

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**

Spring Season – March–May 2016

The world premiere

SCHISM

by Athena Stevens.

Directed by Alex Sims. Designed by Alex Marker. Lighting by Arnim Friess. Sound by Emma Laxton.

Produced by Tamara Alexander. Presented by Aegis Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Tim Beckmann. Athena Stevens.

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England

"I never wanted to change, in case you didn't like it."

The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre's Spring Season ends with the world premiere of a new play, *Schism* by Athena Stevens, which opens for a three week limited season on Wednesday, 27 April 2016 (**Press Night: Friday, 29 April 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Failed architect Harrison has plans to make tonight the last night of his life. What he doesn't need is Katherine, a young student with cerebral palsy, breaking into his house in her wheelchair begging for his help...

As their chaotic first encounter turns into the beginning of a twenty year relationship, the unlikely couple grow to realise that they are capable of either building something great together – or absolutely destroying each other.

Written and co-performed by acclaimed playwright with a disability Athena Stevens, *Schism* is the world premiere of a stunning new play about two people finding each other, and what happens when their dream becomes unrealistic and out of date.

Playwright **Athena Stevens'** previous plays include *The Amazing Vancetti Sisters* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Detours Ahead* (Victory Gardens Theatre, Chicago) and two online series – *Assistive Devices* and *Vote Z*. Her first online series *Day of Small Things* was commissioned as a full length documentary by Channel 4. Stevens is a TEDx Speaker and a member of the Golden Egg Academy.

Director **Alex Sims'** previous plays include *War Horse* (UK and Ireland Tour and National Theatre of China), *Yellow Face* (National Theatre Shed and Park Theatre), *The Promise* (Donmar Warehouse at Trafalgar Studios), *Coalition, Dov and Ali* (Theatre 503), and *Jordan* (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh). Associate Direction includes *War Horse* (New London Theatre and Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto). He was Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse and worked with, amongst others, Michael Grandage, Douglas Hodge and Charlotte Westenra. As Resident Assistant at the Donmar Warehouse 2007-08 plays include *Othello*, *Parade*, *Absurdia*, *Betrayal*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* and *John Gabriel Borkman*. He has been an Assistant Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Young Vic and the Almeida Theatre, working with Rufus Norris, Marianne Elliot and Josie Rourke, among others. Assistant Direction includes *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* and *War Horse* (National Theatre), *King John* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Royal Shakespeare Company Complete Works season), *Phaedra's Love* (The Young Vic Walkabout Season) and *Blood Wedding* (Almeida Theatre)

The Press on playwright Athena Stevens' *The Amazing Vancetti Sisters*

"This is a promising and highly enjoyable debut from Stevens" *The Stage*

"Full of spark and insight... It makes you look forward to Stevens' next theatrical trick." Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"I recommend that you run and buy your tickets... Stevens' work is beautifully intelligent." *London Fringe Review*

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

Press Information

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Writers on playwright Athena Stevens

"A gem of talent – vulnerable and ferocious, intelligent and instinctive with a detailed approach" Chè Walker

"Athena Stevens is a marvelous young talent." Ben Okri

The Press on Director Alex Sims

"Alex Sims ... certainly seizes his chance with both hands and comes up with a cracking account of this triangular friendship between two men and a girl across two decades in Leningrad." *The Independent* on *The Promise*

"Well directed by Alex Sims" *The Guardian* on *The Promise*

"Slickly choreographed by Alex Sims" *The Telegraph* on *Yellow Face*

"Alex Sims's enjoyably slick British premiere of David Henry Hwang's comic drama from 2007 is particularly timely" *The Guardian* on *Yellow Face*

"Alex Sims's production, which originated at the Park Theatre in North London last summer, is both inspired and inspiring in its sometimes dizzying, always dazzling folding together of the play's complicated and competing strands." *London Theatre.co.uk* on *Yellow Face*

The cast is:

Tim Beckmann | Harrison

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Beating Heart Cadaver*.

Trained at Central School of Speech And Drama

Theatre includes *Pressure* (Chichester Festival Theatre and Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *The Nature of Things* (The Place), *Teenager of the Year* (Latitude Festival), *Laughing Wild* (English Theatre, Frankfurt), *The Philadelphia Story* (The Old Vic), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Criterion Theatre), *All The Great Books* (Reduced Theatre Company), *A Foolish Fancy* (Etcetera Theatre), *Creeps* and *Welcome to the Moon* (Gastown Theatre) and *Life and Limb* (Vancouver Festival).

Film includes *Hyde Park on Hudson*, *Hanna*, *Swinging with the Finkels*, *A Solution to Writer's Block*, *Separation* and *Nathan*.

Television includes *Londongrad*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Ocean of Fear*, *Alive! Crash in a Volcano* and *Alive! Avalanche Alley*.

Radio includes *The Right Things to Say* and *Catholics*.

Athena Stevens | Katherine

Theatre includes *The Amazing Vancetti Sisters* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Detours Ahead* (Victory Gardens Theatre, Chicago), *The Death of Hector* (Sadler's Wells) and *Romeo and Juliet*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *Macbeth* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art).

Film includes *We Are the Freaks*.

Television includes *The Conference*.

Web Series includes *Vote Z* and *Assistive Devices*.

PRESS NIGHTS: FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2016 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Wednesday, 27 April – Saturday 14 May 2016

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

Prices until 1 May 2016 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (27 and 28 April) £12 all seats.

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

£12 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 30 April 2016 when booked online only.

Prices from 3 May 2016 - Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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

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

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

The Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268. Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

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