

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**
Summer Season – July–September 2017

Part of the Finborough Theatre's

THE GREAT WAR 100

series'

The first professional UK production in 85 years

WINDOWS

by John Galsworthy.

Directed by Geoffrey Beevers.

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

"It's 'ardly worth while to do these winders. You clean 'em, and they're dirty again in no time.
It's like life. And people talk o' progress. What a sooperstition!"

Celebrating the 150th birthday of novelist and playwright **John Galsworthy**, the first professional UK production in 85 years of **Windows** by **John Galsworthy** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a three week limited season on Tuesday, 22 August 2017 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 24 August and Friday, 25 August 2017 at 7.30pm**).

1922. In the aftermath of the First World War, Britain is left questioning the relevance of the ideals and values for which it fought, but which society seems to have forgotten.

When writer Geoffrey March proposes to his family that they employ a young woman with a questionable past as their new maid, his high-minded ideals are suddenly challenged by those around him. Finding support for his beliefs in the girl's father, a philosophical window cleaner, he follows the path which he believes to be decent and moral. But when his son begins to fall in love with her, the family discover that ideals can have serious consequences...

Described by John Galsworthy as "a comedy for idealists and others", *Windows* is a fascinating exploration of class and of a generation struggling to catch up with their lives in a world that has been altered forever by war.

John Galsworthy was born 150 years ago in 1867. A winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, is today best known for *The Forsyte Saga*, but was also a leading dramatist of social reform in such plays as *Loyalties*, which was revived at the Finborough Theatre in 2006, *The Silver Box*, *Strife*, *The Skin Game*, *The Mob* and *Justice* – which led the Home Secretary Winston Churchill to institute a major prison reform. Alongside George Bernard Shaw and Henry Granville Barker, he was one of the pioneers of the new theatre movement at the start of the twentieth century. In 1924, he founded PEN, the international writers organisation. He died in 1933.

Director **Geoffrey Beevers** is an award-winning writer, director and actor for theatre and radio. Direction includes *The Middlemarch Trilogy*, *Dorothea's Story*, *The Doctor's Story*, *Fred and Mary*, *Audience*, *Adam Bede*, *The Beggars Opera*, *Silas Marner*, *The Neighbours* and *Pere Goriot* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), *Adam Bede* (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, Derby Playhouse and Theatre Royal York), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Arms and the Man* and *Mrs Warren's Profession* (Guildhall School of Music and Drama) and *The Country Wife* and *The Case of Rebellious Susan* (Drama Studio London). His original plays for theatre include *Steak and Microchips* and *The Story of Jude*. Adaptations for theatre include *Adam Bede* which won a Time Out Award, *Pere Goriot*, *Silas Marner*, *The Middlemarch Trilogy*, *The Doctor's Story* and *Fred and Mary*. Original writing for radio includes *Steak and Microchips*, *The Story of Jude* and *Unintelligent Design*. Adaptations for radio include *Rudin*, *Send My Roots Rain*, *Nocturne in Blue and Gold* and *A Proper Woman*. Recent theatre as an actor includes *Amadeus* (National Theatre), *The Audience* (Gielgud Theatre and Gerald Schoenfeld Theater, New York City) and *The Heresy of Love* (Royal Shakespeare Company). Novels include *The Forgotten Fields* and *The Progress Road*, both published by Fantom.

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

The press on the original productions of *Windows*

"As amusing as a Shaw play and infinitely more human" Homer E. Woodbridge

"It has the old great Galsworthy quality about it, the quality of intelligent indignation" Evening Standard

"The clash of opposing points of view and warring emotions makes drama flame into being" Manchester Guardian

"Windows is a very skilful piece of work" H. W. Massingham, The Nation

"Well written, full of dramatic interest, sharply humorous" The Observer

The press on the Finborough Theatre's production of *John Galsworthy's Loyalties*

★★★★ Four Stars, The Guardian, Time Out, The Financial Times

"Confirms that Galsworthy's shockingly neglected plays are eminently revivable social documents" Michael Billington, The Guardian

"The Finborough has also rediscovered an absorbing play written by John Galsworthy in 1922." Susannah Clapp, The Observer

"Rarely performed plays are often neglected with good reason; but Phil Willmott's revival of John Galsworthy's 1922 work demonstrates something of the skill and scope of the playwright better known for his novel *The Forsyte Saga*. *Loyalties* is a cracker: humming with modern resonance" Sam Marlowe, The Times

"A valuable revival" Timothy Ramsden, Reviewsgate

The press on Project One's production of *Caste at the Finborough Theatre*

★★★★★ Five Stars, LondonTheatre1 and London Pub Theatres

★★★★ Four Stars, The Stage and Reviews Hub

"Eminently worth reviving...Victorian class-clash comedy with pin-sharp performances." Michael Billington, The Guardian

"A rare revival of his masterpiece *Caste* – a comedy-drama about social class where the humour still sparkles 150 years after its premiere in Charlotte Peters' entertaining production." Neil Dowden, The Stage

"An exquisite little shimmering gem to delight the discerning playgoer." Peter Yates, London Theatre 1

"They have, without a doubt, 'a hit. A palpable hit', on their hands." London Pub Theatres

"Hilarious by any standards, ancient or modern, suggesting that maybe even Queen Victoria herself would have cracked a smile." Stephen Bates, The Reviews Hub

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30PM and FRIDAY, 25 AUGUST 2017 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 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, 22 August – Saturday, 9 September 2017

Tuesday to Sunday evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

Prices until 27 August 2017 – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (22 and 23 August) £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, 26 August 2017 when booked online only.

Prices from 29 August 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.



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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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