

# 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. Designed by Daisy Blower. Lighting by Gregory Jordan.

Sound and Music by Conor Cook.

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

Cast: Tim Gibson. Lewis Hart. Will Kelly. Allegra Marland. Isabella Marshall. Stephen Rashbrook. Susan Tracy.

"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 FINBOROUGH**150** 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

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://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.

# Press Information

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. #finborough150

The cast is:

## **Tim Gibson** | Cyril Cuthbert

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre includes *A Woman of No Importance* (Vaudeville Theatre), *The Provoked Wife* (Hope Theatre and White Bear Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Italy Tour), *Richard III* (National Tour) *Homo-* (Rosemary Branch Theatre), *Pygmalion* (English Theatre, Vienna), *Night Without Luz* (Festival Off, Avignon), *Letters from Everyone* (Drayton Arms Theatre),

*Another Country*, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *Mephisto* (Oxford Playhouse) and *Swan Song* (Edinburgh Festival). Theatre whilst training includes *As You Like It*, *Earthquakes in London*, *The House of Blue Leaves* and *Cock*. Film includes *Note*, *Ways of Seeing* and *I Love London*.

## **Lewis Hart** | Titeboy

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Cornelius*.

Theatre includes *Dunsinane* (Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre of Scotland), *Hedda Gabler* and *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* (Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, and Dundee Repertory Theatre), *This Much* (Soho Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Pocket Dream* (Propeller Theatre Company), *Longshore Drift* (Old Vic New Voices), *The Enlightenment Café* (Old Vic Tunnels), *Life Support* (York Theatre Royal), *Miller* (Etcetera Theatre), *The Cage* and *Turning to the Camera* (Edinburgh Festival).

## **Will Kelly** | Major Treherne

Trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Theatre includes *A Woman of No Importance* (Vaudeville Theatre), *The Provoked Wife* (Hope Theatre and White Bear Theatre), *Hansel and Gretel* (St Paul's Church, Covent Garden), *Romeo and Juliet* (Young Shakespeare Company), *King Lear* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Trojan Women* and *The Madame Macadam Travelling Theatre* (Bristol Old Vic Studio), *The Ugly One* (Alma Tavern, Bristol) and *The Babysitter* (Pleasance Edinburgh). Theatre whilst training includes *As You Like It*, *The Country Wife*, *Ladybird*, *Posh*, *Separate Tables*, *Our Country's Good*, *Capital*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Pornography* and *The Shape of Things*.

## **Allegra Marland** | Mrs Bliss

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *After October*.

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre includes *Romeo and Juliet* (Union Theatre), *Wine Over Clementine* (Cockpit Theatre) and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Neuss Globe Theatre).

Film includes *Goodbye Christopher Robin* and *Sunday Tide*.

Television includes *Father Brown*.

## **Isabella Marshall** | Mrs Cuthbert

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Caste*.

Trained at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Woyzeck* (The Old Vic), *Hamlet* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory, Bristol and Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham), *Cinderella: A Fairytale* (The Tobacco Factory, Bristol, and Travelling Light), *Peter Pan*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Vincent in Brixton* (Theatre by the Lake, Keswick) and *Flowers of the Field* (White Bear Theatre).

Television includes *Shakespeare and Hathaway: Private Investigators* and *Grantchester*.

Radio includes *The Real George Orwell*.

Short film includes *La Entrevista* and *Amygdala*.

## **Stephen Rashbrook** | Mr Pincher

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

# Press Information

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include After October.

Theatre includes Waste, Luther, The Winter's Tale, Hamlet and Certain Young Men (National Theatre), The Lady in the Van and Jackie (Queen's Theatre), Talk of the Devil (Bristol Old Vic), Forty Years On and Robert and Elizabeth (Chichester Festival Theatre), Nicholas Nickleby, Peter Pan, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Knight of the Burning Pestle, Othello, Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night (Royal Shakespeare Company), Knots and Bumps (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), Hamlet (Donmar Warehouse), A Private Treason (Palace Theatre, Watford), As You Like It (Greenwich Theatre), A Fool and His Money (Nottingham Playhouse and Birmingham Rep), Sweeney Todd and The Remains of the Day (Union Theatre), The Tempest and Much Ado About Nothing (US Tour), The Sound of Music (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry), The Rat Pack: Live from Las Vegas (US Tour and West End), The Rat Pack Christmas Show (Scandinavian Tour and West End) and Who Killed Agatha Christie (National Tour).

Television includes The Royals, Hollyoaks, Holby City, Doctors, My Dad's the Prime Minister, Frost, New Tricks, Powers, Urban Gothic, Look and Read, Emmerdale and over five hundred documentaries as narrator.

## **Susan Tracy | Miss Grannet**

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Variation on a Theme and Dream of a Perfect Sleep.

Theatre includes The Wars of the Roses (Rose Theatre, Kingston), A Day by the Sea (Southwark Playhouse), Nijinsky, The Deep Blue Sea and Playhouse Creatures (Chichester Festival Theatre), Three Sisters for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award, Anna Christie for which she was also nominated for an Olivier Award, The Relapse, The Merry Wives of Windsor and Othello (Royal Shakespeare Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), Long Day's Journey into Night (Cambridge Theatre Company), The Old Wives Tale (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), Denial (Bristol Old Vic), Anything Goes (National Theatre and Theatre Royal Drury Lane), A Passage to India (Shared Experience, National Tour and BAM Harvey Theater, New York City), Richard II and Inherit the Wind (The Old Vic) and A Chorus of Disapproval (Harold Pinter Theatre).

Film includes The Death and Life of John F Donovan.

Television includes The Trial, Midsomer Murders, Casualty, Doctors, The Stars Look Down, Born and Bred, Inspector Lewis, The Diary of Anne Frank and Poirot.

## **The press on playwright H J Byron**

"A master of genial wit and humour" The Times

"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

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439 e-mail [admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk)  
[www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk) Artistic Director Neil McPherson

**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

Book online at [www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://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, 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

**Antonella Petrancosta** on e-mail [press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk](mailto:press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk) or **07512 609614**

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