

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

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

Summer Season – May to August 2016

The world premiere

STONE FACE

by Eve Leigh.

Directed by Roy Alexander Weise. Designed by Loren Elstein. Lighting by Simon Gethin Thomas. Sound Design by Odinn Hilmarsson. Fight Direction by Bret Yount. Movement Direction by Jenni Jackson.

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

Cast: Liz Jadav. Ellie Turner.

"No scars at all. Which, when you think about it, is maybe not such a good sign"

The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre opens its Summer Season with the world premiere of a new play, **Stone Face** by Eve Leigh plays at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 17 May 2016 (**Press Night: Thursday, 19 May 2016 and Friday, 20 May 2016 at 7:30pm**).

Catherine was fifteen when she was found. She and her mother shared a secret world in an anonymous one-bedroom flat in London. No one is even sure if she's ever left the room she was found in. She can't walk and can't speak.

Her recovery seems impossible. But young people can be shockingly resilient, especially with inspired medical care. Sponsored by a fundraising drive led by a tabloid newspaper, her only living relative has been able to get Catherine the best private care that money can buy. She responds well to the experimental treatment. But she seems to be getting more violent, and remains stubbornly resistant to language. Or is she?

Soon, Catherine's doctors and half-sister begin to discover what it is, exactly, that they've uncovered...

A fairytale of modern Britain, inspired by true events.

Stone Face is Eve Leigh's second full-length play at the Finborough Theatre and is directed by Roy Alexander Weise who has spent the last year as The Royal Court Theatre's Trainee Director.

Playwright **Eve Leigh** returns to the Finborough Theatre after the success of her first play *Silent Planet* in 2014. She trained at the Royal Court Young Writers' Programme and Studio Group, and is currently under commission to the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her work includes *Plunder* (The Young Vic), *Red Sky at Night* (Bush Theatre), *Rapture* (Soho Theatre), and the interactive installations *Your Future* (Camden People's Theatre, Hebbel Am Ufer, Ballhaus Ost, and Sophiensaele, Berlin), *A Short and Boring Story* (Camden People's Theatre), and *Something Else* (Ovalhouse and Camden People's Theatre). Dramaturgy includes *How to Win Against History* by Seiriol Davies (Ovalhouse and National Tour), *Das Spiel* by Philipp Oberlohr (Ovalhouse and International Tour) and *The Climate Games* (Berliner Festspiele and COP21, Paris).

Director **Roy Alexander Weise** is currently Trainee Director at the Royal Court Theatre. He trained on the BA Hons Directing course at Rose Bruford College and after graduating was made Associate Artist at The Red Room. He was First Runner Up for the JMK Award 2014 and in the same year was the BBC Theatre Fellow at the Bush Theatre and the Lyric Hammersmith. Direction includes *In Smoke*, *Aperture* (Royal Court Theatre), *Plunder*, *One Million Tiny Plays about Britain* (The Young Vic), *Palindrome* (Arcola Theatre) *The Man in the Green Jacket* (Jermyn Street), *What Happens Behind the Bar* (Cockpit Theatre), *SKEEN!* (Ovalhouse), *Invisible Mice* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith) and *Chameleon* (Unicorn Theatre). Assistant Direction includes *Hangmen* (Royal Court Theatre and West End) *Escaped Alone*, *You For Me For You*, *Primetime 2015*, *Violence & Son*, *Who Cares*, *Liberian Girl* (Royal Court Theatre), *Albion*, *We Are Proud to Present...* (Bush Theatre), *Public Enemy* (The Young Vic), *Hamlet*, *The Government Inspector* (Taking Part at The Young Vic), *The*

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

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Serpent's Tooth (Talawa at Almeida Theatre) and *Lulu* (Rose Bruford College). Television includes Trainee Director on *Invisible* (Channel 4).

The cast is:

Liz Jadav

Theatre includes *Cymbeline* and *Stepping Out* (National Tour), *The Ugly Duckling* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, and Nottingham Playhouse), *My Name Is Stephen Luckwell*, *The Elves and the Shoemakers*, *Under the Story Tree* and *Can You Whistle Johanna?* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Tempest* and *The Wind in the Willows* (Illyria Theatre), *Grimms* (Trafalgar Studios), *TASTE* (The Theatre, Chipping Norton, and Theatre du Preau), *My Dad's Corner Shop* (Derby Playhouse), *Sanguine Night* (Tristan Bates Theatre) and *Tamasha's 25th Birthday* and *Awakening Durga* (Kali Theatre).

Television includes *Emmerdale* and *Hollyoaks*.

Ellie Turner

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Merit*, *Hindle Wakes* (for which she was nominated for an Ian Charleson Award) and *Drama At Inish*.

Theatre includes *The Cherry Orchard* and *Hamlet* (National Theatre), *Nordost* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Playboy Of The Western World*, *Henry V*, *Oliver Twist* and *La Ronde* (Riverside Studios and National Tour), *The School For Wives* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), *The Lodger* (Arcola Theatre) and *Bloody Poetry* (White Bear Theatre).

Film includes *The Three Of Us*, *Silence* and *Mother No More*.

Television includes *Misfits*.

The press on playwright Eve Leigh's *Silent Planet* at the Finborough Theatre

"Eve Leigh's remarkable debut play...a situation fraught with paradox, which Leigh examines with some subtlety...In a tense 80 minutes, she explores the strange intimacy that develops between the equally imprisoned captor and captive, and shows the human need for sustaining fictions. ...As a first play, it reveals unusual maturity"

★★★★ Four Stars, Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"Eve Leigh's thought-provoking and fascinating two-hander" Tom Wicker, *Exeunt Magazine*

"Beautifully written" Honour Bayes, *The Stage*

"It's a promising debut from Leigh and an intriguing story that will resonate with anyone who has ever been transfixed by a novel or moved by a poem" Daisy Bowie-Sell, *Time Out*

"There is much to *Silent Planet*...to move you and stick in your memory" Gerald Berkowitz, *Theatre Guide London*

"Intelligent writing and two outstanding performances" Stephen Bates, *The Public Reviews*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM and FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 17 MAY 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

Tuesday, 17 May – Saturday, 11 June 2016

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday Matinees at 3.00pm (from 28 May 2016).

Prices until 29 May 2016 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (17 and 18 May) £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, 21 March 2016 when booked online only.

Prices from 31 May 2016 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

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

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

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