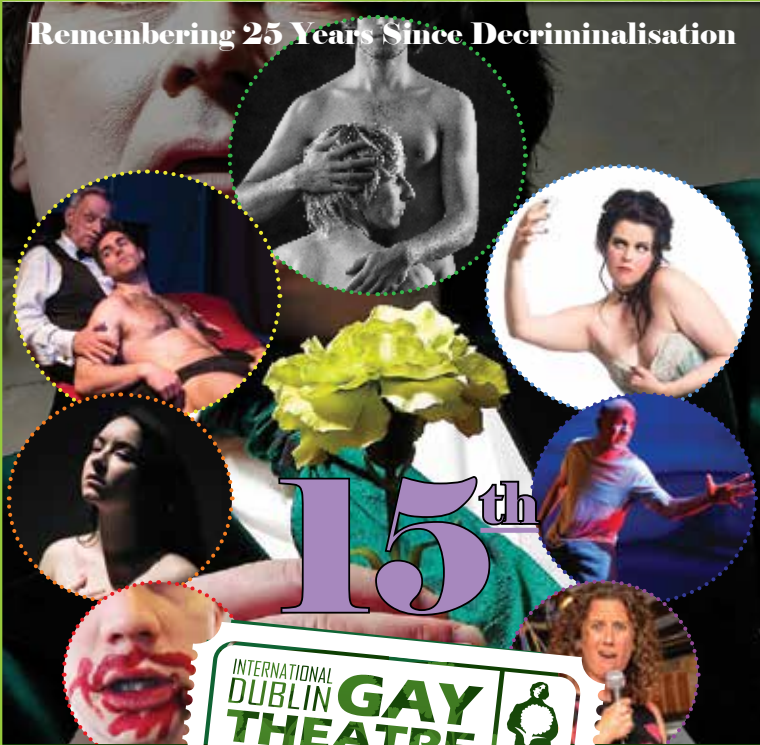


Remembering 25 Years Since Decriminalisation



15th

INTERNATIONAL
DUBLIN **GAY**
THEATRE
FESTIVAL



May 7 - 20
2018

The 15th International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival is brought to you with the generous support of



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Festival Box Office

Street66,
33-34 Parliament Street,
Dublin 2

Open from 30th April
Mon-Sat. 12:00 - 15:00
089-2196898

Tickets

Standard €15
Concession €13
Matinee €10
(Bank Holiday Monday & Saturdays only)
Venue Ticket €25
(Two shows at the same venue)

www.gaytheatre.ie

{25 Plays for 25 Years}

Welcome to the 15th International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival – that phrase was unimaginable when a few of us got together on January 31st 2004, to bring LGBT stories to the mainstream stage in Dublin. It was only ten years since decriminalisation then, and equality laws were just reaching the Statute books. Since then, artists, writers, actors, technicians, volunteers, sponsors and most importantly you, our audience, have presented and seen over 4,000 performances in an international theatrical exchange that has placed Dublin as the main centre for LGBT theatre worldwide.



Brian Merriman,
Founder/Artistic Director

This year as we mark the 25th anniversary of decriminalisation in Ireland, we present an exciting and diverse programme of LGBT theatrical identity past and present on our stages. See the stories of those who could not be heard then and hear the theatrical voices that now complete the modern tapestry that is inclusive identity theatre. We proudly present two separate weeks of theatre in an accessible programme of '25 plays for 25 years'. We acknowledge and appreciate your support and that of our sponsors, and all those featured in our brochure. Please support them in return and wear our limited edition 25th badge with pride!

Your support has made our city an artistic sanctuary for the voiceless LGBT artists (and allies) who continue to live in countries that embrace the kind of discrimination that we finally began to shake off in 1993 as we began our journey towards equality 25 years ago.



Join us in our nightly Festival Club, at our '25 plays for 25 years', our great value matinees, our free seminar and play readings. Please support us online by sharing our plays and bring a friend(s) to a play each week. My sincere thanks to the hard-working Executive committee, our brilliant and generous volunteers, talented participants, and loyal and diverse audience. You have given us so much and it is a proud moment that together we can now celebrate 25 years of decriminalisation and 15 years of gay theatre, through great plays, new voices and renewed friendship in a city that celebrates artistic diversity in an inclusive and meaningful way.

Enjoy the shows!



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“Visibility Changing Lives”

In 1993, Ireland became the last country in Western Europe to decriminalise the expression of being gay. The pioneer campaigners who risked visibility in a hostile Ireland, built on the International Human Rights victory of Senator David Norris and his legal counsel Mary Robinson.

On the tenth anniversary of decriminalisation, the Dublin Gay Theatre Festival was founded to remove the LGBT mask and the negative stereotype from theatre by presenting Irish and international LGBT stories on mainstream stages in Dublin city. Stories that could not be told in the past and stories that needed to be told today if further progress was to be achieved.

