



Summer Season 2010

Osip Theatre in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre present

The World Premiere

Miss Lilly Gets Boned or The Loss of All Elephant Elders

by Bekah Brunstetter

Directed by Lily Bevan. Designed by Libby Watson. Lighting by Christoph Wagner. Sound by Emma Laxton.
Cast: Lorna Beckett. Sarah Goldberg. Will Kemp. Sheena Patel. Daniel Roche. Milo Rechler. James Russell.

The world premiere of *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* by multi-award-winning new American playwright – and Playwright-in-Residence at the Finborough Theatre – Bekah Brunstetter, opens at the Finborough Theatre on Tuesday, 22 June 2010 (Press Night: Thursday, 24 June 2010) running until Saturday, 11 July 2010.

Miss Lilly, a Sunday school teacher, has been waiting patiently for God to drop a man in her lap. When a new student – a young South African boy whose mother was killed by an elephant – disturbs the harmony of her classroom and his father disturbs the harmony of her heart, Miss Lilly is forced to re-examine her own sense of faith and self.

Right or wrong, sinful or holy - a natural force is at work in Miss Lilly's classroom where her hymns are accompanied by the rumble of angry elephants and her prayers are answered by a stranger to her god.

Nominated for the L. Arnold Weissberger Playwriting Award in the US, *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* is a wild exploration of love, courage, family, sex and religion from one of America's most exciting new playwrights.

Playwright **Bekah Brunstetter** is a Playwright-in-Residence at the Finborough Theatre. She received her UK debut at the Finborough Theatre in 2009 with *Oohrah!*, followed by the European premiere of *You May Go Now – A Marriage Play* in March 2010. She has also been featured in two *Vibrant – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* festivals with *Green* in 2009 and *Mine* in 2010. *Oohrah!* went on to receive its US premiere at the Atlantic Theater, New York City. Bekah was also Resident Playwright of Ars Nova, New York City, in 2009, and a member of the Women's Project Writers Lab and the Primary Stages Writer's Group. She is twice winner of the New York Innovative Theater Award for Best Original Full-Length Play and twice winner of the Samuel French Short Play Festival. Her work has received acclaim across the United States and has been produced and developed by at Boston Theatre Works, the Ohio Theater, The Alliance Theatre, Aurora Stage and many others. Her other plays include *To Nineveh* (New York Innovative Theater Award for Best New Full Length Play 2006), *Sick* (Winner, Samuel French Short Play Festival 2006), *Fucking Art* (Winner, Samuel French Short Play Festival 2008) and *Avocado* (King's Head Theatre). She is currently working on commissions for Naked Angels, Ars Nova and the Roundabout. www.bekahbrunstetter.com

Director **Lily Bevan** directed and co-wrote with Bekah Brunstetter the sell-out production of *Avocado* (King's Head Theatre) in 2009. Lily is Artistic Director of Osip Theatre and has written, produced and directed work at venues including Trafalgar Studios, King's Head Theatre, Old Red Lion Theatre, Latitude Festival and Playwrights Horizons, New York. Lily co-wrote, produced and appeared in the sell out Christmas farce *Stephen and The Sexy Partridge* at Trafalgar Studios for a six week run during Christmas 2009. Lily trained at RADA and has worked extensively as an actress in London and on tour in the UK including work at the Donmar Warehouse, the Wyndham's Theatre and with Shared Experience.

Designer **Libby Watson's** theatre includes the Olivier award winning *The Mountaintop* (Trafalgar Studios and Theatre 503), *Respect, Hysteria, The Three Sisters* (Birmingham Rep), *Twelfth Night* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Hello and Goodbye* (Trafalgar Studios), *Radio Golf, Gem of the Ocean* (Tricycle Theatre), *The Christ of Coldharbour Lane* (Soho Theatre), *I Like Mine With a Kiss, Crooked* (Bush Theatre), *Macbeth* (Bristol Old Vic), *Blest Be The Tie* (Royal Court Theatre),

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Vengeance (Hackney Empire) and *Humble Boy* (Manhattan Theatre Club and UK Tour).

