

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES
February-May 2019 Season

Part of the Finborough Theatre's
CELEBRATING BRITISH MUSIC THEATRE
series

The first professional UK production in over fifty years

MAGGIE MAY

Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
Book by Alun Owen.
Directed by Matthew Iliffe.

Musical Direction by Henry Brennan. Choreography by Sam Spencer-Lane. Set and Costume Design by Verity Johnson.
Lighting Design by Jonathan Simpson. Sound Design by Philip Matejtschuk.

Presented by SDWC Productions Ltd in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Performed by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe) Limited on behalf of Josef Weinberger Limited.
Cast: Joshua Barton. Euan Bennet. Chloe Carrington. James Darch. Kara Lily Hayworth. Aaron Kavanagh. Leon Kay. David Keller. Cathy McManamon. Michael Nelson. Mark Pearce. Barnaby Taylor. Natalie Williams.

"Oh the Liver Bird is a statue
On a building high by the pier.
Lord of Merseyside, staring at you,
To his beady eye, all is clear..."

The first professional London production since its 1964 premiere, the hit British musical **Maggie May** with music and lyrics by **Lionel Bart** and book by renowned dramatist **Alun Owen**, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited four week season on Wednesday, 27 March 2019 (**Press Nights: Friday, 29 March 2019 and Saturday, 30 March 2019 at 7.30pm**).

A hard-hitting celebration of working class life in Liverpool's docks in the 1960s, **Maggie May** is the story of the doomed love affair between 'street walker' Maggie May Duffy and sailor Patrick Casey, the son of a union-martyr, initially reluctant but finally proud to assume his father's mantle. Around them is a gallery of strongly-drawn characters: Willie Morgan, the corrupt demagogic union leader, Juddah, the 'fixer' and traitor, and Old Dooley, obsessed with past union struggles, all caught up in an allegoric musical drama with a devastating tragic climax.

Winner of the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Score of the Year, the show includes one the most musically diverse scores of the 1960s, ranging from bitter sweet ballads, Mersey Beat rock'n'roll, and classic chorus numbers from Lionel Bart, the man that Andrew Lloyd Webber described as "the father of the modern British musical".

Revived by the National Youth Theatre in an acclaimed West End production in 1992, this is the first professional London production since its premiere 55 years ago at the Adelphi Theatre, London, starring Rachel Roberts, Kenneth Haigh and Barry Humphries. This production also commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the death of Lionel Bart.

"Liverpool is a Lady and the lady's name is Margaret Mary Duffy, known to her lovers from Lime Street to Buenos Aires, as Maggie May." Alun Owen

Composer and Lyricist **Lionel Bart** (1930-1999) is best known for the internationally acclaimed and Tony award winning *Oliver!* (West End 1960 and Broadway 1963). His other musicals include *Lock Up Your Daughters* (1959), *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* (1959), *Blitz!* (1962), *Twang!!* (1965), *La Strada* (1969) and *Lionel!* (1977). His notable songs include the

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Press Information

theme song to the James Bond film *From Russia with Love*, and the hit songs *Living Doll* by Cliff Richard, *Far Away* by Shirley Bassey, and several songs recorded by Tommy Steele (*A Handful of Songs*, *Butterfingers* and *Little White Bull*). Bart is also credited as being the first manager of The Rolling Stones and, at one stage, was also Judy Garland's manager. He received a special Ivor Novello Award for Life Achievement in 1986.

Librettist **Alun Owen** (1925-1994) was born in Liverpool. He is best remembered for writing the screenplay of The Beatles' debut feature film *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. His many other works for stage, film, radio and television include *Progress to the Park* (Theatre Royal Stratford East and West End 1960), *The Rough and Ready Lot* (1959), *No Trams to Lime Street* (1959), *The Criminal* (1960), *Lucky* (1974) and *Come Home, Charlie, and Face Them* (1990).

Director **Matthew Iliffe** previous productions include the European premiere of *The Burnt Part Boys* which was nominated for the OffWestEnd Award for Best Director and Best Musical Production (Park Theatre), *Side By Side By Sondheim* (The Piano Bar, Bristol Hippodrome), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Landor Theatre), *Precious Little Talent* (The Albany), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Alma Tavern Theatre, Bristol) and *The Way Things Weren't* (The Room Above, Bristol). Assistant Direction includes *Brass* (National Youth Music Theatre at the Hackney Empire) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Eastville Park, Bristol). Matthew graduated from the University of Bristol with a first class honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies, and trained on the StoneCrabs Young Directors Programme, in association with The Albany.

Producer **Effie Stevenson** is Producer and Company Director of SDWC Productions Ltd, a theatre production company based in London's West End. Previous productions include revivals of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Landor Theatre) and *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* (Jermyn Street Theatre), and the European premieres of *The Burnt Part Boys* (Park Theatre) and *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Finborough Theatre). She is a recipient of a Stage One bursary for new producers and has recently been working with Clean Break Theatre Company. Her work has been nominated for a total of nineteen OffWestEnd Awards, and won the BroadwayWorld.com award for Best New London Fringe Production.

