

Rediscoveries2012 Season  
February to April 2012

The Steam Industry, Franklin Productions and Neil McPherson at the Finborough Theatre by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd presents

**The first professional UK production in more than 25 years**

# THE AMERICAN CLOCK

by Arthur Miller.

Directed by Phil Willmott. Designed by Philip Lindley. Costume Design by Gregor Donnelly.

Multi-award-winning director – and former Artistic Director – Phil Willmott returns to the Finborough Theatre with the first professional UK production in more than 25 years of Arthur Miller's *The American Clock*, opening at the Finborough Theatre on Tuesday, 27 March 2012 (**Press Night: Thursday, 29 March 2012 at 7.30pm**) for a four week limited season.

Inspired partly by Studs Terkel's oral history *Hard Times*, and partly by Arthur Miller's own recollections, *The American Clock* is a panoramic 'dramatic vaudeville' about the Great Depression of the 1930s. When the stock market crashes, a well-to-do family loses everything and is forced to move from their plush penthouse apartment to the modest home of a relative in Brooklyn...

More relevant than ever, *The American Clock* is a deeply affecting evocation both of a tortured time in American history and of the indomitable spirit of the people who survived in the face of unaccustomed adversity.

*The American Clock* premiered on Broadway at the Biltmore Theatre in 1980. Its only professional London production to date was at the National Theatre in 1986 where it was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Play.

Playwright **Arthur Miller** (1915-2005) was inarguably one of the greatest American dramatists of the twentieth century with a career that spanned over seven decades. His plays include *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (1940), *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953), *A View from the Bridge* (1955), *A Memory of Two Mondays* (1955), *After the Fall* (1964), *Incident at Vichy* (1964), *The Price* (1968), *The Creation of the World and Other Business* (1972), *The Archbishop's Ceiling* (1977), *Playing for Time* (1980), *The Last Yankee* (1991), *The Ride Down Mount Morgan* (1991), *Broken Glass* (1994), *Mr Peter's Connections* (1998), *Resurrection Blues* (2002) and *Finishing the Picture* (2004).

**Studs Terkel** (1912-2008) was a celebrated American broadcaster and historian. He achieved acclaim for his oral histories of the American experience with his 1970 book *Hard Times*, a collection of interviews with Americans recounting their experience of the Depression. His 1984 work *The Good War*, featuring first hand accounts of America's involvement in World War II, earned him a Pulitzer Prize. Other publications include *American Dreams: Lost and Found* (1980), *Chicago* (1987), *The Great Divide* (1988), *Race* (1992), *Coming of Age* (1995), *My American Century* (1998), *Will the Circle be Unbroken?* (2001), *They All Sang* (2007) and *Touch and Go: A Memoir* (2008).

Director **Phil Willmott** is Artistic Director of The Steam Industry incorporating the Finborough Theatre (under Artistic Director Neil McPherson) and the West End's open-air "Scoop" amphitheatre on London's South Bank. He is a recipient of a TMA Award for outstanding direction of a musical, a Peter Brook Award for his outdoor classical productions and family shows, whatsonstage award nominations for best regional and Off West End productions, a Broadwayworld nomination for Best Musical in the UK, a Brooks Atkinson/Royal Court award in New York for Playwriting and four Spirit of Broadway awards. Over the past two decades his productions at the Finborough Theatre have included *The Notebook of Trigorin*, *Country Magic*, *F\*cking Men*, *Trelawny of the "Wells"*, *The Fundraisers*, *Watch Out for Mr Stork*, *Venetian Heat*, *Illyria*, *The Oedipus Table*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Loyalties* as well as many workshops and readings.

## The Press on Phil Willmott's previous productions at the Finborough Theatre

"Phil Willmott's excellent revival" Michael Billington, *The Guardian* on *Loyalties*

"Phil Willmott's graceful and impeccably detailed production" Lucy Powell, *Time Out* on *Loyalties*

"Willmott's production is gripping and pacy" Sam Marlowe, *The Times* on *Loyalties*

"Phil Willmott proves why he is one of the most versatile, best and amazingly prolific directors around" *The Guardian*

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

"It's hard to top a Phil Willmott show" *The Daily Mail*

"Triumphant!...a production bursting with theatrical atmosphere" Carole Woddis, *What's on in London on Trelawny*

"An exuberant celebration of the irrepressible urge to make theatre" Michael Portillo, *The New Statesman on Trelawny*

"This is a serious, stimulating and timely revival." Paul Taylor, *The Independent on The Lower Depths*

"An accomplished, intelligent staging." Sam Marlowe, *The Times on The Lower Depths*

"This incisive production" Sarah Hemming, *Financial Times on The Lower Depths*

"Phil Willmott's fast, punchy production" Mark Shenton, *The Stage on F\*\*\*ing Men*

"Phil Willmott's direction is impressively sleek" Lucy Powell, *Time Out on F\*\*\*ing Men*

"A terrific find" \*\*\*\* Four Stars, *WhatsOnStage on The Notebook of Trigorin*.

"Phil Willmott's production of this intriguing yet difficult play is compelling" Natasha Tripney, *The Stage on The Notebook of Trigorin*

"Willmott's sensitive production, steeped in the sweltering atmosphere and sing-song delivery of Williams' dramatic world, has itself the feel of a dream play...With its mix of rueful pain, biting wit and stultifying melancholy, the production presents a fascinating meeting of creative minds." Sarah Hemming, *Financial Times on The Notebook of Trigorin*

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2012 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 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](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Tuesday, 27 March – Saturday, 21 April 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 (27 March–8 April 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 (10 April–21 April 2012)** – Tickets £15, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £15 all seats.

STAGETEXT captioned performance – Saturday, 14 April 2012 at 3.00pm

Performance Length: Approximately 2 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](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>