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2010

Theatre programme for Orphans at Focus Theatre 2010

Mary Moynihan

Technological University Dublin, mary.moynihan@tudublin.ie

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Moynihan, M. (2010) Theatre programme for *Orphans* at Focus Theatre 2010, produced by Smashing Times theatre company and directed by Mary Moynihan.

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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



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Dax



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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

SMASHING TIMES THEATRE CO. AND PLAYLEFT PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FOCUS THEATRE PRESENT THE IRISH PREMIERE OF

ORPHANS

BY Dennis Kelly

DIRECTED BY Mary Moynihan

CAST

HELEN Annette Flynn
DANNY Colm O'Brien
LIAM Adam Traynor
SHANE Éanna Moynihan
 O'Bradaigh

SET DESIGN Lisa Krugel
LIGHTING DESIGN Conleth White
COSTUME DESIGN Therese Mullan
PRODUCER Michal Leman-Lemanski
STAGE MANAGERS Sophie Flynn/Priscilla Nic Chonmara
PHOTOGRAPHY Podge Kelly
TEASER DIRECTOR John Walters

**First produced by Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company and Traverse Theatre Company in association with Paines Plough at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh on 31 July 2009.*



Flynn O'Driscoll
Business Lawyers



PROGRAMME DESIGN BY: Edmund Moynihan • Email: edspino@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHIES



DENNIS KELLY PLAYWRIGHT

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, Ella. She dedicates her theatre work to the memory of her mother and father Helen and Eddie Moynihan.

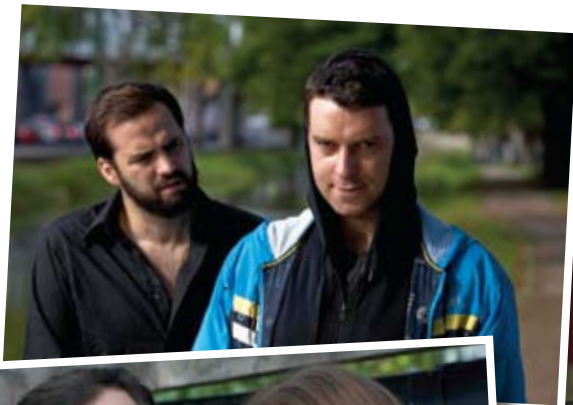


ANNETTE FLYNN CAST

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 Gaiety 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 Polaroids* (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 *Midas* (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).

CREATIVE TEAM

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* (Bluepatch Productions), and lighting design for *I <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.

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

Claire Mullane, 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, Flynn O'Driscoll Business Lawyers for their generosity, Glenn at Demon Design, Nollaig Fahy at Angel Parade, a Beacon of Hope Campaign, Budd Holden, Anna Strasberg, Lola Cohen, Patrick Stewart, Colm Maher, Focus Theatre Studio Actors, David and Iseult at Bewley's Cafe Theatre, Ger McAlinden, Owen Mulhall, Lisa, Sonia Haccius, Geraldine O'Connell Cusack, Dougal and Sandy Hazel, Conetto La Malta, all the volunteers, Moyra D'Arcy, the O'Connell-Cusack family, the Kelly family, Polish Theatre Ireland, Dairine Ni Dhonnichu, Val, Emer and Donna at The Gate Theatre, Shirley Somers, Remigiusz Rachuba, Dermot Collins, Colin Morris, Colm Sheenan, Seosamh Cahill, Sandra Finnerty, Finula Crowe, Andy Crowe, Camille Donegan, Aisling Bodkin, Edwin Mullane, 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 Baggot Street for having our fundraising event and all the fantastic and talented performers: Bill Coleman, Eleanor Tiernan, Alexia Lace, Will Lynch, Rooftop's Triple Drop, Princes of Lagos, Gerry McBride, Ian Perth; all businesses who donated prizes for the raffle: Dundrum House Hotel, IFI, Colm Maher and Bewley's Cafe Theatre, Kasia Timofiejczuk and Artosphere, Havana Tapas Bar, Pacino's Restaurant, Whelan's, Wax Museum, and many, many more...

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 Whiplashfights. He is currently working with Theatre of Witness on *I Once Knew a Girl* in the Derry Playhouse and with Artsekta on an event to celebrate Divali 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*, *Bugsy Malone* (National Association of Youth Drama), *Wake Up Sleeping Beauties* (Dublin Youth Theatre), *Portia Coughlan* (Bluepatch Productions) and *Neuropolis* by Gary Duggan for this year's Fringe. She hopes to see you all at Focus's exciting new endeavours throughout the year.

MICHAL LEMAN-LEMANSKI PRODUCER

Michal (pronunciation is close to the Irish name Micheál) 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 Childline 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 NUIG. 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 Wildebeest Theatre on their recent production of *The Real World*. She has worked as stage manager for Mephisto Theatre on their production of *Wrecked* and Suantraí Theatre on their production of *Ashes to Ashes*. She has also worked with Fíbin Teo and Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe. She is a native of Tipperary and an award-winning musician and singer.



SMASHING TIMES THEATRE COMPANY LIMITED



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	Sinead 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,



Smashing Times artists (back row, l-r) Sian Thompson, Kate Harris and Mary Moynihan; (front row, l-r) Gillian Hackett, Sinéad O'Loughlin and Freda Manweiler.

January 11, 2011 at the Balor 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, UCD, the Samaritans and Irish Association of Suicidology, PlayLeft Productions and Focus Theatre.

