



“All I can do is write my stories for mankind, and rest easy.”

– William Saroyan

We rediscover the unique voice of one of America’s most famous writers, **William Saroyan**, with our [saroyan centennial season], celebrating the centenary of his birth, and featuring rare revivals of three of his plays – *Sam the Highest Jumper of Them All*, running on Sundays and Mondays in September; *The Beautiful People*, running on Sundays and Mondays in October; and *The Time of Your Life*, arguably Saroyan’s best known work, running for a month in December.

“Try to learn to breathe deeply, really to taste food when you eat, and when you sleep really to sleep. Try as much as possible to be wholly alive with all your might, and when you laugh, laugh like hell. And when you get angry, get good and angry. Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough.”

– William Saroyan

William Saroyan (1908–1981) was born one hundred years ago in Fresno, California, the son of Armenian immigrants. His Armenian heritage gives his work a unique flavour, resulting in a very different view of the American experience than his slightly younger contemporaries Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams. He sprang to fame overnight in 1934 with his short story about a starving writer trying to survive the Depression, *The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze*, and his published writings include over 1,500 short stories, plays, and novels. His most enduring achievements date from the late 1930’s and early 1940’s when he won a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, and The Drama Critics Circle Award.

“I began to write in the first place because I expected everything to change, and I wanted to have things in writing the way they had been. Just the little things, of course. A little of my little.”

– William Saroyan

Performance Times and Ticket Prices

Sam, the Highest Jumper of Them All

Sundays and Mondays, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22 September 2008
Evenings at 7.30pm. Tickets £13, £9 concessions.

The Beautiful People

Sundays and Mondays, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20 October 2008
Evenings at 7.30pm. Tickets £13, £9 concessions.

The Time of Your Life

26 November – 20 December 2008
Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm.
Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm.
Tickets £13, £9 concessions, except
Tuesday Evenings £9 all seats, Saturday evenings £13 all seats.

Book Online (No Booking Fees)

www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

REDUCTIONS ON ALL FULL PRICE ONLINE BOOKINGS

24 Hour Box Office (No Booking Fees)

0844 847 1652

IN PERSON – The Box Office opens 30 minutes before each performance. We accept cash, cheques and Theatre Tokens.

BY POST – Please enclose a cheque made payable to the ‘Finborough Theatre’ with a stamped addressed envelope.

GROUP BOOKINGS – Special discounts for groups. Book up to 25 tickets online, or call 020 7373 3842.

ACCESS – Visit www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk or call 020 7373 3842 for full details.

We regret that tickets may not be exchanged or refunded, and latecomers cannot be admitted.

THE FINBOROUGH ROAD BRASSERIE – Special offers available for theatregoers before the show. To book a table, call 020 7370 0955 or visit www.finboroughroadbrasserie.com



Travel Information

We are located above The Finborough Road Brasserie at 118 Finborough Road, London, SW10 9ED.

TUBE – Earl’s Court (District and Piccadilly Lines). Turn left from the Warwick Road exit, the theatre is five minutes walk straight along the road. West Brompton (District Line and National Rail).

BUS – 11, 14, 22, 74, 190, 328, C1, C3

PARKING – Limited on-street parking in surrounding streets.

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September – December 2008

[saroyan centennial season]



Celebrating the centenary of the birth of American playwright **William Saroyan**

BOOK ONLINE

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24 HOUR BOX OFFICE

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NO BOOKING FEES

Sundays and Mondays
8, 14, 15, 21, 22 September



SAM, THE HIGHEST JUMPER OF THEM ALL or, THE LONDON COMEDY

by William Saroyan
Directed by David Cottis

"We shall not try to be real... since total success would make it necessary for us to leave the theatre immediately, and I don't believe we want to do that."

When bank clerk Sam Hark-Harkalark is falsely accused of stealing half a million pounds in banknotes signed 'Good God', he loses his job. Unbowed, he determines to jump higher than anyone else ever has. The only thing is, so far he hasn't jumped at all....

A typically whimsical Saroyan play, as free-form and beguiling as a John Coltrane solo, and the only piece Saroyan ever wrote to be premiered in the UK.

This is the play's first ever revival since its world premiere by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal Stratford East in 1960, and includes some sections banned by the Lord Chamberlain, and never seen on stage before.

Director **David Cottis** makes his Finborough Theatre debut. His recent work includes *The Menaechmi* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Timon of Athens* (Camden People's Theatre) and *Richard III* (Catford Broadway Theatre).

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Sundays and Mondays
6, 12, 13, 19, 20 October



THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

by William Saroyan
Directed by Mel Cook

"I believed goodness was a coin for exchange more powerful than any coin minted by any government – the only coin. I'm no longer sure."

The Beautiful People refuse to play by the rules of a wicked world, steadfastly preserving their enchanted and at times illegal innocence, by any means necessary.

A philosophical father, a one-word boy novelist, and blessed Saint Agnes of the Mice battle the breaking of dreams, accompanied by a ghostly cornet player, a nostalgic clerk, an octogenarian drunk, a drunken priest, an almost-mother, and several literate vermin.

Cheques are stolen from a dead man. Mice are daringly rescued by a poet. Strangers become family. The prodigal son returns. And lost loves are finally and forever found.

A Broadway hit in 1941, *The Beautiful People* receives its first UK production in over sixty years.

Director **Mel Cook** makes her Finborough Theatre debut. Her recent work includes productions at Theatre 503, Southwark Playhouse and Hampstead Theatre, and assisting Gregory Doran, Anthony Clark and Fiona Laird.

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26 November
– 20 December 2008



THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

by William Saroyan
Directed by Max Lewendel

"In the time of our life, live – so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it."

1939. With the world on the brink of war, Nick's Pacific Street Saloon, a seedy San Francisco waterfront honky-tonk, is a way-station welcoming lost souls of all kinds. Enter Kitty Duvall, internationally renowned burlesque dancer or "two-dollar whore" (no one can be quite sure)...

A rich tapestry of human life, peopled by wistful dreamers, pining lonely hearts, and beer-hall-philosophers, and featuring the largest cast ever assembled at the Finborough Theatre.

The first play ever to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, it has been produced four times on Broadway, filmed with James Cagney, and was last seen in the UK in a star-studded RSC production in 1983.

Director **Max Lewendel** returns to the Finborough Theatre after his critically acclaimed productions of the award-winning *Albert's Boy* and *Coyote Ugly* (Time Out Critics' Choice).

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