

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

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

Summer Season – July–September 2017

The first London production in over 100 years

JUST TO GET MARRIED

by Cecily Hamilton.

Directed by Melissa Dunne.

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

"It takes a confirmed spinster to be as sentimental as you are.
What's to happen to me if I don't marry – what's to be the end of me?"

The first London production in over a hundred years of *Just To Get Married*, a romantic comedy by renowned suffragette **Cecily Hamilton** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 25 July 2017 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 27 July and Friday, 28 July 2017 at 7.30pm**).

Approaching her 30th birthday in early 20th Century England, the clever and poor Georgiana Vicary is waiting for the handsome but shy Adam Lankester to propose to her.

Her friends expect her to get married, her adoptive parents expect it and more importantly, she expects it of herself – but will her conscience allow it?

From a time when marriage was a socio-economic - rather than just a romantic – decision, *Just to Get Married* asks how we can have a marriage of equals when the genders are unequal.

Written by actress, journalist, playwright and suffragette **Cecily Hamilton**, and first produced at the Little Theatre in London in 1910, *Just to Get Married* was last produced in the UK at Birmingham Rep in 1918, and is directed by **Melissa Dunne**, founder of the acclaimed gender blind play festival XY.

Playwright **Cecily Hamilton** (1872-1952) co-founded the Women Writers' Suffrage League and supplied the lyrics for *The March of the Women*, the anthem of Mrs Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union. Known for her novel and play *Diana of Dobson's* (1908), revived at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, in 2007, her polemic *Marriage as a Trade* (1909), and her play *How The Vote Was Won* (rediscovered at the Finborough Theatre in 2003), Hamilton also wrote *A Pageant of Great Women*, a highly successful women's suffrage play based on the ideas of her friend, the theatre director Edith Craig. During the First World War, Hamilton joined the army as an auxiliary nurse. After the war, she worked extensively as a freelance journalist writing about issues such as birth control.

Director **Melissa Dunne** is a theatre director, writer and dramaturg. She is Artistic Director of Papercut Theatre and has directed work in venues as diverse as Theatre503, Arcola Theatre, the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Festival Hall. Direction includes *I'm Not Jesus Christ* (Theatre N16, supported by the Romanian Cultural Institute), *I Still Get Excited When I See A Ladybird* (Theatre503), *Extraction* (Etcetera Theatre) and *The Space Between My Head and My Body* (Theatre503 and Edinburgh Festival). She founded and continues to creatively manage the acclaimed XY playwriting festival which has been produced at Hackney Showroom, Latitude Festival, Pleasance Edinburgh and Theatre503. She has read scripts for the literary departments of the National Theatre, Bush Theatre, the Verity Bargate Award and Soho Theatre. She is also a Visiting Lecturer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

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.

The press on playwright Cecily Hamilton's Diana of Dobson's

"This may be a delightful romp, but it's also an insightful social history of pleasing substance." Time Out

"An evening that combines erudite social commentary with comic pleasure. Unmissable." The Times "A forgotten gem of early 20th century feminist literature. The wit and economy of Hamilton's script...is revelatory." The Sunday Telegraph

"But even though Hamilton was capable of writing plays of this quality, you'll still find any number of Shaw's secondary works ahead in the queue for revival. One rule for the men and another for women, as usual." Alfred Hickling, The Guardian

The press on Papercut Theatre and Melissa Dunne

"If Papercut Theatre's aim was a great argument for more gender-neutral writing and casting, and an entertaining hour's theatre, then they have succeeded." Broadway World on XY

"XY is an entertaining and interesting collection of new writing, showcasing a range of styles and performed by an exceptionally strong cast." Broadway Baby on XY

"A clever production ... kept the audience involved and interested throughout." One Stop Arts ★★★★★ on XY

"Melissa Dunne's astutely cast production also makes a set of interesting decisions to force us to look at the almost cartoonish way we view violence, particularly towards sex workers...constantly but interestingly challenging." There Ought to be Clowns on I'm Not Jesus Christ

"I'm Not Jesus Christ packs a powerful punch" A Younger Theatre on I'm Not Jesus Christ

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2017 AT 7.30PM AND FRIDAY, 28 JULY 2017 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2017 AT 1.30PM-2PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

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

Tuesday, 25 July– Saturday, 19 August 2017

Prices until 6 August 2017 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (25 and 26 July) £12 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30's 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, 29 July 2017 when booked online only.

Prices from 8 August 2017– 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.

Approximate running time: 2 hours including one interval.

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.