

# The Confidential Clerk

The verse play by Nobel Prize-winner T.S. Eliot

Directed by Tom Littler. Designed by Pip Swindall. Lighting by Christopher Nairne. Associate Director - Catherine Paskell. Produced by Primavera in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast includes: David Barnaby. Martin Bishop. Freddie Huntington. Antonina Lewis. Judy Norman. Tamara Ustinov. Anthony Wilks.

The third play in Primavera's three-month residency at the Finborough Theatre, *The Confidential Clerk* will open on 12 August as part of the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre's [ **rediscoveries** season 2007 ] and their **poetry**atthefinborough series. T. S. Eliot's brilliant verse comedy has not been seen in Central London for over 25 years.

Sir Claude Mulhammer, a wealthy entrepreneur, wants to smuggle his illegitimate son Colby into his household, so he employs him as his new confidential clerk in the hope that his eccentric wife Elizabeth will take a shine to the young man. She exceeds his greatest expectations, however, when she claims that Colby is her own long-lost son. Colby, meanwhile, becomes entangled with the beautiful Lucasta Angel, who is in turn engaged to the thrusting young businessman B. Kaghan. And nobody seems to have any parents...

*The Confidential Clerk* has all the sophistication of T.S. Eliot's finest poetry, coupled with a delightfully impish wit and unexpectedly playful characterisation. It was first produced at the Edinburgh Festival in 1953, after which it transferred to the West End in 1954.

Tamara Ustinov made her stage debut as The Wife in *The Unknown Soldier and His Wife*, directed by her father Sir Peter Ustinov at the New London Theatre. Her successful stage career has included roles in the West End, and for the Watermill Theatre, Young Vic Theatre and Theatre Royal, York. David Barnaby recently appeared with the Peter Hall Company as Corin / Adam in *As You Like It*, and Antonio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as playing roles in the West End and at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. Antonina Lewis recently hit the headlines when she stepped into Billie Piper's role in the West End production of *Treats* on several occasions.

Playwright **T.S. Eliot** (1888-1965) was a Nobel Prize-winning poet, critic and playwright whose work won him international acclaim. His best-known poems, including *The Waste Land*, were published in the early part of his career, after which he took to writing for the stage. His plays, all in verse, include *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935) and *The Cocktail Party* (1949). More recently, he achieved a home in the West End with Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats*, inspired by his poem *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*.

Director **Tom Littler** is directing three rediscoveries at the Finborough Theatre this summer including Ethel Smyth's opera *The Boatswain's Mate* and H H Davies's *The Mollusc*. He has directed over twenty productions including Stephen Sondheim's *Passion* (Edinburgh Festival 2006 – *The Scotsman* Critics' Choice), and is currently Assistant Director to Alan Strachan on *The Letter* (Wyndham's) and Sir Peter Hall on *Little Nell* (Theatre Royal Bath).

**Primavera** was founded in 2003 and focuses on producing revivals, particularly of plays that are unacknowledged and underperformed masterpieces. [www.primaveraproductions.com](http://www.primaveraproductions.com).

**PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 13 AUGUST 2007 AT 8.00PM** (Press are welcome at all performances)

**PHOTOCALL: By arrangement. Please email [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)**

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**Sunday, 12 August and Monday, 13 August; Sunday, 19 August and Monday, 20 August; Sunday, 26 August and Monday, 27 August 2007.**

All performances at 8.00pm. Tickets £11, £9 concessions. Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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