Theatre programme for Orphans at Focus Theatre 2010

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Smashing Times Theatre Company Ltd and PlayLeft Productions in association with Focus Theatre present the Irish premiere of

ORPHANS

By Dennis Kelly

Directed by: Mary Moynihan
Open for lunch Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 2pm
Open for dinner Tuesday to Saturday 6pm to 10.30pm

LUNCH MENU €24 2 courses €29 3 courses
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I like to be immersed in theatre, to feel fear, strong emotions. Perhaps it’s an animal thing – we have to know what hurts us.” – Dennis Kelly

Theatre is a reflection of what it is to be human. It is a sacred ritual where we, as artists, come together to create work that is engaging and challenging, work that stimulates the mind, the soul and the senses, creating images and emotions that linger long after the play is over, joining actors and audiences together in a magical union that is alive and immediate.

We all have primitive, primal urges that are a part of us, a sense of intuition that we need to connect with to grow. But we also have shadows in our soul and how much of a primitive lustful destroyer is there in all of us? At the heart of Orphans is the question of how far we would go to protect someone we love and what happens when fear starts to control our lives? If enough pressure is put on someone what are they capable of doing, to themselves, to others? If you live in fear, or with violence, how far will you go to protect yourself? Is there an innate ability to be cruel in all of us? These are all questions about what it is to be human.

Orphans is a play about the world we live in today. It touches on family ties, urban violence and terror, the nature of fear and of ‘the other’, of the damaged child becoming the damaged adult and the realisation of how far we are capable of going in extreme circumstances. It is also “a play about not looking, and what we all choose not to see.”

There are terrible consequences when our fear of the other translates into prejudice and violence. The late, great Brazilian theatre practitioner, Augusto Boal spoke about building walls – walls against racism, against sexism, against ageism and so on and particularly today when there is a growing divide between ‘them’ and ‘us’.

In our world there is increasing fragmentation, a division between people and communities, a growing sense of ‘them and us’, a fear of ‘the other’, of outsiders. But we are all ‘the other’, there is a piece of us in everyone and everyone in us. I believe there is a need now, more than ever, to work for a celebration of difference.

Deirdre O’Connell, the founder of Focus Theatre, said that acting is an act of love. In life also it is love that binds us together, a love of life, of each other and (hopefully) of fairness and equality. We are all different, yet we all belong to the one human race. Vive la difference!

Mary Moynihan, Director
**DENNIS KELLY**

**PLAYRIGHT**

Dennis is a London-based writer for both theatre and television. His work for the stage includes *Orphans* (Traverse Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Soho Theatre, winner of the Fringe First & Herald Angel Awards 2009); *The Gods Weep* (Hampstead, London); *DNA* (National Theatre); *Taking Care of Baby* (Birmingham Rep/Hampstead Theatre); *Love and Money* (Manchester Royal Exchange and Young Vic); *After The End* (Traverse Theatre, Bush Theatre, Leicester Haymarket and UK and international Tour); *Osama the Hero* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Debris* (Battersea Arts Centre, Traverse and Latchmere). He was awarded the Wolff Whiting Award for *Taking Care of Baby* and the Meyer-Whitworth award for *Osama the Hero.*

He co-wrote the BBC Three sitcom, *Pulling* with writer/actress Sharon Horgan.

**MARY MOYNIHAN**

**DIRECTOR**

Mary Moynihan is an artist, theatre director, writer and facilitator. She lectures in drama and theatre studies for the Bachelor of Arts in Drama (performance) at the Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin Institute of Technology where she teaches the Stanislavski system of actor training, Augusto Boal and Michael Chekhov techniques, movement and drama facilitation and directs final year performances. She is a founding member and current Artistic Director of Smashing Times Theatre Company Limited and an associate director/artist with the Focus Theatre and a member of the Focus play reading panel.

Mary originally trained as an actor and director at Focus under the direction of Deirdre O’Connell, her friend and mentor. Mary has an honours MA, in Film Production from the Dublin Institute of Technology and a honours BA in Drama and Theatre Studies from the University of Dublin Trinity College.

