

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

VIBRANT **NEW WRITING** | UNIQUE **REDISCOVERIES**

Spring 2014 | February–May 2014

HPZ Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents
The world's first production in more than 50 years

VARIATION ON A THEME

By **Terence Rattigan**

Director **Michael Oakley**

Designer **Fotini Dimou**

Lighting Designer **Matt England**

Sound Designer **Max Pappenheim**

With **Emma Amos, Rebecca Birch, Phil Cheadle, Jamie Coleman, Martin McCreadie, Rachael Stirling, David Shelley** and **Susan Tracy**

"Feelings can't sometimes be helped, but the expression of them can."

The first ever production in more than fifty years of Terence Rattigan's **Variation on a Theme** opens at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre in a strictly limited four-week season from Tuesday, 25 February 2014. (**Press Night: Thursday, 27 February 2014 at 7.30pm**), starring twice Olivier Award nominated **Rachael Stirling**.

Inspired by *La Dame aux Camélias*, and set amidst the glamorous and exotic society of the 1950's French Riviera, **Variation on a Theme** revolves around the tempestuous love affair between Rose, a beautiful and worldly socialite, and Ron, a young bisexual ballet dancer with a keen eye for social advancement.

In an emotionally charged story of desire and disillusionment, Rose is persuaded by Ron's choreographer and mentor, Sam, to sacrifice her personal happiness for the sake of her young lover's success and career. But as Rose's health deteriorates, and Ron is faced with the loveless reality of their separation, they finally face up to their need to be needed...

A forgotten classic by "one of the supreme dramatists of the 20th century" (Michael Billington, *The Guardian*), this will be the first production of the play anywhere in the world since its original 1958 premiere when it was directed by John Gielgud, and starred Margaret Leighton and Jeremy Brett.

Emma Amos | Mona

Theatre includes *66 Books* Writer Neil La Bute (Bush Theatre), *Hay Fever* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Accidental Death of an Annarchist* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Servant* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Gracernote* (The Old Vic), *Sweet Bird of Youth* and *The Birthday Party* (National Theatre). Television includes *Silent Witness*, *Poirot*, *My Family*, *Heartbeat*, *The Last Detective*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Good Night Sweetheart* and *Moving Story*.

Rebecca Birch | Fiona

Theatre includes *Relative Values* (Theatre Royal, Bath), *Health Wealth* (Old Vic New Voices), *Pygmalion* (Chichester Festival Theatre and Garrick Theatre) and *The Master Builder* (Chichester Festival Theatre). Films include *Long Forgotten Fields*, *D-Effects*, *The Lost Boy* and *Welcome to Leathermill*.

Phil Cheadle | Kurt

Theatre includes *Blue Remembered Hills* (Northern Stage), *Events While Guarding The Bofors Gun* (Finborough Theatre), *Neighbourhood Watch*, *Dear Uncle* (Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough), *Bedlam* and *Henry IV Parts I and II* (Shakespeare's Globe).

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

Martin McCreadie | Ron

Martin is the winner of Best Actor at 2011 Edinburgh Fringe Festival for his portrayal of Alex DeLarge in A Clockwork Orange (Soho Theatre and Australia Tour). Theatre includes Romeo and Juliet (Camden People's Theatre), Trainspotting, The Long and the Short and the Tall (Playhouse Theatre) and Frankenstein (Frantic Assembly).

Rachael Stirling | Rose

Rachael has been twice nominated for an Olivier Award. Theatre includes Medea (UK Tour), The Recruiting Officer (Donmar Warehouse), An Ideal Husband (Vaudeville Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rose Theatre, Kingston), The Prioory (Royal Court Theatre), Pygmalion (Theatre Royal Bath and Japan), Uncle Vanya (Wilton's Music Hall), Look Back In Anger (Theatre Royal Bath), Tamburlaine (Bristol Old Vic). Television includes The Bletchley Circle, Doctor Who, Boy Meets Girl and Tipping the Velvet.

David Shelley | Sam

Theatre includes Happiness (King's Head Theatre), Betrayal (Gala Theatre, Durham), Antony and Cleopatra, As You Like It (English Shakespeare Company) and Julius Caesar and Romeo and Juliet (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Susan Tracy | Hettie

Theatre includes Rattigan's Nijinsky, The Deep Blue Sea, Playhouse Creatures (Chichester Festival Theatre), The Relapse, Three Sisters, Anna Christie, Merry Wives of Windsor, Othello (Royal Shakespeare Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), Long Day's Journey into Night (Cambridge Theatre Company), Denial (Bristol Old Vic), Anything Goes (National Theatre and Theatre Royal Drury Lane), Richard II and Inherit the Wind (The Old Vic).

