

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE
VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES
Summer Season – May to August 2016

The European Premiere

PROUD

by Michael Healey

Directed by Jonny Kelly. Designed by Lara Genovese. Lighting by Venus Raven. Visual and Sound Design by Luay Eljamal.
Presented by The Alchemist in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.
Cast: Nicholas Cass-Beggs. Emily Head. Jude Monk McGowan. Will Firth.

*"Nothing happens when there's a crisis except for work on that crisis,
You're a politician now, figure out what your beliefs are and get back to me."*

In a new production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre, the European premiere of **Proud** by Michael Healey runs at the Finborough Theatre, playing Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 17 July 2016 (**Press Night: Monday, 18 July 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Shortly after the Conservatives win a majority government, the prime minister discovers a secret weapon in his caucus – Jisbella Lyth, a single mother with a limited understanding of her role as a MP. Using her ignorance to his advantage, the PM hatches a plan to have Jisbella front and center in a campaign of misdirection and distraction...

A stunning new play from multi-award-winning Canadian playwright Michael Healey, **Proud** explores the corrosive nature of the politics of division and asks what we actually want out of our politics and our politicians.

Continuing the Finborough Theatre's acclaimed discoveries of new work from Canada, **Proud** is the third in a trilogy of award-winning plays about contemporary values (including the play *Generous* which was a sell-out success at the Finborough Theatre in 2010).

Playwright **Michael Healey** is one of Canada's leading theatrical voices. *Generous* (winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play) received its European premiere at the Finborough Theatre in 2009 and was revived by popular demand for a full length run in 2010. His first play, *Kicked*, was produced at the Fringe of Toronto Festival in 1996, toured Canada and internationally, and in 1998 it won Canada's leading theatre award – the Dora Mavor Moore Award – for Best New Play. Plays include *The Road To Hell* (co-authored with Kate Lynch), *Plan B* (which again won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play), *Rune Arlidge* (nominated for the Governor General's Award), *The Innocent Eye Test* (Manitoba Theatre Centre and Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre) and *Courageous* (winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play). His best known play is *The Drawer Boy* (Dora Mavor Moore Award, Chalmers Canadian Play Award and the Governor General's Literary Award) which had its London premiere at the Finborough Theatre in 2012 and has received international acclaim and productions all over the world, including by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company. It was the fourth most-produced play in the United States during the first decade of the 21st century. Michael Healey was Playwright-in-Residence at the Tarragon Theatre from 2000-2011, until he resigned his post after controversy arose over programming *Proud* which satirises Canada's previous political administration. **Proud** received its world premiere in 2012 in Toronto.

Director **Jonny Kelly** trained at East 15 Acting School and previous work includes Assistant Direction for *The Hard Man* and *Unscorched* at the Finborough Theatre. Direction includes *A is for Ali* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Money Womb* (Theatre503), *The Special Relationship* (Southwark Playhouse), *Boys Will Be Boys* (Soho Theatre), *Lies* (VAULT Festival), and *Call Centre* (New Wimbledon Theatre). Associate and Assistant Direction includes *Flare Path* (National Tour) and *Donkey Heart* (Trafalgar Studios). For two years, he was also the Assistant Director of Papatango Theatre Company.

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

Producers **The Alchemist** were founded in 2012 by Luke Clarke and Anthony Stephen Springall, and produces 'ambitious Theatre, beautifully executed'. The company, born out of the award winning Contemporary Theatre Course at East 15 Acting School, focuses largely on developing new writing for a wider audience. Recent work has been praised by award winning writers April De Angelis and Terry Johnson. The company has a prolific record of successful Edinburgh Festival productions alongside work at theatres including Arcola Theatre, Arts Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, The Place, King's Head Theatre, The Drill Hall, National Theatre Studio and regional theatres.

The cast is:

Nicholas Cass-Beggs | Prime Minister

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Velocity*.

Trained at Oxford School of Drama.

Theatre includes *Dracula* (Bristol Old Vic and National Tour), *Four Days in Hong Kong* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *The Zero Hour* and *6 Degrees* (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Contact Theatre Manchester and National Tour), *Carousel* (Barbican Theatre, Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris and The Lowry, Manchester), *The Temperamentals* (Greenwich Theatre), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), *Ménage à Trois* (Cochrane Theatre), *Antigone* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *The Snowman* (Peacock Theatre, Sadler's Wells and Seoul, Korea), *Park Avenue* (Lilian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells), *The Pajama Game* (Union Theatre), *Kismet* (London Coliseum), *Trailer* (Camden People's Theatre) and *La Fille du Régiment*, *Tamerlano*, *The Rakes Progress* and *Orlando* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden).

