

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES  
Spring Season – February to May 2015

Part of the Finborough Theatre's

THE GREAT WAR 100

series'

The world premiere

# I WISH TO DIE SINGING

## – VOICES FROM THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

by Neil McPherson.

Directed by Tommo Fowler. Designed by Phil Lindley. Lighting by Rob Mills. Sound by Max Pappenheim.

Movement Direction by Ita O'Brien. Presented by Rachel Kraftman for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Kate Binchy. Jilly Bond. Bevan Celestine. Siu-See Hung. Tamar Karabetyan. Tom Marshall. Simon Yadoo.

**"Who, after all, today remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?" – Adolf Hitler, 1939**

Commemorating the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, the world premiere of a documentary drama **I Wish To Die Singing – Voices From The Armenian Genocide** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 23 April and Friday, 24 April 2015 at 7.30pm**).

"On the night of Saturday, April 24th 1915, the Armenians of Constantinople were snoring in a calm sleep – exhausted from their Easter celebrations – while in the Central Police Station a secret project was in motion..."

Commemorating the exact centenary of the deportations that began the Armenian Genocide, **I Wish To Die Singing – Voices From The Armenian Genocide** is a controversial documentary drama uncovering the forgotten secrets and atrocities of a denied genocide. Following several characters through these traumatic events, the play includes eye-witness reportage, images, music, poetry from Armenia's greatest poets, and verbatim survivors testimonies from one of the greatest historical injustices of all time.

The Armenian Genocide of 1915-16 was perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish Government against the Armenians, a Christian minority in a Muslim state. Up to one and a half million people died.

The word 'genocide' itself was invented by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 to describe the events of 1915. Adolf Hitler used the Armenian Genocide as a direct inspiration for the Holocaust during the Second World War.

To this day, the Turkish government refuses to admit that genocide ever took place.

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 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.

# Press Information

Playwright **Neil McPherson** is Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre. An earlier version of *I Wish to Die Singing* was presented for a sold out short run at the Finborough Theatre in 2005 to mark the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and received a staged reading at the Centre for Armenian Information and Advice, London, in 2006.

Director **Tommo Fowler** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he directed *Obama-ology* and was Resident Assistant Director at the Finborough Theatre working on *Sommer 14: A Dance of Death* and *Harajuku Girls*. Trained with Living Pictures and on the Short Course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Direction includes *Monster Party* (Arcola Theatre), *Vesting Day* (Southwark Playhouse), a staged reading of *Wake* (English Touring Theatre Studios), *The Repast*, *Porcelain*, *Just Say No* (Theatre503), *The (Accidental) Execution of Alan Bishop* (Pleasance London) and *Extremely Brief and Violent* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art). Assistant Direction includes *Handel Furioso* (Arcola Theatre and National Tour), *Rainbow* (Edinburgh Festival and winner of Fringe First Award) and *Mojo Mickybo* (Old Red Lion Theatre). Dramaturgy includes *Rumpy Pumpy* (King's Head Theatre and Tour) and *No Border*, an intranational verbatim theatre project.

## **THEGREATWAR100**

THEGREATWAR100 series is a new occasional series of works about – or written during – the Great War to be presented by the Finborough Theatre from 2014 to 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

### **The press on Tommo Fowler's production of Obama-Ology**

"Tommo Fowler's production has plenty of dash...A really enjoyable evening." Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"Laugh out loud, cry, and contemplate some challenging socio-political issues...A highly topical piece of theatre." Hannah Blyth, *Everything Theatre*

"Both political and intensely human... See this play. This production. Both are miraculous." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviews Gate*

"Tommo Fowler...gives us a fast flowing production in which comedy, suspense and high emotion are delivered with equal confidence." Stephen Bates, *The Public Reviews*

"Tommo Fowler's production, which no director could better in its liveliness, ability to create group excitement one moment, intense personal angst another." Timothy Ramsden, *Reviews Gate*



LED BY IWM

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 23 APRIL AND FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM**  
**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2015 AT 1.30PM–2.00PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED  
Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

### **Tuesday, 21 April – Saturday, 16 May 2015**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 2 May 2015).

**Prices until 3 May** – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (21 and 22 April) £12 all seats.

£10 tickets for under 30s 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, 25 April 2015 when booked online only.

**Prices from 5 May** – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Performance Length: 90 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Tara Marricdale** on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07977 173135**

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

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