

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

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

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

The world premiere

WEALD

by Daniel Foxsmith.

Directed by Bryony Shanahan. Designed by Christopher Hone. Lighting by Seth Rook Williams.

Presented by Snuff Box Theatre in association with the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester,
and Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Supported by BBC Performing Arts Fund Legacy Grant.

"The farm was there, wasn't going anywhere. It was solid, physical. Flagstones. Timber. Place housed the hopes and fears of hundreds of people, and I cast it to one side, just like that, because I was blindsided. All I needed to do was stand firm like the rest, take a breath and I'd've been fine. Break heart, drop blood, done. Always take a breath Jim. Always take a breath."

In association with the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, and supported by BBC Performing Arts Fund Legacy Grant, the world premiere of **Weald** by award-winning new playwright Daniel Foxsmith runs at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season from Tuesday, 2 February – Saturday 27 February 2016 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 4 February and Friday, 5 February 2016 at 7.30pm**).

On a remote livery yard in rural England, Jim arrives 'home' after eight years away, in need of work. It didn't end so well last time, but he's sure that this time it'll be different...

Sam, as old as the fixtures and fittings themselves, reluctantly agrees - there's work to be done after all. As the men attempt to pick up from where they left off, fresh cracks appear beside old wounds. Things have changed. But the world can only be held at bay for so long before the two men will have to answer for their actions.

A terse and delicate dissection of male emotions from a rural perspective: fathers and sons, honour and legacy, molasses and mud.

Weald is Daniel Foxsmith's third full length play. It is directed by Bryony Shanahan, director of critically acclaimed shows *Operation Crucible* and *Bitch Boxer*. Both, along with Charlotte Josephine, are co-Artistic Directors of multi-award winning Snuff Box Theatre.

Playwright **Daniel Foxsmith's** previous plays include *The Observatory*, winner of Scottish Daily Mail and Conference of Drama Schools Edinburgh Award and National Student Drama Festival and Methuen Drama Prize (The Underbelly, Edinburgh) and *The Altitude Brothers* (Ovalhouse, Redbridge Drama Centre and National Tour). *Weald* was shortlisted for the Yale Drama Prize 2015, and the inaugural Hodgkiss Award at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester. Daniel trained as an actor at East 15 Acting School, and has toured nationally and internationally, as well as performing in the West End and winning several awards, including Best Performer at The Adelaide Fringe with *Bound*. Daniel is founder and co-Artistic Director of Snuff Box Theatre.

Director **Bryony Shanahan** returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed the acclaimed *Operation Crucible* for which she was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for Best Director in 2015. She trained on the National Theatre Studio Directors Course and East 15 Acting School and is co-artistic director of Snuff Box Theatre. In 2014, she won a BBC Performing Arts Award to work at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, where she assisted on Sarah Frankcom's *Hamlet* with Maxine Peake. She returned in 2015 as Associate Director on *The Skriker* as part of the Manchester International Festival. Directing includes *Bitch Boxer* (Soho Theatre and National Tour), *Chapel Street* (National Tour), *You and Me* (Greenwich Theatre and National Tour), and *The Altitude Brothers* (Ovalhouse, Redbridge Drama Centre and National Tour). Other work includes Staff Director on *Our Country's Good* (National Theatre), director for the National Theatre Connections Festival, teaching at East 15 Acting School, Assistant Director for *Around the World in 80 Days* (New

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

www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

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Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester) and Associate Director on The *Gruffalo's Child* (Arts Depot North American Tour).

Snuff Box Theatre is a multi-award winning, internationally touring collective of theatre makers who thrive on creating bold new work from a blank page. Founded in 2011, the company (Bryony Shanahan, Charlotte Josephine and Daniel Foxsmith) met whilst training together at East 15 Acting School on the Contemporary Theatre course, and have a rich and diverse background in performance and creative play, which drives the creation of the work. Creators of *Bitch Boxer*, Snuff Box have been part of The British Council Showcase and have toured the UK extensively, as well as performing in Australia, Norway and Ireland. Whether large scale or intimate, political or fantastical, Snuff Box have one singular aim: to tell great stories on stage.

The press on playwright Daniel Foxsmith's *The Observatory*

"A moving human drama that goes beyond the bald statistics about war." *Scottish Daily Mail*

"Daniel Foxsmith's script is mature and well-composed...a punchy thriller." *The Scotsman*

"With echoes of fringe hit *Black Watch*...this could become an important piece." *WhatsOnStage*

"Atmospheric, sad and thought provoking...masterfully acted throughout." *Three Weeks*

"A bold piece of new writing by Daniel Foxsmith... thought provoking in the best sense. Well written...slick and stimulating." *Ed Fringe Review*

The press on director Bryony Shanahan

≥ ≥ ≥ ≥ Four Stars in *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *PlaysToSee*, *Time Out*, *The Gizzle Review*, *London City Nights*, *Exeunt Magazine*, *Stage Review* and *BritishTheatre.com* on *Operation Crucible* at the Finborough Theatre

"Directed with exactitude and intensity by Bryony Shanahan." *The New York Times* on *Operation Crucible*

"Director Bryony Shanahan has Augustine claim the stage absolutely, filling it with her body and her voice as she leaps and tells us of her escapades to get into her locked house". *The Guardian* on *Bitch Boxer*

"Directed with vim by Bryony Shanahan." *The Telegraph* on *Bitch Boxer*

"Director Bryony Shanahan deserves kudos for choreographing a tight yet kinetic staging from her ensemble." *The Times* on *Chapel Street*

"Bryony Shanahan's production is a strikingly well-made example of this strand of British Theatre." *The Scotsman* on *Chapel Street*

The press on Snuff Box Theatre

"Fearless." *The Guardian*

"A young company to watch." *The Telegraph*

"Snuff Box isn't scared of asking thorny questions." *WhatsOnStage*

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2016 AND FRIDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

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

Tuesday, 2 February – Saturday, 27 February 2016

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 13 February 2016).

Prices until 14 February 2016 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and

Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (2 and 3 February) £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, 6 February 2016 when booked online only.

Prices from 16 February 2016 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 80 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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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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