

## News Release

### Minister Deenihan Launches International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival.

06 April 2011

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Jimmy Deenihan T.D., officially launched the Eighth Dublin International Theatre Festival at Copper Alley, Arlington Hotel Temple Bar. This year the festival hosts worldwide entertainment from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Australia, the USA, Canada and Venezuela in seven city-centre venues around Dublin. This unique festival runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May welcomes audiences of all ages and sexual identities.

Speaking at the launch Minister Deenihan said: *"I want to congratulate everyone involved in bringing great theatre and great entertainment to venues across the city in this festival. The programme covers everything from music and dance to comedy and drama and features a host of Irish and international performers. In difficult economic times we need to maintain a vibrant and dynamic arts and culture scene. This festival highlights the imagination, ambition, courage and vision of many who are looking to open up dialogue and stimulate debate and contribute socially and economically to the arts sector."*

The Festival will present a diverse range of 28 productions including 11 Irish Premieres, 3 world premieres and 6 European Premieres in a unique blend of drama, comedy and dance—the only event of its kind dedicated solely to Gay Theatre. Passion, love, loss and the banking crisis feature in this year as we continue to push the boundaries with our broad range of stories that will entertain, gasp and move our audience.

Among this year's highlights include **Bang Shoot Blast (Ireland)** where a search for love turns into an abrupt explosion as the audience participate in 6 characters relationships. *Come as Soon As You Hear* productions bring you a performance of hope for those looking for love.

Our Own Productions present **Interrogating My Mother (Ireland)**, a soul searching drama with Cian, a troubled young man seeking answers from his mother abandoning her brood now leading a wealthy new life in England.

Following rave reviews at its brief run with IDGTF in 2008, **Memoirs of a Gay Show (Ireland)** presented by Music Theatre Ireland, returns after a successful west end stint as Eoin Cannon and Paul Monaghan analyze their experience of love and lust through tales and lyrics. This is one exceptional performance that does a broad range of storytelling whilst stealing a show tune.

The Tony Award nominated **The Little Dog Laughed (UK)**; a comedy exploring the sexual double-standards of Hollywood. Produced by Actors' Circle.

In a highly personal and visual performance, **Giselle or I'm too Horny to be A Prince (UK)** sees multi-talented Joseph Mercier's highly personal tour de force skilfully take us on an odyssey through issues such as body limits, gender and sexual subversion.

Queen of Hollywood Bette Davis to spills the beans on her colourful life to Legendry TV Host Dick Cavett in **Bette/Cavett”(USA)** *Production-Grant Smeaton Presents*

Wolf 359 presents “**Righteous Money”(USA)** takes a spin on Bankers, bailouts and sleeping with your assistant that's all in a day's work for a TV provocateur as we explore financial Gurus and bankers on a down turn USA.

**Big in Germany(Canada)** , a hilarious off the wall comedy sees two Canadian friends struggle for fame at home, working in the porn industry but enjoying stardom in Germany. Friendship and fame are tested in this dazzling Nirvana meets gaga rock spectacle. Ten Foot Pole Productions

**Funny in the head (Canada)**, a moving story of one diagnosed Comedians fight of Bipolar Disorder whilst retaining her talent recognition. Struggle and acceptance are thrown together in an imaginative story blending humour over Disability. Squid Link Productions

Human existence is marked with cruelty in Let's **Pretend we are having coffee 30 years later (Venezuela)** . A Homosexual mans' experience of societal rejection, AIDS, and promiscuity, but also of tenderness, love and solidarity. Production Company: Circulo-Vertical

#### **Our 2011 Theatre Shorts features:**

**Pieter's Coming Out' Pieter's Coming out**\_looking at the shocking Facebook postings of Pieter and his friend Shaun which stirred the support of the LGBT community, young and old with a very dramatic twist.

**SALIVA yes Saliva.** Held against her will, in accordance with her celebrity father's wishes, Glau is impatiently awaits simmering secrets to be exposed at the turn of a Tarot card.

Festival Director Brian Merriman added: We welcome groups and individuals from all over the world and invite you to put this festival in your schedule this May and visit us! It is time to celebrate our capacity as a city to bring diverse global cultural voices together. Gay theatre is the expression of a shared common global LGBT culture. It started here and it is thriving here in Dublin.

**// Ends**

For Further information on the festival, please contact Stephen Creevy on 086 3541714 or Stephen McCabe on 086 3343987.

Email [pr@gaytheatre.ie](mailto:pr@gaytheatre.ie) or visit [www.gaytheatre.ie](http://www.gaytheatre.ie) detailing the venues and synopsis of each show.