

#FinboroughFrontier

The online premiere of a new play

HOW TO MAKE A REVOLUTION

by Einat Weizman, with Issa Amro.

Directed by Tommo Fowler.

Designed by Sophia Pardon.

Produced by Gabriel Varghese.

Presented by Gabriel Varghese in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Issa Amro. Waj Ali. Ramzi DeHani. Jasmine Naziha Jones. Rez Kabir.

"You can't document what happens in the military courts – you can't take videos or pictures, no recordings at all. Much of what happens there stays in the dark – unless someone takes the official testimonies and makes them into a play."

The Finborough Theatre presents a digital production of the new documentary play ***How To Make A Revolution*** by Einat Weizman with Issa Amro. As part of the Finborough Theatre's new digital initiative, #FinboroughFrontier, the play will be available to watch **FREE** on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel for one month from **Monday, 31 January 2022 at 6.00pm to Monday, 28 February 2022 at 11.00pm**. The video will be available both with and without subtitles.

Hailed as a defender of human rights by the United Nations, and born and raised in Hebron, Issa Amro has devoted his life to protesting and documenting human rights abuses in the West Bank-Occupied Territories.

In February 2016, he was detained and indicted by the Israeli state on eighteen charges spanning six years – including incitement, insulting a soldier, and protesting against military and settler violence.

He was tried in the Ofer Military Court where the average trial takes 10 minutes, and where the conviction rate for Palestinians is 99.7%

With the help of an Israeli lawyer, the presence of foreign diplomats, and an international outcry, Issa was acquitted of most of the charges and received a suspended sentence, only to find himself arrested and tried again – but this time, not by Israel, but by the Palestinian Authority...

In this new documentary play, filmed in the UK and Hebron, and based on verbatim transcripts, Issa Amro takes to the stage to play himself in a coruscating look at the truth behind the headlines.

Playwright **Einat Weizman's** productions at the Finborough Theatre include her controversial play *Prisoners of the Occupation* as part of *Vibrant 2019 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*.

Based in Tel Aviv, Einat is an actor, director, playwright and political activist. All her plays, performances and events are focused on documentary theatre as an investigative tool into the hidden spaces of the Israeli reality. Theatre includes *Prisoners of the Occupation* (Tmu-na Theater, Tel Aviv, and a tour of Palestinian villages), *I, Dureen T.* (Tmu-na Theater, Tel Aviv, Human Festival, Oslo, Norway, and Matera Prima Theatre Festival, Florence, Italy), *House 113: A Lesson in Political Construction* (Tmu-na Theater, Tel Aviv), *Palestine, Year Zero* (Tokyo Theatre Festival and Kerala Theatre Festival, India), *Prison Notebooks* (Jaffa Theatre) and *Shame* (Avignon Theatre Festival, France, MoFo Festival, Oslo, Norway, ITI conference, Segovia, Spain, and Mosaic Theater, Washington DC). Film includes *99.7% Convictions*, winner

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

of the DocAviv Festival Prize. In the Bedouin village of Al Araqib, Einat opened The Resistance Museum in 2020 and the Sumod Center in 2021. She received the New Israel Fund's Essential Art Prize 2020 and the Writer's Guild of Norway's Solidarity Grand Award 2019.

Director **Tommo Fowler**'s productions at the Finborough Theatre include Einat Weizman's *Prisoners of the Occupation*, as part of *Vibrant 2019 - A Festival of Finborough Playwrights*, *Jam*, *I Wish To Die Singing* and *Obamaology*. As Resident Assistant Director, he assisted on *Harajuku Girls* and *Sommer 14*. Direction includes *Mumburger* (Archivist's Gallery and Old Red Lion Theatre), *The Strip*, *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich* (Oxford School of Drama) and *Comet* (Pleasance London). Dramaturgy includes *There Is No Planet B* (Theatre Deli, Sheffield), *One Jewish Boy* (Trafalgar Studios), *Out of the Dark* (Rose Theatre, Kingston) and *In My Lungs the Ocean Swells*, winner of the Origins Award (Vault Festival). Tommo is co-founder of script-reading and dramaturgy company RoughHewn, and was visiting tutor on the MA Playwriting programme at City, University of London.

Designer **Sophia Pardon** trained at Wimbledon College of Arts MA in Theatre Design and Warwick University. Productions include *A Christmas Carol* (Barn Theatre), *Once on This Island* (Arts Educational Schools London), Theatrical Niche's *A Doll's House* (National Tour), *GORGON: A Horror Story* (Vault Festival), *Faustus* (Queen Elizabeth Hall), *Neck or Nothing* (Pleasance London), *The Little Prince* (Omnibus Theatre) and *Arthur and Merlin* (St Paul's Church, Covent Garden). She designed Iris Theatre's new 70-seater theatre space in Covent Garden which opened in November 2021. Forthcoming productions include set design for *Clinton Baptiste* (Hackney Empire and tour), and costume design for the European premiere of *Spongebob Squarepants the Musical* (Arts Educational Schools London)

Producer **Gabriel Varghese** was the co-founder of Sandpit Arts where he curated *Bulbul* (Nightingale Theatre, Brighton), a playwriting competition and festival for emerging writers and *The Far Pavilion* (Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton), a festival of Middle Eastern and North African film, music, dance, storytelling and puppetry. Productions include *Gather Ye Rosebuds* and *Tunnel* (Nightingale Theatre, Brighton), *Nahda* (Bush Theatre), *The Cost of Eggs* and *The Tune is Always Better on the Outside* (Mosaic Rooms) and *Scenes from 68* Years* (Arcola Theatre). Direction includes *Honolulu* (Nightingale Theatre, Brighton), *Meri Neighbour* (Tara Arts), *Farhana, or Memoirs of a Hijra* (Royal Vauxhall Tavern) and *The Last Sky* (Oxford Playhouse). Playwriting includes *When the Messiah Comes* (Rich Mix), *Invisible* (Lanterns Studio), *Toba Tek Singh* (National Theatre Studio), *Tryst (with Destiny)* (Tara Arts), *Hanging Ayaz* (Soho Theatre) and *Babel Junction* (Hackney Empire). Gabriel has a PhD in Drama, and has lectured at the universities of Exeter, Bethlehem, Al-Quds, East Jerusalem and Royal Holloway. He is the author of *Palestinian Theatre in the West Bank* which was longlisted for the Palestine Book Awards 2020.