SMASHING TIMES THEATRE COMPANY LTD

Coleraine House, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7

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T: +353 (0) 1 865 6613
M: +353 (0) 87 221 4245
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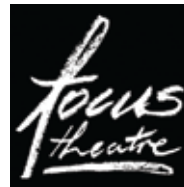
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PLAY LEFT PRODUCTIONS

PlayLeft Productions, founded by Annette Flynn and Colm

O'Brien, is a Dublin-based theatre company that presents challenging and provocative international and Irish works, with an emphasis on the imaginative central role of the actor.



FOCUS THEATRE

FOCUS THEATRE – A BRIEF HISTORY

Focus Theatre's Acting

Studio was founded in April 1963 by Irish-American actor Deirdre O'Connell. She trained at the Lee Strasburg Studio in New York. Classmates included Marilyn Monroe and tutors included Arthur Miller. The Focus Theatre was opened by O'Connell and her husband, folk legend – Luke Kelly in 1967. The first production was *Play with a Tiger* by Doris Lessing. The theatre then went on to produce nearly 400 productions including record-breaking runs of classics such as Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and contemporary plays such as Auburn's *Proof* running for six months at a time. The Focus introduced Irish audiences to plays by Beckett and Shepard for the first time as well as new writers such as Gianina Carbutariu, Vassily Sigarev, Malachy McKenna and Conall Quinn. Many of Ireland's leading theatre and film artists started their career at the Focus, including Gabriel Byrne (our Patron), Tom Hickey, Johnny Murphy, Sean Campion, Olwen Fouere, Joan Bergin and Mary Elizabeth Burke-Kennedy. In the late 1970s Burke-Kennedy pioneered the use of mask and mythology in performance at the Focus (an experiment that was recently revived in 2008 at the Focus with European partners Pantakin Commedia dell'Arte, Venice). Tim McDonnell won the OBIE Award in the 1980s for his performance in *Diary of a Madman*, directed by Deirdre O'Connell. Deirdre died in 2001. Tim McDonnell ran the acting studio from 2001 until he retired in 2008. In 2002 Joe Devlin took over as artistic director and has continued its tradition of producing plays from world theatre and developing new writing. Joe also runs the acting studio. In 2006 the venue was temporarily closed pending refurbishment. On the 45th anniversary of the Focus in 2008 the Deirdre O'Connell Archive opened at the National Library of Ireland and *Hold the Passion*, a documentary on her life and work, premiered at the Cork Film Festival. That same year the Focus won the Writers Guild of Great Britain Award for the Encouragement of New Work for its production of Brian McAvera's *Picasso's Women*. On June 16, 2010 after four years of touring and working off-site the Focus Theatre venue reopened.

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.focustheatre.ie or call the administration office 01 6712417

FOCUS THEATRE CONTACT INFORMATION

Artistic Director	Joe Devlin
Administration Support	Michal Leman-Lemanski
Box Office/Technical Manager	Colm Maher
Outreach Co-ordinator	Sinéad Hackett

Focus Theatre Administration Office

12a Fade Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6712417

Focus Theatre Venue, 6a Pembroke Place,
Dublin 2. Box Office: 087 274 4125

For further information on productions please look at the Focus Theatre website www.focustheatre.ie or contact us at info@focustheatre.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

FOCUS THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PATRONS FOR THEIR VALUED SUPPORT:

Friends of Focus

Cleo McFarland, Angela Murphy, Anne Hourican, Louise Walsworth-Bell, Robert Burke, John & Mary Ryan, Derek & Maggie Brennan, Denis & Colette Weaire, Dr Bill Kenny, Brian Corduff, Gerard Murtagh, Maurice & Catherine Hennigan, Joan Geary Westrap, Peter Daly, J.A. Todhunter, Bernadette Andrews, Philomena Byrne, Eileen Ross, Ivy Bannister, Howard Davies, Richard & Helan Ryan, Brian Prendergast, Anne Corkery, Sile MacNeil, Bob & Claire Waddell, Miriam Ryan, John & Viola O'Connor, Ian & Valerie Jelley, Dermot & Susan Scott, Anne Cantwell, Ingrid Masterson, Lilian Chambers.

BUY A BRICK PARTICIPANTS

Dougal Hazel, Anne Cantwell, Dermot & Susan Scott, Carole Anne Taylor, Bob & Claire Waddell, Sile MacNeil, Anne Corkery, Brian Prendergast, Howard Davies, Ivy Bannister, Philomena Byrne...

COMING SOON TO FOCUS THEATRE

Men of Tortuga by Jason Wells, European Premiere PurpleHeart Theatre Company. Previews 9th November. Runs 10th to 27th November 2010.
Jo Bangles by David Lordan. Directed by Caroline FitzGerald featuring Mary McEvoy. Eska Riada. Previews 7th and 8th, runs 9th to 18th December 2010.

FOCUS THEATRE BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN

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.

Focus Theatre Buy a Brick Campaign

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If you would like to become a Friend of Focus please fill in the box below and send it to us at Focus Theatre Administration Office, 12a Fade Street, Dublin 2. Make all cheques payable to Focus Theatre.

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Address _____

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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 Nollaig Fahy co-ordinator of the Angel Parade with the support of Budd Holden. The design of the Focus Angel is by Glenn Egan. The Deirdre O'Connell quote was supplied by Tim Mc Donnell, and the Lee Strasberg quote was supplied by Anna Strasberg. 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, 2.4m/8ft-tall 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, Diarmuid Gavin, Tommy Tiernan, Amy Huberman, Pauline McLynn, Des Bishop, Ruby Walsh, Rocky Elson 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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