Programe for Witness - Season of Plays at Project Arts Centre Dublin by Smashing Times Theatre

Mary Moynihan

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Recommended Citation

Smashing Times Theatre Company presents three plays and one showcase reading of new work over five days of visceral performance. Witness consists of:

**TESTIMONIES** Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 November, 8.15pm

**THOU SHALT NOT KILL** Thursday 7 November, 8.15pm

**UPRISING** Friday 8, Saturday 9 November, 8.15pm

**SHOWCASE READING OF NEW WORK** Saturday 9 November, 2pm
Smashing Times Theatre Company presents three plays and one showcase reading of new work over five days of visceral performance exploring stories of new beginnings and emerging from difficult situations. Each performance is followed by a post-show discussion with the artists and invited guest speakers.

**Testimonies**
Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 November, nightly 8.15pm

**TESTIMONIES CONSISTS OF:**

**A Day Out**
- By Paul Kennedy
- Directed by Bairbre Ní Chaoimh
- Cast: Adam Traynor as Tony
A Day Out tells the story of two friends in their twenties and their last day together.
Performances on 5, 6 November

**In One Breath**
- Written and Directed by Mary Moynihan
- Cast: Annette Flynn as Helen
Portrait of a woman in the eye of the storm, battling mental illness
Performances on 5, 6 November

**Is There Anything We Can Do?**
- By Paul Kennedy
- Directed by Ena May
- Cast: Margaret Toomey as Mrs Doyle
A mother fights the spectre of suicide hanging over her family
Performance on 5 November

**Do Not Go Gentle**
- By Paul Kennedy
- Directed by Bairbre Ní Chaoimh
- Cast: Gillian Hackett as Emily
The fraility and resilience of a woman’s response to marital meltdown as she confronts the absurdity of her life in the context of the economic downturn.
Performance on 6 November

**TESTIMONIES SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE:**

**Friday 8 November, 11am**

**A DAY OUT**
- Written and Directed by Mary Moynihan
- Cast: Annette Flynn

**IN ONE BREATH**
- Written and Directed by Mary Moynihan
- Cast: Adam Traynor

**IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?**
- By Paul Kennedy
- Directed by Ena May
- Cast: Margaret Toomey
Living Theatre Installations
» Created by: Mary Moynihan
» Written by: Paul Kennedy

An installation of ‘living theatre’ performances exploring themes of conflict, trauma and hope. Using the body as a site of performance, memory and emotion, and centering on experiences of conflict in Northern Ireland, Thou Shalt Not Kill imagines the future through a remembrance of things past. The performance is followed by a post-show discussion with the artists and invited guest speaker Jim Arbuckle, Good Relations Facilitator from Derry/Londonderry.

Depth of My Being
Devised by Mary Moynihan and Fiona Bawn-Thompson and based on text from Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl

» Directed by Mary Moynihan
» Cast: Fiona Bawn-Thompson as Fate

Thou Shalt Not Kill
» By Paul Kennedy, commissioned and based on research and stories from Smashing Times Theatre Company
» Directed by Bairbre Ní Chaoimh
» Cast: Cathy White as Alice

Thursday 7 November, 8.15pm

At home, on a dark and wet night, the phone rings and Alice is forced to remember.

Crossings
» By Paul Kennedy, commissioned and based on research, interviews, stories from Smashing Times Theatre Company
» Directed by Mary Moynihan
» Cast: Adam Traynor as Tom

Tom, an ex-combatant, reveals the memories that haunt him and explores the journey to peace that he is now on.
Uprising
Friday 8, Saturday 9 November, nightly 8.15pm

▶ Devised
Smashing Times Theatre Company
Tara McKeivitt
Mary Moynihan
Mark Flynn
Mary Moynihan and Mark Flynn

▶ Scripted
Tara McKeivitt

▶ Directed
Mary Moynihan

▶ Choreography
Mark Flynn

▶ Movement
Mary Moynihan and Mark Flynn

▶ Cast
Mark Flynn
Evelyn Shaw
Margaret Toomey
Adam Traynor
Paul Nolan

Mark Flynn shane/Grandfather
evelyn shaw Colette/Combatant/Marie/Malala
Margaret toomey Ghost Watcher/Glynis/Cynthia
Adam traynor British Army soldier/United States Army soldier/Taliban Suicide Bomber/Young Man
Paul nolan Manus/Gordon Wilson/General Patton

Setting:
A derelict warehouse in East Belfast. Outside street protests and a riot are taking place.

A fusion of text, movement and dance, Uprising is a multi-disciplinary performance exploring memories and experiences of war and peace in Northern Ireland and internationally and asks why do we kill for a cause, why do we die for a cause? Based on the company’s commitment to perform new work, Uprising is drawn from research, interviews, speeches, poems, archive video material and new writing and uses visceral movement, dance and text to explore personal memories and experiences of war and peace and the struggle between peaceful non-violence and physical force political violence. Performances followed by post-show discussions with the artists and invited guest speakers Jim Arbuckle and Valerie Bistany, Good Relations Facilitators.

