



Coracle in association with Neil McPherson at the Finborough Theatre presents

The first London production in more than fifty years

OUTWARD BOUND

by Sutton Vane.

Directed by Louise Hill. Designed by Alex Marker.

Following her sell-out productions of J.M. Barrie's *What Every Woman Knows* and *Quality Street* last year, director Louise Hill returns to the Finborough Theatre with Sutton Vane's 1920s West End and Broadway hit, *Outward Bound*, opening on 31 January 2012 (**Press Night: Thursday, 2 February 2012 at 7.30pm**).

Seven passengers meet in the saloon bar of a ship as it sets sail from an unidentified English port. Socialite Mrs Cliveden-Banks is on her way to join her husband, a Colonel in the army; Mr Lingley has important business in Marseilles; charlady Mrs Midget is making her first passage by sea; Reverend William Duke is looking forward to a holiday, while Tom Prior intends to spend the journey in the ship's saloon bar. Also on board are Henry and Ann, a young couple who seem anxious for the ship to leave port. But the travellers have more in common than they dare to suspect. Out at sea, an eerie calm settles over the ship as Tom is the first to discover the fate which awaits his fellow passengers...

Outward Bound was first produced at a London Off West End theatre – the Everyman Theatre, Hampstead (now the Everyman Cinema) and instantly became the biggest hit of the 1923 season, going on to play for many years in the West End, appearing at the Garrick, Royalty, Adelphi, Criterion, Comedy, Fortune and Prince of Wales Theatres. The play was also a huge hit on Broadway in 1924, where it was a similarly huge success in a production starring Alfred Lunt and Leslie Howard. The play was made into a 1930 film in Hollywood by Warner Bros. starring Leslie Howard and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and was filmed again as *Between Two Worlds* in 1944 with John Garfield and Sydney Greenstreet. This production is the first London production in more than fifty years, and returns the play to a the same type of Off West End theatre where it began its life.

Playwright **Sutton Vane** (1888–1963) was a British actor and playwright. He started his career as an actor until the outbreak of the First World War. He joined up in 1914 at the age of 26 and served until he was invalided out due to shell-shock. Vane was haunted by his war experiences, and once he sufficiently recovered, he returned to the combat area as a civilian, appearing for the entertainment of troops near the front lines during the latter half of the war. After the Armistice, Vane turned to writing plays, and authored two conventional works that caused little stir. *Outward Bound* was his third play and the work for which he is now remembered.

Director **Louise Hill** trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and spent two years as Artistic Director of the Bristol Shakespeare Festival. She directed two sell-out productions of plays by J.M. Barrie at the Finborough Theatre in 2010 – *What Every Woman Knows* and *Quality Street*, for which she was named Best Newcomer Director by the *British Theatre Guide* and nominated as Best Director at the Off West End Awards. She is currently Associate Director on *Travesties* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Birmingham Rep. Other directing includes *Spiders* and *Crocodile Tears* (Soho Theatre Studio), *To a Sunless Sea* (Etcetera Theatre), *Face to Face* (Old Red Lion), *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Middle Temple Gardens), *Tiny Dynamite* (Alma Tavern Theatre, Bristol) and *IAGO*, her own adaptation of *Othello*, for which she won a *Fringe Review* Outstanding Theatre Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Assistant directing includes *Blackbird* and *The Winslow Boy* (both Salisbury Playhouse).

Designer **Alex Marker** has been Resident Designer of the Finborough Theatre since 2002 where his designs have included *Quality Street*, *Charlie's Wake*, *The Women's War*, *How I Got That Story*, *Soldiers*, *Happy Family*, *Trelawny of the 'Wells'*, *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*, *Albert's Boy*, *Lark Rise To Candleford*, *Red Night*, *The Representative*, *Eden's Empire*, *Love Child*, *Little Madam*, *Plague Over England* – and its West End transfer to the Duchess Theatre, *Hangover Square*, *Sons of York*, *Untitled*, *Painting A Wall*, *Death of Long Pig*, *Molière or The League of Hypocrites* and *Dream of the Dog* and its West End transfer to the Trafalgar Studios.

The Press on Louise Hill's production of *Quality Street*

The Guardian Critics' Choice

**** Four Stars, The Guardian

**** Four Stars, London Theatre Reviews

Number 1 in the Alternative Christmas Top Five, British Theatre Guide

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

"Louise Hill's sparkling production reminds one of Barrie's playful ingenuity and creates some astonishing reverberations... reminds one that the British dramatic repertory is kept alive largely by small, impoverished theatres like the Finborough." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"An exquisite production directed with immaculate taste, timing and precision by Louise Hill." Blanche Marvin, *London Theatre Reviews*

"One-hundred and nine years old it may be, but in Hill's revival, *Quality Street* has the skip of a teenager." Brian Logan, *Variety*

"It may be too much to suggest that a large-cast revival without any star names could transfer to the West End. However, while that is probably not on the cards, the redoubtable Louise Hill is rendering a real service by bringing J.M. Barrie back to the London stage and doing him proud with productions of this Quality. Roll on the next one." Philip Fisher, *British Theatre Guide*

The Press on Louise Hill's production of *What Every Woman Knows*

Time Out Critics' Choice

**** Four Stars, *The Times*

**** Four Stars, *Time Out*

"A welcome revival of a droll examination of sexual politics." Sarah Hemming, *Financial Times*

"The hope is that this production...is seen by enough people to bring the prolific J. M. Barrie back to the position that he deserves as one of the best and most popular writers of his period." Philip Fisher, *The British Theatre Guide*

"Barrie's play was ahead of its time and is written with both humour and political nous. A must see production for all those with a love of theatre and robust sense of humour." Deborah Klayman, *The Public Reviews*

"It would be a shame if plays like *What Every Woman Knows* disappeared, as, despite the changes of the last century, it still has much to say to us about human nature and the way we live now." Philip Fisher, *The British Theatre Guide*

"J. M. Barrie's delightful comic fable is given as sensitive and rightly-tuned a production as you could ask for...making for a thoroughly entertaining evening...*What Every Woman Knows* has some surprisingly sharp ironic edges to it, all of which director Louise Hill and her cast find and happily display, generating shocks of recognition and frequent out-loud laughs among the gentler chuckles." Gerald Berkowitz, *TheatreGuideLondon*

"Hill's direction orchestrates fine performances" Jeremy Kingston, *The Times*

"Louise Hill stages the play with warmth and sympathy" Sarah Hemming, *Financial Times*

The Press on the Finborough Theatre's revivals of Twentieth Century Classics

"The tiny Finborough - 50 unsubsidised seats over a pub - has been turned by its Artistic Director Neil McPherson into a hub of early-20th-century theatre: a place where forgotten voices are celebrated." Susannah Clapp, *The Observer*

"Earl's Court rather than the South Bank seems the place to find the internationally-minded repertory due from a national theatre company." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviewsgate*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2012 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

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

Tuesday, 31 January – Saturday, 25 February 2012

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from the second week of the run).

Prices for Weeks One and Two (31 January–12 February 2012) – Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, and Saturday evenings £13 all seats. Previews (31 January and 1 February) £9 all seats.

£5 tickets for under 30's for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on the first Saturday of the run only.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four (14 February–25 February 2012) – Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £15 all seats.

STAGETEXT captioned performance – Saturday, 18 February 2012 at 3.00pm

Performance Length: Approximately two hours.

(Ticket prices may be subject to change)

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>

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 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.