Professional directing credits include *In One Breath (Testimonies)* for Smashing Times Theatre; *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, St. Dymphna’s Oratory, Grangegorman, Olga from *Picasso’s Women* by Brian McAvera for Focus Theatre, *Orpheus Descending* by Tennessee Williams, Mill Theatre, Dundrum, *Two Rooms* by Lee Blessing for Focus Theatre, *Talk To Me Like The Rain and Let Me Listen…* by Tennessee Williams, Focus Theatre, *May Our Faces Haunt You* (nationwide tour), *A Chain of Hands* (Royal Hibernian Academy), *Medea* (Smashing Times on nationwide tour), and *Yerma and Riders to the Sea* (Samuel Beckett Theatre). As a playwright, Mary’s work includes the highly acclaimed *Testimonies* (co-written with Paul Kennedy), *May Our Faces Haunt You, Out of the Outside* and *Silent Screams*.

Mary is the mother of three sons, Féilim, Naoise and Éanna and a daughter, Elia. She dedicates her theatre work to the memory of her mother and father Helen and Eddie Moynihan.

**ANNETTE FLYNN**

**CAST**

Annette’s theatre credits include *The Winter’s Tale*, Project Arts Centre; *We Are Not Afraid* (devised), How Tom Beat Captain Najork and His Hired Sportsmen, both Brian Friel Theatre, Belfast; award-winning *Married to the Sea*, Dragonfly Theatre Company; *Some Explicit Polaroids*, Players Theatre; *Rudolph*, nationwide Tour; *The Unknown Project* (devised); and *The Comedy of Errors*, Public Shakespeare. This is her second time performing at the Focus having played Dorinda in *The Beaux Stratagem* in 2006. Her most exciting and unusual role to date was as a Mermaid and Starfish in the water-based musical *Sinbad* by Big Telly, that toured Northern Ireland and the UK.

TV and Film credits include *The Covies*, director Len Collin; BBC short *The Deal*, director Delyth Thomas; and *Broken Wings*, director John Walters IADT. Annette studied performance at Bull Alley and Queens University Belfast. She is currently a member of the Focus studio. *Orphans* is the debut production of PlayLeft Productions which she founded with cast member Colm O’Brien.
COLM O’BRIEN
CAST

Colm O’Brien has trained with the Gaety School of Acting and is a member of the Focus Actors Studio. Past theatre credits include: Tic (Focus Theatre), Strike (Strike Productions), The Hostage (Wonderland Productions), A Winter’s Tale (Classic Stage Ireland), 100 Minutes in 2008 (Painted Filly) and Some Explicit Polariods (Fringe 2007). He is represented by PS Actors Agency.

ADAM TRAYNOR
CAST

Adam graduated with a BA in Drama (Performance) from the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. He has recently finished a feature film A Fistful of Diamonds (director Dave Keeling). Other films include leading roles in Closing Time and Mídas (director Brendan Maguire), Jay & Jacinta (director Daniel Corrigan) and The Observers (director Kelly Halligan). Past theatre credits include John Proctor in Arthur Miller’s The Crucible (director Mary Moynihan), Euripides Must Die (director Peter McDermott), Hearing Voices (Civic Theatre) and Tough Guys (Civic Theatre). Television credits include Fair City (RTÉ) and On Home Ground (RTÉ).

LISA KRUGEL
SET DESIGN

Lisa is a graduate of DIT’s Conservatory of Music and Drama. She has worked as a Stage Manager for several years from the New Theatre to the Helix. Recent productions include The Quare Fellow (New Theatre), The Tailor and Ansty (New Theatre), Glengarry Glen Ross (Idir Mná), Portia Coughlan (Bluebatch Productions), and lighting design for 1<3 Alice <3 I (HotForTheatre) at this year’s Absolut Fringe Festival. Lisa is currently studying for her HND in technical theatre at Inchicore CFE, specialising in set and lighting design. She is delighted to be working at the Focus and with Smashing Times and PlayLeft Productions for the first time.

