

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**
May-August 2019 Season

The world premiere

BLUEPRINT MEDEA

Written and Directed by Julia Pascal.

Designed by Kati Hind.

Presented by Pascal Theatre Company in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.

“If I am a virgin. If the enemy catch me. You know what they will do...”

The world premiere of playwright and director Julia Pascal's award-winning **Blueprint Medea** opens at the Finborough Theatre for a three week limited season on Tuesday, 21 May 2019 (**Press Nights: Thursday, 23 May 2019 and Friday, 24 May 2019 at 7:30pm**).

Kurdish freedom fighter Medea escapes the Turkish military and arrives at UK Border Control on a forged passport. Slipping through immigration, Medea discovers how to exist on the margins of London life. Working illegally as a cleaner in a gym, she meets Jason-Mohammed, the son of Iraqi immigrants. Their attraction results in the birth of twin boys. Medea believes that she has finally found a new home, a new family and a new life.

But when Jason-Mohammed's father decides that his son must marry Glauke, an Iraqi cousin, Medea realises that she will lose both her sons and her safe haven in the UK. As her whole world falls apart, she is forced to accept that she has nothing to lose by revenging herself – destroying the lives of those who have betrayed her and keeping her sons' spirits with her forever...

Based on interviews with Kurdish fighters living in the UK, and written and directed by the first woman ever to direct at the National Theatre, **Blueprint Medea** is an award-winning new drama, loosely inspired by Euripides' Medea, which connects the classical to the contemporary to explore eternal questions of passion, war, cultural identity, women's freedom, sex, family and love.

Playwright and director **Julia Pascal** trained and worked as an actor before coming to public attention as the first woman director at the National Theatre with *Men Seldom Make Passes*, her adaptation of Dorothy Parker's writings, which ran for two years as a Platform Performance. She has directed new writing by Seamus Finnegan, Carole Rumens, Melanie Phillips and Yana Stajno. She directed Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* for the British Council. As Associate Director of The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, she directed works by Howard Brenton, Bertolt Brecht and Fay Weldon. Her plays have been seen internationally including France, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Ireland and in New York City at the Lincoln Centre's Director's Lab and Theatre for the New City. Her plays include *The Holocaust Trilogy –Theresa, A Dead Woman On Holiday and The Dybbuk* (New End Theatre, Hampstead and European Tour), *The Yiddish Queen Lear* (Southwark Playhouse), *Woman In The Moon* (Arcola Theatre), *The Golem* (Purcell Room), *St Joan* (New End Theatre, Hampstead, Paris and Edinburgh Festival), *Year Zero* (Maubeuge, France, and The Junction, Cambridge), *The Shylock Play* (Arcola Theatre), *Honeypot* (New Diorama Theatre), *Nineveh* (Riverside Studios), an adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's novel *Villette* (The British Library), *Crossing Jerusalem*, commissioned by the Tricycle Theatre (Tricycle Theatre and Park Theatre) and *Old Newland*, commissioned and presented by Theatre Delicatessen. Her many awards include the Dan I Rodden Jr Play Award for *Blueprint Medea*; whilst *Theresa* won a BBC Alfred Bradley Prize and the radio version was nominated for the Sony Prize. Julia has been awarded the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) Fellowship and grants from The European Association for Jewish Culture, The Leverhulme Trust as Writer in Residence at the Wiener Library, The Moondance Columbine Prize for *Crossing Jerusalem*, The Arts Council, The Oppenheim John-Downes Memorial Trust, 2000, The Goethe Institute and The Alfred Bradley Prize. Her texts are published by Oberon Books, Faber and Virago. She was awarded her PhD from the University of York in 2016. Currently she is a Research Fellow at King's College, University of London, and teaches Dramatic Writing on City University's MA course. Pascal Theatre Company is currently funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project *Discovering and Documenting England's Lost Jews*. www.pascal-theatre.com

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 press on Julia Pascal

"Exceptional." The New York Times on The Dybbuk

"A viscerally potent drama of love, grief and death." Time Out on The Dybbuk

"A dazzling cabaret that brings tears to the cheeks." The Stage on Year Zero

"A tense and stirring piece of theatre." The Times on Theresa

"Pascal has long interrogated Jewish attitudes and experiences without ever denigrating them. Here, too, she is even-handed. Israelis and Palestinians – all are subjected to the unblinking gaze of Pascal's writing." Times Higher Education Supplement on Crossing Jerusalem

"So organised in time and space that it acquires the kind of austere beauty and rhetorical tension we associate with the tragedies of Racine." The Financial Times on A Dead Woman on Holiday

"The most astounding and affecting piece of new writing I have seen this year." The Stage on Honeyput

"I'm moved and haunted by Nineveh. One can't pay a play a greater compliment." Lady Antonia Fraser

"An ambitious script where not a word is wasted." The Stage on Nineveh

"Brave, intelligent and desperately moving." The Guardian on Woman in the Moon

"This play is an affecting and eclectic treat." Evening Standard on The Yiddish Queen Lear

PRESS NIGHTS: THURSDAY, 23 MAY 2019 AND FRIDAY, 24 MAY 2019 AT 7:30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2019 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

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

Tuesday 21 May – Saturday, 8 June 2019

Tuesday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3.00pm.

Prices until 26 May 2019 – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £18 all seats. Previews (21 and 22 May) £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, 26 May 2019 when booked online only.

Prices from 28 May 2019 – Tickets £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately 80 minutes with no interval.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Daniel Lewis on e-mail press@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

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