

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

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

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

The first UK production in over 25 years

VETERANS DAY

by Donald Freed.

Directed by Hannah Boland Moore.

Designed by Liam Bunster. Lighting by Alex Musgrave. Costume Design by Hannah Taylor. Sound by Matt Downing. Music

Direction by Rebecca Grant. Produced by Daisy Gilbert.

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

Cast: Roger Braban. Charlie De Bromhead. Craig Pinder.

"It was war. And in war, everybody goes crazy or they die – right?"

In a production commissioned for the Finborough Theatre, the first UK production in over 25 years of **Veterans Day** by multi-award-winning American playwright Donald Freed plays for nine Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 8 January 2017 (**Press Night: Monday, 9 January 2017 at 7.30pm**).

Three American war veterans meet at a Veterans Administration Hospital just before a remembrance ceremony – Private Leslie R. Holloway, shell-shocked in the First World War; John McCormick Butts, a veteran of the Second World War; and Colonel Walter Kercelik, the most highly decorated soldier of the Vietnam War.

Three very different wars – and each man has a horror story locked inside him. Two of them are about to be honoured, but one has an altogether more sinister agenda...

Using war songs from across the twentieth century, **Veterans Day** is a story of three soldiers from three wars, still traumatised by their military service. As the men share their memories with each other, they begin to fully comprehend how their experiences of combat have changed their lives forever.

Originally produced in Denver and Los Angeles, **Veterans Day** was last seen in the UK at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, London, in 1989, with Jack Lemmon, Michael Gambon and Robert Fleming.

Playwright **Donald Freed** has been writing for the theatre since 1960. His work has been performed in theatres across America and in the UK, Ireland, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Hungary. His plays include *Secret Honor* (Los Angeles Theatre Center and Provincetown Playhouse, New York), *Circe and Bravo*, directed by Harold Pinter, and starring Faye Dunaway (Denver Theatre Center, Hampstead Theatre and Wyndham's Theatre, London), *Quartered Man* (Los Angeles Theater Center and Shaw Theatre, London), *The Last Hero* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *Alfred and Victoria* (Los Angeles Theatre Center, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, and Japan), *American Iliad* (Victory Theatre, Los Angeles), *Is He Still Dead?* (Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven), *Devil's Advocate* (Mercury Theatre Colchester, Los Angeles Theatre Center and the Edinburgh Festival) and *The White Crow: Eichmann in Jerusalem* (Los Angeles Theatre Center, Milwaukee Repertory, HB Studio New York and Theatre Royal York). His play *Secret Honor* was made into an award-winning film, directed by Robert Altman in 1984. Donald is the recipient of the PEN Prize for Drama, the Pinter Prize, the Unicorn Prize, the Berlin Critics Prize, the Louis B Mayer Award, the Hollywood Critics Award, the Gold Medal Award and the John Larkin Award. He is currently Playwright-in-Residence at the Theatre Royal York and the Los Angeles Theatre Center. Donald was previously Guest Artist at the University of Leeds and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow.

Director **Hannah Boland Moore** trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. She has directed *The One* by Vicky Jones (Lion and Unicorn Theatre), the English-language premiere of Belgian play *The Broken Circle Breakdown* by Johan Heldenbergh and Mieke Dobbels (Karamel Club), the world premiere of *Confetti* by Tim Foley (LOST Theatre) and *As You Like It* (Royal Shakespeare Company Open Stages). At the Finborough Theatre and Trafalgar Studios, she was Assistant

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

Director on *It Is Easy To Be Dead*. Hannah has also worked as Text Assistant to the Master of Words at Shakespeare's Globe on *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King John*, *Richard II* and *Measure for Measure*.

The cast is:

Roger Braban | Leslie R Holloway

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Too True to be Good*, *Jingo* and *The Beaver Coat*.

Theatre includes *Electra* (Donmar Warehouse), *Quartet* (Noël Coward Theatre), *The Lady in the Van* (Queen's Theatre) and two seasons at the Chichester Festival Theatre. As a child actor, Roger worked extensively with Laurence Olivier – first in *The Skin of Our Teeth* with Vivien Leigh, and subsequently at the Old Vic for three seasons including Olivier's legendary production of *Richard III*. He later appeared in many West End productions under the direction of Ralph Richardson, Michael Redgrave and Alec Guinness. Roger returned to the stage in 1998 to play a much-acclaimed King Lear at the Union Theatre, Southwark.

Film includes his film debut in the wartime epic *The Way to the Stars*.

Television includes *Newton*, *The Dark Heretic*, *Close and True*, *Peak Practice* and *Shadow in the North*.

Charlie De Bromhead | Walter Kercelik

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Coolatully* and *Committed*.

Trained at LAMDA.

Theatre includes *Stones in His Pockets* (National Tour), *Uncle Vanya* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Dandy Dick* (ATG National Tour), *This Land* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *How Many Miles to Babylon* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Charlie Peace: His Amazing Life and Astounding Legend* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Hostage* (Southwark Playhouse), *La Bohème* (Soho Theatre), *Around the World* (Bloomsbury Theatre), *Othello* (Icarus Theatre) and *Best Man Speech* (Lion and Unicorn Theatre).

Film includes *In Darkness*, *The Murderers*, *Five Day Shelter* and *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*.

Television includes *Aces Falling*, *The Clinic* and *Fair City*.

Craig Pinder | John MacCormick Butts

Trained at RADA and Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *As You Like It*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Singer*, *Moscow Gold* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Les Misérables*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Mamma Mia!* (West End), *Not About Nightingales* (National Theatre and Alley Theatre, Houston), *Guys and Dolls* (Chichester Festival Theatre and National Tour), *1936* (Sadler's Wells Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Drinking in America*, *Little Murders* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Henry V*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Babydoll* (Birmingham REP), *High Society*, *Popcorn*, *Footloose* (National Tour), *Blue/Orange* (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff), *Walking the Chains* (Passenger Shed), *Hibiscus Hotel* (Nassau, Bahamas), *Floyd Collins* (Wilton's Music Hall), *The White House Murder Case* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Othello* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Macbeth*, *The Mikado*, *Hands Up*, *Sweeney Todd* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme) and *The Subject Was Roses* (English Theatre of Hamburg).

Film includes *Cargo*, *The American Way*, *Windjammers* and *Children of God*. Television includes *Henry V*, *Search For Tomorrow*, *One Day*, *Edmond* and *Crimewatch File*.

The press on Veterans Day

"Near masterpiece...distinguished, moving and morally eloquent writing." *The Sunday Times*

"Heavy with conspiratorial menace...a parable about the ugliness of war...Mr Freed writes with a vigorous pen." *London Evening Standard*

"Eloquent, theatrical image of what terminal damage war can do without killing." *The Guardian*

The press on playwright Donald Freed

"The...unapologetically political author, Donald Freed, has made a career of hunting out horror as well as humanity in an age that seems bent on self-destruction." *The Los Angeles Times* on *How Shall We Be Saved?*

"Freed creates a delirious, nightmarish America that easily could represent where we're headed over the next ten years." *The Denver Post* on *Child of Luck*

"Chilling and absorbing...This kind of play is one of the things the theater is for." Edwin Newman, WNBC-TV on *Inquest*

"What Freed does, excellently, is convey the mood of an America symbolised by 'extreme aggression, extreme fear.'" *The Guardian* on *Patient No. 1*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM

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FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 9 JANUARY 2017 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, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 January 2017

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

Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours including one interval of fifteen minutes.

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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