Playwright **Terence Rattigan** was born in South Kensington, close to the Finborough Theatre, in 1911. His many classic plays include French Without Tears, After The Dance, Flare Path, While The Sun Shines, The Winslow Boy, The Browning Version, Harlequinade, The Deep Blue Sea, The Sleeping Prince, Separate Tables, Variation On A Theme, Ross, Man And Boy, A Bequest To The Nation, In Praise Of Love and Cause Célèbre. He also wrote screenplays for such classic films as The Way To The Stars, Journey Together, While the Sun Shines, The Winslow Boy, The Browning Version, The Prince And The Showgirl, Separate Tables, The Sound Barrier, The Deep Blue Sea, The VIPs, The Yellow Rolls Royce – and collaborated on The Quiet Wedding, The Day Will Dawn and Brighton Rock, His television plays include Heart To Heart, Adventure Story and High Summer. He was awarded a CBE in 1958, and knighted in 1971. Sir Terence Rattigan died in 1977.

Director **Michael Oakley** is a recipient of the JMK Award for Young Directors for which he directed Edward II at BAC. In 2012 he was Co-Artistic Director of Chichester Festival Theatre's pop-up space Theatre on the Fly. Direction includes Playhouse Creatures (Chichester Festival Theatre), The Changeling (Southwark Playhouse), Shooting Truth (NT Connections) and Graceland (The 24 Hour Plays: Old Vic New Voices). Associate Direction includes Relative Values (Theatre Royal Bath and UK tour), Kiss Me Kate (The Old Vic), The King's Speech (West End and UK tour), Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (Chichester Festival Theatre and West End). Assistant Direction includes Inherit The Wind (The Old Vic), A Month in the Country, The Critic and The Real Inspector Hound, Oklahoma!, Cyrano de Bergerac (Chichester Festival Theatre), tHe dYsFuNCKshOnalZ! (Bush Theatre) and Much Ado About Nothing (Globe Education). Michael was trainee director-in-residence at Chichester Festival Theatre and has also completed a training course with Cheek by Jowl.

The press on director Michael Oakley

"Marvellously entertaining and stylishly directed by Michael Oakley, in sum one of those evenings when theatre is more alive than life" ★★★★★ Five Stars, The Daily Telegraph on Playhouse Creatures

"A sure gift for racy, pacey storytelling that bodes well for the future and his classical career; a young director who already knows that it is telling the story that really counts" Lyn Gardner, The Guardian, on Edward II

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road, London, SW10 9ED

Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

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Press Information

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

Tuesday, 25 February – Saturday, 22 March 2014

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday Matinees at 3.00pm (from the second week of the run).

Ticket Prices for Weeks One and Two (25 February – 9 March 2014) – Tickets £16, £12 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £12 all seats and Saturday evenings £16 all seats.

£6 tickets for under 30s for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£11 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on the first Saturday of the run only.

Ticket Prices for Weeks Three and Four (11 – 22 March 2014) – Tickets £18, £16 concessions, except Tuesday evenings £16 all seats and Saturday evenings £18 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk or **07977 173135**

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

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www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

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1. Variations on a Theme 2. The Second Awakening 3. The Girl From The Ramen Shop 4. Judas 5. Jack 6. A Sentimental Education 7. Six Simple Rules Of Sex Etiquette 8. Microcosms 9. Diary of a Dead Child 10. Tilting at Windmills 11. Project: Lacroix 12. Variations on a Theme. Act I. "I found myself both touched and irritated by the discovery that she was vulnerable." Variations on a Theme is a level ?? The Dawning and Vanguard Elite Quest. Task: Complete The Shadow Thief Strike. Quote: "The Devil Splicers have utilized SIVA to bring Taniks back to life. He must have been more machine than Fallen." "Zavala. Objective: Go to Ocean of Storms, Moon. Rewards: Tips: ??? Task: Complete The Nexus Strike. Quote: "The world-eating machine beneath Venus has restarted, Guardian. The Ishtar Sink requires your Light once again." "Ikora Rey. Objective: Go to Ishtar Sink, Venus. The new restaurant offers a variation on the theme of the roadside diner, giving patrons haute-cuisine interpretations of greasy spoon staples. When asked why, his answer was a variation on the theme of "bigger is better." The anthology series presents variations on the themes of classic genre tropes, such as westerns, Gothic thrillers, rom-coms, and even old cheesy B movies. See also: of, on, theme, variation. Farlex Dictionary of Idioms. © 2015 Farlex, Inc, all rights reserved. variations on the theme of something. different ways of doing or saying the same thing: Her new book of s The Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn, (German: Variationen Über ein Thema von Jos. Haydn), now also called the Saint Anthony Variations, is a work in the form of a theme and variations, composed by Johannes Brahms in the summer of 1873 at Tutzing in Bavaria. It consists of a theme in B major based on a "Chorale St Antoni", eight variations, and a finale. The work was published in two versions: for two pianos, written first but designated Op. 56b; and for orchestra, designated Op. 56a.