

# **FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

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

Winter Season 2016-17 | October 2016 – January 2017 at the Finborough Theatre

The first Central London production in eighty years

# **AFTER OCTOBER**

by Rodney Ackland.

Directed by Oscar Toeman. Set Design by Rosanna Vize. Lighting by Marec Joyce. Costume Design by Anna Lewis.

Sound Design by Lucinda Mason Brown.

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

Cast: Jasmine Blackborow. Adam Buchanan. Andrew Cazanave Pin. Peta Cornish. Josie Kidd. Beverley Klein.

Allegra Marland. Jonathan Oliver. Patrick Osborne. Stephen Rashbrook. Sasha Waddell.

*"Listen: things will be different after the play comes on – completely different... Only a few more weeks, Francie, and you'll see. Your whole life will change. I promise you it will."*

The first Central London production in eighty years of Rodney Ackland's ***After October*** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a limited four and a half week season on Tuesday, 22 November 2016 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 24 November and Friday, 25 November 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Hampstead, 1936. In a shabby basement flat, aspiring playwright Clive Monkham dreams of a West End hit and winning Francie's heart. His bankrupt mother Rhoda, a faded actress, frets about the bills and the fortunes of her penniless daughters while reminiscing about her glory days. Clive's family and an entourage of bohemian dependants all need him to make it big. With opening night approaching and finances fast running out, everything rides on the success of the play and, for Clive, the future looks all too glittering...

From the acclaimed writer of *Absolute Hell* and *Before the Party*, *After October* is Rodney Ackland's most autobiographical play, both a bittersweet homage to the theatre and a fascinating portrait of an impoverished family on the brink of a glamorous new life. This rediscovery marks the first Central London production since its premiere in 1936.

Playwright **Rodney Ackland** (1908-1991) was 21 when his first play *Improper People* was produced at the Arts Theatre Club in 1929. He became a leading West End playwright just three years later when John Gielgud transferred *Strange Orchestra* to the West End. He went on to many other West End successes, but his work fell into virtual obscurity for three decades until *The Dark River* (1943) was revived at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, in 1984. *The Spectator* called it "perhaps the one indisputably great play of the past half-century in English." Other revivals followed, most notably *Absolute Hell* (1952) which ran to huge critical acclaim at the Orange Tree Theatre, the National Theatre and on BBC Television starring Judi Dench. His other plays include *Smithereens* (1934), *The Old Ladies* (1935), *Before the Party* (1949) and *A Dead Secret* (1957). His screenplays include *Bank Holiday* (1938), *49th Parallel* (1941) for which he was nominated for an Oscar, *Thursday's Child* (1943) and *The Queen of Spades* (1949).

Director **Oscar Toeman** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he directed the sell-out production of J. B. Priestley's *Laburnum Grove* in 2013 and *Hey Brother* for *Vibrant 2011 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*; and was Resident Assistant Director where he assisted on *Accolade* and *Mirror Teeth*. Trained at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and through the Young Vic Directors Programme. Theatre includes *Measure for Measure* (North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford), *Richard III* (Stanwix Theatre, Cumbria), *What They Took With Them* (Moving Stories, United Nations Refugee Agency fundraiser at the National Theatre), *Why I Want to Work at Tesco's* (Bush Theatre), *A.G.M* (Nabokov at Soho Theatre), *The Ballad of the Copper Revolution* (Nabokov at The Old Vic Tunnels) and *The Stanhope Sisters* (The Red Hedgehog and The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath). Associate and Assistant Direction includes *Waste*, directed by Roger Michell (National Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Polly Findlay (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, directed by Adrian Noble (Theatre Royal Bath), *Twelfth Night*, directed by Tim Carroll (Shakespeare's Globe and Apollo Theatre), *Uncle Vanya*, directed by Lucy Bailey (The Print Room) and *Skane*, directed by Tim Carroll (Hampstead

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

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# Press Information

Theatre). He was long listed for the JMK Award in 2014 and 2015, a National Theatre Staff Director in 2015, and Interim Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio in 2016.

