

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

The first UK production in over 120 years

# CYRIL'S SUCCESS

by Henry J. Byron.

Directed by Hannah Boland Moore.

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

"If ever you publish that volume of poetry which you threaten us with, I will not only review it favourably, but damme, I'll **read** it."

During 2018, the Finborough Theatre celebrates 150 years of the Finborough Theatre building with an anniversary selection of the best plays from 1868. The **FINBOROUGH150** series opens with...

The first London production since 1890 of **Cyril's Success** by playwright and local resident Henry J. Byron playing for nine Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 4 February 2018 (**Press Night: Monday, 5 February 2018 at 7.30pm**).

London, 1868. Young playwright Cyril Cuthbert is at the beginning of what promises to be a triumphant career. Eagerly pursued by theatre managers, critics and star actors, and lovingly supported by his wife, Cyril is happier than ever.

But as his career takes off, his newly-won fame takes a toll on his marriage until Mrs Cuthbert discovers proof that Cyril's attention and heart have wandered...

First staged in November 1868 in London, and the following year in the United States, and filled with pungent – and still very apposite – satire of critics, writers, actors and theatre folk, **Cyril's Success** was one of Henry J. Byron's biggest successes – a semi-autobiographical romantic comedy about the trials and joys of marriage and of a life in the theatre.

Playwright **Henry James Byron** (1835-1884) was a prolific playwright, producing over 150 dramatic works, as well as being an editor, journalist, actor, theatre manager and director. Among his many successful plays was *Our Boys* (1875) which broke the records for London's longest-running play with 1,362 performances of the original production. He is possibly best remembered today for his work in pantomime where he created the character of Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, or, *The Wonderful Scamp* (1861), and adding both the Ugly Sisters and Buttons to *Cinderella* (1860). He was the editor of *Fun* magazine (1861), showcasing the talents of the young W. S. Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. He is buried in Brompton Cemetery, close to the Finborough Theatre.

Director **Hannah Boland Moore** returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed *Veterans Day* in 2017. Direction includes *The Provoked Wife* (White Bear Theatre, and transfer to the Hope Theatre), *The One* (Lion and Unicorn Theatre), *The Broken Circle Breakdown* (Karamel Club), *Confetti* (LOST Theatre) and *As You Like It* (Royal Shakespeare Company Open Stages). Assistant Direction includes the Olivier Award nominated *It Is Easy To Be Dead* (Finborough Theatre and Trafalgar Studios) and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Greenwich Theatre). Hannah has also worked as Text Assistant to the Master of Words at Shakespeare's Globe on *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King John*, *Richard II* and *Measure for Measure*. Hannah trained Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

**FINBOROUGH150**. 2018 marks 150 years of the Finborough Theatre building, originally designed by prominent Victorian architect George Godwin. We will be celebrating our birthday throughout the year with an anniversary selection of the best plays from 1868.

## The press on playwright H J Byron

"A master of genial wit and humour" The Times

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[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

"A true power of fun that makes itself felt high and low." Journal of a London Playgoer on Punch and Fun

"Mr Byron will certainly be pointed out by future historians of the stage as one of the most prolific authors of our time... Verbal shots follow each other so quickly that one laugh has scarcely died away when another is raised...Of the success of Our Boys there can be no doubt." The Times on Our Boys

"Mr Byron has succeeded admirably...a storm of applause interrupted the performance." Pall Mall Gazette on Dearer Than Life

"Seldom has a success been more complete on the occasion of a first representation." Advertiser Gazette on Dearer Than Life

"The most perfect and genuine success." Daily News on Dearer Than Life

"A paragraph must suffice at present to record the complete success of a new and original drama, written by Mr H J Byron, and entitled Dearer than Life, produced here last evening before a most appreciative audience...equally due to excellence of acting and to cleverness of construction." Daily Telegraph on Dearer Than Life

"Clever and creditable drama." Sunday Times on Dearer Than Life

## **The press on director Hannah Boland Moore**

On The Provoked Wife –

"Hannah Boland Moore's direction is spot on...creating moments of true comic genius." ★★★★★ Five stars, The Spy in the Stalls

"Fantastic...talented director Hannah Boland Moore has secured an ensemble who work beautifully together." ★★★★★ Five stars, London Theatre 1

"It takes something special to make a 320-year-old play feel fresh, funny and entirely up-to-date, and Marooned Theatre do exactly that." ★★★★★ Five stars, London Pub Theatres

"Skilfully directed by Hannah Boland Moore." ★★★★★ Four stars, Act Drop

On Veterans Day –

"Hannah Boland Moore directs her perfectly-cast production with finely-calibrated sensitivity." ★★★★★ Four stars, Jewish Renaissance

"Hannah Boland Moore's direction counterpoints the action with a score that confirms the play's dictum that "military music is to music what military justice is to justice." Michael Billington in The Guardian

**PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.00PM–5.30PM**

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)

**Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 February 2018**

Sunday and Monday evenings at 7.30pm. Tuesday matinees at 2.00pm.

Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

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

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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