

The European premiere

TIME IS LOVE/TIEMPO ES AMOR

Written and Directed by Chè Walker.

Music by Sheila Atim.

Presented by Jezebel Productions and Dragon Bait Productions with Graffiti Productions
in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

Cast: Gabriel Akuwudike. Sheila Atim. Benjamin Cawley. Cary Crankson. Sasha Frost. Jessica Ledon.

“You’re holding my sins inside you now. I’ve told you something no one else knows.”

Writer and Director **Chè Walker** returns to the Finborough Theatre to direct the European premiere of his own play **Time Is Love/Tiempo es Amor**, opening at the Finborough Theatre for a four-week limited season on Tuesday, 1 January 2019 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 3 January and Friday, 4 January 2019 at 7.30pm**).

2019. In the last remaining barrios of East LA...

Blaz returns from prison, but something ain’t right. His lifelong love Havana Cortez is keeping a secret. His old partner Karl seems to know what it is. Havana’s best friend Rosa hates him even more than usual, but this was not always the case. And the detective who locked him up can’t stop with the women. Serena The Sex Worker is our ethereal guide to this menacing world - but why are there pterodactyls overhead?

Love and Betrayal. Tenderness and Rage. Crime and Home. Adventure and Ageing. Los Angeles behind the mask.

Featuring members of the original Los Angeles cast, **Time Is Love/Tiempo es Amor** is the latest play from **Chè Walker**, the multi-award-winning writer director behind UK Netflix’s hit **Been So Long** starring Michaela Coel and Arinzé Kene

Playwright and Director **Chè Walker** returns to the Finborough Theatre, where he has directed six previous productions including *His Greatness*, *Etta Jenks*, *Blue Surge*, *Fog* and *Achidi J’s Final Hours*. Chè’s first play *Been So Long* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre and has been performed worldwide. The musical adaptation played at The Young Vic before being adapted into a Netflix feature film, starring Michaela Coel and Arinzé Kene. His second play *Flesh Wound* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, and won the George Devine Award before being produced globally. His many other plays include *Crazy Love*, starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge and written for Paines Plough, won the Blanche Marvin Award; *The Frontline* which made history as the first contemporary-set play to be performed at Shakespeare’s Globe in 2008, and was revived in 2009; *The Lightning Child* was the first musical to be performed at Shakespeare’s Globe; the song cycle *The Eighth*, collaborating with Paul Heaton, which premiered at the Manchester International Festival with a cast featuring Emmy winner Reg E Cathey, and subsequently played the Barbican Centre in London and toured the UK; *Lovesong*, featuring Omar, toured with English Touring Theatre; and *Klook and Vnette*, featuring Sheila Atim and Ako Mitchell, sold out its run at the Park Theatre with subsequent runs in Atlanta, Alabama, and it will tour to Texas and Seattle in 2019. Since relocating to Los Angeles, Chè has written and directed four short films, winning two awards and fifteen festival selections. He currently has two screenplays in development. His adaptation of the iconic BBC Series *DeadHead* is produced by Open Palm Film and will be directed by Dominic Dromgoole in 2019. His original screenplay *Fredo Bertasio* is produced by David Livingstone and Emily Bray, with Jake Nava attached to direct. Chè has also directed thirty-one stage productions, including six at the Finborough Theatre, and over fifty professional acting credits across stage and screen.

The production will feature original music by **Sheila Atim** who also appears in the production.

The cast is:

Gabriel Akuwudike | Blaz

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

Trained at Drama Centre London.

Theatre includes Dealing With Clair (Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond), A Gym Thing (Pleasance London), No One Is An Island (Tangle Theatre) and Troilus and Cressida (Sam Wanamaker Festival at Shakespeare's Globe).

Television includes Berlin Station, Brexit: The Uncivil War, The Bisexual and Informer.

Sheila Atim | Rosa

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Rachel.

Trained at Wac Arts.

Theatre includes Othello (Shakespeare's Globe), Girl from the North Country for which she won Best Supporting Actress in a Musical at the 2018 Olivier Awards, the Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Newcomer and the Clarence Derwent Award, and was nominated for the Emerging Talent Category at the 2017 Evening Standard Awards and for Best Supporting Actress in a Play at the 2018 WhatsOnStage Awards (The Old Vic and Noël Coward Theatre), Babette's Feast (Print Room at the Coronet), Les Blancs (National Theatre), Julius Caesar and Henry IV (Donmar Warehouse), The Tempest (Donmar Warehouse and St Anne's Warehouse, New York), The Interrogation of Sandra Bland (Bush Theatre), Volpone, Love's Sacrifice and The Jew of Malta (Royal Shakespeare Company) and Hopelessly Devoted (Paines Plough). Productions by Chè Walker include Klook's Last Stand (Park Theatre) and The Lightning Child (Shakespeare's Globe).

Film includes Sulphur and White.

Television includes Harlots, Bounty Hunters and The Feed.

Benjamin Cawley | Karl

Productions at the Finborough Theatre include Fog and The Hospital at the Time of The Revolution.

