

Press Release

UNDER EMBARGO until 20:00 on 16 May 2024

barbican

Barbican announces Finn Beames & Company as this year's recipient of the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award

Developed for actor, string quartet & swords, *Quiet Songs* will receive its world premiere at The Pit this autumn



[Portrait of Finn Beames Credit Finn Beames; Quiet Songs artwork Credit Rebecca Pitt]

Today, the Barbican announces the winner of the **2024 Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award, Finn Beames & Company**. The new work, ***Quiet Songs***, is a piece of music theatre for a single actor, a string quartet and an armoury of swords, and will receive its world premiere in The Pit as part of the arts centre's autumn season.

Written, composed and directed by Finn Beames, in close collaboration with an actor and string quartet, *Quiet Songs* is a semi-autobiographical, coming-of-age tale which follows what happens to a voice when it is cruelly pushed to breaking point, and how self-expression can be found beyond that.

Finn Beames, Artistic Director of Finn Beames & Company, said:

“Developing this show has been a long, lived-in process, but lightning has struck at exactly the right moment with the Oxford Samuel Beckett Trust Theatre Award. Winning it has brought my creative vision into sharp focus, and Quiet Songs will be a daring realisation of that in a venue I love. This is thanks to the Trust and the Barbican who, together, enact a rare thing: a genuine search for something different.”

Barbican Theatre & Dance Producer, Liz Eddy, said:

“We were really impressed by Finn's initial presentation, following the week-long R&D workshop as part of the Award process here at the Barbican. The powerful extract we saw was so arresting and accomplished. We can't wait to share the full production this autumn with our audiences.”

We are delighted to continue working closely with the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust to deliver this award, a process which allows artists who are at a pivotal moment in their career to take risks, and have the time and space needed to create freely. There is no better place for this to happen than in our experimental space, The Pit.”

Finn Beames & Company is a changing group of collaborators making music-led work for live performance. *Quiet Songs* is their first production.

Finn Beames is a theatre maker combining text, music and staging to create new work. Finn's current projects include *Heavenly Bodies*, a new musical commissioned by Audrey Productions and supported by Bristol Old Vic. He is a founder and leader of the Aphasia New Music Group, a co-creative music project delivered with UCL's Communication Clinic. The ANMG supports adults with aphasia to develop a new music practice, and has mounted two London performances and a national tour to date. In 2015 Finn won the Genesis Future Directors Award at the Young Vic, and directed *Man: 3 Plays by Tennessee Williams*. Following this he took up the Lina Bo Bardi Fellowship for research into theatre and social housing in the UK and Brazil, appointed by the British Council, Sesc São Paulo and Instituto Bardi.

The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award (OSBTTA) supports the development of emerging practitioners engaged in bold, challenging and innovative performance. Since 2007, the Barbican and the OSBTTA have worked together to stage 15 new productions, based on a prize-winning proposal, for The Pit or a site-specific location. Previous winners include ZooCo with *Perfect Show For Rachel* (returning to The Pit in spring 2024 with an extended run, 24 May – 9 June), HighRise Entertainment, IN BED WITH MY BROTHER, Alan Fielden with JAMS, Mars.tarrab, Dickie Beau, and You Me Bum Bum Train.

ENDS

Press Information

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Images

Images can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/hqvkh5qs4e9irvu7c7r6t/ADnDitu0CclGenUW-1awqZs?rlkey=mbohctr19mnmkwmqpsvb45rn&st=fdj0p1a3&dl=0>

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), the [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

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