

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE
VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES



The UK and English language premiere

DEATH OF A HUNTER

by Rolf Hochhuth.

Adapted by Peter Thiers. Translated by Peter Sutton.

Directed by Anthony Shrubbsall. Sound Design by Natasha Westlake.

Presented by Sarah Lawrie for And Tomorrow Theatre Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Edmund Dehn

"When we die, what do we leave behind?"

The UK and English language premiere of ***Death of a Hunter*** opens at the Finborough Theatre on Sunday, 1 April 2018 for nine Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees including a performance in German on Tuesday, 10 April 2018 (**Press Night: Monday, 2 April 2018 at 7.30pm**).

Unable to write anymore, Ernest Hemingway fights his last and loneliest battle as he tries to find the courage to commit suicide. He confronts his demons, questions old certainties and comes face to face with the ghosts of his past...

Clinically, precisely, harrowingly and in real time, radical German playwright Rolf Hochhuth explores the final hour in the life of an American icon, examining the cult of celebrity, the trappings of fame and "the ultimate futility with which we are all cursed and 'blessed'".

Death of a Hunter is the fourth play by Rolf Hochhuth presented at the Finborough Theatre, following *Soldiers*, *The Representative* and *Summer 14: A Dance of Death*. *Death of a Hunter* opens on Hochhuth's 87th birthday, and features **Edmund Dehn** who appeared in the Finborough Theatre's very first production in 1980.

On **Tuesday 10 April at 2.00pm**, German actor **Torsten Münchow** will perform *Death of a Hunter* in the original German.

Playwright **Rolf Hochhuth** was born in West Germany in 1931. Rolf Hochhuth's provocative first drama, *Der Stellvertreter. Ein christliches Trauerspiel* (*The Deputy, a Christian tragedy*), also known as *The Representative* (1963), which accused the Catholic Church of complicity in the Holocaust, establishing him as a pivotal figure in Germany's artistic efforts to confront its crimes during the war. It received productions worldwide and caused great controversy, as well as recently being adapted for the film *Amen*. It was produced at the Finborough Theatre in 2006. His second play, *Soldiers* (1967), initially banned in England, received its world premiere in Berlin in 1967, and received its first UK revival at the Finborough Theatre in 2004. It has also received acclaimed productions from Toronto to Melbourne. Later works include *Guerrillas* (1970), *The Midwife* (1972), *The Survivor* (1981) and the film *A Love in Germany* (1984).

Director **Anthony Shrubbsall** is a founder member of the Entire Theatre Company and former academic. Direction includes *LANZA* (Opera in the City at the Bridewell Theatre), *The Gin Chronicles* (Arts Space Edinburgh), *Orbits* (Drayton Arms Theatre), *Real Life TV* (Barons Court Theatre), *Saffron Hill* (Pleasance Theatre London), Zena Edwards' *Security*

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk
www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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Press Information

(BAC) which was the first UK production selected for the Shizuoka Festival, Japan, and Richard Tyrone Jones' *Big Heart*, the first spoken word show adapted into a series for BBC Radio 4. He has published on directing Vsevolod Meyerhold's acting technique, Harold Pinter's *Mountain Language*, Samuel Beckett's *Rockaby* and the theatre of Jacques Lecoq.

Adapter **Peter Thiers** studied Dramaturgy at Die Hochschule für Musik und Theater in both Leipzig and Hamburg. During that time, he worked as a dramaturg, author and director for theatre, film, and radio plays. His poetry film *Echo* was invited to DOK Leipzig Animation and Documentary Festival in 2014 and in 2016, his adaptation of *Death of a Hunter* was invited to play at the German Week in Gdansk, Poland. In 2017, his play *Warten auf Sturm* (*Waiting for the Storm to Come*) was nominated for the German drama award *Osnabrücker Dramatikerpreis*. Peter is currently an Assistant Director at Thalia Theatre, Hamburg.

