Jagged Fence in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

**The first full professional production in more than 35 years**

**DUSA, FISH, STAS AND VI**

by Pam Gems.

Directed by Helen Eastman.


"My loves, what are we to do? We won't do as they want any more, and they hate it. What are we to do?"

Commemorating the centenary year of the death of suffragette martyr Emily Wilding Davison, the first full professional production in more than 35 years of Pam Gems’ feminist classic *Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi*, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week season from Tuesday, 9 July 2013 (Press Night: Thursday, 11 July 2013 at 7.30pm).

Four determinedly ‘liberated’ – and very different – women ricochet around a tiny shared flat, while trying to pull together the shattered strands of their lives: Dusa is struggling to regain her children from their father, Fish is losing her lover to another woman, Stas is on the game to finance the course she wants to study at university, while Vi steadfastly refuses to eat....

A bitingly sardonic modern classic, widely regarded as an historic icon of early feminism, *Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi* was first seen at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1976 under the title Dead Fish, Michael Codron transferred the play to the West End under its new title where it enjoyed a huge success and established Pam Gems as a major new voice in British theatre.

Playwright Pam Gems (1925–2011) turned to playwriting after bringing up four children. Closely involved with the Women’s Theatre Group at the Almost Free Theatre, she went on to enjoy a long association with the Royal Shakespeare Company, from *Queen Christina* (1977) and *Piaf* (1978) to *Camille* (1984), *The Danton Affair* (1986) and *The Blue Angel* (1991). Later plays included *Stanley* (premiered at the National Theatre, starring Antony Sher, which won both the Evening Standard Award and the Olivier Award for Best New Play, and also nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play) and *Marlene* (nominated for a Tony Award). She also was a prolific adapter of the works of many of the great European playwrights including Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield) Ibsen’s *The Lady from the Sea* (Almeida Theatre) and Lorca’s *Yerma* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester).

Director Helen Eastman returns to the Finborough Theatre where she directed *The Monument*, *Fair* (and its subsequent National Tour and West End run at Trafalgar Studios), *The Gabriels* and three productions from live poetry company, *Live Canon*. Trained as a director at LAMDA after graduating from Oxford University. Theatre includes *Circus Etc* (The De La Warr Pavilion), *Wild Raspberries* (Citizens Theatre, Glasgow), *Bug Off* (OTC Dublin and tour), *Cure at Troy* (Delphi International Festival and Tour), *Bridgetower* (Hackney Empire and Tour), *Dido and Aeneas*...
(National Tour for English Touring Opera), Speakout (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch for English Touring Opera), Splat (Greenwich Theatre), Felt Effects (Theatre503), Hansel and Gretel (Cork Opera House), The Sweet Science of Bruising (National Theatre Studio), Cloudcuckooland, nominated for a Total Theatre Award (National Tour), Agamemnon (Cambridge Arts), Pots and Plays (site specific at Ashmolean Museum), Dear Father Christmas, Where's Father Christmas, Bicycle Boy (Oxford Playhouse). Helen is Artistic Director of Live Canon, for whom she has created theatre and site specific shows, installations and digital performances throughout the UK. She was one of twelve women invited to create work in the Phenomenal People series at the Festival Hall. She is Associate Artist of Oxford University’s APGRD. She is also a playwright and librettist and has written plays and operas for Oxford Playhouse, The Royal Society, Sheffield Crucible, Queens Hornchurch, Greenwich Theatre, Chester Open Air Season, ETO and the Young Vic.

Jagged Fence returns to the Finborough Theatre where they have produced two sold out critically acclaimed productions – Ours by T.W. Robertson (2007) and Love on the Dole (2010). Founded in 2006 by Artistic Director Emily Dobbs, Jagged Fence is a bold, ambitious and innovative UK based theatre company with a diverse artistic policy that includes new writing, original adaptations and contemporary reappraisals of European, British and American classics. Jagged Fence have established a reputation for fresh, fearless theatre and artistic excellence.

The Cast

Emily Dobbs | Stas
Theatre for the Finborough Theatre includes Ours (2007) and Love on the Dole (2010). Trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama. Theatre includes The Seagull, The Hostage (Southwark Playhouse), As You Like It (Riverside Studios and National Tour), Stars in the Morning Sky, Dance Hall Days, Gotcha, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Riverside Studios), Fall of Humanity (Gate Theatre), Can’t Stand Up For Falling Down (Arcola Theatre), Puppets and Prophets (Theatre503) and Macbeth (National Tour). Television includes The Bill and Primeval.

Helena Johnson | Vi
Trained at Oxford University and the Drama Centre. Theatre includes The Three Sisters (Oxford Playhouse), Private Lives (Old Fire Station, Oxford), Miss Julie (Drama Centre), Pericles (Shakespeare’s Globe), Father Christmas (Oxford Playhouse) and Three Women (Live Canon). Helena has also worked extensively as part of the Live Canon ensemble performing poetry at regional theatres and events around the country. Film includes EXIT.

