

February-May 2020 at the Finborough Theatre

The first new UK production for 40 years

NOT QUITE JERUSALEM

by Paul Kember.

Directed by Peter Kavanagh. Designed by Ceci Calf. Lighting by Ryan Stafford. Costume Design by Isobel Pellow.

Presented by Cumulus Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Russell Bentley. Miranda Braun. Ailsa Joy. Joe McArdle. Ryan Whittle. Ronnie Yorke.

"All I'm talking about is this. Democracy. Having a say in your own affairs. Taking decisions about your own lives ...It's not like that in England."

In a production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a play written in the year the Finborough Theatre opened, the first new UK production in 40 years of Paul Kember's award-winning 1980 comedy-drama *Not Quite Jerusalem* opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 (Press Nights: Thursday, 5 March 2020 and Friday, 6 March 2020 at 7.30pm).

It's 1979, and Mike, Carrie, Pete and Dave have fled grim, divided England for the sunshine, sex, beer and bagels of a Israeli kibbutz. Only to find that what was supposed to be a working holiday is more like hard labour in 100-degree temperatures.

Pete and Dave soon alienate themselves with their foul-mouthed, high-spirited behaviour. Carrie desperately tries to fit in, but cannot relate to either her fellow-countrymen or the Israelis. Only Cambridge drop-out Mike seems able to articulate what it means to be young, conflicted, English, and a very long way from home. Until, that is, he meets no-nonsense *kibbutznik* Gila...

First presented at the Royal Court Theatre in 1980 where it broke box office records and revived there in 1982 (with casts including David Threlfall, Phil Davis, Kevin McNally, Selina Cadell and Bruce Alexander), *Not Quite Jerusalem* won first-time playwright Paul Kember the *Evening Standard* Most Promising Playwright Award.

This production contains strong language.

Playwright Paul Kember won the *Evening Standard* Award for Most Promising Playwright for *Not Quite Jerusalem*, his first play. He spent five years as a journalist in Liverpool before training as an actor at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. As an actor, he was a founding member of the influential Joint Stock Theatre Company, for twenty years Britain's leading experimental theatre company. He also appeared in over 75 television programmes including *The Sweeney*, *Casualty*, *The Bill*, *Heartbeat*, *Pie in the Sky*, *Taggart*, *Newshounds*, *Common as Muck*, and films including *Agatha*, *The First Great Train Robbery*, *The Long Good Friday* and *An American Werewolf in London*. His second play, *Asylum*, starred Sarah Miles at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and his third play, *High Flyers*, starred Hugh Grant, Simon Cadell, Glynis Barber and James Hazeldine. He has three children and lives in London.

Director Peter Kavanagh is an award-winning director for theatre, film, television and radio. Theatre includes *The Labyrinth* (Players Theatre, Dublin, Dublin Theatre Festival and Royal Court Theatre), *A Door Must Be Either Open or Shut*, and *The Boor* in his own translations from Chekhov (Chichester Theatre Festival), *Love and the Art of War* (King's Head Theatre), the musical *The Good Companions* (Watford Colosseum), *A Selfish Boy* and *After Prospero* (INK Festival at the Tristan Bates Theatre), *Vox Humana* (Cockpit Theatre), *Endgame* (Players Theatre, Dublin), *Play*, and *Mrs Warren's Profession* (Project Theatre, Dublin), *The Exception and the Rule* (Focus Theatre, Dublin), *This*

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PRESS INFORMATION

Property is Condemned And Other Tennessee Williams Plays (Gate Theatre, Dublin) and *Victims* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin).

Film and Television includes *Sightings of Bono*, starring Bono, *I Was the Cigarette Girl* with Andrew Scott, which won an award at the Colombia Film Festival and a nomination at the Chicago Film Festival, and *Sisters* with Lisa Faulkner (BBC2).

Radio includes many award-winning productions for Drama on 3, from Sophocles through Shakespeare and Strindberg to Harold Pinter, James Graham and Howard Barker. Recent Ibsen productions include *The Wild Duck* in a version by Christopher Hampton with Samuel West and David Threlfall, *Brand, Rosmersholm* translated by Frank McGuinness with Helen Baxendale, and *The Lady from the Sea* with Cheryl Campbell. Shakespeare productions include *Romeo and Juliet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *Measure for Measure* featuring Simon Russell Beale, Emma Fielding, Siân Phillips, Saskia Reeves and Bill Nighy. Other notable casts include Benedict Cumberbatch and Lia Williams in *Tom and Viv*, Siorcha Cusack in *Juno and the Paycock*, Ian MacDiarmid in *Volpone*, Fiona Shaw in *Playing with Fire*, and Stephen Rea and Sinead Cusack in *Ulysses*. Prix Italia and many other drama awards include a Special Commendation for *Landscape* starring Harold Pinter and Penelope Wilton. He was nominated for Best Director by the BBC Audio Awards in 2017. He has also written and translated for stage and BBC Television drama.