Translator **Peter Sutton** worked in adult education before being appointed Head of Publications at the Unesco Institute for Education in Hamburg in 1987. In 1994, he returned to the UK and became a freelance translator and editor for cultural institutions, lawyers and international organisations. He also trained as a professional actor and started writing plays. *Elgar and Alice* was first produced in 2007 and *The Prebumpitious Mr Punch* was premiered in 2013, both at The Swan Theatre in Worcester. His modern verse translation of William Langland's medieval poem *Piers Plowman* was published in the US in 2014, and his own poetry has begun to appear in journals. He has given readings from his work at conferences, festivals and other poetry events in the UK and the US and has written textbooks and articles on languages and education, Elgar and Langland. Peter has also been a visiting lecturer at universities in Armenia, Germany, Russia and the UK.

Death of a Hunter is presented by And Tomorrow Theatre Company, a new theatre company formed in 2017 in response to Brexit.

Edmund Dehn plays Ernest Hemingway, returning to the Finborough Theatre where he has appeared in nine previous productions including their opening show in 1980 and Rolf Hochhuth's *The Representative and Summer 14: A Dance of Death*. Other theatre includes *The Tempest* (Regional Tour), *The Book of Job* (Theatre Royal, Norwich), *Murder in the Cathedral* and *The Beggars Opera* (Duchy Opera, Cornwall), *Coriolanus*, *The Alchemist* (Courtyard Theatre), *Pygmalion*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Gaslight* (Byre Theatre, St Andrews), *The Cherry Orchard*, *Candida* and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (English Theatre, Hamburg), *On the Couch with Enoch* and *The King and I* (BAC), *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear* (National Tour), *The Merchant of Venice*, *Measure For Measure*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (National Tour), *The Soldier's Tale* and *Façade* (South West Theatre), *The School For Scandal* and *Bent* (Northcott Theatre, Exeter), *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* (West End, Hull and Belfast), *The Servant*, *The Shadow of a Gunman*, *Human Rites* and *The Pixie Led* (Southwark Playhouse), *Educating Rita*, *Mare Liberum* (Tusk Theatre, Netherlands), *The Bends of the Danube* (Merlin Theatre, Budapest), *When Knights Were Bold* (West End), *This Story of Yours* (Old Red Lion Theatre) and *Così* (Kings Head Theatre). In the last year, he has also played Winston Churchill in *Austerity* and Charles Laughton in *Orbits*. Television includes *Speer und Er*, *The 10%ers*, *Knightmare*, *Lovejoy*, *Strange Landscape*, *The Secret Agent*, *Light Fantastic*, *Capital City*, *Bramwell*, *Oil Storm*, *London: The Greatest City* and *Lykkeland*. Film includes *Spoon*, *Brothers Of War*, *Olive Green*, *With Love From Suffolk*, *Cradle of Fear*, *Kid Gloves*, *Lovelorn*, *Seven Africans*, *The Meeting*, *Junta*, *Afterlife* and *The Judge Minty Fan Film*. Edmund is also a successful voice actor for commercials, games and audio books including the sole reader on the unabridged *Gormenghast Trilogy*, and for Islamic Children's Audiobooks.

German actor **Torsten Münchow** performs for a one off performance in German on **Tuesday 10 April at 2.00pm**. He was born in West Berlin, and trained at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Saarbrücken and the Berufsfachschule für Schauspiel und Musical in Hamburg. He has performed at some of the most prestigious theatres in Germany. In addition to his stage work, he is a well-known face on German television, also working extensively in film and audio. He played Otto von Bismarck in *The Founding of the German Empire* and *The Nervous Superpower* for German TV to great critical acclaim, and has dubbed numerous films for Brendan Fraser, Ice-T and Antonio Banderas. Since 2009, Torsten has also been working as a talk show host on popular German show *alpha FORUM*. Torsten premiered Peter Thiers' adaptation of *Death of a Hunter* in Danzig and Hamburg in 2016 and reprised the role at Theatre auf'm Kahn in Berlin (which he founded) in September 2017.

