



# **FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**  
December 2018-February 2019 Season

Part of the Finborough Theatre's

**THE GREAT WAR 100**

series

## **THEATRE GULEÒR THEATRE GALORE**

presents

# **BANA-GHAISGICH/HEROINES**

Written and Performed by Mairi Morrison

Original Music by Mike Vass.

Directed by Muireann Kelly.

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

In the very final production in the Finborough Theatre's acclaimed GREATWAR100 series, a new play in Scottish Gaelic, presented by Theatre Gu Leòr, **Bana-Ghaisgich/Heroines**, will preview at the Finborough Theatre for one performance only on **Monday, 17th December 2018 at 7.30pm**, prior to receiving its world premiere on the Isle of Lewis on the 27, 28 and 29 December 2018, as part of the 100th commemorative anniversary of the Iolaire disaster on the island.

1918. Oidhche Challainn a bheireas buaidh air Eliean Leòdhais gu sìorraidh bràth.

Tha ceudan de luchd-sheirbheise a' tilleadh dhachaigh à bonn Shasainn gu ceann an Tuath-Siar de dh' Alba, Eilean Leòdhais.

Ann an Caol Loch-Aillse, tha am bàta, an 'Sheila', a' feitheamh riutha ach cha ghabh i an slugh a tha a' nochdadh ann. Le sin chaidh fios a chuir air an HMY Iolaire is sheòl i dhachaigh le 284 fir air bòrd, a mhòr chuid on Royal Naval Reserve. Am fianais tìr, san crìdhe làn gàirdeachais, tha HMY Iolaire a' dol air na creagan aithnichte, Biastan Thuilm, is a' bathadh 201 dhiubh air an stairsneach fhèin. O chionn an Titanic, seo an tubaist-mhara a bu mhiosa a thachair, a thaobh soitheach Bhreatannaich, ann an àm-sìthe.

Seo dràma ùr a tha a' togail air bròn, breitheanas agus daingneachd troimh shùil na mnathan ach 's ann ri thighinn a tha an cruadal. Bidh amhrain agus ceòl beò an luib am pìos seo.

1918. A Hogmanay that shapes the future of the Isle of Lewis forever.

Hundreds of servicemen are returning home from the South of England to the North-West of Scotland, the Isle of Lewis. The 'Sheila' mail-boat cannot cope with all the men arriving in Kyle of Lochalsh so HMY Iolaire is deployed to help 284 men, mostly from the Royal Naval Reserve, make their final journey home.

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

## Press Information

Metres from land, their hearts rejoicing, HMY Iolaire veers off course and strikes the renowned rocks, Beasts of Holm, causing 201 men to drown on their own doorstep. This was the worst peacetime maritime disaster involving a British vessel, since the Titanic.

This new play explores grief, judgement and solidarity through the eyes of their women as their hardest challenge lies ahead. The performance will include live music and songs. The play is performed in Scottish Gaelic. A free programme with a short synopsis of the play in English will be available.

Playwright, singer and performer **Mairi Morrison** trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Theatre includes Scotties, Cèilidh and Shrapnel (Theatre Gu Leòr), Dunsinane (National Theatre of Scotland and Royal Shakespeare Company), Last Tango in Partick (National Theatre of Scotland), Briseadh na Cloiche (Webster's Theatre, Glasgow), Hallaig (Robhanis), Yellow on the Broom, Perfect Days, Whisky Kisses and The Admirable Crichton (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), Away with the Birds (Trigger Stuff), Angus: Weaver of Grass (Horse + Bamboo Theatre), A Dead Man's Dying (Òran Mór and National Theatre of Scotland), Jacobite Country and The Seer (Dogstar Theatre) and Eat Your Heart Out (Òran Mór). Film and Television include Outlaw King, Bannan, Katie Morag, Briseadh na Cloiche, Dà Là san Dàmhair and Bad Brown Owl. Mairi also has extensive experience as a voiceover artist. She was awarded the New Playwrights Award in 2017.

Composer and Musician **Mike Vass** is one of the most creative forces on the Scottish music scene. As a musician, composer, producer and arranger Vass has amassed a body of work that encompasses early appearances as a livewire young fiddler, collaborations with many of the leading voices among today's Scots and Gaelic tradition bearers, delivering multi-media performances, overseeing critically acclaimed recordings and scoring for prestigious ensembles.

[www.mikevass.com](http://www.mikevass.com)

Director **Muireann Kelly** is the founder and Artistic Director of Theatre Gu Leòr, an award winning, contemporary Gàidhlig theatre, based in Glasgow, who regularly tour nationally and internationally. Kelly directed and co-wrote their most recent production Scotties with Frances Poet which toured Ireland and Scotland in September and October 2018 and was supported by National Theatre of Scotland and The National Theatre in Ireland, Abbey Theatre. Theatre Gu Leòr won the Creative Scotland's Arts and Culture, Gaelic Award for their production of Shrapnel in 2016, and they were recently shortlisted again for their recent touring production of Cèilidh in 2018. [www.theatreguleor.com](http://www.theatreguleor.com)

### The press on Scotties, Theatre Gu leòr's last production

★★★★★ "A multi-layered, unforgettable piece of theatre from Theatre Gu Leòr and the national theatres of Scotland and Ireland...Beautifully written and powerfully performed...A truly unforgettable performance." The Skinny

★★★★★ "Muireann Kelly's eight-strong company deliver a show to remember, and an important staging-post in Scotland's long journey towards greater knowledge of itself, through the stories it tells." The Scotsman

★★★★★ "A brooding hybrid of theatrical forms...which moves between ceilidh and lament." The Herald

★★★★★ "The eight-strong cast...under a haunting lighting design by Simon Wilkinson emerge from Charlotte Lane's translucent set like wandering souls." Reviewsphere

## THEGREATWAR100

THEGREATWAR100 series is an occasional series of works written during or in the aftermath of the Great War presented by the Finborough Theatre to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

The script was developed with support from Playwrights' Studio, Scotland.

THEATRE GULEÒR  
THEATRE GALORE



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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

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# Press Information

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

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

**FOR ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY - Monday, 17 December 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Tickets £18, £16 concessions

Performance length: Approximately one hour.

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>

For a press release in Scottish Gaelic, or any other information about Theatre Gu Leòr, please email

[info@theatreguleor.com](mailto:info@theatreguleor.com)

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