Join Irish Queer Archivist Tonie Walsh, Marriage Equality Campaigner Grainne Healy and Festival Founder Brian Merriman as they address visibility as a catalyst to educate society and change laws. Chaired by Seamus Dooley (NUJ) and including panellists Kieran Rose and Dr Kerric Harvey, the Festival presents our annual free seminar marking this milestone anniversary, resulting in Ireland being a more equality society and world leader for LGBT rights today.



Sunday May 6th. 2:30PM
Room 6, Teacher's Club
Admission Free

Player's Theatre, Trinity College.

May 7th - 12th

The Drowning Room

Written by Verity-Alicia Mavenawitz

Directed by Maria Blaney

2:30PM / 7:30PM

(75 mins)



In a woodland clearing a group meet to scatter the ashes of Sean, a brother, a lover, father and friend who was brutally murdered in a "gay bashing" frenzy.

Today the inadequate sentencing added further injury.

An unexpected visitor arrives with the truth from that terrible night but will it change anything?

(Remembering the 35th anniversary year of Declan Flynn who was murdered in a similar incident in Dublin's Fairview Park).

Writers in the Stars

Written by Elijah Egan & Chris Moran

Directed by Vincent Moran

4PM/9PM

(60 mins)



What are the great writers doing now? Do they come to life every time you read one of their stories or plays? Are they in the hearts of the children studying them for exams? No. They're in "writers' heaven" arguing over who is the greatest... obviously!

Join gay Oscar Wilde, homoerotic

Mary Shelley, bisexual William Shakespeare and their "friends" as they ask you, the audience, to help them decide who is truly the greatest writer of all time.

'Glorious Shambles' Productions will take you on a comedic and light-hearted celebration of some of the most famous writers in the English-speaking world.



Main Hall, Teachers Club.

May 7th - 12th

{Men's Shorts}

4PM / 7:30PM
(65 mins)

1. Game On

Written by Gary Garrison. Directed by Howard Lodge

Brian thinks his date with David went really well, but after an awkward attempt at a goodbye kiss, he discovers that David is just not that into him. This piercing short comedy explores a recurrent reality in modern gay dating in a funny and thought provoking way.



2. Another Airport Closing

Written by & Starring Jody O'Neil. Directed by Margaret Van Sant

If a groom is left stranded at the altar, does that mean he's tying the knot? Join our hapless but hopeful unbetrothed as he navigates the pitfalls of matrimony at an altar in Dublin. A presentation of Sailor Beware; a Cape Cod Coalition of Actors' Equity Members.



3. A Gay Thing

Written by Joshua James. Directed by Howard Lodge

Steve and John have been mates since school, but after a few beers on a night out, the seemingly hardcore straight man John, wants to get something off his chest. A comedy about friendship and how far you can take it.



Ginger Beer

Limerence Productions

Written & Directed by Hallam Breen & Phoebe Simmonds

2:30PM/9PM
(60 mins)



Grindr. Fisting. Drugs. All whilst staying fabulous. Being gay in 2018 isn't easy. For Sammy and El it's even harder, with an obsessive lad and a lovesick teen following them around.

Between gay saunas, chemsex parties and the pursuit of the perfect dick pic, Ginger Beer explores the difficulties of the gay male scene with vibrancy, honesty and warmth.



"An honest, brash, and balls-out comedy experience" (The Huffington Post).

Momentum Acting Studio.

May 7th - 12th

3 Lies About Brooklyn

By John Farrell

2:30PM / 7:30PM

(60 mins)



An often hilarious window into the harrowing life of an 'Irish Bastard' farmed out across the Atlantic to Brooklyn, by the Sisters of Mercy in the 1950s. John traces his journey from the orphanage, his discovery of sexuality, his conflicted relationship to the Catholic Church, through to his emergence as an independent young man: an identity he must also come to question and have reappraised.



Farrell suggests that 'bastards' live life in very different ways; ways that are not to be pitied but appreciated for the strengths and insights they reveal.



SMASHES

Creator/performer: Franny McCabe-Bennett
Director/Dramaturg: Christopher Legacy

Canadian comedian, storyteller and actor Franny McCabe-Bennett shares stories of growing up in the suburbs as a femme bisexual women while rehearsing a play about American feminist author Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

This award-winning comedy/history play-within-a-play explores the turn-of-the-century Victorian icon through the eyes of a suburbanite millennial using Charlotte's original letters, diaries and poems along with Franny's tales of coming out, making out, and where the heck are all the stories about bisexual women anyway?

Performer's Choice Award (Fundy Fringe Festival)

4PM / 9PM
(60 Mins)



Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street.

May 7th - 12th

Beloved Sinner

Written and performed by Denis Rafter

Seated at a table outside a café in Paris, Wilde explains what it was that led to his downfall. Very much alone he still clings to his great sense of humour and brilliant wit, telling his story without self-pity.