CELEBRATING BRITISH MUSIC THEATRE

The Finborough Theatre's 'Celebrating British Music Theatre' series has seen a host of acclaimed productions of British music theatre including both rediscoveries and premieres.

The cast is:

Joshua Barton | Sailor/Stevedore/Ensemble

Trained at Arts University Bournemouth.

Theatre includes *The Commitments* (National Tour and Ireland Tour), *What The Ladybird Heard* (International Tour), *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Hamlet* (London Contemporary Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Duck Egg Theatre Company), *Waiting For Godot* (Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre) and *The Threepenny Opera* (Lighthouse, Poole).

Euan Bennet | Eric Dooley

Trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and The Dance School of Scotland.

Theatre includes *Sunshine On Leith* (West Yorkshire Playhouse and National Tour), *Jack and The Beanstalk* (Paisley Arts Centre, Paisley), *The Broons* (Scotland Tour) and *Dick Whittington* (Eden Court Theatre, Inverness).

Film includes *Anna and the Apocalypse*.

Chloe Carrington | Niece/Ensemble

Trained at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre includes *Jersey Boys* (International Tour), *The Wizard of Oz* (Opera House Theatre, Blackpool), *Hair* (Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester), *Moulin Rouge* (Secret Cinema) and *When Midnight Strikes* (Upstairs at The Gatehouse).

James Darch | Patrick Casey

Trained at Arts Educational Schools.

Theatre includes *Wicked* (Apollo Victoria Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Novello Theatre), *Guys and Dolls* (Cadogan Hall), *Cats* (National Tour), *An Officer and a Gentleman* (National Tour), *White Christmas* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Kiss Me Kate* (Royal Albert Hall), *Cool Rider* (Duchess Theatre), *Cinderella* (King's Theatre, Edinburgh), *Marguerite* (Tabard Theatre) and *Fresher the Musical* (Edinburgh Festival).

Television includes *For Love or Money* and *New Tricks*.

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Kara Lily Hayworth | Maggie May

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes Cilla the Musical (National Tour), Annie (National Tour), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Arts Theatre), Moulin Rouge (Secret Cinema), Peter Pan (Princes Hall Theatre, Aldershot), Persephone A Love Story (Rosemary Branch Theatre) and Stand and Deliver (King's Head Theatre).

Film and Television includes Knightfall, The Huntsman, Maleficent, Annie, Winter's War, Monkey's Claw and Will.

Concerts include Magic at the Musicals (Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Stadium).

Aaron Kavanagh | Balladeer/Milkman

Trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Theatre includes Some Lovers (The Other Palace), This is The Greatest Show (National Tour), The Rocky Horror Show (European Tour), Red Velvet Cabaret and Spectacular! Spectacular! (Cabaret Supper Club, Belfast), Cinderella, Aladdin and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (Courtyard Theatre, Newtonabbey).

Leon Kay | Gene Kierman

Trained at Arts Educational Schools.

Theatre includes High Society (The Old Vic), Scrooge (London Palladium), Les Misérables (Queen's Theatre), Sondheim's 75th Birthday Gala (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), Billy Elliot, Oklahoma!, Doctor Dolittle, Priscilla Queen of the Desert and South Pacific (National Tours), Beauty and the Beast (Theatre Royal Wakefield), The 12 Tenors (European Tour), Celeste (Capitol Theatre, Rome), Jekyll and Hyde (English Theatre, Frankfurt), Jesus Christ Superstar (Ljubljana Festival), Silence! (Arts Theatre), The Great Pretenders (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), The Fix and Sweeney Todd (Union Theatre), Dick Whittington (Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple) and Aladdin (Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre).

David Keller | Old Dooley

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes Hamlet (Theatr Clwyd Cymru), The Elephant Man (Theatre Royal Plymouth), Equus (Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford), Macbeth (Gdansk Shakespeare Festival), Othello (Courtyard Theatre) and Proof (Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester).

Cathy McManamon | Norah Mulqueen

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London School of Musical Theatre and the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.

Theatre includes Me and My Girl (London Palladium), Girls Night (National Tour), Judy Garland The Legend (National Tour and Ireland Tour), Jack The Ripper (Jermyn Street Theatre), Merrily We Roll Along (Mermaid Theatre), Goodnight Mr Tom (Bridewell Theatre), Return to the Forbidden Planet and Heavens Above (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), The Ladies Who Lunch and Mud (Etcetera Theatre), No Frills (King's Head Theatre), Pretty Boy (White Bear Theatre), If You Loved Me (Rosemary Branch Theatre), He Said She Said (Landor Theatre), Dare (Bloomsbury Theatre) and Into the Woods (Westminster Theatre).

Film includes Play On, Opera Live, Love Type D, Seeking Council, Summer Dark, Roach Road and The Archangels.

