

Mirabel in association with Concordance presents

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY

By Brian Friel. Directed by Vicky Jones. Designed by Anna Jones. Produced by Sean Duffy.

Cast includes: Graham Bowe. Claire Cogan. Hugo Cox. Richard Flood. Tim Hardy. John Hart Dyke. Matthew Hendrickson. Nick Lee. Patrick Myles. Matthew Parish.

THE FIRST LONDON REVIVAL FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS OF BRIAN FRIEL'S MODERN CLASSIC, INSPIRED BY THE EVENTS OF "BLOODY SUNDAY"

"I am standing on the walls overlooking Guildhall Square in Derry where only a short time ago a civil rights meeting, estimated at about three thousand strong, was broken up by a large contingent of police and troops... Unconfirmed reports are coming in that a group of about fifty armed gunmen have taken possession of the Guildhall here below me and have barricaded themselves in."

Derry, Ulster, 1970. The Civil Rights movement is at a pinnacle. As the unauthorised march from the Bogside explodes into violence, three unarmed marchers fleeing the tanks and tear gas find themselves in the mayor's parlour in the Guildhall. Lily, a cleaning lady and mother to eleven children, thinks it's all a hoot. Skinner wants to wreck the place. Michael takes the time to contemplate. As the police and army exaggerate their 'occupation' into a full-scale armed invasion, they pay with their lives for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Written as a direct response to the events of Bloody Sunday, the play documents the final hours of Lily, Skinner and Michael - and the subsequent inquest into their deaths. With a bitter attack on the establishment, and with Friel's unique mordant humour, *The Freedom of the City* conjures an imaginary moment in which three innocent civilians find themselves the victims of a shameless killing and a horrifically unjust legal system.

Originally presented in Dublin at the Abbey Theatre and in London at the Royal Court, Brian Friel's modern classic now receives its first professional London production for over thirty years at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre, well known for its production of Irish plays by such writers as Frank McGuinness, Tom Murphy and Jim Nolan.

Multi-award-winning playwright Brian Friel is one of Ireland's greatest living playwrights. His other plays include *Philadelphia Here I Come!*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Home Place*, *Translations*, *Aristocrats* and *The Faith Healer*.

Exciting young director Vicky Jones makes her Finborough Theatre debut. Her previous credits include *Zoo* (Arcola), *A Bedroom* (Lyric Hammersmith Studio) and *The Blind Bird* (Gate Theatre). She has worked as an Assistant Director at the Royal Court, the Soho Theatre, the Gate Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, West End and Off-Broadway.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2005 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

LISTINGS INFORMATION

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

Box Office 0870 4000 838 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 29 November – FRIDAY, 23 December 2005

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

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

Previews (29 and 30 November) £8 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on **020 7244 7439** or e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

or, for urgent enquiries only, please, mobile **07977 173135**

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