Producer **Troupe** is supported by the Stage One Bursary Scheme for New Producers and returns to the Finborough Theatre after its critically acclaimed rediscoveries of Robert Bolt's *Flowering Cherry* with Benjamin Whitrow in 2015 and R. C. Sherriff's *The White Carnation* with Aden Gillett in 2013, which later transferred to the Jermyn Street Theatre, starring Michael Praed.

The cast is:

## **Jasmine Blackborow** | Frances Dent

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Grey Man* (Theatre503), *Hood: The Legend Continues* (Theatre Royal, Nottingham), *Now This Is Not The End* (Arcola Theatre) and *Dracula* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme).

Film includes *The Door*, *Arcadia*, *The Swallow* and *Lady Macbeth*.

## **Adam Buchanan** | Clive Monkham

Trained at Guildford School of Acting.

Theatre includes *Talent* and *Diana of Dobson's* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), *Pride and Prejudice* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), *Elephants* and *The Mystae* (Hampstead Theatre), *First Episode* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Butterfly Lion* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester, and National Tour) and *As You Like It* (Guildford Shakespeare Company).

Television includes *Our World War* and *Waking the Dead*.

## **Andrew Cazanave Pin** | Armand St. René

Trained at Arts Educational Schools London.

This is his professional stage debut.

## **Peta Cornish** | Lou St. René

Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *Play/Silence* (The Other Room, Cardiff), *Future Conditional* (The Old Vic), *Fever* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *To Sir, With Love* (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton, and National Tour), *The Dug Out* (The Tobacco Factory, Bristol), *The Welsh Boy* (Ustinov Studio, Bath) and *The Great Gatsby* (King's Head Theatre).

Film includes *Frail* and *Two Feet*.

Television includes *William and Mary* and *Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas*.

## **Josie Kidd** | Mrs. Batley

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *The White Carnation*, and its subsequent transfer to Jermyn Street Theatre, and *Gates of Gold* and its subsequent transfer to Trafalgar Studios.

Trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Fondly Remembered* (Tabard Theatre), *Dirty Dancing* (Aldwych Theatre), *Glorious* (Duchess Theatre and National Tour), *Present Laughter* (Aldwych Theatre and Wyndham's Theatre), *Stepping Out* (Novello Theatre and National Tour), *Emma* (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton), *Cemetery Club* (Coliseum Theatre, Oldham), *Ring Round the Moon* (King's Head Theatre), *See How They Run* and *Relative Values* (Vienna's English Theatre), *Woman In Mind* (Palace Theatre, Watford, and Wilmington, USA), *Run For Your Wife* and *Funny Money* (Oriana Theatre Company) and *Birds on the Wing* (Piccadilly Theatre).

Film includes *The First Man*, *The Library*, *Wrong Turn 6: Last Resort*, *Shoot on Sight*, *Ghosthunter* and *No Longer Alone*. Television includes *The Crown*, *Call the Midwife*, *Doctors*, *Starlings*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Invisibles*, *Catwalk Dogs*, *Life Begins*, *Down to Earth*, *Life Beyond the Box: Norman Stanley Fletcher*, *Hot Money*, *Murder in Mind*, *There's a Viking in My Bed*, *Absolutely True*, *EastEnders*, *Silent Witness*, *Goodnight Sweetheart*, *Soldier Soldier*, *Castles*, *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *Galloping Galaxies*, *Moon and Son*, *Kinsey*, *The Agatha Christie Hour*, *Who, Sir? Me, Sir?*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Just William*, *Harriet's Back in Town*, *Peak Practice*, *Wycliffe*, *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Juliet Jekyll* and *Harriet Hyde*, *Uncle Jack*, *London's Burning*, *The Potters*, *War and Peace* and *Nana*.

Radio includes *The Haunted Hotel* and numerous radio dramas for the BBC Radio Drama Company.

Pop Promos include *Dream* with Dizzee Rascal.

## **Beverley Klein** | Marigold Ivens

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Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Cornelius* and its subsequent transfer to 59E59 Theaters, New York City, in the Brits Off Broadway season.

