



The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre

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CIO Charity Number: 1166858

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VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

“I SHAN’T BE HOME TO DINNER” by Freda Falconer

The acclaimed BBC Radio 4 Saturday Night Theatre Production

Adapted by Elizabeth Blake, directed by Phoenix Director Rob Allerston

When Ann Scott starts talking to a nervous American girl on a train journey in 1942 she learns that the girl is engaged to an R.A.F airman about to start active duty. Will she be able to stay strong for him, to hide her fear when he is not “home to dinner”? What’s it like to hear the planes leave on a mission, how many will come back ?

Actress Freda Falconer’s BBC Radio 4 Saturday Night Theatre play “I Shan’t Be Home to Dinner” is one of the remarkably few successful war plays written by a woman. Based on Freda’s true story of her life on an R.A.F airbase in WW2 with her husband, a member of R.A.F Bomber Command who was awarded the DFC and mentioned in dispatches, the play perfectly captures the buoyant spirit, camaraderie and selfless heroism of the R.A.F crews and the bittersweet emotions of the women who waited for them to come home.

The original radio recording has been lost but Freda’s granddaughter, actress and writer Elizabeth Blake, has adapted the original script as a rehearsed reading. Freda played herself in the radio production and subsequent stage productions and Elizabeth is now taking on the role her grandmother played. Other members of the family have carried on the RAF tradition – Elizabeth’s mother was a WRAF Flight Lieutenant and her niece is a Corporal in the Princess Mary RAF Nursing Service.

“This is one of those rare exceptions to the rule that war plays are not good box office . . human, humorous and moving.” The Stage.

Wed 13 May 2020 7.30pm at the Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre

Tickets £10 Service personnel/veterans/cadets/school groups £8

Box office 01420 472664 www.phoenixarts.co.uk info@phoenixarts.co.uk