

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES

The world premiere

IMAGINATIONSHIP

by Sue Healy.

Directed by Tricia Thorns. Designed by Leigh Malone and Isabella Van Braeckel.

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: Atilla Akinci. Joanna Bending. Jilly Bond. 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

Atilla Akinci | Gediminas

Trained at the Oxford School of Drama.

Theatre includes Coriolanus (Rose Theatre, Bankside), After Party (Pleasance London), Troilus and Cressida (Edinburgh Festival and Rose Theatre, Bankside), Ratchet (Soho Theatre) and Julius Caesar (North Wall Theatre, Oxford).

Film includes Concrete, Audiophile, Elagabalus Lives and UB-13.

Television includes Killing Eve.

Radio includes Murder on the Orient Express.

Audiobook includes Salt to the Sea.

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.

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

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

Press Information

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.

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 Spacrace, 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**

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

Press Information

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

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

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.