Theatre includes *Young Chekhov* (National Theatre and Chichester Festival Theatre), *Deathtrap* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Into the Woods* and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Savoy Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Villains' Opera*, *Summerfolk*, *Candide* and *Honk! The Ugly Duckling* (National Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (Opera North at Sadler's Wells), *The Threepenny Opera* (Donmar Warehouse), *Night After Night* and *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* (Royal Court Theatre), *Six Characters Looking for an Author* (The Young Vic), *Restoration* (Headlong Theatre), *Sarrasine* and *A Judgement in Stone* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Sixty-Six Books* (Bush Theatre), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Six Pictures of Lee Miller* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Equally Divided* (Palace Theatre, Watford), *Wedding Day at the Cro-Magnons* (Soho Theatre), *Piaf* (York Theatre Royal and Coliseum Theatre, Oldham), *Bernarda Alba* (Union Theatre), *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh), *The Holy Terror* (Duke of York's Theatre) and *Happy End* and *Tatiana* (Nottingham Playhouse). Beverley was in the original company of *Les Misérables* (Royal Shakespeare Company at Barbican Centre and Palace Theatre).

Opera includes *Die Fledermaus* and *HMS Pinafore* (Carl Rosa Opera), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Gielgud Theatre), *Into the Woods* and *The Enchanted Pig* (Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House Covent Garden), *The Magic Flute* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Candide* (English National Opera at London Coliseum and Bunkamura Orchard Hall, Tokyo).

Film includes *Swinging with the Finkels*.

Television includes *Mr. Selfridge*, *Ripper Street*, *Call the Midwife*, *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, *The Hello Girls*, *Paris*, *Inspector Morse* and *Absolutely*.

Radio includes *Sweeney Todd*, *Night After Night* and *Dr. Finlay: Adventures of a Black Bag*.

Recordings include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Candide*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *Les Misérables*.

## **Allegra Marland** | Joan Monkham

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

This is her professional stage debut.

Film includes *Goodbye Christopher Robin* and *Sunday Tide*.

Television includes *Father Brown*.

## **Jonathan Oliver** | Alec Mant

Trained at the University of Manchester.

Theatre includes *War and Peace* (National Theatre), *Spiral* and *Waiting for Godot* (Arcola Theatre), *The Magic Flute* (Palace of Arts, Budapest, Abu Dhabi Festival and Royal Festival Hall), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (L'Auditorium-Orchestre National de Lyon), *As You Like It* and *The Merchant of Venice* (Creation Theatre Company), *The Odyssey*, *Boiling Frogs*, *The Seagull* and *Hamlet* (The Factory), *The Spire* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Duck Variations* (The Studio at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, and King's Head Theatre), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Ship of Fools* (Theatre503), *Moby Dick* (Compass Theatre Company), *The Venetian Twins* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The Man Who* and *Because It's There* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Sweet Dreams* and *As You Like It* (Sphinx Theatre Company), *Macbeth*, *Two Noble Kinsmen* and *The Tempest* (Shakespeare's Globe), and *Hamlet* (Théâtre Point, Corsica and Festival d'Avignon).

Film includes *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*, *The Memorialist*, *La Mort en Direct* and *Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi*.

Television includes *Angel of Death: The Beverly Allitt Story*, *Agincourt*, *Raffles*, *the Gentleman Thief*, *Hannay* and *King of the Ghetto*.

Radio includes *The Wolf Man: Freud – The Case Histories*, *Zazie in the Metro*, *Bleak House* and *The Girl at the Lion d'Or*.

## **Patrick Osborne** | Oliver Nashwick

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Pain is Weakness Leaving the Body* for *Vibrant 2013 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* and *Accolade*.

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Noises Off* (Nottingham Playhouse, Northern Stage, Newcastle, and Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Peter Pan* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *The Seagull* (Baron's Court Theatre), *The Pearl* (Rose Theatre, Kingston) and *Clockheart Boy* (National Tour).

Film includes *Their Finest*.

Television includes *The Borgias*, *The Genius of Turner* and *My Parents Are Aliens*.

