

# **FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

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

August-October 2019 Season

The European premiere

# **ANAHERA**

by Emma Kinane.

Directed by Alice Kornitzer. Designed by Emily Bestow. Lighting by Gregory Jordan. Music by Kate Marlais. Movement Direction by Natasha Warder. Presented by Sharp Image Company in association with Claire Evans and Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre, by arrangement with Playmarket New Zealand.

Cast: Caroline Faber. Acushla-Tara Kupe. Jessica O'Toole. Paul Waggott. Rupert Wickham.

"Our children do as they're told. That's our family dynamic."

The European premiere of Emma Kinane's multi-award-winning new play **Anahera** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 3 September 2019 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 5 September 2019 and Friday, 6 September 2019 at 7.30pm**).

A European debut for an exciting new voice from New Zealand.

11-year-old Harry Hunter is missing.

While they wait for news, Anahera – a newly qualified Māori social worker – supports Harry's distraught parents.

But as the hours pass and the situation pushes everyone to their limits, Anahera is forced to take a stand.

Anahera returns to the Finborough Theatre where it was originally given a staged reading in Vibrant 2018 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights. In New Zealand, it was chosen for Auckland Theatre Company's workshop Next Stage in 2015 and was a finalist in the Adam NZ Play Awards in 2016. It premiered in September 2017 at Circa Theatre in Wellington, receiving rave reviews, and won Most Outstanding New New Zealand Play at the Wellington Theatre Awards 2017.

Playwright **Emma Kinane** is an award winning writer and actor. She is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School and has worked as an actor, writer and director in theatre, television, film and radio. She has a Master's Degree in Scriptwriting from the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University. Her writing includes co-writing the plays Turbine, Paua and The December Brother with the SEED Collective, her radio play Clouds which aired on Radio NZ in 2014, and short film Bastard, part of the 2018 anthology feature Encounters. Her latest play Micronation Street recently had a workshop and rehearsed reading at Circa Theatre, Wellington.

Director **Alice Kornitzer** began her career as an actor at the Berliner Ensemble in Germany, before returning to the UK, where she gained a Drama BA from the University of Bristol. Direction includes Chummy (White Bear Theatre) which was nominated for four OffWestEnd Awards including Best Director, Wuthering Heights (National Tour), Apocalypse Laow (Katzspace), Sir Walter's Women (The Great Hall, Winchester, for Hampshire Heritage Trust), The Taming of the Shrew (Petersfield Shakespeare Festival and Theatre Royal Winchester), Tejas Verdes (The Court Theatre Training Company), Broke Britannia (Bridewell Theatre) and The Accidental Caregiver (Robert Moss Theatre, New York City). Assistant Direction and Dramaturgy includes Die Präsidentin (Theater Magdeburg), Happy New (Trafalgar Studios), Tejas Verdes and Allotment (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), and Das Fieber (Theater Unterm Dach, Berlin). She was the recipient of the 2018 European Theatre Conference Artist Residency Award.



Anahera received development assistance from Auckland Theatre Company, New Zealand, as part of Next Stage 2015.

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

The cast is:

**Caroline Faber** | Liz

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Hangover Square.

Theatre includes Network, The Heiress (National Theatre), Romeo and Juliet, Paradise Lost (Headlong), King Lear (The Young Vic), In Lipstick (Pleasance Edinburgh), The Iliad (Almeida Theatre), The Taming of The Shrew, Edward III, The Malcontent, Here Lies Mary Spindler, Keepers of The Flame (Royal Shakespeare Company), My Mother Said I Never Should (St James Theatre), Piaf (Octagon Theatre, Bolton), Othello, Macbeth (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), The Norman Conquests, Last Easter (Birmingham Repertory Theatre), Dangerous Corner (Garrick Theatre), Tender, Luna Gale (Hampstead Theatre), The Colonel Bird (Gate Theatre), Kanye the First (HighTide Festival), The on the Floss (Shared Experience on National Tour and the New Ambassadors Theatre), The End of the Affair (Bridewell Theatre), Vermillion Dream, Top Girls, The Merchant of Venice (Salisbury Playhouse) and Cavalcade (Sadler's Wells Theatre).

Television includes Berlin Station, Merlin, Midsomer Murders, Foyle's War, EastEnders, A Good Murder, My Spy Family, Casualty, Holby City, The Bill and Gamesmaster.

**Acushla-Tara Kupe** | Anahera

Ngāti Maniapoto

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Anahera as part of Vibrant 2017 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights and Astroman as part of Vibrant 2018 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights.