Television includes Waking the Dead, Epic Win, Grange Hill, Domestic Violence Montage and Doctor Hilary's Casebooks.

Michael Nelson | Judder Johnson

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre includes Mamma Mia! (National and International Tour), The Rink (Southwark Playhouse), Our House and An Evening Of Dirty Dancing (National Tours), Get 'Em Off (Above The Stag Theatre), Alice in Wonderland (Iris Theatre) and Jack And The Beanstalk (SEC Hydro, Glasgow).

Television includes Grease: The School Musical.

Mark Pearce | Willy Morgan

Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre includes Twelfth Night (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), Porridge (The Lowry, Manchester), The Wedding Singer (The Curve, Leicester), Ghost (Manchester Opera House), Life of Pi (Greenwich Theatre), Dangerous Lady (Theatre Royal Stratford East), The Music of the Blues Brothers (Arts Theatre), Wild Thing in Carnaby Street (Hackney Empire), Wink The Other Eye (Wilton's Music Hall), The Firebird (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), Sleeping Beauty (Theatre By The Lake, Keswick), Aladdin (The Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering), A Night in Provence (The Mill at Sonning), The BFG (The Dukes, Lancaster), 'Allo 'Allo (National Tour) and Run For Your Wife (English Theatre, Vienna).

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Television includes Hornblower and Strutter.

Barnaby Taylor | T.C. (Terry Collins)

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes The Tempest and The Faith Machine (Guildhall School of Music and Drama) and Hamlet, The History Boys, Much Ado About Nothing and Legally Blonde (Big Spirit Theatre).

Film and Television includes Marie Queen of Romania, Doctors, Endeavour, Casualty and Poppy.

Natalie Williams | Maureen O'Neill

Trained at Bird College.

Theatre includes Charlie and The Chocolate Factory (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), Oliver! (The Curve, Leicester), Scrooge (London Palladium), Wonderful Town (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), My Fair Lady and Evita (National Tours), Promises Promises (Southwark Playhouse), Romeo and Juliet (Secret Cinema), Ballroom (Waterloo East Theatre), Lucky Stiff (Union Theatre) and Title of Show (Above the Stag Theatre).

Television includes Marie Lloyd Queen of the Music Hall.

Recordings include Mary Poppins Returns and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The press on director Matthew Iliffe's production of The Burnt Part Boys

"It's the imaginative way that the audience is taken on this journey by director Matthew Iliffe that makes this show truly special." Musical Theatre Review

"A forward-thinking and meticulous director." A Younger Theatre

"This unusual musical is gripping and its staging imaginative...Expertly sung and staged." The Stage

"Powerfully told and imaginatively staged." Stage Review

"One of the finest examples of Off West End musical theatre... The show under Matthew Iliffe's direction, is also staged perfectly." Jonathan Baz

"Staged with heart and craft... one of the best new shows in town." Mark Shenton

The press on director Matthew Iliffe's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie

"Director Matthew Iliffe [gives] it some diamond dazzle." The Times

"Matthew Iliffe directs with pizzazz." Bargain TheatreIreland

"Perfect direction from young Matthew Iliffe." BroadwayWorld

The press on the 1964 production of Maggie May at the Adelphi Theatre

"A milestone in British musicals" News of the World

"Explosively vigorous" The Times

"Bart's best score to date" Daily Mirror

"Maggie May is a triumph" Evening News

"The audience rose and thundered" The Guardian

"A richness rare in musicals" Sunday Times

"A pop musical edging towards ballad opera" Sunday Times

"This is a punchy, pungent, spectacle of a show...big, bold and energetic" The Observer

"(Lionel Bart's) songs have never been better" The Daily Telegraph

"Brassy, vigorous and tuneful ... Liverpool has come to town with noise, vigour, earthy dialogue and raucous music" The Stage

"The most vigorous musical since West Side Story" Daily Express

"Liverpool, tough, noisy and slightly sinister comes alive" The Sun

"A tip-top show" Manchester Evening News

"One roaring, vital, great hit" Yorkshire Post

"A theatrical spectacular, an assembly of the talents" The Spectator

"For vitality and excitement, Lionel Bart's musical is the best show in town" Vogue

On Twitter at **@MaggieMayLDN**

PRESS NIGHTS: FRIDAY, 29 MARCH 2019 AND SATURDAY, 30 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2019 at 1.00pm – 1.30PM.

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No booking fees on online, personal or postal bookings

Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There will be a 5% booking fee.)

Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am–6.00pm

Wednesday, 27 March – Saturday, 20 April 2019.

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

Ticket prices until 7 April 2019 – £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (27-28 March 2019) tickets £14 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£14 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday 30 March 2019 when booked online only.

Ticket prices from 9 April 2019 – £25, £20 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £25 all seats.

Group bookings: one free ticket in every 10 tickets booked.

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

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on email admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

or

Chloe Nelkin on email info@chloenelkinconsulting.com or **020 3627 2960**

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

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