Lorna Beckett's credits include *Moscow Live* (Hightide Festival), *A Stab in the Dark* (Latitude Festival), *Duet For One* (Almeida Theatre), *Stephen and the Sexy Partridge* (Trafalgar Studios). TV and Film credits include *Resurrecting the Street Walker* and *Mi High*.

Sarah Goldberg's credits include *Six Degrees of Separation* (The Old Vic), *Apologia* (Bush Theatre), *Avocado* (King's Head Theatre), *Wallace Shawn Readings* (Royal Court Theatre) and *The Member of the Wedding* (The Young Vic).

Will Kemp has worked extensively with Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures. His many credits include *Swan Lake* (West End, Broadway and Los Angeles), *The Car Man* (The Old Vic), *The Wind in the Willows* (Royal Opera House), *Play Without Words* (National Theatre), *Equus* (Gielgud Theatre), *The Soldier's Tale* (Royal Opera House) and *Cinderella* (Los Angeles) for which he was nominated for the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Outstanding Featured Performer. Extensive film and TV credits including *Van Helsing*, *Mind Hunters*, *Step Up 2: The Streets*, *New Tricks* and *NY-LON*.

Sheena Patel's TV credits include *Law and Order* and *Casualty*.

Daniel Roche currently stars in the TV series *Outnumbered*.

Milo Rechler is ten years old and is making his professional debut in *Miss Lilly*.

James Russell's credits include *Days of Love* (King's Head Theatre) and *All Mouth* (Menier Chocolate Factory). TV credits include *Lewis*.

The Press on Osip Theatre and Lily Bevan's previous productions

On *Avocado* –

"Really enjoyable. Great writing, great acting. Fantastic." BBC Radio 4

"Cleverly dark humour: This is, simply, a great show that needs to be watched....Raucous cheers and appreciative whistling - *Avocado* is a what you want from an evening out – entertainment, pleasure, and a lot of laughter. Acting, direction, script and technique merge together beautifully culminating in a finished product of the highest quality." *Extra Extra*

On *Stephen and The Sexy Partridge* –

"A classy...likeable exercise in polished surrealism...Crisply executed giddily inventive physicality...Pulled off with a surfeit of imagination and good humour" "**** Four Stars and Critics' Choice, *Time Out*

"Packed with ingenious parodies, ludicrous impersonations and sex" *The Times*

"One of the funniest offerings in the West End this season... Tickets to this short, sweet, Christmas show should be a must on everybody's Christmas shopping list this year." *The Stage*

"Festive, side-splittingly funny and wonderfully uplifting – truly in the spirit of the season." **** Four Stars, *WhatsOnStage*

"Warm and genuinely unusual" *Music OMH*

"What is particularly endearing about this piece is the evident love and care with which it has been created." *The Stage*

The Press on Bekah Brunstetter

"A lot of playwrights must hate Bekah Brunstetter. All of 26 years old, she's had more than a dozen of her plays produced and is represented by the William Morris Agency...an exciting new talent." *Daily Record*

"In just a few short years, Bekah Brunstetter has emerged as a major voice in Off-Off-Broadway." *offoffline.com*

"Thoughtful, hilarious and poignant." *Washington Square News*

"I bet you'll remember it and pay attention when Brunstetter writes another play." *Daily Record*

"Her unique rhythm and scattershot dialogue keeps you on your toes — even when you can predict what's coming, you never know when or how." *Daily Record*

"Remarkable...the ground covered in this new play by Bekah Brunstetter goes way past the expected to rip through the gut while you're laughing...Marvellously perverse humour." *nytheatre.com*

"Bekah Brunstetter's use of language is exquisite; her dialogue sings and expresses character with telling detail." *Broadway World*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 24 JUNE 2010 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2010 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

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

Box Office 0844 847 1652. www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 22 June – Saturday, 10 July 2010

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from the second week of the run).

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Prices for Week 1 (22-27 June) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday evenings £13 all seats. Previews (22 and 23 June) £9 all seats.

£5 tickets for under 30's for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on the first Saturday of the run only.

Prices for Weeks 2 and 3 (29 June-10 July) – Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £15 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours including interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135** or

Susie Safavi on e-mail susiesafavi@hotmail.com or **07875 277913**

Press releases and images to download are available at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/pressresources.htm

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