The cast is:

Issa Amro | Himself

Issa is a prominent Palestinian activist born and raised in the Palestinian city of Hebron. He is the co-founder of Youth Against Settlements, which works to strengthen Palestinians' steadfastness against the expansion of illegal settlements as well as to document Israeli human rights violations. He has led a non-violent movement of civil disobedience for years. In 2009, he received the One World media award for his involvement in B'Tselem's *Shooting Back* project. In 2010, the United Nations named him the Human Rights Defender of the Year in Palestine. In 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Council expressed concern for his wellbeing and safety due to numerous accounts of harassment from Israeli soldiers and settlers and a series of arbitrary arrests. In 2013, too, he was declared a Human Rights Defender by the European Union.

Waj Ali | Prosecutor, Judge and Interrogator

Trained at London School of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Ali and Dahlia* (Pleasance London), *Love* (European Tour), *Occupational Hazards* (Hampstead Theatre), *Clothes Swap Theatre Party* (Forward Theatre Project), *The Rest Of Your Life* and *Nahda* (Bush Theatre), *Fear and Man and Boy* (Vertical Line Theatre) and *King Lear* (National Theatre).

Film includes *Up On The Roof*, *90 Minutes*, *Good People*, *Hyena* and *Red 2*.

Television includes *Carnival Row: Seasons 1 and 2*, *Honour*, *Agatha and the Curse of Ishtar*, *Mister Winner*, *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*, *Witless*, *The Attack*, *Strike: The Silkworm*, *America's War on Drugs*, *The State*, *Da Vinci's Demons* and *Tyrant*.

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Ramzi DeHani | Issa Amro

Trained at Oxford School of Drama.

Theatre includes *Come In! Sit Down!* (Kiln Theatre), *A Doll's House* (Barons Court Theatre), *Phone Home* (Shoreditch Town Hall), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lion and Unicorn Theatre), *Tea and Good Intentions* (Canal Café Theatre) and *Bare Essentials* (Arts Theatre).

Film includes *Break, Dessert, Tracks* and *Jahannam*.

Radio includes *Miriam and Youssef* and *Room for Refugees*.

Ramzi is an actor and artist of Palestinian, Libyan and Syrian heritage from London. He is also the co-founder of MENA Arts UK, a UK-based arts organisation celebrating professionals from the MENA+ region in the UK live and recorded arts.

Jasmine Naziha Jones | Defence

Trained at Drama Centre London.

Theatre includes *Buggy Baby* (Yard Theatre), *Memory of Water* (Nottingham Playhouse) and *The Art of Success* (Rose Theatre, Kingston).

Television includes *Call The Midwife*, *Turn Up Charlie* and *Flatmates*.

Radio includes over fifty productions for BBC Radio Drama.

Jasmine is a Royal Court Theatre and Vault New Writers alumna. During lockdown, she wrote her debut full-length play *Baghdaddy*, made possible with funding from Arts Council England.

Rez Kabir | Witnesses and Interrogator

Trained at Tara Arts.

Theatre includes *East is East* (Northern Stage, Newcastle), *Oslo* (National Theatre), *Kiterunner* (National Tour), *Londoner*, *Gauhar Jaan*, *Terror* and *The Two Headed Bird* (Brady Arts Centre) and *All Our Heroes* (National School Tour).

Film includes *Zohra*, *What Are You Looking At?* and *The Infiltrator*.

Rez is an actor and storyteller who teaches theatre and community arts and runs Tamarind Theatre Company, London.

#FINBOROUGHFRONTIER

During lockdown, our acclaimed **#FinboroughForFree** series released monthly free-to-view archive recordings and original online content including new plays, rediscoveries, a community festival, and the Finborough Forum, our invitation-only group for theatre creatives. Our online work saw us awarded London Pub Theatres' Award for Pub Theatre of the Year 2020, and our web series *Late Night Staring At High Res Pixels* won London Pub Theatres Standing Ovation Award for Best Online Theatre 2021.

We strongly believe that online work is an exciting new complement to our work, and are anxious to explore this new medium, embracing anything that can be presented digitally including film, livestream, audio, and hybrid. We are especially keen to develop digital work to increase our international engagement, and also to ensure that our work is truly available for everyone, especially those who cannot easily access our auditorium.

From January 2022, we will be continuing our online work under a brand new name – **#FinboroughFrontier**, curated by Artistic Director **Neil McPherson** and Playwright-in-Residence **Athena Stevens**. All our online content will remain – as it was throughout lockdown – entirely free to view, and also be available in a subtitled version.

Available **FREE TO VIEW** on the Finborough Theatre YouTube channel **#FinboroughFrontier**.

www.youtube.com/finboroughtheatre

Monday, 31 January 2022 at 6.00pm to Monday, 28 February 2022 at 11.00pm

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Performance length: Approximately 45 minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Matilda Russell on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07384 379624**

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

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