

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

October 2019 – January 2020 Season

The multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre celebrates its 40th anniversary year in 2020 – and to mark the occasion, we will shortly be unveiling a whole new look for our publicity, including a new logo, and a brand new website.

The winter season at the Finborough Theatre features a European premiere from the United States, a world premiere by our own Playwright in Residence Athena Stevens, and another classic Finborough rediscovery – unseen in London since 1945 – from Welsh playwright Emyln Williams. Alongside the season, we are also relaunching our Finborough Forum discussion group, and two major playwriting competitions will also return to the Finborough Theatre in 2020.

We would like to thank Bill Kenwright for his very generous donation to the Finborough Theatre. His support has made this year's work possible.

The season opens with the European premiere of **Chemistry**, the acclaimed multi award-winning American play by Jacob Marx Rice, playing 29 October-23 November 2019. Steph struggles with chronic depression. Jamie just over-achieved himself off the deep end. When they meet in their psychiatrist's office, sparks fly and they stumble unexpectedly into a beautiful relationship. But how do you trust someone else when you are already in a battle with your own brain? An intimate, frank and uncompromising examination of the chemicals we take and how they impact our ability to love.

For Christmas, we present the first London production in nearly 75 years of Welsh playwright Emyln Williams' **The Wind of Heaven**, playing 26 November-21 December 2019. In the immediate aftermath of the Crimean War, the mountain village of Blestin in rural Wales has no children and worships no god since a disaster snatched away all its youth. Until a miracle allows one small community to rediscover its lost faith, with startling consequences for the village, and the world beyond...

The first production of the Finborough Theatre's 40th anniversary year is the world premiere of Finborough Theatre Playwright in Residence and Olivier Award nominee Athena Stevens's new play **Scrounger**, playing 7 January-1 February 2020. Scrounger is a successful online personality. Educated, ballsy, and with a huge network of online allies, Scrounger is a woman who knows how to make change happen. That is, until an airline destroys her wheelchair. Inspired by real events, Scrounger drives towards the realities of how Britain is failing its most vulnerable and the extreme cost paid by those seeking justice.

After two very successful years, we are also relaunching our invitation-only group for playwrights, directors, designers and other creatives connected with the Finborough Theatre, the **Finborough Forum**, with the generous support of The George Goetchius and Donald Howarth Society of Friend's Awards.

Two major playwriting competitions also return to the Finborough Theatre in 2020:

The **RADIUS Playwriting Competition** opens for entries on 3 February 2020 and closes on 30 March 2020, with a prize of £500 and a staged reading at the Finborough Theatre in June 2020.

The **ETPEP Award 2020** is a playwriting prize for new UK playwrights who work in the theatre industry, run by the Finborough Theatre in association with the Experienced Theatre Practitioners Early Playwriting Trust (ETPEP). Entries are now open, and close on 31 March 2020. The prize is £8000, a staged reading at the Finborough Theatre in September 2020 and ongoing dramaturgy and support from the Finborough Theatre.

Finborough Theatre Artistic Director **Neil McPherson** says:

"Our winter season – which includes the very first production of our 40th anniversary year – features a European premiere from a stunning new American playwright, a world premiere by our own Playwright in Residence Athena Stevens, and another classic Finborough rediscovery from Welsh playwright Emyln Williams, unseen in London for 75 years.

In celebration of our 40th anniversary year in 2020, we will also be unveiling a whole new look with a new logo, new

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e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

designs for all our print, and a brand new website; relaunching our Finborough Forum discussion group, and offering the opportunity to enter two major playwriting competitions.

We would like to thank Bill Kenwright for his very generous donation to the Finborough Theatre. His support has made this year's work possible.

Do please consider celebrating our 40th birthday with us by becoming a Friend of the Finborough Theatre. We are a registered charity, receiving no public funding of any kind, and your membership plays a vital role in supporting one of London's most acclaimed Off West End theatres. There are four categories of Friends, each named after a theatrical figure resident in nearby Brompton Cemetery, and each offering you a wide range of benefits in return for your support.

I look forward to welcoming you."

For more information, please visit www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

– Neil McPherson, Artistic Director

October 2019 – January 2020 | Press Nights and Photocalls

Tuesday, 29 October – Saturday, 23 November 2019

The European premiere

CHEMISTRY

by Jacob Marx Rice. Directed by Alex Howarth.

Press Nights: Thursday, 31 October 2019 and Friday, 1 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Photocall: Tuesday, 29 October 2019 at 1.00pm-1.30pm

Tuesday, 26 November – Saturday, 21 December 2019

The first London production in 75 years

THE WIND OF HEAVEN

by Emlyn Williams. Directed by Will Maynard.

Press Nights: Thursday, 28 November 2019 and Friday, 29 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Photocall: Tuesday, 26 November 2019 at 1.00pm-1.30pm

Tuesday, 7 January – Saturday, 1 February 2020

The world premiere

SCROUNGER

by Anthea Stevens. Directed by Lily McLeish.

Press Nights: Thursday, 9 January 2020 and Friday, 10 January 2020 at 7.30pm

Photocall: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 at 1.00pm-1.30pm

Playwriting Competitions:

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Performance Times and Prices

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm.

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

For Chemistry, The Wind of Heaven and Scrounger

Prices for Weeks One and Two – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Previews £14 all seats.

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£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 the first Saturday evening, when booked online only.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Livvy Perrett on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07889 794858**

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

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