## **Stephen Rashbrook** | Brian Guest

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

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Theatre includes *Waste*, *Luther*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Hamlet* (National Theatre), *The Ratpack Live from Las Vegas* (Adelphi Theatre, Savoy Theatre, Strand Theatre and European and American Tour), *The Lady in the Van*, *Jackie: An American Life* and *Forty Years On* (Queen's Theatre), *The Remains of the Day* and *Sweeney Todd* (Union Theatre), *Hamlet* (Donmar Warehouse and Piccadilly Theatre), *Robert and Elizabeth* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Tempest* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Actors From The London Stage), *A Fool and His Money* (Nottingham Playhouse and Birmingham Rep), *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Twelfth Night*, *Peter Pan*, *Othello*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Julius Caesar* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Television includes *The Royals*, *Hollyoaks*, *Doctors*, *New Tricks*, *Urban Gothic*, *Dream Team*, *Holby City*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Powers*, *Earth Warp*, 'Allo 'Allo, *Emmerdale* and narration for over 500 documentaries.

Radio includes numerous radio dramas for the BBC Radio Drama Company and BBC World Service.

## Sasha Waddell | Rhoda Monkham

Trained at Drama Studio London.

Theatre includes *Nell Gwynn* (Shakespeare's Globe and Apollo Theatre), *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Noises Off* (The Old Vic National Tour), *The Seagull* and *Eight Women* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Village Bike* (Royal Court Theatre), *Volcano* (Vaudeville Theatre), *The Mousetrap* (St Martin's Theatre), *Yes, Prime Minister* and *Out of Order* (British Theatre Playhouse, Singapore), *Duet for One* and *Donkeys' Years* (Vienna's English Theatre), *Candida* (National Tour), *The Winter's Tale* (Creation Theatre Company), *The Young Idea* (Gateway Theatre, Chester), *Dear Brutus* (King's Head Theatre), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Chichester Festival Theatre) and *Twelfth Night* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Film includes *The Honourable Rebel* and *Ealing Comedy*.

Television includes *The Royals*, *Delicious*, *The Missing*, *Rev*, *Doctors*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Parade's End*, *A Touch of Cloth*, *Holby City*, *Julian Fellowes Investigates*, *Krakatoa*, *A Lump in My Throat* and *Diana: A Tribute to the People's Princess*.

## The Press on Troupe at the Finborough Theatre

On *Flowering Cherry* by Robert Bolt:

"Exquisite revival of a Fifties jewel... A wonderful evening's theatre." □ □ □ □ Four Stars, Fiona Mountford, *Evening Standard*

"As relevant to the midlife dreamers among us still as to those of sixty years ago." □ □ □ □ Four Stars, Libby Purves

"Taut, meticulous and arrestingly acted." Sam Marlowe, *The Times*

On *The White Carnation* by R. C. Sherriff:

"A neglected little treasure...life-affirming." □ □ □ □ Four Stars, Dominic Cavendish, *The Telegraph*

"It is a treat to see the piece given such a fine production." □ □ □ □ Four Stars, Daisy Bowie-Sell, *Time Out*

"This intriguing and strongly acted revival." Paul Taylor, *The Independent*

## The Press on the original production of *After October*

"Rodney Ackland is a dramatist with a genuine gift." W. A. Darlington, *The Telegraph*

"Mr. Ackland knows the ripple of this kind of life, its mixture of telephone and tattle, its hysterical hopes, its bitter but brief disenchantments." Ivor Brown, *The Observer*

"Its dialogue and action have that natural flexibility which makes reference to Chekhov inevitable." *The Times*

"Shows a shrewd knowledge of character and the dialogue a shrewd sense of the stage. It reflects a mind sharpened to the best type of sophistication." *Evening Standard*

## PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2016 AND FRIDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM

## PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1.30PM-2.00PM

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)

## Tuesday, 22 November – Thursday, 22 December 2016

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 3 December 2016).

**Prices until 4 December 2016** – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (22 and 23 November) £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, 26 November 2016 when booked online.

**Prices from 6 December 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 twenty minutes.

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# Press Information

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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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