Prior to becoming an actor, Nicholas had a career as a contemporary dancer including five years as a soloist with Ballet Theatre Munich from 1997 to 2002 and three years with Ballett Nordhausen from 1994 to 1997. Nicholas has performed in works choreographed by Kim Brandstrup, Mark Bruce, Philip Taylor, Jiri Kylian, Rui Horta, Jonathon Lunn, Stefan Haufe and Henning Paar.

Will Firth | Jake

Trained at East 15 Acting School.

Theatre includes *King Lear* and *Little John, A Musical Retelling of Robin Hood* (Corbett Theatre) and *Blood Wedding* (Tristan Bates Theatre).

Film includes *Love Type D*.

Emily Head | Jisbella Lyth

Theatre includes *Gaslight* (Ed Mirvish Theatre, Toronto) *Abigail's Party* (The Curve, Leicester), *Coram Boy* (Bristol Old Vic), *Third Floor* (Trafalgar Studios) and *An Inspector Calls* (National Tour).

Television includes *Doctors*, *The Inbetweeners*, *M.I.High*, *The Invisibles*, *Doc Martin* and *Trial and Retribution*.

Film includes *The Inbetweeners Movie* and *Ma Part Du Gateau*.

Jude Monk McGowan | Carey

Theatre includes *The Drowned Man: A Hollywood Fable* (Punchdrunk and National Theatre), *A Farewell To Arms* (Dukes Theatre Lancaster, Birmingham Rep and National and Italian Tour), *Faith, Hope and Charity* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Sam Wanamaker Festival 2011* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Oh What A Super Injunction!* (Old Vic 24 Hour Plays at the Old Vic), *The Royal Duchess Superstore* (Half Moon Theatre Company) and *A Christmas Issue* (The Old Vic Tunnels).

Film includes *Anna Karenina* and *Christian*.

Television includes *Little Britain* and *Silent Witness*.

The press on the Toronto world premiere of *Proud*

"Funny and foul-mouthed, yet surprisingly sweet." *The Globe and Mail*

"Dazzlingly witty, surgically precise and scathingly satirical." ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars *Toronto Star*

"Deftly written and often laugh out loud funny, Healey's script keeps surprising us, taking unexpected turns both in its narrative and character development." Jon Kaplan, *NOW Magazine*

"*Proud* is thought-provoking, intelligent and layered with wit and subtle political humour." *Mooney on Theatre*

"You don't need to know much about Canadian politics to enjoy Michael Healey's laugh and thought provoking new play *Proud*. It's an examination of politics that skewers both ends of the political spectrum." *NCPR*

The Press on playwright Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* at the Finborough Theatre

★★★★★ Five Stars, *WhatsOnStage* ★★★★★ Four Stars, *Time Out*, *The Public Reviews* and *The Times*

"A landmark in Canadian theatre" *The Guardian*

"Amusing, affecting and evocative... Satirical yet tender, this is a small delight." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

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Press Information

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

"A modern classic-in-the-making that deserves to be seen more widely, Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* won multiple awards when it opened in Canada in 1999, but is only now receiving its London premiere, thanks to the Finborough's consistently excellent work championing underexposed gems." Sally Stott, *The Stage*

"Canadian writing has largely been ignored in British theatre, to its great detriment. Michael Healey's *The Drawer Boy* at the Finborough Theatre shows us why the stories and secrets underpinning these Canadian-dwelling characters are worth revealing, layer by layer." Amy Stow, *WhatsOnStage*

The Press on playwright Michael Healey's *Generous* at the Finborough Theatre

★★★★ Four Stars *WhatsOnStage*, *Time Out*

"Why is Michael Healey's play receiving a mere handful of performances at the Finborough? Can't we be bothered because it's about Canada? A severe mistake, for it has a lot to say indirectly about British society...Surely this fine play and production will be seen again?" Timothy Ramsden, *Reviewsgate*

"The dialogue and performances in this constantly surprising dramatic investigation into benevolence (think Neil LaBute, only warmer and funnier) are as good as anything you'll find in the West End." Robert Shore, *Time Out*

"Delivered here in a polished European premiere at the Finborough, *Generous* is a great play gone outstanding." Melissa Poll, *British Theatre Guide*

"Canadian playwright Michael Healey has rarely been performed in Britain, but *Generous* suggests that he's too intriguing a writer to ignore forever...Strikingly intelligent fun." Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 18 JULY 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 18 JULY 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, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31 July, 1 and 2 August 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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