

The Ladies Cage

The World Premiere of a new play by Maureen McManus.

Directed by John Terry. Designed by Cleo Pettitt. Lighting by Danny Searle. Musical Direction by Tyrone Landau.

Sound by Danny Searle. Costume Design by Mia Flodquist. Presented by Scary Little Girls Productions.

Cast includes: Jamie Belton. Colm Gormley. Tracy Kearney. Lucianne McEvoy. Rebecca Mordan. Nathan Rimell. Karren Winchester

In a full bodied attack on conventional wisdom, Scary Little Girls Productions and acclaimed director John Terry strip away the myths surrounding the 'Uncrowned King of Ireland', the Victorian Irish Nationalist leader, Charles Stewart Parnell, in the world premiere of a new play, *The Ladies Cage*, opening at the Finborough Theatre on 23 March for a four week run. Uncovering a forgotten piece of women's history, the play is inspired by the life of his sister Anna Parnell, and reveals the pivotal role played by women in freeing the Irish from British rule - and themselves from the "ladies' cage" that imprisons them...

Acclaimed young director **John Terry**, Associate Director of the Finborough Theatre, has directed the sell-out *Time Out* Critics' Choice Finborough commissioned productions of Rolf Hochhuth's *Soldiers* and Keith Dewhurst's *Lark Rise to Candleford*, winner of the Peter Brook Empty Space Mark Marvin Award. Playwright **Maureen McManus** is also a published poet and journalist. *The Ladies Cage* has been written with the input of eminent historian and politician **Dr Margaret Ward**, author of *Unmanageable Revolutionaries: Women and Irish Nationalism*, a ground-breaking reassessment of the role of women in the struggle to free Ireland.

Jamie Belton's film and TV credits include *Torchwood*, *Fair City* and *Hooligans*. **Colm Gormley's** theatre credits include the Royal Shakespeare Company, West End, the Gate Theatre and the Lyric Theatre Belfast; **Tracy Kearney** appeared in *The Magdalene Sisters* (Winner of the Golden Lion at Venice); **Lucianne McEvoy's** stage credits include *Festen* (Almeida and National Tour), *Riders to the Sea* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin) and *Hinterland* (Out Of Joint, the National Theatre and the Abbey); **Rebecca Mordan** has appeared in the transatlantic cult hit *Lexx* and *White Fire* for the BBC and South West Films; **Nathan Rimell's** stage work includes the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre; **Karen Winchester** appeared in *Year 10* at the Finborough Theatre and in the *Time Out* Critics' Choice Season at the BAC.

Scary Little Girls Productions is an innovative young production company based in London and Cornwall. Their first show was produced in collaboration with the Bristol Old Vic and recent partnerships include art, drama and film projects with the South London Gallery, Glastonbury Festival and the Curzon Cinema Group as well as two sell out London shows - *The Kisses* in 2003 and *Maria Stuart* in 2005.

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR JOHN TERRY'S FINBOROUGH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

"John Terry's clear, committed production" Paul Taylor, *The Independent*

"Dramatic dynamite...John Terry's mature, thought provoking production" Rachel Halliburton, *Time Out*

"A fluid and beautifully acted production by John Terry" Rhoda Koenig, *Evening Standard*

PRESS NIGHT: FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2007 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2007 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0870 4000 838 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Wednesday, 21 March – Saturday, 14 April 2007

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.30pm.

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats.

Previews (21 and 22 March) £8 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

The Finborough run is followed by a run at the Manchester Royal Exchange Studio – 27-28 April 2007

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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