

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT NEW WRITING | UNIQUE REDISCOVERIES
February-May 2019 Season

Part of the Finborough Theatre's
CELEBRATING BRITISH MUSIC THEATRE
series

The first professional UK production in over fifty years

MAGGIE MAY

Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
Book by Alun Owen.
Directed by Matthew Iliffe.

Presented by SDWC Productions Ltd in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre.
Performed by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe) Limited on behalf of Josef Weinberger Limited.

"Oh the Liver Bird is a statue
On a building high by the pier.
Lord of Merseyside, staring at you,
To his beady eye, all is clear..."

The first professional London production since its 1964 premiere, the hit British musical **Maggie May** with music and lyrics by **Lionel Bart** and book by renowned dramatist **Alun Owen**, opens at the Finborough Theatre for a strictly limited four week season on Wednesday, 27 March 2019 (**Press Nights: Friday, 29 March 2019 and Saturday, 30 March 2019 at 7.30pm**).

A hard-hitting celebration of working class life in Liverpool's docks in the 1960s, **Maggie May** is the story of the doomed love affair between 'street walker' Maggie May Duffy and sailor Patrick Casey, the son of a union-martyr, initially reluctant but finally proud to assume his father's mantle. Around them is a gallery of strongly-drawn characters: Willie Morgan, the corrupt demagogic union leader, Juddah, the 'fixer' and traitor, and Old Dooley, obsessed with past union struggles, all caught up in a allegoric musical drama with a devastating tragic climax.

Winner of the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Score of the Year, the show includes one the most musically diverse scores of the 1960s, ranging from bitter sweet ballads, Mersey Beat rock'n'roll, and classic chorus numbers from Lionel Bart, the man that Andrew Lloyd Webber described as "the father of the modern British musical".

Revived by the National Youth Theatre in an acclaimed West End production in 1992, this is the first professional London production since its premiere 55 years ago at the Adelphi Theatre, London, starring Rachel Roberts, Kenneth Haigh and Barry Humphries. This production also commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the death of Lionel Bart.

"Liverpool is a Lady and the lady's name is Margaret Mary Duffy, known to her lovers from Lime Street to Buenos Aires, as Maggie May." Alun Owen

Composer and Lyricist **Lionel Bart** (1930-1999) is best known for the internationally acclaimed and Tony award winning *Oliver!* (West End 1960 and Broadway 1963). His other musicals include *Lock Up Your Daughters* (1959), *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* (1959), *Blitz!* (1962), *Twang!!* (1965), *La Strada* (1969) and *Lionel!* (1977). His notable songs include the theme song to the James Bond film *From Russia with Love*, and the hit songs *Living Doll* by Cliff Richard, *Far Away* by Shirley Bassey, and several songs recorded by Tommy Steele (*A Handful of Songs*, *Butterfingers* and *Little White Bull*). Bart is also credited as being the first manager of The Rolling Stones and, at one stage, was also Judy Garland's manager. He received a special Ivor Novello Award for Life Achievement in 1986.

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

Librettist **Alun Owen** (1925-1994) was born in Liverpool. He is best remembered for writing the screenplay of The Beatles' debut feature film *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. His many other works for stage, film, radio and television include *Progress to the Park* (Theatre Royal Stratford East and West End 1960), *The Rough and Ready Lot* (1959), *No Trams to Lime Street* (1959), *The Criminal* (1960), *Lucky* (1974) and *Come Home, Charlie, and Face Them* (1990).

Director **Matthew Iliffe** previous productions include the European premiere of *The Burnt Part Boys* which was nominated for the OffWestEnd Award for Best Director and Best Musical Production (Park Theatre), *Side By Side By Sondheim* (The Piano Bar, Bristol Hippodrome), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Landor Theatre), *Precious Little Talent* (The Albany), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Alma Tavern Theatre, Bristol) and *The Way Things Weren't* (The Room Above, Bristol). Assistant Direction includes *Brass* (National Youth Music Theatre at the Hackney Empire) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Eastville Park, Bristol). Matthew graduated from the University of Bristol with a first class honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies, and trained on the StoneCrabs Young Directors Programme, in association with The Albany.