The cast is:

Russell Bentley | Ami

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *His Greatness*, *Patience* and *The Destiny of Me*.

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Making Stalin Laugh* (JW3), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Roaring Lion* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *League of Youth* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Drowning on Dry Land* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Death of a Salesman* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Headlong at the Bristol Old Vic and National Tour), *Old Wicked Songs* (Bristol Old Vic and Gielgud Theatre), *Three Sisters on Hope Street* (Liverpool Everyman Theatre and Hampstead Theatre), *Sit and Shiva* (Hackney Empire), *Chicken Soup with Barley* (Tricycle Theatre and Nottingham Playhouse), *Violent B* (Royal Court Young Writers Showcase), *Tower of Babel* (Soho Theatre), *Waiting for Lefty*, *The Cradle Will Rock* (BAC), *Angel* (Old Vic New Voices), *Foxhole* (Old Red Lion Theatre) and *The School for Scandal* (Park Theatre).

Film includes *Proof*, *Below*, *Kick-Ass*, *Ironbark*, *Biodiversity*, *Lost Battalion*, *Monday 10AM*, *Home* and *Watergate*.

Television includes *Doctor Who*, *EastEnders*, *Footballers Wives*, *Neither Confirm nor Deny*, *Spy Game*, *50 Ways to Kill Your Lover*, *Witch is Witch?* and *The Bill*.

Radio includes *Doctor Who*, *Something Understood*, *Woman's Hour*, *Other Man*, *Ring Around the Bath*, *Goal*, *Voyage* and *The Whore of Mensa*.

Miranda Braun | Carrie

Trained at Drama Studio London.

Theatre includes *Everything is Possible* (Theatre Royal York), *Sense and Sensibility* (John Peel Centre for the Creative Arts, Stowmarket), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (European Tour), *The Adventures of Sam Swallow*, *As You Like It* (Edinburgh Festival), and *The Confederacy of Wives*, *King Lear*, and *Ivanov* (Drama Studio London).

Radio includes BBC Carleton Hobbs Bursary Award 2018 Finalist, and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Ailsa Joy | Gila

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *The Three Musketeers* (Iris Theatre), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Guildford Shakespeare Company), *Bad Jews* (Theatre Royal Haymarket, Theatre Royal Bath and National Tour), *Timeplays* (Hampton Court Palace), *Berenice* (The Space), *Peer Gynt*, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *The White Darkness*, *Fast Track* (North Wall Theatre, Oxford), *Words by the Water* (The Globe), *The Crucible* (Oxford Playhouse), *The Siren's Call*, *Mira, Mira* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The Wind in the Willows* (Polka Theatre), *Cigarettes and Chocolate* (Old Fire Station Theatre, Oxford), *Landmines and Chewing Gum* (Theatre Royal Windsor), *Cymbeline*, *The Maids*, *The House of Special Purpose*, *Twelfth Night* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art), *Arabian Nights*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (London Theatre at Sea) and *Seeing Things* (Shakespeare Week).

Television includes *Plebs* and *The Royals*.

Audiobook includes *Goth Girl*, *Fairy Tales*, *Middle of Nowhere*, *Skybreaker*, *Bellerophon and Pegasus*, *The Positively Last Performance* and *Viking Life*.

Joe McArdle | Dave

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Theatre includes *Gaslight* (Playground Theatre), *Blink*, *Pizza Man* (Baron's Court Theatre), *Gate* (Cockpit Theatre), *Apocalypse Cruise Ship Love Affair* (Arts Theatre), *Vampire Hospital Waiting Room* (Edinburgh Festival), *Lust in Space* and *Cold Call* (INK Theatre Festival).

Radio includes *A Kestrel for a Knave* and *Number One, The North Sea*.

