

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**
October–December 2017

By the author of *Three Men In A Boat*
The first London production in nearly 70 years of the West End and Broadway success

THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK

by Jerome K. Jerome.
Directed by Jonny Kelly.

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

“Who are you? I know your voice. I hear it in the wind. I hear it in the silence of the night. Who...Who are you?”

In a new production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre, a unique rediscovery of **The Passing of the Third Floor Back** by Jerome K. Jerome, author of *Three Men in a Boat*, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 28 November 2017 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 30 November and Friday, 1 December 2017 at 7.30pm**).

Christmas in London, 1907. Mrs. Sharpe’s squalid Bloomsbury boarding house plays host to some unscrupulous residents. Vivian is being forced to marry a man she doesn’t love, Harry’s musical career is a laughing-stock, Jape is plotting to swindle the next man he meets, while Stasia, the maid, has almost been forgotten. So their lives go on, until the sudden arrival of a mysterious stranger in search of a room...

Described by its author as “an idle fancy”, the mystical and mysterious **The Passing of the Third Floor Back** was one of the longest running West End and Broadway hits of its time. The original stage production and silent film version starred the greatest Hamlet of his day – Sir Johnson Forbes-Robertson. In 1935, it was adapted for film again to great acclaim, starring silent screen icon Conrad Veidt (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*).

Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927) was both novelist and playwright. He remains best known for his 1889 comic travelogue *Three Men in a Boat*. Depicting three men on a two-week boating holiday along the River Thames, it never been out of print since its publication. It continues to be popular to the present day, with *The Guardian* ranking it No. 33 of *The 100 Greatest Novels of All Time* in 2003, and no. 25 in 2015, and *Esquire* ranking it No. 2 in the *50 Funniest Books Ever* in 2009. He also established himself as a playwright on both sides of the Atlantic, writing for a long list of prominent players. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, his first serious play, drew upon his early life experiences of living in a variety of dingy London lodgings. Other notable works include *Three Men on the Bummel*, *On the Stage—and Off*, *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and his autobiographical novel *Paul Kever*.

Director **Jonny Kelly** returns to the Finborough Theatre following his sell out production of Michael Healey’s *Proud* in 2016. As co-founder of NorthSEE Theatre, he has recently directed *Sid and Viv* (Theatre503 and Northern Stage). He was also Assistant Director on both *The Hard Man* and *Unscorched* at the Finborough Theatre. Direction includes *A is for Ali* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Money Womb* (Theatre503), *The Special Relationship* (Southwark Playhouse), *Boys Will Be Boys* (Soho Theatre), *Lies* (VAULT Festival), and *Call Centre* (New Wimbledon Theatre). Associate and Assistant Direction includes assisting Justin Audibert on *Flare Path* (National Tour) and *Nina Raine* on *Donkey Heart* (Trafalgar Studios). He was also the Assistant Director of Papatango Theatre Company for two years. He trained at East 15 Acting School.

The press on director Jonny Kelly’s production of Proud at the Finborough Theatre

“Kelly draws us in with acute detail, a director with an eye for nuance in comedy.” ★★★★★ London Pub Theatres

“An intelligent, well directed and informative piece of theatre that must be seen by everyone” A Younger Theatre on

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

Press Information

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Proud

"With its savvy writing, assured direction and well-rounded characters, Proud works on all fronts, entertaining and thought-provoking in equal measure." ★★★★★Female Arts on Proud

**PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER and FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM.
PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 28 November – Friday, 22 December 2017

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 9 December 2017).

Prices until 10 December 2017 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (28 and 29 November) £12 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30's 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, 2 December 2017 when booked online only.

Prices from 12 December 2017 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

Group Bookings – 1 free ticket for every 10 tickets booked.

Performance Length: Approximately 2 hours 30 minutes with one interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail 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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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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