Quoting at times from his own work, he gives a profoundly human insight into some of his best known writings. Expertly interwoven into this work is the story of his great triumph and painful disaster.

The result is a highly dramatic and captivating encounter with one of life's great tragic heroes, that is both touching and hugely entertaining.

4PM / 7:30PM
(75 mins)



Let Me Look At You

Written by Godfrey Hamilton.

Performed by Mark Pinkosh.

2:30PM / 9PM
(55 Mins)



The latest performance piece from award-winning Starving Artists Theatre Company. Hilarious and touching. Stand-up meets solo theatre in this personal story from the gay "movement." Grounded in history and battered by camp, a 50-something gay man shares his misadventures while quietly having a nervous breakdown.

Celebrated for their combined talents, Godfrey Hamilton and Mark Pinkosh (partners both on and off stage) present their latest collaboration in Dublin, having previously performed their work at the Abbey's Peacock Theatre and Andrew's Lane Theatre.

Starving Artists offers up the oft-ignored warning: Things haven't changed all that much.

Studio, Teachers Club.

May 7th - 10th (Mon - Thurs Only)

Blue Island 99

Directed by Keng Cheng

Performed by Tzu-Chieh Hsueh

Blue Island 99 is a contemporary, exciting multi-media, poetic story performed in English, with lots of music. Giving a unique insight into Asian LGBT life, gays living on an island are forced to choose between staying with their friends and family or venturing into the unknown away from home to find out who they truly are.

For those born in Taiwan after 1990, LGBT people face both a complicated political past and an uncertain future. Do they accept society's status quo, or will they abandon what they must accept in the pursuit of true identity. All isolated together, both coming out and sailing out to a future with a determination of destiny in a changing modern world.

4PM / 7:30PM
(50 Mins)



Breda's Way

Written & Directed by Breda Larkin

2:30PM / 9PM
(55 mins)



During the summer of 1985, statues of the Virgin Mary were reported to move at different locations throughout Ireland. This had a profound effect on many people. Now, some 33 years later, comedian Breda Larkin has decided to do her own investigation.

Breda's gently abusive manner and comedic charm brings gender, Irish Faith and rural life into a new light. Live action, video and song will bring you on a journey of shifting perspectives of people and place.

Join Breda and 'Moving Mary' on a personal pilgrimage that explores unsung Irish heroines, laughter and life on the road with at least one Virgin! It's 'BREDA'S WAY' or the Motorway!

Studio, Teachers Club.

May 11th & 12th (Fri & Sat Only)

Ethan and Evan and All They Know Now

2:30PM / 7:30PM
(60 Mins)



Written & Directed by Conor Burke



Ethan and Evan are still trying to work things out, but honestly, they don't seem to be getting anywhere. A young gay couple who don't seem to understand anything that is going on around them, they are both at a point in their relationship where they regret being with someone who's name also begins with an E.

Determined to get their relationship back on track, they have decided to write a show about it. All they need is a few listening ears. That's where you come in.

Join Ethan and Evan on their often funny and sometimes moving story of being a young gay couple in 2018.



Professional Breakup Artist

4PM / 9PM
(60 Mins)



By Annabel Pribelszki

Share the highs, lows and downright hilarity of the eternal scramble to seek, find, and inevitably lose, the woman of your dreams. Be gently guided through the ridiculous scenarios that the search for love and Ms Right (or just a good hard ...) can entail.

An authentic narrative, exploring the contemporary minefield of lesbian love, lust, dating and breakups. An energetic and comedic poetic voyage.



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Party Boy **Free Play Reading**

Written by Brian Merriman

The pulsating story of 'Patrick', an Irish gay go-go boy, is a fast-paced, hard hitting exposure of gay life and subcultures in Ireland. Based on a true story, shy schoolboy Patrick faces the bully, the abusive partner, transforming into sex line host, naked photo shoots, go-go dancer, affairs with porn stars, live sex shows, drugs and survival. Meet the men and women on his international journey as he dances his gym fit body on stage, online, and on demand.



Sunday May 13th. 2:30PM
Teacher's Club
Admission Free

Player's Theatre, Trinity College. May 14th - 19th

His Greatness

Written by Daniel Maclvor
Directed by David Zak

4PM / 7:30PM
(75 mins)



Three men - a great American playwright, his trusted and loyal assistant, and a young Canadian street hustler - find themselves together for two days in a hotel room in Vancouver. The ensuing battle for power, love and loyalty is frequently funny, engagingly dark and ultimately moving.

Inspired by a 'potentially true story' during the declining days of Tennessee Williams, is an intimate insight into the mind of a familiar public figure, grappling with the loss of former glory and desperate for a return to form and success.



