

# FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

Winter 2015-2016 | November 2015–February 2016 at the Finborough Theatre

The world premiere

# P'YONGYANG

by In-Sook Chappell

Directed by Chelsea Walker. Designed by Max Dorey. Lighting by Jamie Platt. Sound and Composition by Harry Blake. Movement by Jenny Ogilvie. Presented by Chloe Courtney in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre. Cast: Lourdes Faberes. Chris Lew Kum Hoi. Anna Leong Brophy. Daniel York.

*"We have to be careful, we can't trust anyone. But, in the dark, your thoughts are your own."*

The world premiere of a new North Korean story from award-winning playwright In-Sook Chappell, ***P'yongyang*** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 5 January 2016 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 7 January and Friday, 8 January 2016 at 7.30pm**).

Crossing military borders and class divides, ***P'yongyang*** tells the epic love story of two North Korean childhood sweethearts spanning three decades. Chi-Soo and Eun-Mi dare to dream of a life together in P'yongyang, working for Kim Jong Il's film studios. But as those around them start to disappear and information from the outside world trickles in, the devoted Communists are forced to view their glorious homeland in a different light.

Written by award-winning, Korean-born playwright In-Sook Chappell - who was inspired by a childhood visit to the Demilitarized Zone at the height of the Cold War and by the experiences of North Korean refugees - ***P'yongyang*** is a striking new work that was shortlisted for the 2013 Bruntwood Prize Award.

A play that pits hope against hunger.

Playwright **In-Sook Chappell's** first play *This Isn't Romance* won the Verity Bargate Award, was produced at the Soho Theatre and was subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio 3 before being commissioned as a screenplay by Film Four. She wrote and directed a short film, *Full*, and is currently working on her second short film *Kochebi*.

Director **Chelsea Walker** returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed the world premiere of *Chicken Dust*. She trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice and at Oxford University. Her directing credits includes *Chicken Dust* (Curve, Leicester), *Klippias* (Southwark Playhouse), *Lean* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Bespoke* (Southwark Playhouse), *Ocean of Loneliness* (Lost Theatre), *Citizens* (Theatre503), *Occupied* (Bad Host at the Bush Theatre). She assisted Simon Godwin on *Routes* (Royal Court Theatre), *The Little Mermaid* (Bristol Old Vic) and *Candida* (Theatre Royal Bath) and Amelia Sears on *Brimstone and Treacle* (Arcola Theatre). Chelsea is currently a reader for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and Hampstead Theatre, and is co-directing Southwark Playhouse Young Company's 2016 show.

**The press on writer In-Sook Chappell's play *This Isn't Romance* at the Soho Theatre**

"Startlingly intense." ≥ ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars. *Evening Standard*.

"This impressive first play... is deeply felt... a real find." ≥ ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars. *WhatsOnStage*.

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

# Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

"Chappell writes with a rare mix of beauty and brutality... An original, thought-provoking and exciting piece of new writing." *The Stage*.

"An interesting, unusual talent and her first play is a raw, brutal and intrepid piece." *Curtain Up*.

"A tender play that will stay with you." *London Korean Links*.

## The press on director Chelsea Walker's production of *Klippiies* at the Southwark Playhouse

"*Klippiies* is a well-crafted snapshot, a delicate look at burgeoning youth and the burden of history."

≥ ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars, *Time Out*

"Director Chelsea Walker keeps the whole thing moving, conjuring a sense of aridity, of blasted grass and sleepy, booze-laced and sunwashed afternoons" ≥ ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars, *The Stage*

"A vibrant, incisive 75 minutes... one finely packaged and impactful bit of theatre." *The Public Reviews*

"Great direction from Chelsea Walker." *A Younger Theatre*

The cast:

**Lourdes Faberes** | Mrs Park, Min, Waitress

Theatre includes *Hidden* (Royal Court Theatre), *Golden Child* (New Diorama Theatre), *La Boheme*, *Orphée* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), *Still* (Theatre503), *Hungry Ghosts* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *One Day, Twenty Years* (The Young Vic), *Cruel and Tender* (The Young Vic, Chichester Festival Theatre and Bouffes de Nord, Paris) and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Theatre Royal York).

Film includes *The Heart of the Forest*, *Mother of Pearl*, *Someone You Love*, *Balsa Wood*, *Room 304*, *Spread* and *State of Play*.

Television includes *Grantchester*, *Safelight 19*, *Holby City*, *Law and Order UK*, *The Thai Bride* and *New Tricks*.

**Chris Lew Kum Hoi** | Chi Soo

Theatre includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Life of Galileo*, *Boris Godunov*, *The Orphan of Zao* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The World of Extreme Happiness* (National Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *James and the Giant Peach* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and *Fox Attack* (National Theatre of Scotland).

Television and Film includes *War Machine* and *Doctor Who*

**Anna Leong Brophy** | Eun Mi

Theatre includes *Pitcairn* (Chichester Festival Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe), *Yeh Shen* (Yellow Earth), *How to Waste Money on Mere Happiness* (Cockpit Theatre), *The Art of Fugue* (Soho Theatre) and *Cure* (Underbelly, Edinburgh).

Film includes *The Conversations*, *GBH*, *The Diana Clone* and *Malaya: A Forgotten War*.

**Daniel York** | Mr Park, The Producer

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Our American Cousin*, *The Wallace* and *We Know Where You Live*.

Theatre includes *The World Of Extreme Happiness* (National Theatre), *The Merchant Of Venice*, *The Country Wife*, *Moby Dick* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, *The Birds* (International Tour), *Animal Farm* (Theatre Royal, Hobart, Tasmania), *Boeing Boeing* (Drama Centre Theatre, Singapore), *Turandot* (Hampstead Theatre), *Branded* (The Old Vic), *Five Tanks* (Hackney Empire), *The Good Woman Of Setzuan* (Haymarket Theatre, Leicester), *In The Bag* (Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh), *Tartuffe* (Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke), *The Changeling* (Southwark Playhouse), *Sun Is Shining* (King's Head Theatre and 59E59 Theaters, New York City), *Romeo and Juliet* (Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke), *Measure For Measure* (Library Theatre, Manchester), *Nativity* (Birmingham Rep), *Une Tempete* (Gate Theatre), *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, *The Glass Menagerie* (Singapore Repertory Company), *The Magic Fundoshi* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Hamlet* (Thelma Holt Productions) and *Porcelain* (Royal Court Theatre).

Film includes *Faraway*, *Act Of Grace*, *We've Got The Toaster*, *Doom the Beach* and *Rogue Trader*

Television includes *Whitechapel*, *Moving On*, *Waking the Dead*, *Casualty*, *Peggy Su!*, *Chambers*, *The Bill*, *Supper at Emmaus* and *A Fish Named Tao*

Radio includes *Doggie's Nirvana*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Monkey King*, *Dead Lines*, *Say It With Flowers* and *The Inspector Chen Mysteries*.

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY AND FRIDAY, 8 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 5 JANUARY 2016 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

The Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268. Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.

## Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

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

### **Tuesday, 5 January – Saturday, 30 January 2016**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 18 January 2016).

**Prices until 17 January 2016** – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (5 and 6 January) £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, 9 January 2016 when booked online.

**Prices from 19 January 2016** – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately one hour and forty minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**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>

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

The Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268.  
Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.