



FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**
September–November Season 2018

Part of the Finborough Theatre's

THE GREAT WAR 100
series'

The first UK production in nearly 30 years

SQUARE ROUNDS

by Tony Harrison.

Directed by Jimmy Walters. Set and Costume Design by Daisy Blower. Lighting Design by Arnim Friess. Music by Jeremy Warmasley. Musical Direction by Adam Gerber. Sound Design by Dinah Mullen. Movement Direction by Depi Gorgogianni.

Presented by Proud Haddock in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Eva Feiler. Gracy Goldman. Rujenne Green. Amy Marchant. Philippa Quinn. Letty Thomas.

"You were very naïve if you could ever believe
that warfare would stop with your gun
for chemist/engineer a brand new era
of invention in war's just begun."

In a new production commissioned by the Finborough Theatre, the rediscovery of Tony Harrison's **Square Rounds** in its first UK production for nearly 30 years opens at the Finborough Theatre for a four week limited season on Tuesday, 4 September 2018 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 6 September and Friday, 7 September 2018 at 7.30pm**).

England, 1915. With all the men fighting at the Front, six women in a munitions factory have taken over the male jobs – until they go one step further, and decide to play some of the inventors of modern technological warfare themselves.

In the centenary of the last year of the First World War, an all-female cast play characters ranging from Sir Hiram Maxim, inventor of the machine gun, to the 'father of chemical warfare' Fritz Haber - the German Jewish chemist whose work on poison gas would go on to be used to exterminate his own people in the Holocaust just 25 years later – in a magical epic from acclaimed poet and playwright Tony Harrison on the devastating impact of weapons of mass destruction.

Director **Jimmy Walters** returns to the Finborough Theatre to direct **Square Rounds**, where he also directed the 2017 rediscovery of Tony Harrison's **The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus**. Originally staged at the National Theatre in 1992 and subsequently only seen in Moscow, **Square Rounds** now receives its first UK production in nearly 30 years.

Playwright **Tony Harrison** was born in Leeds in 1937. He has written extensively for the National Theatre, New York Metropolitan Opera, BBC, Channel 4, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and for ancient spaces in Greece, Austria and Japan. His volumes of poetry include *The Loiners* (Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize), *v.* (Royal Television Society Award), *The Gaze of the Gorgon* (Whitbread Prize for Poetry) and *Laureate's Block*. His film *Black Daisies* for the

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.

Press Information

Bride won the Prix Italia, 1994. He was awarded the PEN/Pinter Prize 2009, the European Prize for Literature 2010 and the David Cohen Prize for Literature 2015.

Director **Jimmy Walters** returns to the Finborough Theatre following his acclaimed productions of Tony Harrison's *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus* and John Osborne's *A Subject of Scandal and Concern*. Other direction includes *The Dog Beneath the Skin* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Mrs Orwell* (Old Red Lion Theatre and Southwark Playhouse), *Julius Caesar* (Saatchi Gallery and Chelsea Theatre), *Improbable Fiction* (Courtyard Theatre), *A Naughty Night With Noël Coward* (Old Red Lion Theatre), *Hamlet* (United Arab Emirates Tour and Network Theatre), *I the Jury* (Hen and Chickens Theatre), *Breaded Butler* (Troubadour) and *Dear Ray* (Edinburgh Festival). Assistant Direction includes Young Shakespeare Company tours of *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Bloomsbury Theatre), *Othello* (Riverside Studios) and *Knock Yourself Out* (Courtyard Theatre).

THEGREATWAR100

THEGREATWAR100 series is an occasional series of works about – or written during and in the aftermath – of the Great War presented by the Finborough Theatre to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

The cast is:

Eva Feiler | Justus Von Liebig

Trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The Dog Beneath the Skin* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *Nothanger Abbey* (National Tour), *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* (Shakespeare 400 at Royal Festival Hall), *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *See What I See* (Oxford Playhouse), *Eldorado* (Arcola Theatre) and *The Winter's Tale* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

Television includes *Father Brown*, *Shakespeare Live! From the RSC*, and *Parkinson Masterclass: Simon Russell Beale*.