CONLETH WHITE
LIGHTING DESIGN

Conleth has designed lighting for many theatre companies in Ireland. Most recently he lit Happy like a Fool for Red Kettle and Redline:Deadline for Whiplashlights. He is currently working with Theatre of Witness on I Once Knew a Girl in the Derry Playhouse and with Artsækt on an event to celebrate Diwali and Samhain in Belfast. Conleth teaches lighting in Inchicore CFE.

THERESE MULLAN
COSTUME DESIGN

Therese studied drama at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, graduating with distinction in 2007. She went on to train as a puppeteer with the Lambert National Puppet Theatre and has acted in various productions on stage and radio throughout the country. She is an associate artist of Focus and is currently rehearsing for productions of Picasso’s Women and Francis and Frances by Brian McAvera. She is currently performing in Testimonies by Mary Moynihan and Paul Kennedy for Smashing Times Theatre on tour.

Costume credits to date include Spartacus and War of The Roses I, II and III (Whiplash Productions), The Importance of Being Earnest, Buggy Matone (National Association of Youth Drama), Wake Up Sleeping Beauties (Dublin Youth Theatre), Portia Coughlan (Bluebatch Productions) and Neuropolis by Gary Duggan for Focus’s exciting new endeavours throughout the year.

MICHAL LEMAN-LEMSANSKI
PRODUCER

Michal (pronunciation close to the Irish name Michéal) has a variety of theatre experience as a producer, production manager, stage manager and arts manager. He had opportunity to work closely with Eric Fraad, acclaimed theatre and opera director from New York, and many other artists in Ireland. He has been involved in number of arts festivals: Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Dublin Theatre Festival, to name but a few.

His biggest success as a producer is Slaughterhouse, Swan which swept three awards at AGTFD in 2010 and Tic, which was a big hit at the Focus Theatre. After hours, Michal is a loving partner, passionate sociologist, traveller, and B&W photographer.

SOPHIE FLYNN
STAGE MANAGER

Sophie is the Resident Stage Manager at The Focus Theatre. Her recent credits at the Focus include Tic (Focus), Baglady (Eska Riada), The Tower (Cove Productions). Other credits include The Dead School at Dublin Theatre Festival ‘09 and at the Tricycle Theatre in London (Livin Dred). An all-female version of Glengarry Glenross at the New Theatre (Idir Mná), Independence at Smock Alley (Playing Space Productions), The Curse of the Starving Class at the New Theatre (Barren Land Productions), A Winter’s Tale at The Project (Classic Stage Ireland), Eejit Of Love at Samuel Beckett Theatre (Longroad Productions) and Julius Caesar at The Project (Classic Stage Ireland).

Sophie also has regular work stage managing for Irish television. Her most recent credits include, Take Me Out (Observe), The Chilidine Concert ’09 (Observe), Deal or no Deal (Endamol Productions), The All-Ireland Talent Show (Tyrone Productions) and IFTA Awards ’09 (Observe).

PRISCILLA NIC CHONMARA
STAGE MANAGER

Priscilla holds a MA in Drama and Theatre from NUI. She has been working in all aspects of the arts for over ten years. She is a founding member of Waterdonkey Theatre and has worked on such productions as Pigeon Racing Advanced Techniques and To the Back of Beyond. She was the producer for Wildebest Theatre on their recent production of The Real World. She has worked as stage manager for Mephisto Theatre on their production of Wrecked and Suانتraí Theatre on their production of Ashes to Ashes. She has also worked with Fíbín Teo and Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe. She is a native of Tipperary and an award-winning musician and singer.

