

The second in the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre's [**rediscoveries** season]

THE BEAVER COAT

by Gerhart Hauptmann.

Directed by Christopher Rolls. Designed by Aaron Marsden.

Cast: Mike Aherne. Joanna Bacon. David Birrell. Roger Braban. David Brett. Charlie Buckland. John Cummins. Jot Davies. Suzanne Heathcote. Anthony Keetch. Stephanie Thomas.

A RARELY PERFORMED CLASSIC BY THE GERMAN NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER

There's no such thing as dirty money...

Washerwoman Frau Wolff runs her family like her business, ready to turn any crisis into a quick buck. When she hears that someone is willing to pay hard cash for a beaver-fur coat, and better yet, knows where to find one, she's soon counting her luck. Meanwhile, Police Superintendent Wehrhahn has more than petty pilfering to worry about. He's fixed on flushing out the Liberals, Democrats and free-thinkers causing the real stink in the neighbourhood. Set in the Berlin suburbs at the end of the 19th Century, Hauptmann's wittily observed and strikingly relevant working-class comedy is full of vivid characters, humanity and satire.

Written by Gerhart Hauptmann in 1893, *Der Biberpelz*, 'a Thieves Comedy in Four Acts' came after the success of Hauptmann's best-known naturalistic plays, *Before Daybreak* (1889) and *The Weavers* (1893). Hauptmann was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1912. He died in 1946. *Der Biberpelz* was also directed by Brecht for the Berliner Ensemble in one of his first seasons.

Directed by **Christopher Rolls** who is currently Staff Director at the Royal National Theatre. He was last year's Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse. Directing credits include *Under the Earth* (BAC - James Menzies Kitchen Award finalist), *Now, Mrs Catkill*, *Rule Ten* and *By Any Other Name* (Bedlam Theatre).

Joanna Bacon plays Frau Wolff. Her theatre credits include major roles at the Royal Court, Ipswich, Sheffield Crucible, Manchester, Salisbury, West Yorkshire Playhouse and film including *Love Actually* and *Last Orders*; **David Birrell's** theatre credits include the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company as well as *Chicago* and *Jerry Springer The Opera* (West End); **Roger Braban** has been seen in *The Lady in the Van* (West End) and *Chimes at Midnight* (Chichester Festival Theatre); **Charlie Buckland** has worked all over the country including Nottingham, Windsor, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on National Tour and in the West End; **Jot Davies'** theatre appearances include *Who's The Daddy?* (King's Head); **Suzanne Heathcote** has been seen in *Tartuffe* (National Theatre); **Anthony Keetch's** theatre appearances include *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Sweet Panic* (West End); recent RADA graduate **John Cummins**, and three actors returning to the Finborough Theatre - **Mike Aherne**, recently seen in *Loyalties*, **Stephanie Thomas**, recently seen in *I Wish to Die Singing*, and **David Brett** - recently seen in *Lark Rise to Candleford* - who has also been worked for 7;84, English Shakespare Company, Manchester Library, Birmingham Rep, Young Vic, Oxford Stage Company, and who was one of the founding members of the chart-topping group The Flying Pickets.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2006 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2006 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0870 4000 838 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 20 June – Saturday, 15 July 2006

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

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

Previews (20 and 21 June) £8 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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