de Beauvoir, and regularly contributed to resistance magazines. After the war he established the review *Les Temps Modernes* and began prolific, full-time writing, ranging from philosophy to literary criticism, autobiography and drama. Perhaps best known in his lifetime as a playwright, his concept of being, existentialist humanism, can be traced throughout his body of plays including *Les Mouches* (*The Flies*) and *Huis Clos* (*No Exit*). Sartre was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964, but declined it in protest at the values of bourgeois society.

Exciting young director **Mitchell Moreno's** credits include *Hippolytus* (Orange Tree), *The Paper Piano* (Edinburgh Festival), and two fully staged song cycles: *Russian Romance* (Barbican) and *Chelsea Romance* (Oktober Theatre, St Petersburg.) As an assistant and resident director, he has worked for the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and in the West End, with directors including Stephen Daldry, Michael Attenborough and Greg Doran.

## The Press on Mitchell Moreno's previous productions

"A theatrical event, as well as a calling card for a promising director... This is a rare opportunity to experience Euripidean tragedy with its satirical edge intact." *The Stage*

"Moreno's pacy and handsomely spoken production delivers some authentic dramatic frissons...Dynamic storytelling" *Time Out*

"Beautifully stylised...Tense and gripping, it's an emotional rollercoaster for the audience" *BBC Radio Scotland, The Arts Show*

"Captivating and often heart-breaking." *Edinburgh Evening News*

**PRESS NIGHT: FRIDAY, 15 JUNE 2007 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2007 AT 1PM-1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0870 4000 838 [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Wednesday, 13 June – Saturday, 7 July, 2007**

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

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.

Previews (13 and 14 June) £8 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Neil McPherson** on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

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