CREATIVE TEAM

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR KINDNESS AND ASSISTANCE WITH THIS PRODUCTION:

Claire Mulhane, Edmund Moynihan, Luke our PR specialist, Smashing people in Smashing Times Theatre Company, Joe Devlin and Focus Theatre, Ken Hartnett, Kevin O’Brien, St. Nicholas of Myra Community Centre, Flylin O’Driscoll Business Lawyers for their generosity. Glen at Dream Design, Niall Coyle at Angel Parade, Lisa at Dream Design, Lucila at Angel Parade, Lisa at Dream Design, Lola Cohen, Patrick Stewart, Colin Maher, Focus Theatre Studio Actors, David and Isca at Bewley’s Café Theatre, Ger McKendrin, Owen Mukher, Lisa, Sonam Hazzard, Geraldine O’Connell Cusack, Dougall and Sandra Hazel, Conocito La Mital, all the volunteers, Moyra D’Arcy, the O’Connell-Cusack family, the Kelly family, Irish Theatre Ireland, Sarine Ni Bhroinischu, Val, Emer and Deena at The Gate Theatre, Shirley Somers, Enigmatical Nickels, Colin Morris, Colin Shanahan, seaosan cahill, Saudra Finnerty, Fionula Crowe, Andy Crowe, Camille Donegan, Aisling Bodkin, Edwin Mulhane, Pat Flynn, Claire and Barbara at FOD, Derek McCoy, Ranelagh Arts Festival and all our great neighbours in the laneway. Thanks to Toners Pub on Bigget Street for having our fundraising event and all the fantastic and talented performers: Bill Coleman, Eleanor Tremain, Aisla Lace, Will Lynch, Rooftop a Triple Drop, Princes of Lagos, Gerry McBride, Ian Paff, all businesses who donated prizes for the raffle. Dunclark House Hotel, F1, Colin Maher and Bowley’s Café Theatre, Kelsia Timojezic and Atomsphere, Havana Tapias Bar, Pacino’s Restaurant, Whelan’s, Wax Museum, and many, many more…
SMASHING TIMES – THEATRE FOR CHANGE
PERFORMANCE, TRAINING, PARTICIPATION

Smashing Times Theatre Company Ltd is a professional theatre company involved in professional performance, training and participation. The work of the company is underpinned by a rights-based approach and a commitment to artistic excellence and social engagement. The company was established in 1991 by a group of women actors who met at the Focus Theatre, Dublin.

The company has four high-profile patrons – Maeve Binchy, Brian Friel, Tim Pat Coogan and Robert Kee. Smashing Times Theatre Company is supported by Dublin City Council Arts Office.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Mary Moynihan
COMPANY MANAGER Freda Manweiler
PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH Sínead O'Loughlin

SMASHING TIMES THEATRE
– ONGOING PROJECTS

Acting for the Future uses drama and theatre to promote positive mental health and suicide prevention. This project is supported by ESB ElectricAID Ireland (ESBEI) and is run in association with the Samaritans and the Irish Association of Suicidology with advice from a Panel of Advisors.

The professional theatre performance for this project is Testimonies by Mary Moynihan and Paul Kennedy and consists of three dramatic monologues adapted from the experiences of those who have lost loved ones to suicide and from the experiences of those who have been through a suicidal crisis and survived. Each performance is followed by a post-show discussion with a counsellor and invited guest speakers from the Samaritans and other organisations. Audience members are invited to discuss the issues raised by the performances. A series of performances are planned for Dublin and Leinster over the coming months.

Acting for Change is an innovative project run by Smashing Times Theatre Company with support from Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership. The project uses drama and theatre activities in Donegal to engage participants from a cross-border and cross-community perspective, bringing people together to explore themes that are a consequence of the conflict in Northern Ireland and the Southern Border counties.

The project consists of a series of storytelling workshops to promote reconciliation and workshops to promote anti-racism, anti-sectarianism and equality. As part of the project an original theatre performance opens on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the Balar Arts Centre, Ballybofey followed by performances on tour in Donegal. The project ends with a One-Day Reconciliation And Equality Seminar Through Drama taking place on Friday, January 14 at the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny.

As part of this project Smashing Times are working in collaboration with a range of organisations including the Irish Peace Centres, the Mid-Ulster Women’s Network, the Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey and Plain Speaking Community Theatre, Omagh.