Theatre includes The Mysteries (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), The Strange Death of John Doe and Patterns of Grace (Hampstead Theatre), Queen of Chapelton (West Yorkshire Playhouse), The Wind In The Willows (Wardrobe Ensemble), The Tempest (Southwark Playhouse), Get Carter (Northern Stage, Newcastle), Fog (Park Theatre and National Tour), Shiverman (Theatre503), Chavs (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith), Dunsinane (Royal Shakespeare Company), On The High Road (Urgent Theatre), Sense (Made By Brick), Sticks and Stones (Old Red Lion Theatre), Dark Carnival (Old Vic Tunnels) and O.O.L.P.O.S.P (Ovalhouse).

Television includes Crossing Lines, The Pact, Doctor Who, Shetland, Doctors and How TV Ruined Your Life.

Film includes Christmas Eve.

Cary Crankson | Seamus

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre includes All My Sons (Nottingham Playhouse), A View From The Bridge (Wyndham's Theatre), Abigail's Party (The Curve, Leicester), The Saints (Nuffield Southampton Theatres, Southampton), Dealer's Choice (Royal and Derngate Theatres, Northampton), London, Seawall and Wasted (Paines Plough and The Roundhouse), Chapel Street (Underbelly and The Old Vic New Voices), Othello (Rose Theatre, Bankside), Desire Under The Elms (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme), The Rover (Southwark Playhouse), Exit Signs – Rough Cuts (Royal Court Theatre), Flight Path (Bush Theatre) and Silverland (59E59 Theaters, New York, and Arcola Theatre).

Television includes The Bill, Doctors and Wild West.

Film includes Rock 'N' Roll and F*#kin Lovely.

Sasha Frost | Serena The Sex Worker

Trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

Theatre includes The Cherry Orchard and All My Sons (Nottingham Playhouse), The Lightning Child (Shakespeare's Globe), Guttled (Theatre Royal Stratford East), Suspension (Bristol Old Vic), Kick-off (Riverside Studios) and The Fifth Column and The Canterville Ghost (Southwark Playhouse).

Film includes Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Remainder, Host, Anti-Social and FIT.

Television includes Defending The Guilty, Sunny D, Agatha Raisin, Casualty, Frankie, Garrow's Law, Holby City, Doctors, Privates, Hollyoaks and Beaulity.

Jessica Ledon | Havana

Trained at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting Los Angeles.

Theatre includes The Vampire, Rabbit Hole and A Month in The Country, Night Mother and Time Is Love/Tiempo es Amor (Stella Adler Academy of Acting Los Angeles).

Television includes Ballers.

The press on Chè Walker's previous productions at the Finborough Theatre

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Press Information

"Fringe theatre is bristling with creativity and flair but is often overlooked. This seething mass of talent has risen to the surface at the Finborough with this transfixing production. Making his directorial debut, Chè Walker creates a wonderfully tragic journey...this production is a triumph for all involved." The Stage on Achidi J's Final Hours

"Walker, directing a persuasive cast, creates a dark and compelling onstage world." Sam Marlowe, The Times on Achidi J's Final Hours

"Superbly directed by Chè Walker...an exciting, darkly comic evening." Aleks Sierz, What's On in London on Etta Jenks Blue Surge – Time Out Critics' Choice, ★★★★★ Four Stars, Time Out, The Times, The Guardian, WhatsOnStage and Evening Standard.

"Powerfully served...by Chè Walker's direction...An evening of great theatre." Jeremy Kingston, The Times on Blue Surge Fog – Time Out Show of the Week and Critics' Choice, ★★★★★ Five Stars, WhatsOnStage, ★★★★★ Four Stars The Daily Telegraph and Time Out

"Chè Walker's sizzling and stunning production." Aleks Sierz, The Stage on Fog

"Chè Walker's cleverly heightened production jangles your nerves and twists your heart." Paul Taylor, The Independent

"Chè Walker's production...is intimate, tender, terrifying" Kate Bassett, The Independent on Sunday on Fog

His Greatness – Time Out Critics' Choice – ★★★★★ Four Stars The Sunday Times, WhatsOnStage and Time Out

The press on Chè Walker's plays

"Lively, funny, extremely well-written." The Times on The Frontline

"Hilarious and startlingly touching." The Independent on Sunday on The Frontline

"Hilarious, elating, enormously entertaining." The Sunday Times on Been So Long The Musical

"A brilliant piece of dramatic poetry." The Scotsman on Crazy Love

"A blistering, angrily funny play." The Telegraph on Flesh Wound

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY 2019 AND FRIDAY, 4 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY 2019 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

Box Office 01223 357851. (Calls are free. There will be a 5% booking fee.) Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm

Tuesday, 1 January - 26 January 2019

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees (from 12 January 2019) at 3.00pm.

Prices until 13 January 2019 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats. Previews (1 and 2 January 2019) £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, 5 January 2019 when booked online only.

Prices from 15 January 2019 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 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 press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

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