

The Finborough Theatre is fully heated and air conditioned

**FINBOROUGH | THEATRE**

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**  
Spring Season 2014 | February–May 2014

# HANNAH MURRAY AND SUSAN PENHALIGON LEAD CAST FOR MARTINE REVIVAL

Primavera in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents  
**The first UK production in more than 25 years**

## MARTINE

by **Jean-Jacques Bernard**. Translated by **John Fowles**.

Directed by Tom Littler  
Designed by Cherry Truluck  
Costumes by Emily Stuart  
Lighting by Tim Mascal  
Sound by Max Pappenheim

Cast: Leila Crerar. Hannah Murray. Susan Penhaligon. Chris Porter. Barnaby Sax.

"When you're away I can't survive without her, I keep talking to her about you. And I hurt her. I seem to have to do it."

Primavera has announced full casting for Jean-Jacques Bernard's seminal 1922 play **Martine**, which opens on Tuesday, 22 April 2014 (**Press Night: Thursday, 24 April 2014 at 7.30pm**) for a four week season.

Award-winning film and television star **Hannah Murray** plays Martine, supported by the iconic **Susan Penhaligon** as Madame Mervan, **Leila Crerar** as Jeanne, **Chris Porter** as Alfred, and **Barnaby Sax** as Julien.

**Hannah Murray** is best known for her role as Cassie in the first two series of Bafta-winning E4 drama *Skins*, for which she was nominated for a Monte-Carlo Television Festival Golden Nymph Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series. She currently plays Gilly in HBO series *Game of Thrones*. Her stage work includes playing Mia in *That Face* (Duke of York's Theatre). Films include *Dark Shadows* with Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham-Carter, *Chatroom*, *Womb*, *The Numbers Station*, *Kat in Lily & Kat* (to be released), and *God Help the Girl*, written and directed by Stuart Murdoch of Belle and Sebastian for which she recently co-won the Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Award.

**Susan Penhaligon** is best known for playing Prue in the award-winning television drama *A Bouquet of Barbed Wire* and the situation comedy *A Fine Romance* with Judi Dench. She also played Bianca in Jonathan Miller's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and leading roles in *Heart of the Country*, *Emmerdale*, and *A Kind of Loving*. Film includes *No Sex Please We're British*, *Leopard in the Snow* and *Soldier of the Queen*. Her extensive theatre career includes *Three Sisters* and *The Real Thing* (West End) and numerous regional and touring productions.

**Leila Crerar** has recently played an acclaimed Lady Macbeth in Perth, and other theatre includes numerous leading roles for directors including Rupert Goold, Tim Carroll and Terry Hands. **Barnaby Sax** has appeared in *Pride and Prejudice* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park) and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Chichester Festival Theatre). **Chris Porter** has recently played Iago in *Othello* (Guildford Shakespeare Company) and leading roles for directors including Gemma Bodinetz and Jonathan Munby.

The Great War is over. It is the summer of 1920, in rural France.

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

By a dusty road, a girl is sitting under the shade of an apple tree. She sees someone walking towards her. He is a young man, just back from fighting in Syria. He joins her under the tree, and a tragic love story begins.

Often compared to Chekhov, and much admired by Harold Pinter, Jean-Jacques Bernard creates a unique emotional landscape of beauty and longing, desire and disappointment.

Originally written in 1922, *Martine* was produced all over the world during the 1920s with many leading actresses of the day in the title role, including Madeleine Renaud. It was first produced in English at the Gate Theatre in 1929, and played the West End in 1933. During the 1920s and 1930s, it was performed all over the world. It was filmed for the BBC in 1952 with a cast including Claire Bloom and Denholm Elliot, and in 1985 John Fowles's translation was produced at the National Theatre, directed by Peter Hall, starring Wendy Morgan.

Playwright **Jean-Jacques Bernard** was born in 1888, the son of leading French dramatist Tristan Bernard. *Martine*, his story of youth and romance in post-War France remains the best-known of all his plays. Bernard belonged to a group of artists called La Chimère, who attacked the prevailing melodramatic theatre (which they described as 'an armchair between dinner and bedtime') and pioneered drama that was domestic in action and naturalistic in style. His other plays include *L'Invitation au Voyage*, *Nationale 6* and *The Gardener of Ispahan*. As a Jew living in occupied France, he was imprisoned during the Second World War in the notorious Compiègne camp and narrowly escaped deportation. He died in 1972.

Translator **John Fowles** (1926-2005) was an English novelist. After reading French at Oxford University, he became a teacher before starting to write. His best-known works include *The Collector* (1963), *The Magus* (1966) and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969) which was later made into an Oscar-nominated film with a screenplay by Harold Pinter. He also completed two other translations for the National Theatre – *Don Juan* (1981) and *Lorenzaccio* (1983). He was named by *The Times* in 2008 as one of the 50 greatest post-War writers.

