

# **FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

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

Autumn Season – August–October 2016

The UK premiere

## **ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL**

Composed by Joshua Schmidt.

Libretto by Jason Loewith and Joshua Schmidt.

Based on the play *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice.

Directed by Josh Seymour.

Presented by Alex Turner Productions and SDWC Productions  
in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

*In numbers the mysteries of life can be revealed...*

The UK premiere of the hit Off Broadway musical ***Adding Machine: A Musical***, composed by **Joshua Schmidt**, with libretto by **Jason Loewith** and **Joshua Schmidt**, and based on the classic play by **Elmer Rice**, opens at the Finborough Theatre on Wednesday, 28 September 2016 (**Press Nights: Friday, 30 September and Saturday, 1 October 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Ever feel like killing your boss?

After 25 long years spent adding figures in the same soul-crushing job, Mr Zero suddenly finds himself replaced by a machine. For the first time in his life, Zero takes his destiny into his own hands. The consequences set him on a path through this world and beyond, offering him one last chance for love, life and redemption.

Take an extraordinary journey with Mr Zero in this stirring and hilariously dark anti-musical as it asks us to consider the true price of a human soul, told through Joshua Schmidt's haunting score, inspired by gospel, opera, jazz and rock and roll.

The UK premiere of Jason Loewith and Joshua Schmidt's multi-award winning musical adaptation of Elmer Rice's groundbreaking 1923 play is directed by **Josh Seymour**, named Best Director at the 2016 Off West End Theatre Awards for *One Arm* at Southwark Playhouse.

*Adding Machine: A Musical* won the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical, and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical and Outstanding New Score.

Composer/Co-Author **Joshua Schmidt**'s Off-Broadway work includes *A Minister's Wife* (Lincoln Center), *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Minetta Lane Theatre), *Whida Peru* (59E59 Theaters) and *Gift of the Magi* (American Players Theatre, WI). His incidental scores include *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Lincoln Center) and *Fifty Words* (MCC Theater). His work as Composer and Sound Designer includes – on Broadway – *Therese Raquin* (Roundabout Theatre and Studio 54), *House of Blue Leaves* (Walter Kerr Theatre), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Nederlander Theatre) and – Off Broadway – *Dinner With Friends* (Roundabout Theatre), *Model Apartment* (Primary Stages), *3 Kinds of Exile* (Atlantic Theatre), *Water by the Spoonful* (Second Stage) and *Crime and Punishment* (59E59 Theaters). Work in Chicago includes Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theater, Writers' Theatre (Associate Artist), Northlight Theatre, Next Theatre Company and Seanachai Theatre Company. Regional work includes over 150 productions at venues across North America including Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Ontario, Canada), Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre (Washington DC), Seattle Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre (Resident Artist – Houston, Texas), Arizona Theater Company, Cleveland Playhouse, Kansas City Rep, South Coast Repertory (California), Delaware Theatre Company, 14 Seasons at American Players Theatre (Spring Green, Wisconsin) and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Commissions include Metropolitan Opera, RKO, CraneKahn, Playwrights Horizons, Sloan/MCT and Signature (VA) Writers Theatre. Recordings include *Adding Machine: A Musical* and *A Minister's Wife* (both released on PS Classics and available on iTunes and

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[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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Amazon). Schmidt has worked as an Associate Artist at venues including Alley Theatre in Houston and Writers Theatre in Glencoe. Teaching includes lecturings at Harvard, Suffolk, Mississippi-Oxford, Illinois Urbana/Champaign, Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a member of ASCAP and has won numerous awards and recognition including Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle, Jeff, ASCAP, NEA/TCG, Prague Quadrennial 2007 and Sundance Theatre Lab UCross 2012.

Co-Librettist **Jason Loewith** won Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle and Jeff awards for Best New Musical for *Adding Machine: A Musical*, which he co-wrote with composer Joshua Schmidt. His other writing includes *Big Nate: The Musical* and *The Director's Voice, Volume 2* (published by TCG). Since 2013, he has been Artistic Director of the Olney Theatre Center outside Washington DC where he has directed the rolling world premiere of Steven Dietz's *Rancho Mirage* as well as *Marjorie Prime*, *Carousel*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Direction) and *Avenue Q*. Recent regional work as a director includes the world premiere of *Broke* (Alliance Theatre, Atlanta), *Time Stands Still* (Everyman, Baltimore), *Crime and Punishment* and *Working It Out* (Center Stage, Baltimore), *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Studio Theatre, Washington DC) and a dozen plays for Chicago's Next Theatre Company where he served as Artistic Director from 2002-08, including the Chicago area premieres of *Dying City*, *Defiance*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *Fabulation*. He conceived and directed the world premiere of *The American Dream Songbook*, wrote and directed the world premiere of *War With the Newts* and produced Chicago premieres by Caryl Churchill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Carson Kreitzer, Sam Shepard, Dael Orlandersmith and many more. He is a three-time grantee from the NEA for Artistic Excellence, a recipient of support from the Rockefeller MAP Fund and MacArthur's International Connections Fund and a TCG New Generations Future Leaders grant. Before joining the team at Olney Theatre Center, Loewith proudly served four years as Executive Director of the National New Play Network and five years with Classic Stage Company Off-Broadway.