Radio includes *Wild Honey*, *Believe It!* and *A Small Town Murder*.

Workshop includes *Made in Britain*.

Gracy Goldman | Clara Immerwahr

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Dream of the Dog* and its subsequent transfer to Trafalgar Studios.

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *Richard II*, *The Tempest*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Pericles* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Liverpool Playhouse), *The Tempest* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), *Good People* (English Theatre, Frankfurt), *Invisible* (Transport Theatre), *The Winter's Tale* and *Beautiful Thing* (The Curve, Leicester), *Great Expectations* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), *You Can't Take It With You* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Egusi Soup* (Menagerie Theatre).

Film includes *The Plant*.

Television includes *Sense8*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Doctor Who*, *Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *Auf Eigene Gefahr* and *Meet The Adebajos*.

Rujenne Green | Sir William Crookes

Trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre includes *The Dog Beneath the Skin* (Jermyn Street Theatre) and *Cookies* (Theatre Royal Haymarket).

Television includes *The Halycon*.

Amy Marchant | Hudson Maxim/Lady Nellie Crookes

Trained at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), *Twelfth Night* (Royal Shakespeare Company USA Tour), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noël Coward Theatre) and *To Sir With Love* (Touring Consortium Theatre Company).

Film includes *The Hippopotamus*, *Confection* and *Big Day*.

Television includes *Doctors*.

Philippa Quinn | Fritz Haber

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include *Just To Get Married*.

Trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

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Theatre includes Control (Gielgud Theatre), Because We Want To (Rose Theatre, Bankside), Pride and Prejudice and Bard on Board (National Tour), Writers Block (BAC), Random Acts of Kindness (Old Red Lion Theatre), Breathing Space (Courtyard Theatre) and Block 59 (Glastonbury Festival).

Letty Thomas | Hiram Maxim/Sweeper Mawes

Trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes The Divide (The Old Vic), Mary Stuart (Almeida Theatre), Men (Arcola Theatre) and Seeing Double (Camden People's Theatre).

Film includes Uneatable.

Workshop includes Scenes With Girls (Royal Court Theatre).

The press on Square Rounds

"Clearly a work of genius.... It's so brilliant you leave the theatre in a kind of exhilarated pessimism." Boston Globe

"It would be a stony soul who didn't salute Harrison's reckless theatrical audacity....A stunning original piece of theatre." The Guardian

"Let's hand it to Tony Harrison: when it comes to taking theatrical risks, he has no rival." The Times

"It is hard to convey the exciting strangeness of this piece...The National are right to put their faith in Harrison." Sunday Telegraph

The press on playwright Tony Harrison

"In the front rank of contemporary British poets...His range is exhilarating, his clarity and technical mastery a sharp pleasure" Melvyn Bragg

"A voracious appetite for language. Brilliant, passionate, outrageous, abrasive, but also, as in the family sonnets, immeasurably tender." Harold Pinter

"Three decades on Tony Harrison's angry but exquisite poetry still has the power to chill." The Guardian

"A powerful voice bursting with passion, courage and anger." The Independent

"The first genius working-class poet England has produced this century." Blake Morrison, London Review of Books

"A poet of great technical accomplishment whose work insists that it is speech rather than page-bound silence" The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry

The press on director Jimmy Walters' production of Tony Harrison's The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus at the Finborough Theatre

"This witty inventive poem is something pretty special" Alice Saville, Time Out

"Vibrant, heartfelt and provocative enough to prompt the satyr in all of us to stamp and shout" Sam Marlowe, The Times

"Even if the mock penises in this revival tend to dangle, there is nothing limp about Jimmy Walters' production" Michael Billington, The Guardian

"Nothing limp in this blast at high art" Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph

"A joy to hammer in the New Year" Sarah Hemming, Financial Times

"I loved this. I enjoyed it enormously." Saturday Review BBC Radio 4

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER AND FRIDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

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

Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am–6.00pm

Tuesday, 4 September – Saturday, 29 September 2018

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 15 September 2018).

Prices until 16 September – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats. Previews (4 and 5 September) £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, 8 September 2018 when booked online only.

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Prices from 18 September – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

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 or **07512 609614**

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

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