

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

The world premiere

IMAGINATIONSHIP

by Sue Healy.

Directed by Tricia Thorns. Designed by Tara Marricdale.

Lighting Design by Richard Haines. Sound Design by Eugene Sully.

Presented by Two's Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Joanna Bending. Jilly Bond. George Howard. John Sackville. Bart Suavek. Patience Tomlinson. Rupert Wickham.

"Sex is nothing. It's relationships that's a poison. It's love what does the damage."

Originally seen as a staged reading as part of Vibrant 2017 – A Festival of Finborough Playwrights, the world premiere of **Imaginationship** by Sue Healy runs at the Finborough Theatre, playing Sunday and Monday evenings and Tuesday matinees from Sunday, 7 January 2018 (**Press Night: Monday, 8 January 2018 at 7.30pm**).

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. 59-year-old Ginnie attempts to seduce her unrequited love, the nymphomaniac Brenda. Attila is from Hungary but has ended up scraping an existence in Yarmouth – and pursues Melody who is obsessed with her cold and distant evening-class tutor, Tony. Power-plays and relationships clash until a seduction too far leads to mass murder.

Set in a marginalised Brexit town, **Imaginationship** explores obsession, sex addiction, and the devastating effect of imbalanced relationships, not least between immigrants and locals, London and the regions.

Playwright **Sue Healy** was born in Ireland. Her work has been supported and developed by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, the Peggy Ramsay Foundation and Arts Council England. She has won the Sussex Playwrights' Award and the Escalator Award, and been a finalist for BBC Scriptroom 12, the Eamon Keane Playwriting Prize, the Nick Darke Award and Old Vic 12. Plays include *Cow* (Etcetera Theatre) and *Brazen Strap* (King's Head Theatre), both funded by Arts Council England. Her work has also been performed at the Hackney Attic, Claremorris Festival (New Writing Award winner), Brighton Festival and Sterts Theatre. Radio plays include nine plays which have broadcast on BBC Radio 4 ('Opening Lines' winner), WLRfm and KCLR96fm. A UEA Creative Writing MA alumna, Sue spent eleven years in Budapest, editing the newspaper Hungary A.M. She is now based in London, and is completing a Ph.D. in theatre history. Sue is currently Literary Manager at the Finborough Theatre.

Director **Tricia Thorns** returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed *Red Night* and *London Wall* that subsequently transferred to the St James Theatre. She is Artistic Director of Two's Company. Tricia began her career as an actor in the West End as part of John Neville's company at the Fortune Theatre, after a Classics BA from Nottingham University. Direction includes *A Day by the Sea*, *The Fifth Column*, *The Cutting of the Cloth* and *What the Women Did* (Southwark Playhouse), her own plays *Breakfast on the Beach* and *Creation* with casts of 40, (St Barnabas Church, Dulwich), *A Hard Rain* (Above the Stag Theatre), *My Real War 1914-?* (Trafalgar Studios and National Tour), *The Searcher* (Musical Futures at Greenwich Theatre), *Forgotten Voices from the Great War* (Pleasance London), *Ex and Black 'Ell* (Soho Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Dulwich Picture Gallery), *Peer Gynt* (Alley's Theatre) and *Passion Play 2000*, a huge community play which she also wrote. As an actress, theatre includes *End of Story* (Chelsea Theatre), *Harry and Me* (Warehouse, Croydon), *Façade* (Dingley and Dulwich Festivals) *A Kind of Alaska* (Edinburgh, National Tour and USA Tour), *Time's Up* (Windsor Theatre Royal), *The Libertine* and *The Man of Mode* (Royal Court Theatre and Out of Joint Tour), *Betrayal* (Battersea Arts Centre and National Tour), *Run For Your Wife* (West End) and leading roles in theatres in Salisbury, Ipswich, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Guildford, Derby and many more. Television includes *Dangerfield*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Keeping Up Appearances*, *The Darling Buds of May*, *The Bill*, *London's Burning* and *Captives*. Film includes *The Turn of the Screw*.