Director **Tom Littler** returns to the Finborough Theatre where he directed an acclaimed rediscovery of Charles Wood's *Jingo*, starring Susannah Harker, in 2008. He is Artistic Director of Primavera. His recent work includes the premiere of *Dances of Death* (Gate Theatre), *Good Grief* with Penelope Keith (Theatre Royal Bath and tour), *A Little Night Music* (Budapest) and *Murder in the Cathedral* (Oxford Playhouse). His productions for Primavera includes *The Living Room*, *Bloody Poetry*, *Anyone Can Whistle* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Saturday Night* (Arts Theatre), the premiere of *Shiverman* and European premiere of *Madagascar* (Theatre503), *Antigone* (Southwark Playhouse). He was Associate Director of the Peter Hall Company for three years, and worked four times as Trevor Nunn's associate. He is Associate Director of Theatre503.

Set Designer **Cherry Truluck** was nominated twice last year for an OffWestEnd Award (for Primavera's *The Living Room* and *Thark* at the Park Theatre). Her other recent work includes Samuel Beckett's *All That Fall*, directed by Trevor Nunn and starring Michael Gambon and Eileen Atkins in New York and The West End, and *Berkoff: Religion and Anarchy*, directed by Steven Berkoff and Max Barton, at Jermyn Street Theatre.

**Primavera** is also producing the first ever revival of Arthur Wing Pinero's *The Notorious Mrs Ebbsmith* at Jermyn Street Theatre this spring. It has received numerous Critics' Choice awards and OffWestEnd Award nominations, including Best Production, Best Director, Best New Play, Best Actor and Best Actress multiple times, Best Set, Best Costume, Best Lighting, and Best Sound. It has worked with actors including Caroline Blakiston, Sorcha Cusack, Rosalie Craig, the late Richard Griffiths, Harry Hadden-Paton, Susannah Harker, Anthony Howell, Tuppence Middleton, Stephen Moore, Christopher Timothy, David Warner, Honeyuckle Weeks and Marjorie Yates.

## The press on the 1985 National Theatre production of *Martine*

"A luminous minor masterpiece ... Deeply moving." *The Sunday Times*

"Extraordinarily effective and intensely moving." Peter Hepple, *The Stage*

"Marvellously and movingly real ... It's with good reason that Bernard has been compared to Chekhov. He's interested in suggestion and moral nuance, not in sensational event or the blacks and whites of melodrama. It's his aim to show very little, not how much, can destroy a person." Benedict Nightingale, *The New Statesman*

"A beautiful play... The rare and lasting quality of the play is that it succeeds in dramatising a cycle of commonplace events which most writers would have felt obliged to distort for theatrical effect." Irving Wardle, *The Times*

"Nothing is said, but emotions throb beneath the lines. And you may catch the sound of a heart breaking." *The Mail on Sunday*

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# Press Information

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"Bernard shows himself to be a masterly theatrical ironist ... a minor masterpiece ... a timeless tragedy." Michael Billington, The Guardian

## The press on director Tom Littler

"How stimulating it is to see such directorial invention." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Fiona Mountford, Evening Standard, on Antigone

"A single false note would ruin everything, but Littler's production has a miraculous assurance." ★★★★★ Five Stars, Jane Shilling, Daily Telegraph Critic's Choice, on Dances of Death

"Tom Littler's production is detailed and intelligent..." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Henry Hitchings, Evening Standard Critic's Choice, on The Living Room

"Tom Littler's riveting production..." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Michael Coveney, WhatsOnStage, on The Living Room

"Exuberant ... Tom Littler's production runs like an all-singing, all-dancing train." ★★★★★ Five Stars, Tamara Gausi, Time Out Critic's Choice, on Saturday Night

"Tom Littler's production does richly textured justice..." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Paul Taylor, The Independent, on Bloody Poetry

"Tom Littler's lucid production ... is extraordinarily moving. Littler responds to the writing's richness with a production of succulent density ... A work of intricate imagination, immaculately delivered." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Sam Marlowe, The

Times, on Origin of the Species

"Tom Littler's fine, detailed production ensures you hang on every word." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Charles Spencer, Daily Telegraph, on Madagascar

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM**

**PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2014 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](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**Tuesday, 22 April – Saturday, 17 May 2014**

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 3 May 2014).

**Prices for Weeks One and Two (22 April–4 May 2014)** – Tickets £16, £14 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £14 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £16 all seats. Previews (22 and 23 April) £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 April 2014 when booked online.

**Prices for Weeks Three and Four (6–17 May 2014)** – 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.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

**Neil McPherson** on e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto: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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