Professional Outreach work includes a long-term partnership with HACE, the Henrietta Adult and Community Education Service run by the Daughters of Charity Community Services based at 8/9 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. Smashing Times Theatre Company has long-term partnerships with a range of organisations including the Irish Peace Centres, the Mid-Ulster Women’s Network, the Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey and Plain Speaking Community Theatre, Omagh.

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Supporting Smashing Times Theatre Company:

If you like our work and wish to support us please contact Freda at Smashing Times Theatre Company, Coleraine House, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7. Become a Supporter of Smashing Times for €75 per year and receive: two free tickets to every show; a yearly newsletter; a credit in our theatre programmes and the chance to visit rehearsals and project work.

FOCUS MISSION STATEMENT:
The Focus Theatre is an actor’s based theatre inspired by the Stanislavski theory of performance and informed by classical and contemporary...
international theatre practice. We believe that actors have a unique power to illuminate the human experience through performance and engagement with audiences. We commit ourselves to exploring the most urgent human and social themes of our time, and to merging literature, design and performance in ways that test the bounds of the theatre’s artistic possibilities. We undertake to advance the craft of the actor in the service of both the professional theatre community and wider public and aim to extend that service through performance, training, education and outreach programmes that reflect our artistic mission.

FOCUS ACTOR TRAINING STUDIO

Our studio will help an actor or director develop his/her craft at an emotional, physical and imaginative level. The training, through the application of particular exercises, is designed to help the performer create the inner life of the character through the actor’s body and imagination. Our training also includes contemporary movement and classical voice for performance.

“The deeper the actor’s inner experience of his role the further will be the audience’s involvement”
– Tom Hickey

For information on acting workshops please check our website: www.focus theatre.ie or call us at info@focus theatre.ie

Deirdre O’Connell Focus Theatre Ltd. Registered Office, 6a Pembroke Place Dublin 2. Registered in Ireland: No.132825. Focus Theatre is a registered charity. Charity No.CHY9 248

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Help us to pay for our refurbishment and long-term rebuilding programme of the much loved Focus Theatre venue by donating €20 for a brick. We will acknowledge your donation in our programmes and on our website. Please cut out your brick campaign slip from the programme and send your donation to the Focus Administration Office (address at front of programme). Brick campaign slips can also be found in Focus Theatre Coffee Shop.

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VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer to work at the Focus Theatre please contact us on (01) 671 2417.

ANGELS BEACONS OF HOPE

Focus Theatre was invited to take part in this awareness campaign by Nobaig Fahy co-ordinator of the Angel Parade with the support of Budd Holden. The design of the Focus Angel is by Glenn Egan. The Deidre O’Connell quote was supplied by Tim Mc Donnell, and the Lee Stebbing quote was supplied by Anna Strasburg. This inspirational project saw dozens of celebrities, sports stars, musicians and actors help lift the national gloom while raising vital funds for three charities. Angels: Beacons of Hope is a unique Irish project that captured the public imagination during the latter part of 2009 and early 2010. From a single mould, sculpted in fibreglass, a limited number of beautifully crafted, 2 ft high angels were produced and created as a blank canvas. Angel Parade invited some of Ireland’s top artists, musicians, sports people and celebrities, along with a number of international guests, to support this charitable initiative by painting and decorating an angel to show the nation their interpretation of ‘hope’. Over 40 well-known Irish and international names took up this artistic challenge, including Neil Jordan, Uma Thurman, The Edge, Ryan Tubridy, Brendan Gleeson, Gerry Ryan, Diamirid Gawan, Tommy Tiernan, Amy Huberman, Pauline McLynn, Des Bishop, Ruby Walsh, Rosly Hook and Colin Farrell.

Following the launch of the initiative in November, the Angels were displayed in Dublin until the end of December before touring the country – visiting Galway, Cork, Kilkenny and Belfast. At the end of the tour, the Angels returned to Dublin for auction in aid of three charities: Gaisce – The President’s Awards, Angels’ Quest and Right to Sight.
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