Olivia Poulet | Fish
Theatre includes The Captain of Kopenick (National Theatre), Fred’s Diner (Chichester Festival Theatre), Top Girls (Ambassador Theatre Group), Shivered (Southwark Playhouse), A Voyage Round My Father (Salisbury Playhouse), Fiasco (Soho Theatre), The Queef of Terence, Bird Flu Diaries (Pleasance Edinburgh), Map Of The Heart (Salisbury Playhouse), Major Barbara (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), The Lesson (King’s Head Theatre) The School for Scandal (Derby Playhouse) and Age Sex Loc@tion (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith). Film Includes In The Loop, Stalking Ben Chadz, Day of the Flowers, Heroes and Villains and Killing Me Softly. Television includes Living The Dream, The Thick Of It, Without You, Dappers, Margot and Mez, Sherlock - The Blind Banker, Spinners And Losers: Opposition Extra, Margaret, The Secret Diary Of A Call Girl, Outnumbered, Whatever Love Means, Friends and Crocodiles, Love Soup, The Rotters Club, Inspector Lynley, Silent Witness, Teachers, The Bill and Acorn Antiques. Radio includes Sex, Latte, Paperclips.

Sophie Scott | Dusa
Trained at Cambridge University and The Oxford School Of Drama. Theatre includes The Kreutzer Sonata (La MaMa E.T.C., New York City), Radio Times (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), Lark Rise to Candleford (National Tour), Othello (Ludlow Festival), The Kreutzer Sonata (Gate Theatre), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Rose Theatre, Kingston, The Comedy of Errors (Shakespeare’s Globe and Tour), Twelfth Night (Donmar at Wyndham’s Theatre), The Portrait of a Lady (The Peter Hall Company at Theatre Royal, Bath), Uncle Vanya (English Touring Theatre) and Blood, Only We Who Guard (Royal Court Theatre).

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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 Finborough Theatre is managed by The Steam Industry. Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, no. 3448268. Registered Charity no. 1071304. Registered address: 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED. A member of the Independent Theatre Council.
Television includes Throwaway, Spit Game and Distant Shores.

**The Press on Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi**
"I am overwhelmed...the cumulative fury and force of the play and the wit discovered on the journey there make this a joyful occasion." The Guardian
"A funny, sparkling and vivacious play." Evening Standard
"Miss Gems offers insight, comedy and delicately observed portraits." The Times

**The Press on director Helen Eastman**
Pick of the Fringe – The Sunday Times on The Cure at Troy

★★★★ ★★★★ "A must see. ....Superbly acted and stylishly staged." Three Weeks on The Cure at Troy
"Terrific and topical...smart and very entertaining" The Observer on Cloudcuckooland
"Serious fun... Multi-talented performers .... an exciting, carnival atmosphere" Three Weeks on Cloudcuckooland
"Hugely enjoyable“ The Guardian on Cloudcuckooland
"A revelatory experience” The Guardian on Agamemnon
"An exhilarating extravagana“ The Guardian on Dido and Aeneas
"A compelling night’s drama” The Times on Bridgetower

And for Fair at the Finborough Theatre –
★★★★ ★★★★ Play of the Week in WhatsOnStage

Time Out Critics’ Choice
Superbly directed by Helen Eastman... an evening that’s as near to bliss as you can get”. Alekz Sierz, The Stage
"Searing yet subtle.” Benjamin Davis,Time Out

Small doesn’t automatically mean modest... A very good play for today.” Michael Billington, The Guardian

**The Press on Jagged Fence**
★★★★ ★★★★★ "Extraordinary elegiac power.” Michael Billington, The Guardian (The Only True History of Lizzie Finn, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★★ "Meticulous and captivating” Lyn Gardner, The Guardian (The Seagull, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★★ "Essential viewing" Fiona Mountford, Evening Standard (Love On The Dole, Finborough Theatre)
★★★ Fresh, sexy and colloquial” Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph (The Seagull, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★ “Striking fringe gold again” Time Out Critic’s Choice (The Only True History of Lizzie Finn, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★ “Sprawling, swaggering, chaotic and noisy...Big-hearted, blunt and deliciously unruly.” Sam Marlowe, The Times (The Hostage, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★ "Remarkable” Lyn Gardner, The Guardian (The Seagull, Southwark Playhouse)
★★★ "Superb" Dominic Cavendish The Telegraph (Gotcha, Riverside Studios)
★★★ "Devastating intensity...stunning” Time Out Critics’ Choice (Stars in the Morning Sky, Riverside Studios)
★★★ "A blast of exuberance, creativity and passion. Made me proud to be a member of the human race. A magical experience... a joy” Daisy Waugh, Sunday Times (Love On The Dole, Finborough Theatre)
★★★ "Brilliantly executed” Time Out Critics’ Choice (Ours, Finborough Theatre)
★★★ "Highly recommended” Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph (The Hostage, Southwark Playhouse)

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2013 AT 7.30PM**
**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2013 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM**

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

**Tuesday, 9 July – Saturday, 3 August 2013**
Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 20 July 2013).

**Prices for Weeks One and Two (9–21 July 2013)** – Tickets £14, £11 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £11 all seats, and Saturday evenings £14 all seats. Previews (9 and 10 July) £9 all seats. £6 tickets for Under 30’s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only. £10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 13 July 2013 when booked online.

**Prices for Weeks Three and Four (23 July–3 August 2013)** – Tickets £16, £12 concessions, except Tuesday
Evenings £12 all seats, and Saturday evenings £16 all seats.
Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact
**Neil McPherson** on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**