Ryan Whittle | Mike

Trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *King Charles III* (Almeida Theatre and Birmingham Rep), *The Duchess of Malfi* (Richard Burton Theatre, Cardiff), *Ring Ring* (Gate Theatre), *Our Lords and Masters in their Human Form*, *August: Osage County*, *Amadeus* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Hérons* (Edinburgh Festival), *Punk Rock* (Theatro Technis), *What Happens Next Will ___ Your ___*, *The Watching* (White Bear Theatre) and *No Quarter* (Network Theatre).

Film includes *End of Term*.

Radio includes *Behind Closed Doors: More than Kissing*, *All These Things*, *The Haunting of M. R. James*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Tragedy of Master Arden of Faversham*, *The Big Broadcast*, *Tommies*, *Nights at the Circus*, *Home Front*, *The Republicans*, *Rhoda and Pete Get Back on the Scene*, *First World Problems*, *The Archers*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *From a Great Height*, *The Double*, *County Lines*, *Gudrun*, *Dot*, *Earthsea*, *The Steal* and *The Trials of CB King*.

Ronnie Yorke | Pete

Trained at Italia Conti Academy.

Theatre includes *The Tempest* (National Tour for The Lord Chamberlain's Men), *Will or Eight Lost Years of Young William Shakespeare's Life* for which he was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best Supporting Actor (Rose Playhouse, Bankside), *Richard III* (Sam Wanamaker Festival), and *On the Razzle*, *3 Winters*, *King John* and *Road* (Italia Conti).

The press on the original production of *Not Quite Jerusalem*

"Extremely funny." *Daily Telegraph*

"Remarkable comedy." *Punch*

"Exceptional." *The Times*

"Sparkling... A winner." *Variety*

"Almost continual laughter... funny, truthful, caring play." *Daily Mail*

"More salient points about our attitudes to each other, to foreigners, and to ourselves, than any play I've seen in years... Sharply observant...very funny." *Time Out*

"A stunningly promising debut...Packed with honest observation and comic detail... a lovely study of post-adolescent uncertainty." *The Guardian*

"Full of wit, compassion and understanding." *Daily Express*

"Glorious." *Jewish Chronicle*

"Brilliant." *The Spectator*

The press on director Peter Kavanagh

"Humour, intelligence and craft. I was moved almost to tears at the finale." *Evening Standard* on *Love and the Art of War*

"Absorbing revival...Peter Kavanagh's light touch well suited to Porter's eccentric narrative... so much good work." *The Stage* on *Blink*

"A tiny masterpiece...softly compelling...This is a first-rate production." ★★★★★ Four Stars, *London Fringe Review* on *A Selfish Boy*.

"Could not have been more entertaining, an underrated little gem. This was a superb evening." ★★★★★ Four Stars, *MusicalCriticism.com* on *The Good Companions*.

"A fine, clear immediately accessible version of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm* by Frank McGuinness in a production that exactly matched the text. With outstanding performances by Nicholas Farrell, Helen Baxendale and Ronald Pickup." ★★★★★ Four Stars, *Sunday Telegraph* on *Rosmersholm*

"The best Shakespeare BBC has done for years, the production's virtues are easily stated - you can boil them down into one overriding virtue: lucidity." ★★★★★ Four Stars, *The Independent* on *Measure for Measure*

"Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*... This new production by the BBC's Peter Kavanagh had David Warner as Davies... It

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lingers in the mind to haunt and warn because it has terrified you yet sometimes surprised you into sudden laughter. It was, in short, marvellous.” ★★★★★ Four Stars, *The Telegraph* on *The Caretaker*

“Richard E. Grant is marvellously droll against the magnificent hauteur of Francesca Annis... relish the vividness of the production by Peter Kavanagh, so sharp yet so simple.” ★★★★★ Four Stars, *The Spectator* on *In the Depths of Dead Love*

“Richard E. Grant gives a staggering performance.” *Radio Times* on *In the Depths of Dead Love*

“Dazzlingly good.” *The Stage* on *In the Depths of Dead Love*

“Towering intensity...does great justice to the work...A superlative production” *The Guardian* on *The Faith Healer*

“Sisters is television drama at its richest - intimate, close-up and highly personal.” *Radio Times* on *Sisters*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2020 AND FRIDAY, 6 MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2020 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

No booking fees on online, personal or postal bookings

Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There will be a 5% booking fee.)

Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am–6.00pm

Tuesday, 3 March – Saturday, 28 March 2020

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

Prices until 15 March 2020 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats. Previews (3 and 4 March) £14 all seats.

£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, 7 March 2020 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

Prices from 17 March 2020 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Livvy Perrett on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07889 794858**

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

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