Playwright **Elmer Rice** (1892-1967) was noted for his innovative and polemical plays, best known for *Street Scene* (1929), a starkly realistic tragedy set outside a New York City slum tenement building, which won a Pulitzer Prize and was adapted into a highly popular musical with lyrics by Langston Hughes and music by Kurt Weill. His other plays include *On Trial* (1914), *The Adding Machine* (1923), *Counsellor-at-Law* (1931), *We, the People* (1933) and *Judgment Day* (1934). Rice was active in the WPA Federal Theatre Project in the mid-1930s, and also championed the American Civil Liberties Union and the cause of free speech and in the 1950s he was an opponent of U.S. Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. Rice also wrote several novels and an autobiography, *Minority Report* (1963).

Director **Josh Seymour** won an OffWestEnd Award for Best Director for his production of *One Arm* (Southwark Playhouse). Other direction includes *The Laramie Project* (Curve Theatre), *Loserville* (Stafford Gatehouse), *Les Miserables* (Arts at Stowe), *Sarah & Sarah* (Waterloo East Theatre) and *Four Dogs and a Bone* (London Festival Fringe). As Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse, Seymour worked on *City of Angels*, *Privacy* (both directed by Josie Rourke), *Fathers and Sons* (directed by Lyndsey Turner), *My Night With Reg* (directed by Rob Hastie, and was Associate Director for the West End transfer) and *Versailles* (directed by Peter Gill). Other Assistant Direction includes *Candide* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Our House* (UK tour), *Good Grief* (Theatre Royal Bath and UK tour) and *Sixty-Six Books* (Bush Theatre). He was a finalist for the 2012 JMK Award.

Producer **Alex Turner** produced *One Arm* at Southwark Playhouse in 2015. As a founding Artist and Producer of award-winning interactive theatre company non zero one, Alex has co-devised and produced productions at the Barbican, National Theatre, Bush Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Science Museum and the Edinburgh Fringe. Alex joined Playful Productions in 2014 as Production Assistant to work across productions including *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Wicked*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Shrek The Musical* UK tour, *Dirty Dancing*, *American Buffalo*, *The Audience*, *Kinky Boots* and currently works on *No Man's Land* and as Development Assistant. He has previously worked for the Barbican Centre, Theatre Delicatessen, Royal Shakespeare Company, Frantic Assembly and Kate Morley PR. For non zero one, Alex was also a visiting lecturer on the Undergraduate Drama and Theatre degree at Royal Holloway, University of London, from where he graduated in 2009 with a First Class degree in Drama and Theatre.

Producer **Effie Stevenson** is Company Director of SDWC Productions Ltd, a theatre production company based in London's West End. She is currently producing four shows at the London Fringe during 2016 and is planning the Company's 2017 season of London shows. She is a recipient of a Stage One bursary for new producers, a member of ITC Arts, the Institute of Fundraising and the Institute of PR. Recent productions include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Landon Theatre), *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* (Jermyn Street Theatre) and *The Burnt Part Boys* (Park Theatre).

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## **The press on the Off Broadway production of *Adding Machine: A Musical***

"Improbably brilliant, grotesquely funny, with music that gets under your skin and stays there" *The New York Times*

"Witty, high-reaching and provocative... the best new musical of its year" *Time Out New York*

**PRESS NIGHTS: FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER AND SATURDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER AT 4.00PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Wednesday, 28 September – Saturday, 22 October 2016**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from Saturday, 8 October 2016).

Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

Previews (Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September) tickets £16 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for the first week until Sunday 2 October when booked online only.

£12 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Sunday 2 October when booked online only.

Group bookings: one free ticket in every 10 tickets booked.

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Kate Morley on email [kate@katemorleypr.com](mailto:kate@katemorleypr.com) or 07970 465 648**

**or**

**Neil McPherson on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or 07977 173135**

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

Twitter: @AddingMachineUK / #AddingMachineMusical

## **ALEX TURNER PRODUCTIONS**



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