

* * * PRESS RELEASE APRIL 4th 2018 * * *

GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL 2018

4th-12th May 2018

www.galwaytheatrefestival.com

Nourish your heart and your spirit at the 10th Galway Theatre Festival

Galway's vibrant theatre festival celebrates its 10th year in style, returning to showcase more unique and exciting talent from the West's performance scene. Longer than the previous year, the festival will run from 4th-12th May. This 9-day programme of diverse events includes a total of 14 productions and 7 works in development taking place across 11 of the city's venues.

This year's theme asks "*What Is Your Heart Made Of?*", challenging audiences to think physically and metaphorically about the heart and wellbeing. The line-up is a feast for the imagination, sampling the beating pulse of the hottest stage companies and performance artists, as well as the best new theatre blood the Wild Atlantic Way has to offer.

The many performances provide an antidote to our hyper-connected world and hearts will surely be warmed by what's on offer: Galway-based new writing champions *Fregoli Theatre* bring their buzzing energy to Robert Higgins' **The Streets Are Ours**. Giving voice to the often silent and unheard, this play chronicles a turbulent night in the life of a group of aimless Midlands twenty-somethings. Music fans can also soak up the joyfully bizarre and wonderful world of electro-folksters *My Fellow Sponges*. The band blur the lines between gig and theatre with their unique "live music video" experience **Fuzzy Air**. For children, *Morgan Creative* are set to delight with their reimagining of the fantastical adventure **The Little Prince**. Antoine Saint Exupery's classic on growing up and the power of imagination has already moved generations, and this contemporary performance is set to do the same.

Elsewhere provocative titles mix with real life experience to create a heady cocktail for the mind. Fresh from international fringe success *Gúna Nua*'s **The Morning After the Life Before** is a heartfelt and personal comic tale of life in Ireland following the Marriage Equality referendum, celebrating equality with drama, music and cake. **Remnants** is presented by the west of Ireland's *Turas Theatre Collective*. This free, outdoor show is a compelling journey written in response to the performers' personal experiences of working in refugee camps with the organisation *Clowns without Borders*. Sarah Hoover's **Two Truths** is an interactive piece of game-theatre set to satirically skewer the post-truth, alternative-facts era. The performance questions beliefs as audiences are challenged to come up with a blueprint for Ireland's future using only intuition, gut-feeling and crayons. Toxic masculinity is put to the test by mindfulness in *Rabbit's Riot*'s **One Of The Lads**, a humourous and thought-provoking story about one man's struggle to break through the binge-drinking and fist-fighting expectations placed upon him. Writer and actress *Caitríona Ní Chonaola* shines a funny and insightful light on the condition of Coeliac disease in **Glutened**.

There's plenty to digest as audiences journey with her to the bowels of hell via some hilariously tragic situations.

Real life rubs shoulders with myths and legends, at this year's Festival where stories of Celtic legends take on a contemporary relevance. W.B. Yeats' **The Only Jealousy of Emer** is performed by *DancePlayers*. This poetic dance-drama focuses on the emotional turmoil surrounding the deathbed of the great hero Cuchulain. Yeats' masterpiece is perfectly complemented by *Candlelit Tales'* bar-room retelling of **The Epic of Cuchulain**, where the 2,000 year old legend is brought to life by festival favourites *Aron and Sorchá Hegarty*. Also, *James Riordan's* **Cleitel feather** is inspired by the fisherwomen of the Claddagh, presenting their tale through song, mask and movement in the unique traditional surroundings of Katie's Claddagh Cottage.

Via choreographed performances and soundscapes, this year's Festival also explores our relationships with our bodies. *Nth Degree Productions* bring their five star success **The Words Are There** to the Nun's Island Theatre. Ronan Dempsey performs this innovative piece of physical theatre, powerfully delving into a lesser known side of domestic abuse. The company have already earned many plaudits for their powerful and sensitive telling of a taboo subject. Following on from *Jérémie Cyr-Cooke's* much-lauded performances in 2017, *Brick Wall Theatre* returns promising an exposé of humanology in the intimate and touching **The Messiness of Human Relationships**. From the same team as 2016's festival hit *Turf*, **Thirteen Steps to the Attic** by *Michelle Cahill* is an evocative and multi-layered montage of movement set to tracks from the eclectic band *Thieves of Silence*.

The Made In Galway strand will focus on work currently under development, allowing audiences to become part of the devising process. This strand includes *Elaine Mears' Uná*, weaving stories and memories to explore the life of legendary Galway socialite *Una Taaffe*. *Alex Allison* and *Moises Mas Garcia*, blend modern circus and live music in **I Put A Spell On You**. You can also enter the surreal and bizarre world of the *Macnas Youth Ensemble*, where their trademark fantastical stagecraft promises a roller-coaster of a journey in **The Crom Project**. For younger audiences *Bombinate Theatre* present **Luna**, and *A Little Door* combine puppetry and performance in **Nine Stories About Love**, in collaboration with *Dog and String Theatre*.

For the full Festival line-up and online ticket sales check out **www.galwaytheatrefestival.com**.

Early Bird ticket deals of just €8 per ticket are available for one month only from March 26th - April 22nd.

Tickets can also be bought online, by phone, or in person through the Town Hall Theatre Box Office - www.tht.ie / Telephone: (091) 569777.

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FOR FULL FESTIVAL LINE-UP SEE:

www.galwaytheatrefestival.com

Read and download programme at:

http://galwaytheatrefestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GTF-2018_-Programme.pdf

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