The cast is:

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

Joanna Bending | Melody

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Shadows Of The Evening* (Bridewell Theatre), *Waiting For God* (National Tour), *Outings* (Lyric Theatre), *The Sound of Murder* (National Tour), *Kingmaker* (Arts Theatre and St. James Theatre), *Macbeth* (U.S. Tour), *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (National Theatre), *Under The Mulberry Tree* (Festival Theatre, Edinburgh), *Mountain Language* (Royal Court Theatre), *Phallacy* (King's Head Theatre), *Two Women For One Ghost* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *Hand Over Fist* for which she received The Stage Best Solo Performance nomination, *Boris: World King*, *Kingmaker*, *Trolling*, *Sex Lives of Others* (Pleasance Edinburgh), *Blithe Spirit* and *Intimate Exchanges* (Frinton Theatre) and *The Master and Margarita* (National Theatre Studio).

Film includes *To the Grave*, *Second Coming*, *Tick Tock Lullaby* and *The Holiday*.

Television includes *EastEnders*, *Doctors*, *Holby City*, *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, *Angel of Death*, *Love Soup*, *PMTV*, *The Bill* and *Coronation Street*.

Jilly Bond | Ginnie Atkins

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *I Wish to Die Singing*.

Trained at Drama Studio London.

Theatre includes *Island* (National Theatre), *Jump!* (Birmingham Rep), *Othello* and *Mrs Warren's Profession* (English Theatre, Hamburg), *Transmissions* (Lowry Theatre, Manchester), *Juvenilia* (Winchester Festival) and *Criminology 303* (Edinburgh Festival).

Television includes *Doctors*, *Judge John Deed*, *Comedy Nation*, *People Like Us*, *My Hero* and *Alastair McGowan's Big Impression*.

Radio includes over 100 radio plays for the BBC, including appearances in *The Archers*.

Audiobooks include recording over 350 audiobooks, winning four Audiofile Earphones Awards. She is about to direct her first radio drama podcast for *Bison Arts Theatre*.

George Howard | Gediminas

Trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *King Lear* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Comedy of Errors* (National Tour for The Lord Chamberlain's Men), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Greenwich Theatre) and *Child of the Nineties* (Theatre West).

Film includes *Crawl*.

John Sackville | Baz Canham

Productions for Two's Company include *A Day by the Sea* (Southwark Playhouse).

Theatre includes *William Wordsworth* (English Touring Theatre), *The Trial of Jane Fonda* (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh and London), *An Inspector Calls* (National Theatre and PW Productions), *The Winslow Boy* (Rose Theatre, Kingston), *A Man For All Seasons* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Othello* and *Volpone* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *A Cloud in Trousers* (York Theatre Royal and Southwark Playhouse), *Plunder* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *Our Country's Good* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton), *Party* (Arts Theatre) and *Hamlet* (Oxford Stage Company).

Film includes *Lost and Found*, *The Hoarder*, *Fossil*, *The Lost City Of Z*, *Hampstead* and *The Wedding Date*.

Television includes *Genius: Einstein*, *The Crown* (Series 1 and 2), *Royal Wives at War*, *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *House of Anubis*, *The Secret of Crickley Hall*, *Dark Matters*, *Young John Paul II*, *The Sunday Night Project*, *Brief Encounter of an Ordinary Woman*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Royal*, *Heartbeat* and *The Bill*.

John was awarded the McEuen Rosebowl for Acting for the title role in *Hamlet* at the Scottish Student Drama Festival.

Bart Suavek | Attila

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *This Might Be It* (Theatre N16), *The Rattler* (Royal Festival Hall), *To the Bone* (Rich Mix London), *Telo* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art Festival), *DrySync* (Hackney Showroom), *The Improvised History of the World* (Platform Theatre) and *Citizen Puppet* (New Diorama Theatre).

Television includes *Doctor Who*, *No Offence* and *New Blood*.

