

doublethink theatre, Mark Puddle, and the finboroughtheatre present

THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING

by Christopher Fry. Directed by Walter Sutcliffe.

2007 marks the centenary of the birth of one of the UK's best known verse playwrights – **Christopher Fry**. The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre begins its **poetryatthefinborough** series with a major revival of his most famous work – *The Lady's Not for Burning*, opening on 19 April 2007 for a four week run.

England, 1400. Thomas Mendip, a discharged soldier weary of the world and eager to leave it, comes to a small town, announces he has committed murder and demands to be hanged. Much to his annoyance, the town's Mayor and his officials oppose his request and instead are determined to hang Jennet, an attractive woman accused of witchcraft. Amidst the confusion of a local wedding and the dilemma of who will or won't be hanged in the morning, an unlikely wooing takes place...

Christopher Fry (1907-2005) is best known as a major figure in the revival of verse in British theatre with such works as *The Boy with the Cart* (1938), *A Phoenix Too Frequent* (1946), *The Firstborn* (1946), *Thor, with Angels* (1949), *The Dark is Light Enough* (1954), *Venus Observed* (1950) and his translations of Anouilh and Giraudoux. He also wrote or collaborated on several screenplays including the movie of *Ben Hur*. *The Lady's Not for Burning* was originally produced in the West End in 1949 with John Gielgud, Richard Burton and Claire Bloom, the play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award on Broadway. It has also been seen in a much-lauded production with Derek Jacobi and Eileen Atkins at the Old Vic in 1978, Chichester in 2002, and as a TV version starring Kenneth Branagh.

Director **Walter Sutcliffe** has directed theatre and opera in the UK, Germany, Austria and The Czech Republic, including Michael Tippett's *The Knot Garden* in Vienna and Strindberg's *The Great Highway* for the Gate Theatre, London. He has directed revivals of Wagner's *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* for the Czech National Theatre and the Deutsche Oper am Rhien, and was Associate Director on the Lyric Opera Chicago's *Il Trovatore*. He has worked at many of Europe's leading theatres including Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Theater an der Wien, Bayreuth, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

www.doublethinktheatre.com | www.tlcm.co.uk

The Press on *The Lady's Not for Burning* and on Walter Sutcliffe

"A poetic fantasy of rare splendour and delight...a work of magical humour and deep beauty." *New York Herald Tribune*

"A remarkable play" *Financial Times*

"Fry's medieval setting, rich verbal conceits and self-puncturing irony delighted audiences, and the play became the flagship for the revival of poetic drama." *The Guardian*

"Walter Sutcliffe's taut, clear, vigorous production is admirable, a homage to a great dramatist in half-demented decline." John Peter, *Sunday Times*

"Atmospheric direction" *Evening Standard*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2007 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2007 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

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

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

Tuesday, 17 April – Saturday, 12 May 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 (17 and 18 April) £8 all seats. Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

You can now download press releases and images from our website at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

(Go to 'Contact' in the top right hand corner of the home page and follow the links)

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 Fax 020 7835 1853
e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

The Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268. Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.