

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

Spring Season – March–May 2016

The World Premiere

DON'T SMOKE IN BED

by Aurin Squire

Directed by Andrew Twyman. Designed by Emily Sion. Lighting Design by Matt Edwards.

Presented by Plane Paper Theatre Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

"You know I saw an article in Time Magazine a few years ago that stated 'Asian Men are In,' and it had a picture of a white woman riding the back of an Asian man. No Kidding. Like he was some kind of human rickshaw. Maybe you should take a picture of Sheryl riding me with a blunt in her mouth an' a dreadlock wig."

Following the success of last year's production of **Obama-ology**, multi-award-winning African-American playwright Aurin Squire returns to the Finborough Theatre with another world premiere – **Don't Smoke In Bed**, running at the Finborough Theatre, playing Sunday and Monday evening and Tuesday matinee performances from Sunday, 6 March 2016 (**Press Night: Monday, 7 March 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Jamaican-American Richard and White-American Sheryl are starting a family together. When they agree to a series of 'bedroom interviews', they believe that their interracial relationship is the focus of the article. As both play up to what they believe are the expectations of the interviewer, they embark on a journey that challenges their relationship to the core as the barriers between psychological and social, sexual and political, public and private, melt and dissolve...

Don't Smoke In Bed is a stunning exploration of social and racial perception in contemporary America.

Playwright **Aurin Squire** returns to Finborough Theatre where his play *Obama-ology* received its world premiere at the 2014, and was subsequently produced at RADA. Aurin is a New York journalist and playwright who graduated from The Juilliard School's Liia Acheson Wallace American Playwriting Program in May 2015. In 2015-2016, he has playwriting fellowships at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange for his choreopoem *The Gospel According to F#ggots* and at the National Black Theatre for his post-apocalyptic satire *Zoohouse*. His plays include *A Family Manual for Kwanzaa* (The Kennedy Center MFA Workshop) *The Great Black Sambo Machine* (Lincoln Centre Lab and Ars Nova), *Defacing Michael Jackson* (Nuyorican Poets Café workshop and winner of Lincoln Center's Act One Prize), *To Whom It May Concern* (Abingdon Theatre and ArcLight Theatre productions) and *African Americana* (Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Theatre 503). He was in the Royal Court Theatre's US Writer Programme in 2015 and the Dramatists Guild Fellowship. Currently, he is a television staff writer for the new political satire *Brain Dead* that will premiere on CBS in 2015. He writes and produces multimedia and web video including the installation art film *Dreams of Freedom*, which won three national prizes and is in the permanent exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History. He also works as a freelance reporter for *Talking Points Memo*, *Fusion*, *Take Part* and *The New Republic*. Aurin lives in Brooklyn.

Andrew Twyman is currently the Artistic Director at Plane Paper Theatre Company. Directing includes *Te Karakia* as part of *Vibrant 2015 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights* (Finborough Theatre), *Odd Shaped Balls* (Edinburgh Festival and Space UK), *Reason and Force* (King's Head Theatre) and *Fair Exchange* (Tabard Theatre). Assistant Direction includes *Forget Me Not* (The Bush Theatre), *A Further Education* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Berenice* (The Space). Associate Direction includes *King Of The Fuckin' Castle* (VAULT Festival). Andrew was also a member of the writing programme at theLive Theatre, Newcastle.

The Press on Aurin Squire's *Obama-ology* at the Finborough Theatre in 2014

"A really enjoyable evening." Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"A fine play about politicking US style written by an African-American whose work has not previously been seen in Europe." Philip Fisher, *British Theatre Guide*

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk
www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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Press Information

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"Laugh out loud, cry, and contemplate some challenging socio-political issues. Obama-ology is well worth a watch."
Hannah Blyth, *Everything Theatre*

"See this play. This production. Both are miraculous. ...Both political and intensely human." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviews Gate*

"Squire's smart and incisive dialogue." Stephen Bates, *The Public Reviews*

"A resounding success thanks to a lively script that leavens the serious issues with apt humour." Philip Fisher, *British Theatre Guide*

The Press on playwright Aurin Squire

"Refreshingly clever." *New York Times* on *Matthew Takes Manhattan*

"An engaging and provocative new drama that allows us to walk in some other fellows' shoes for a couple of hours, yielding significant insights along the way." Martin Denton, *NY Theatre* on *To Whom it May Concern*

"The primary delight of the evening is the script itself....a thoroughly entertaining evening with resounding implications." *Showbusiness Weekly* on *To Whom it May Concern*

"Defacing Michael Jackson sends a powerful message in a sophisticated and tender way...genuine and piercing." *Maxamoo* on *Defacing Michael Jackson*

"The work confronts some of the heaviest issues in American life - racism, sexuality, sexism, politics, poverty - while achieving not a trivializing lightness, but a lightness that reminds us that humor can equal survival when trying to wade through these waters." *Culturadar* on *Defacing Michael Jackson*

"Aurin Squire's very personal and moving play." Matthew Paul Olmos, *New York Theatre Review* on *Defacing Michael Jackson*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2016 AT 5.00PM-5.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 March 2016

Sunday and Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Tuesday matinees at 2.00pm.

Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

Performance length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

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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