

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**

Spring-Summer Season 2017 | April–July 2017

The world premiere

**JAM**

by Matt Parvin.

Directed by Tommo Fowler. Designed by Emma Bailey.

Lighting by Peter Harrison. Sound by Alexandra Faye Braithwaite.

Presented by W14 Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Jasmine Hyde. Harry Melling

"They said I was violent. You're the 'victim' – what do you think?"

The world premiere of a first play by an exciting new playwright, *Jam* by Matt Parvin opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 23 May 2017 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 25 May and Friday, 26 May 2017 at 7.30pm**).

Ten years ago, Bella Soroush's life was ruined by one of her pupils – Kane McCarthy. She has gradually rebuilt things – new school, new town, new friends – and finally feels at home in the depths of the countryside.

Now Kane is back in her classroom, armed with relics of the past and claiming to want forgiveness.

As the truths they've clung to begin to collapse, teacher and pupil are forced to confront their prejudices and the shared history that has bound them together.

Set over a single evening, *Jam* is a relentless, incendiary new drama that interrogates social fault-lines in Britain today, and the tension between truth and justice.

*Jam* is Matt Parvin's debut full length play. It is directed by Tommo Fowler, who returns to the Finborough Theatre following his acclaimed productions of *Obama-ology* and *I Wish To Die Singing*.

The run will be accompanied by the FINBOROUGHFORUM, a series of informal post-show discussions and debates, on Wednesday evenings: 31 May and 7 June. All events are free to ticketholders for that evening's performance of the play. FINBOROUGHFORUM events will all be Twitter friendly with live tweets from @FinboroughForum. Using the hashtag #finfor, the speakers will also answer questions posed on Twitter so everyone can be included, no matter where they are in the world. The events will feature a Q&A session with Matt Parvin, the writer, Tommo Fowler, the director and members of the cast.

**JAM** POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday 31 May

Discussion with Matt Parvin and Tommo Fowler of the issues surrounding the play.

Wednesday 7 June

Q&A with Matt Parvin, Tommo Fowler and members of the cast.

Playwright **Matt Parvin** trained at the Royal Court Theatre and the Arcola Theatre Writers Programme, and was part of the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, Writers Collective. His professional debut *Two Roads* premiered at VAULT Festival in 2015, and he has adapted *Alice in Wonderland* (Edinburgh Festival and National Tour). His short plays include *Monster Party* and *You Maverick* (Arcola Theatre), *Everyday Horse* (Theatre503), *Roost* (Oxford New Writing Festival 2013, and winner of Best Script Prize) and *The Death of Riot Boy* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton).

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[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

# Press Information

Director **Tommo Fowler** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he directed *I Wish To Die Singing* (Winner of Studio Theatre Award for Best New Play) and *Obama-ology*, and was Resident Assistant Director on *Harajuku Girls* and *Sommer 14: A Dance of Death*. Theatre includes *Griff Rhys Jones: Jones and Smith* (National Tour), *Mumburger* (Archivist's Gallery, and OffWestEnd Awards nomination for Best Female Performance), *Somewhere Else Entirely* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *PLAY #13* (VAULT Festival), *Monster Party* (Arcola Theatre) and *The (Accidental) Death of Alan Bishop* (Pleasance London). Assistant Direction includes *Passin' Thru* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur* (The Print Room) and *Rainbow* (Edinburgh Festival, and winner of a Fringe First Award).

The cast is:

## **Jasmine Hyde** | Bella

Trained at Pembroke College, Oxford, and Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Not Moses* (Arts Theatre), *Pericles* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *The Coast of Utopia* (National Theatre), *Whose Life is it Anyway?* and *The Dog* (Frinton Summer Theatre), *Statements After An Arrest Under the Immorality Act* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Death of a Cyclist* (Arcola Theatre), *Muswell Hill* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Somnolouy* and *Why Can't We Live Together?* (Theatre503), '06/'07/'05 and *Gaugleprixtown* (Menagerie Theatre Company), *The Rivals* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Gifts of War* and *Two Into War* (National Tour), *Charley's Aunt* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Singer* (Oxford Stage Company), *Waters of the Moon* (Salisbury Playhouse) and *Tiny Dynamite* (Paines Plough and Frantic Assembly).

Film includes *The Unseen*, *The Truth Commissioner*, *Sins of a Father*, *A Distant Mirage*, *Runt*, *Other*, *Undo* and *Restoration*.

Television includes *Doctors*, *Holby City* and *Casualty*.

Radio includes many Radio 4 afternoon plays, *Book at bedtime*, *Book of the Week* and *Poetry Please*.

Jasmine also plays Leonie Snell in *The Archers*.

## **Harry Melling** | Kane

Trained at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *King Lear* (The Old Vic), *Hand to God* (Vaudeville Theatre), *The Angry Brigade* (Bush Theatre and Paines Plough), *Peddling* (HighTide Festival Theatre, Arcola Theatre, and 59E59 Theaters, New York City), *King Lear* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Hothouse* and *When Did You Last See My Mother* (Trafalgar Studios), *Smack Family Robinson* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *I Am A Camera* (Southwark Playhouse), *The School for Scandal* (Barbican Theatre) and *Women Beware Women* and *Mother Courage and Her Children* (National Theatre).

Television includes *Musketeers*, *Joe Mistry*, *Garrow's Law*, *Merlin*, *Just William* and *Friends and Crocodiles*.

Film includes *The Current War*, *Lost City of Z*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *The Winds of Change*, *I Think Therefore* and *Felicity*.

## **The press on playwright Matt Parvin**

"A triumph ... it's hard to imagine a more perfect evening" Daily Info on *Alice in Wonderland*

"Impressive theatre" Daily Info on *Roost*

"Impressive ... Insightful" Theatre Reviews Hub on *Two Roads*

"It explodes out, leaving a pile of smouldering rubble and blackened clichés" Oxford Theatre Review on *You Maverick*

## **The Press on director Tommo Fowler**

"A tale told with great affection" ★★★★★ Four Stars, Sunday Telegraph on *Griff Rhys Jones: Jones and Smith*

"Tommo Fowler gives us a fast flowing production in which comedy, suspense and high emotion are delivered with equal confidence." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Stephen Bates, The Public Reviews on *Obama-ology*

"Terrific...Tommo Fowler's production has plenty of dash" Lyn Gardner, The Guardian on *Obama-ology*

"Simple, moving and powerful" ★★★★★ Four Stars, Aleks Sierz, The Stage on *I Wish to Die Singing*

"Searing...soberly directed by Tommo Fowler and well acted by a seven strong cast" Michael Billington, The Guardian on *I Wish to Die Singing*

"Complex, stimulating and thoroughly delightful. Tommo Fowler's sympathetic production... strikes a good balance between heightened feelings and emotional restraint." Aleks Sierz on *Mumburger*

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM and FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017 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, 23 May – Saturday, 17 June 2017**

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[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

# Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 3 June 2017).

**Prices until** 4 June – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (23 and 24 May) £12 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£12 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 27 May 2017 when booked online only.

**Prices from** 6 June – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Group Bookings – 1 free ticket for every 10 tickets booked.

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

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>