

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

Summer Season – May to August 2016

The European premiere

MAGGIE AND PIERRE

A FANTASY OF LOVE, POLITICS AND THE MEDIA

by Linda Griffiths with Paul Thompson.

Directed by Eduard Lewis.

Produced by Kate Powell in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Kelly Burke.

*"So now you have me, and the country, and everybody's rooting for you,
what are you going to do with the "all" that you've got?"*

In a new production commissioned by Finborough Theatre, the European premiere of ***Maggie and Pierre*** runs at the Finborough Theatre, playing Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 19 June 2016 (**Press Night: Monday, 20 June 2016 at 7.30pm**).

In 2015, Justin Trudeau became Prime Minister of Canada in a landslide election victory. ***Maggie and Pierre*** is the story of his parents...

It's the late 1960s.

19 year old Maggie Sinclair is a hippie free spirit, born out of love, socialism and a lot of dope.

Pierre Trudeau is nearing 50, urbane, charismatic and soon-to-be elected as Prime Minister of Canada.

Reason and passion soon collide as they meet, fall in love, marry, live together in the public spotlight, have three children, and break up in a very ugly and very public way.

A Canadian classic, ***Maggie and Pierre*** is a *tour de force* one-woman play about the pressures of power and fame under the media spotlight.

Maggie and Pierre quickly became a Canadian classic after its world premiere in 1980 at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille. It went on to tour extensively throughout Canada including the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto, was presented Off-Broadway in New York City, and filmed as a television movie.

Kelly Burke plays Henry, Maggie and Pierre.

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Our American Cousin*, *The Sluts of Sutton Drive* and *Blue Surge*.

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Marie and Bruce* (Royal Court Theatre), *Zelda* (Trafalgar Studios), *Passion Play* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Ice Cream* (Southwark Playhouse), *Love For Sale* (St James Studio Theatre and Wilton's Music Hall), *\$<0RP!0* (Theatre503), *Fosterling* (Ovalhouse), *Avocado* (King's Head Theatre), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Tabard Theatre) and *As You Like It* (Jagged Fence).

Film includes *Macbeth*, *Kill Your Friends* and *Enemy of England*.

Television includes *Doctors*, *50 Ways to Kill Your Lover* and *A Quick Fortune*.

Radio includes *The Blind Man*, *Tender Is The Night*, *The Corrections*, *The Big Sleep*, *Wild*, *The Book of Strange New Things* and *Hombre*.

Co-Playwright **Linda Griffiths** was born in 1953 in Montreal. Her other plays include *Age of Arousal* (2007), seen in the

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

United States, Canada (including the Shaw Festival) and the United Kingdom; a collaboration with First Nations author and activist Maria Campbell which yielded both a play, *Jessica* (1987), and the behind-the-scenes story of its creation *The Book of Jessica* (1989), which is now a staple in Aboriginal studies around the world; *Heaven Above, Heaven Below* (2013) and *Games: Who Wants to Play?* (2014). Griffiths won five Dora Mavor Moore awards, two Chalmers Awards for Best Canadian Play, a Betty Mitchell Award, an ACTRA Award and the Quizzanne International Festival Award, and was twice nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama for *The Darling Family* (1992) and *Alien Creature: A Visitation from Gwendolyn MacEwen* (2000). In 2013, she was given a lifetime achievement award by the Playwright's Guild of Canada. Linda Griffiths died in 2014.

Co-Playwright **Paul Thompson** is best known for his term as Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto where he was acclaimed for pioneering techniques of collective creation, in which actors, playwrights and directors would collaborate on the creation of a play through field research and acting improvisations including such seminal Canadian plays as *Doukhobors* (1970), *The Farm Show* (1972), *1837: The Farmers' Revolt* (1973, with Rick Salutin), *I Love You, Baby Blue* (1975) and *Far As the Eye Can See* (1977, with Rudy Wiebe). Thompson later served as Director General of the National Theatre School in Montreal from 1987 to 1994. He continues to direct theatre productions for Theatre Passe Muraille, Centaur Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, the Blyth Festival, Native Earth Performing Arts and De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group.

Director **Eduard Lewis** has most recently worked as Assistant Director to Max Webster on *Dr. Seuss's The Lorax* (Old Vic) that was nominated for an Olivier Award. He trained at Birkbeck University and has gone on to direct *Light and Shadow*, *Crap Dad Island* and *Sky Lines Project* at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, where he was Resident Trainee Director. Direction includes *The Terrible Tale of Twiddly Widdlies* (Pleasance Edinburgh and New Diorama Theatre), *Caught* (Pleasance London) and *Pick One* (Arcola Theatre). In 2015, he went to the University of South Florida where he directed Mike Poulton's *A Tale of Two Cities* as part of the BRIT Programme. Associate Direction includes *A Tale of Two Cities*, directed by James Dacre, (National Tour) and *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Max Webster, (Shakespeare's Globe and International Tour). He has assisted Dominic Dromgoole on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (Shakespeare's Globe), James Dacre on *Holy Warriors* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *A Tale of Two Cities* (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton), Caroline Steinbeis on *Talk Show* (Royal Court Theatre) and *Brilliant Adventures* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester) and Michael Longhurst on *Cannibals* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester).

The press on playwright Linda Griffiths

On *Age of Arousal* at Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

★★★★ Four Stars, *Daily Herald*

★★★★ Four Stars, *Exeunt Magazine*

"Sexy, elegant and challenging" Thom Diddin, ★★★★★ Four Stars, *The Scotsman*

"Linda Griffiths' sparkling play" Vivien Devlin, *Edinburgh Guide*

"Sparkling script" Anna Burnside, *The Independent*

On *Alien Creature: A Visitor from Gwendolyn MacEwen* at Theatre Passe Muraille

★★★★ Four Stars, *The Globe and Mail*

The press on director Eduard Lewis

On *Caught* at Pleasance Theatre

★★★★ Four Stars, *Female Arts*

"This direction, by Eduard Lewis, was extremely clever...the talent involved in the entirety of this piece is awe inspiring."

Steph J. Watkins, *A Younger Theatre*

On *The Terrible Tale of Twiddly Widdlies* at Pleasance Edinburgh and New Diorama Theatre

"An ambitious and visually distinctive trio of wonderfully macabre stories." Natasha Tripney, *The Stage*

"Three wonderfully perverse stories expertly weaved together in a punchy...short, show." Martin Pettit, *Everything Theatre*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 20 JUNE 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 20 JUNE 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, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 June, 3, 4, 5 July 2016

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

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Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

Performance Length: 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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