

the **finboroughgaeties** – Celebrating British Music Theatre

A “Gilbert and Sullivan” Doublebill

Sweethearts

A play by W.S. Gilbert. Directed by Kate Golledge.

The Zoo

An operetta by Arthur Sullivan and Bolton Rowe. Directed by Nina Brazier. Orchestration, Arrangements and Conducted by Timothy Henty.

The Finborough Theatre’s acclaimed series of revivals of British Music Theatre, the **finboroughgaeties**, continues with a unique doublebill - opening on 25 March for three Sunday performances - featuring a play and an operetta, both receiving their first UK professional production for more than a century – and written by Gilbert without Sullivan, and Sullivan without Gilbert. Both productions will be fully staged productions-without-décor.

Sweethearts. W.S. Gilbert’s romantic comedy. Spanning a generation, *Sweethearts* is a duet for two lovers - a couple that have been friends since childhood but never dared to be anything more. Returning from India after thirty years, Henry finds his Jenny still single in her childhood home and their love for each other only just beginning. *Sweethearts* was written in 1874 for Marie Bancroft who is buried close to the Finborough Theatre in Brompton Cemetery.

The Zoo. Arthur Sullivan’s neglected ‘musical folly’ centres around two couples and their hilarious and rocky path to true love. Within a zoological gardens, suicide is foiled and identities revealed as four young lovers overcome differences in wealth and class to live happily ever after. The operetta has been unseen professionally in the UK since 1879.

Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) and **Sir William Schwenk Gilbert** (1836-1910) are best known for their fourteen ‘Savoy Operas’. This production is a rare opportunity to see their individual work.

Sweethearts Director **Kate Golledge** most recently worked as Assistant Director on *Daddy Cool* at the Shaftesbury Theatre and *Julius Caesar* at the Barbican. Work as director includes the European premiere of the musical *Six Women with Brain Death* at the Pleasance and *Newsrevue* at the Canal Café Theatre.

The Zoo Director **Nina Brazier’s** previous work includes *Florodora* for the **finboroughgaeties**, the Amnesty Award-nominated *Waiting for Romeo* at the Edinburgh Festival and *Talking Heads* at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds. She is an Assistant Director for Opera North, most recently on *Rigoletto*, and the forthcoming production of *Falstaff*.

Conductor **Timothy Henty** is a graduate of the Royal College of Music, where he received the Tagore Gold Medal, the RCM’s highest award. At age 24, he is a Guest Conductor with The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House. He was the Musical Director on the first two **finboroughgaeties** productions - *Florodora* and *Our Miss Gibbs*. Timothy is the Artistic Director of the London Kensington Sinfonia, and Principal Conductor with the New Art Ensemble.

PRESS NIGHT: SUNDAY, 25 MARCH 2007 AT 8.00PM

PHOTOCALL: By arrangement. Please email admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk

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Box Office 0870 4000 838 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Sunday, 25 March 2007; Sunday, 1 April 2007; Sunday, 8 April 2007

Evenings at 8.00pm. Tickets £18, £14 concessions.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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