The Press on playwright Rolf Hochhuth's previous productions at the Finborough Theatre

On Soldiers

Time Out and *The Times* Critics' Choice

"This is concentrated theatre and highly recommended." John Nathan, *Jewish Chronicle*

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"Kenneth Tynan's original 1968 production of *Soldiers* about the British blanket bombing of German cities during the Second World War caused such outrage that it is surprising to discover in this first ever UK revival just how reasonable and well balanced the play actually is...a gripping, stimulating evening." Colin Shearman, *The Stage*

"Dramatic dynamite ...this intelligent and ambitious play." Rachel Halliburton, *Time Out*

"You have to salute the bravery of Finborough supremo Neil McPherson for giving this difficult play its first London revival since the 1960s " Aleks Sierz, *What's On in London*

"Rolf Hochhuth's "*Soldiers*" caused an almighty stink back in 1967: disruptive rows at the National Theatre, fierce debates on television, a ban by the Lord Chamberlain leading to a delayed West End production. Seeing it again now makes one almost nostalgic for an era when political theatre could make front-page news. ...This is good theatre precisely because it offers genuine dialectical debate. It also has an obvious relevance to today." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

"The deft handling of a clear-cut political issue, dealt with in such a blatantly confrontational manner, is terrifically gripping and makes for great theatre." Tom Ogg, *Culture Wars*

"Much better written than current political plays" Rhoda Koenig, *Evening Standard*

On *The Representative*

One of the top five shows in London – *The Independent*

★★★★ Four Stars *Time Out*

"The play is a work of such immense scope and power that it becomes one of those works which cannot be compared to anything: they demand that other works be compared to them" Bernard Levin, *The Daily Mail* on the original production

"This is a play [with] greater moral scope and polemical content than a contemporary audience is used to." Caroline McGinn, *Time Out*

"A thoughtful and thought-provoking piece of theatre" Alistair Smith, *The Stage*

"This is a magnificent, mammoth, must-see drama...A terrific piece of theatre." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviewsgate.com*

"Both engaging and thought provoking" Mike Williams, *Vanguard*

"An admirably incisive and complex study in the ethics of politics...A profound examination of the limits of moral responsibility" Robert Hanks, *The Independent*

"Kate Wasserberg's production...reveals the power...of Hochhuth's style of righteous documentary drama. Like *Soldiers*, *The Representative* is a powerful polemic" Jonathan Caines, *Church Times*

The press on director Anthony Shrubbsall

"Director Anthony Shrubbsall's stripped-down production has a measured intensity" ★★★★★ Four stars *The Stage* on *Orbits*

"A great piece of theatre...This is not a show for the faint-hearted, when things happen, they really happen big time."

★★★★ Four stars *London Theatre 1* on *Real Life TV*

"Pin-sharp pastiche of 1940s radio drama" ★★★★★ Four stars *The Scotsman* on *The Gin Chronicles, A Scottish Adventure*

"Remarkable." ★★★★★ Four stars, *Musical Theatre Review* on *LANZA*

"Cuts through seemingly polar differences such as race, age, geography and goes to the core of human experience."

★★★★ Four stars, *Afridiak* on *Security*

The press on actor Edmund Dehn

"Edmund Dehn's seasoned professionalism and craft as Emperor Franz Joseph and Admiral von Tirpitz were very fine." *Starcourse Blog* on *Summer 14*

"Dehn brings a depth of character to the stage that renders him of constant interest" *Everything Theatre* on *Orbits*

"*Judge Minty's* excellence revolves around one thing...and that one thing is actor Edmund Dehn." *Paul Matthews Blogspot* on *The Judge Minty Fan Film*

"If a statue can weep or a fresco suffer, then so this Job, Edmund Dehn, movingly does before our very eyes and speaks in a voice of organ warmth and range." *Eastern Daily Press* on *The Book of Job*

"Edmund Dehn's Red is a vivid compound of cunning and defeat." *The Times* on *Coyote Ugly*

"Edmund Dehn plays Becket with a haunted dignity, his perfectly modulated enunciation gives full flight to Eliot's written word." *Western Morning News* on *Murder in the Cathedral*

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 2 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 2 APRIL 2018 AT 5.00PM–5.30PM

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Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

No booking fees on online, personal or postal bookings

By Telephone –

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Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There will be a 5% booking fee.)

Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm

Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 15, 16, 17 April 2018

THE PERFORMANCE ON TUESDAY 10 APRIL AT 2.00PM WILL BE PERFORMED IN GERMAN

Sunday and Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Tuesday matinees at 2.00pm.

Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

Performance Length: Approximately one hour with no interval

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Antonella Petrancosta on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07512 609614**

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

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