Tab and Landon

Written & Directed by Jay Whitehead

2:30PM / 9PM
(60 Mins)



The award winning Theatre Outré return to Dublin with a celebration of all that was taboo in the 1970's.

Tab and Landon graphically explores the complicated relationship between twin brothers. From their shared bedroom in the family home, they turn the world of pornography both on and off the screen into their own reality.

It is a salacious tale of family, lust and revenge of biblical proportions.

Nudity.
Over 18's.



Main Hall, Teachers Club.

May 14th - 19th

{2 HIStories}

1. The Second Miracle

Written & Directed by Brian Merriman
Set in contemporary Dublin. Cardinal Newman, founder of UCD awaits his second miracle to be confirmed as Saint of the Catholic Church. On the eve of another Papal visit, Aunt Mary makes a shocking discovery about the Cardinal and his devoted companion Fr Ambrose St John.

2:30PM / 7:30PM

(60 mins)



2. The Off Switch

Written & Directed by Brian Merriman.
Starring Shane English.

A young man born in a time where it was better to 'switch off' than to hope for a relationship, considers what would lgbt rights campaigner Mark Ashton and his contemporaries make of this modern gay world they campaigned to liberate?

Are You Lonesome Tonight?

SQUAD Productions

Written by Robert Downes

4PM / 9PM

(50 Mins)



No life, no prospects, just a Granda to care for and longing to escape.

Or at least someone to keep you company.

Colin and his Granda are trying to get on as they live in their tiny, claustrophobic apartment.

Their only respite is when Granda visits the pub and Colin can drag it up for the Graham Norton show.

When Colin meets James online, things begin to boil over.

Are You Lonesome Tonight? is about friendship, love and how to cope when you seem stuck in the seemingly boring circle that is life.

Momentum Acting Studio.

May 14th - 19th

{Women's Shorts}

4PM/7:30PM (75 Mins)

1. Unseasonable

Written by Kathleen Warnock. Directed by Barry Childs
Presented by The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS). The aftermath of an "incident" leaves two women injured, trying to piece together what happened and wondering what comes next.



2. Cherry Pickings



By BelleVedere Theatre Company

Can't afford a night out? Follow the escapades of a group of queer women on their night out in the gay village. Drunken pep talks, a cat fight, and a feverish search for Lindy's friends (who may or may not be real).



3. The Butt Trumpet

Written by Kathleen Warnock. Directed by Barry Childs
Presented by The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS). Presidential spokesmodel Kellyanne Conway displays an unusual talent



Memories We Lost in The Fire

2:30PM/9PM
(55 Mins)



By Belinda Barrett

Lies, sex and broken promises.
We follow Charlie, a young person who finds himself in love with two people.



His struggle to balance his feelings for both of them, a man and a woman respectively, although portrayed dramatically, this is a manifestation of the conflict that young people coming to terms with their identity face. Who we are, who we love and the way we love is never wrong.

Studio, Teachers Club.

May 14th - 19th

Passing On

Blue Heart Theatre & Acting Out



4PM / 7:30PM
(70 mins)



Directed by Howard Lodge

Written by Sean Denyer

Brian and Tom, together for ten years, would like to have a child, to be as Tom says, "a proper family but with two dads".

When their friend, Jane, agrees to act as a surrogate, it seems they can really have it all. But after Tom is very reluctantly pressed into finding out about his biological parents, what he discovers will turn their dream of a family into their worst nightmare, threatening to destroy everything they have.

Easter Sunday

Written by Carolyn Gage

Directed by Amelia Cain



2:30PM / 9PM
(60 Mins)



Easter Morning, 1960, New York. Del and Flora, a working-class butch-fem couple, are on their way home from service. Laughing and singing until Del wants Flora to meet someone. That someone is Marty Mann, a founder and spokeswoman for the National Council on Alcoholism. When they arrive, they find Marty in the middle of a two-week binge with no sign of stopping. Tensions run high between class discrepancy and battling states of alcoholism; Marty becomes hysterical and Del becomes frantic. Will anyone make it out of Marty's crypt this Easter?

- Followed by -

The Christmas Drill

Produced by Acting Out

A seemingly petty row between a couple, over a poorly chosen Christmas present escalated into a full scale fight which serves to stir up years old resentments about old girlfriends, the relative burden of domestic duties and just who the said present was actually for!

A sharp comedy from the award winning team behind The Ref and The Paradise.

Written & Directed by Sean Denyer

(10 Mins)



Gala Awards Night 2018

Our final celebration!

A highlight of The International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival.
Comedy, Music & Drama at THE TEACHERS CLUB

Join us for our closing soiree,
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Sean Meehan & Patrick Murray, celebrate
out volunteers and mark this special anniversary year.



Submissions are now open for the 16th
International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival.
May 6 - 19 2019. www.gaytheatre.ie

Sunday May 20th. 7:30PM
Teachers Club
Tickets €15

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May 7 - 20
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