Patience Tomlinson | Brenda Sullivan

Productions for Two's Company include *Black 'ell*, part of *Forgotten Voices of the Great War* (Pleasance London).

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

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Press Information

Theatre includes *She Stoops to Conquer* (National Theatre), *The Comedy of Errors* (The Young Vic), *Once A Catholic* (Wyndham's Theatre), *The Norman Conquests* (National Tour), *Façade* (National Portrait Gallery), *The Heart of Things* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *A Tale That Is Told* (Gatehouse Theatre and National Tour), *Ring Round the Moon*, *You Never Can Tell*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Real Thing* (Salisbury Playhouse).

Film includes *The Wars* and *The Mannions*.

Television includes *Nanny*, *The Comic Strip*, *The Day Today*, *Friday* and *Saturday Night Armistice*, *In the Red* and *Shadowplay*.

Radio includes *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Othello*, *Proust: The Screenplay*, *Metamorphosis*, *A Dance to the Music of Time*, *Roots*, *Poetry Please*, *Austen*, *Sitwell Letters* and *This Scepter'd Isle*, and *Book at Bedtime* including *Christmas with the Savages*, *Paula and Gal Audrey*, and *Book of the Week* including *Giving Up the Ghost* and *Five Tales of Victorian Norfolk*. *Patience* was twice a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company.

Audiobooks include recording over 200 audio books, including *Charles Dickens: A Life, Wives and Daughters*, *A Glass of Blessings*, *Some Tame Gazelle*, *Robert Browning Poetry*, *The Aeneid*, *A Train in Winter*, *Last Letters Home WW2* and *Waterslain Angels*.

Rupert Wickham | Tony

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes *Stalin's Favourite* (National Tour), *Private Lives* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Defying Hitler* (National Tour and 59E59 Theaters, New York City), *Quartermaine's Terms* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Journey's End* (Comedy Theatre), *Henry V* (National Theatre), *The Winslow Boy* (Chichester Festival Theatre and National Tour), *Not About Heroes* (National Tour), *Death and the Maiden* (King's Head Theatre), *Othello* (National Tour), *Hamlet* (Greenwich Theatre), *King Lear* (Ludlow Festival), *Romeo and Juliet* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester).

Film includes *Journey's End*, *Woman in Gold*, *Mission Impossible 5*, *Stand Off* and *The Bourne Identity*.

Television includes *Silk*, *The Spacerace*, *Waking the Dead*, *A Dance to the Music of Time* and *Band of Brothers*.

Radio includes *Betsie and the Emperor* and *Poetry Please*.

The Press on director Tricia Thorns

"Unearthing John Van Druten's forgotten London Wall would have been enough, but helmer Tricia Thorns' goes one better. Her beautifully judged, immaculately acted revival isn't just theatrical archaeology, it's a treat." David Benedict, *Variety* on London Wall

"Thorns's production manoeuvres a cast of 10 with great skill around the tiny Finborough stage." Michael Billington, *The Guardian* on Red Night

"Tightly and fluidly directed by Tricia Thorns." Daisy Bowie-Sell, *Time Out* on What the Women Did

"A production so exact you can smell it. The thrill is in the documentary detail, marvellously realised in Tricia Thorns' terrific production." Susannah Clapp, *The Observer* on The Cutting of the Cloth

"Tricia Thorns's sensitive production." Michael Arditti, *Sunday Express* on A Day by the Sea

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY, 8 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, 8 JANUARY 2018 AT 5.00PM-5.30PM

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

No booking fees on online, personal or postal bookings

By Telephone –

Until 29 January 2018 – Box Office 0844 847 1652 (Calls will cost 7ppm plus your network access charge.)

From 30 January 2018 – Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There will be a 5% booking fee.) Lines are open

Monday – Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm

Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 January 2018

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

Tickets £18, £16 concessions. (Group Bookings – 1 free ticket for every 10 tickets booked.)

Performance Length: Approximately 90 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Antonella Petrancosta on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07512 609614**

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

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