Producer **Effie Stevenson** is Producer and Company Director of SDWC Productions Ltd, a theatre production company based in London's West End. Previous productions include revivals of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Landor Theatre) and *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* (Jermyn Street Theatre), and the European premieres of *The Burnt Part Boys* (Park Theatre) and *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Finborough Theatre). She is a recipient of a Stage One bursary for new producers and has recently been working with Clean Break Theatre Company. Her work has been nominated for a total of nineteen OffWestEnd Awards, and won the BroadwayWorld.com award for Best New London Fringe Production.

CELEBRATING BRITISH MUSIC THEATRE

The Finborough Theatre's 'Celebrating British Music Theatre' series has seen a host of acclaimed productions of British music theatre including both rediscoveries and premieres.

The press on director Matthew Iliffe's production of *The Burnt Part Boys*

"It's the imaginative way that the audience is taken on this journey by director Matthew Iliffe that makes this show truly special." Musical Theatre Review

"A forward-thinking and meticulous director." A Younger Theatre

"This unusual musical is gripping and its staging imaginative...Expertly sung and staged." The Stage

"Powerfully told and imaginatively staged." Stage Review

"One of the finest examples of Off West End musical theatre... The show under Matthew Iliffe's direction, is also staged perfectly." Jonathan Baz

"Staged with heart and craft... one of the best new shows in town." Mark Shenton

The press on director Matthew Iliffe's production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*

"Director Matthew Iliffe [gives] it some diamond dazzle." The Times

"Matthew Iliffe directs with pizzazz." Bargain TheatreLand

"Perfect direction from young Matthew Iliffe." BroadwayWorld

The press on the 1964 production of *Maggie May* at the Adelphi Theatre

"A milestone in British musicals" News of the World

"Explosively vigorous" The Times

"Bart's best score to date" Daily Mirror

"Maggie May is a triumph" Evening News

"The audience rose and thundered" The Guardian

"A richness rare in musicals" Sunday Times

"A pop musical edging towards ballad opera" Sunday Times

"This is a punchy, pungent, spectacle of a show...big, bold and energetic" The Observer

"(Lionel Bart's) songs have never been better" The Daily Telegraph

"Brassy, vigorous and tuneful ... Liverpool has come to town with noise, vigour, earthy dialogue and raucous music" The Stage

"The most vigorous musical since *West Side Story*" Daily Express

"Liverpool, tough, noisy and slightly sinister comes alive" The Sun

"A tip-top show" Manchester Evening News

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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

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

"One roaring, vital, great hit" Yorkshire Post

"A theatrical spectacular, an assembly of the talents" The Spectator

"For vitality and excitement, Lionel Bart's musical is the best show in town" Vogue

On Twitter at **@MaggieMayLDN**

PRESS NIGHTS: FRIDAY, 29 MARCH 2019 AND SATURDAY, 30 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM
PHOTOCALL: THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 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 will be a 5% booking fee.)

Lines are open Monday– Saturday 10.00am–6.00pm

Wednesday, 27 March – Saturday, 20 April 2019.

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

Ticket prices until 7 April 2019 – £20, £18 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £18 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £20 all seats. Previews (27-28 March 2019) tickets £14 all seats.

£10 tickets for Under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday the first week until Sunday 2 October when booked online only.

£14 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday 30 March 2019 when booked online only.

Ticket prices from 9 April 2019 – £25, £20 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £20 all seats, and Friday and Saturday evenings £25 all seats.

Group bookings: one free ticket in every 10 tickets booked.

Performance Length: Approximately two hours with one interval of fifteen minutes.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on email admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

or

Chloe Nelkin on email info@chloenelkinconsulting.com or **020 3627 2960**

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

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