Theatre includes A View From the Bridge, Kings of the Gym (Circa Theatre, Wellington), 2080, Spring Awakening (BATS Theatre), Like You Hate Me (Lion and Unicorn Theatre), Romeo and Juliet (Mayhem Theatre), The Sea Queen and Twelfth Night (London Free Open Air Theatre Season), Hotel (New Zealand National Tour), They Have Long Arms and They Can Find Me (Katzpace).

Film includes Fresh Meat, Chronesthesia, Encounters, Woman in Blue, The Return, Lantana and The Practitioner.

Television includes Creeped Out.

Radio includes The Christchurch Murder and The Offensive Podcast.

Acushla-Tara is a member of the all-female Shakespeare company Dangerous Space and performs across Europe with the London Māori Club, Ngāti Rānana.

**Jessica O'Toole** | Imogen

Trained at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes She's Not There (White Bear Theatre), Split Ends and The Memory of Water (Jermyn Street Theatre), What Some People Do (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith) and King John (Tour).

Film includes Morning Song, Remember Me, Pet Graveyard, End Game, Pagan Warrior, Scarecrow's Revenge.

Television includes Bridgerton, A Place of Safety, Rules of Love.

Radio includes The Write Hour.

**Paul Waggott** | Harry

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Astroman as part of Vibrant 2019 - A Festival of Finborough Playwrights.

Trained at Victoria University of Wellington, graduating with a BA (Hons) in Theatre.

Theatre includes The Road That Wasn't There (New Zealand National Tour), Joseph (BATS Theatre), A View from the Bridge, Red (Circa Theatre and National Theatre of New Zealand).

Film includes Causims and Chronesthesia.

Radio includes The Offensive, Wulf and The Witching Hours.

**Rupert Wickham** | Peter

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Imaginationship.

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes Stalin's Favourite (National Tour), Private Lives (Nottingham Playhouse), Defying Hitler (National Tour and 59E59 Theaters, New York City), Quartermaine's Terms (Salisbury Playhouse), Journey's End (Comedy Theatre), Henry V (National Theatre), The Winslow Boy (Chichester Festival Theatre and National Tour), Not About Heroes (National Tour), Death and the Maiden (King's Head Theatre), Othello (National Tour), Hamlet (Greenwich Theatre), King Lear (Ludlow Festival), Romeo and Juliet (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park) and The Importance of Being Earnest (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester).

Film includes Journey's End, Woman in Gold, Mission Impossible 5, Stand Off and The Bourne Identity.

Television includes Silk, The Spacerace, Waking the Dead, A Dance to the Music of Time and Band of Brothers.

Radio includes Betsie and the Emperor and Poetry Please.

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

## The press on Anahera in New Zealand

"Anahera is right up there, one of the best pieces of theatre I've seen and heard and experienced...A must-see event, a world-class piece of theatre." Off The Tracks

"A vital and provocative work capable of instigating change." Regional News

"A play for today that will resonate with audiences long after they have left the theatre." Dominion Post

"It's not merely a technical tour-de-force, it's important ." Off The Tracks

"The play braids questions of responsibility, irresponsibility, guilt and forgiveness...You'd have to be unconscious not to be gripped by Anahera." Theatreview

"Absolutely heart-wrenching...I know I won't be able to stop thinking about Anahera for a long time, perhaps forever, as if I'm not the same person I was two hours ago." Art Murmurs

"Brilliantly destabilizing...It steers us straight into psychological thriller territory and, like a rip in the ocean, it grabbed me." The Pantograph Punch

"The script wrestles with questions many of us are not brave enough to ask." Regional News

"A taut, electric script.... a must-see experience." Off The Tracks

## The press on director Alice Kornitzer

"Alice Kornitzer complements Foster's ripe written style with spirited direction, which has moments of great lucidity." The Stage on Chummy

"Director Alice Kornitzer promises to bring a certain cinematic feel, nodding strongly to the neo-noir genre rarely seen on stage, for a unique exploration of this psychological thriller." Broadway World on Chummy

"Alice Kornitzer's commendable direction finds space for more moving moments." - ActDrop on Apocalypse Laow

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2019 AND FRIDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 1.00PM–1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

No booking fees on online, personal or postal bookings

Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There is a 5% booking fee.) Lines are open Monday-Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm.

**Tuesday, 3 September – Saturday, 28 September 2019**

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

**Prices until 15 September 2019** – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats. Previews (3 and 4 September) £14 all seats.

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

£14 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 7 September 2019 at 7.30pm when booked online only.

**Prices from 17 September 2019** – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Neil McPherson** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

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