SHOWCASE READING OF NEW WORK
Saturday 9 November, 2pm
By Sinead O’Loughlin, Gerard Humphreys and Mary Moynihan. Readings are from the following plays:

▶ OUR NATIONAL GAMES
By Gerard Humphreys
Orla: Romana
Testasecca
Daly: Tom Moran
Captain Kelly: Shane English
Krinion: Barry Kelleghan

▶ WAKE
By Sínead O’Loughlin
Annie: Aoife Abertaine
Mick: Graham Halley

▶ AMANDA
By Sínéad O’Loughlin
Reading by Emma Jane Purcell

▶ DEAD SOULS
By Mary Moynihan
Ruth, aged 99: Therese Cahill
Elsie, aged 99: Karen Killeen
Young Woman, mother to Ruth and Elsie, a ghost: Megan Olohan

▶ NORA
By Gerard Humphreys
Nora: Aisling Hamilton
Father Bennis: Robert Downes
Jackie: Tamar Keane
Sean: Ryan O’Rourke-Glynn
Prinias: Shane English

▶ Special thanks to:
Leah Moore, Lorna Costello, Joshua MacLiam, Jennifer Curran, Elaine Brown
Smashing Times Theatre Company is a professional theatre company involved in 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. Founding members include Mary Moynihan, Margaret Toomey and Gillian Hackett. The company has two high-profile patrons – Brian Friel and Tim Pat Coogan. Smashing Times Theatre Company is supported by Dublin City Council Arts Office, ESB ElectricAID Ireland, HSE, the European Union’s PEACE III Programme, the Reconciliation and Anti-Sectarianism Funds, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the International Fund for Ireland.

Smashing Times Theatre Company is now established as a leading professional arts organisation that promotes social justice and equality through high quality artistic processes. The work takes inspiration from practitioners including Constantine Stanislavski (searching for a sense of truth and depth), Yoshi Oida (creating the life of a human spirit on stage and the use of fundamental energies), Viola Spolin (the physical, intuitive, invisible) and Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed. We are inspired by artists including Michael Chekhov, Jerzy Grotowski, David Zinder, Anne Bogart and Patsy Rodenburg.

Smashing Times is committed to Theatre for Change, using theatre as a form of knowledge and as a means of transforming society, to promote social justice, human rights and equality for all. The company achieves its aims through implementing specific projects, which consist of professional theatre performances and post-show discussions, participative theatre and storytelling workshops, creative symposiums and professional outreach.

For information on Smashing Times please visit www.smashingtimes.ie
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MARY MOYNIihan
THEATRE DIRECTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SMASHING TIMES THEATRE COMPANY

Mary Moynihan is a creative artist and theatre maker working in professional theatre and film. Mary is a founding member and current Artistic Director of Smashing Times Theatre Company. Mary lectures in drama and theatre studies for the Honours BA in Drama (Performance) at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, where she directs and teaches the Stanislavski system of actor training, Augusto Boal and Michael Chekhov techniques, movement and drama facilitation.

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

As an actor Mary has worked in theatre, television and film, including RTE’s honours BA in Drama and Theatre Studies from the Dublin Institute of Technology and an honours BA in Drama and Theatre Studies from the University of Dublin Trinity College.

As a theatre director, professional directing credits include Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Samuel Beckett Theatre; Macbeth by William Shakespeare, DIT Theatre; Orphans by Dennis Kelly for Smashing Times Theatre and PlayLeft Productions in association with Focus Theatre; The Crucible by Arthur Miller, St Dymphna’s Oratory, Grangegorman; Shattering Glass and In One Breath (Testimonies) for Smashing Times Theatre; 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, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks and the Mansion House, Dublin); Medea (Smashing Times on nationwide tour); and Verma by Federico Garcia Lorca and Riders to the Sea by JM Synge, both at the Samuel Beckett Theatre, Dublin. As a playwright, Mary’s work includes the highly-acclaimed Testimonies (co-written with Paul Kennedy), Mary Our Faces Haunt You, Out of the Outside and Silent Screams. Mary is the author of ‘Loving the art in yourself’ (co-written with Paul Kennedy), a collection of short stories and is working on a novel.

conflict and an exploration of self and the other. Mary is the mother of three boys, Féilim, Naoise and Eanna and a daughter Ella. She dedicates her theatre work to the memory of her mother and father, Helen and Eddie Moynihan.

ENA MAY
DIRECTOR

Ena May, a Dubliner, trained at Focus Stanislavski Studio under the tutelage of the late Deirdre O’Connell. She is an experienced stage actress, having played leading roles in over forty productions; she has also done TV, radio and film work. Her directorial work for the stage is also extensive. Ena started writing in the 1980s. Her plays, Out of the Beehive and She’s Your Mother Too, You Know! were received and had long, successful runs at Focus Theatre. Love, Lust and the Lack of It, a free adaptation of Aristophanes’s Lysistrata, had a public rehearsed reading during the week of anti-war plays. Her short-story collection, A Close Shave with the Devil (Lilliput Press, 1998) was long-listed for an Irish Times literary award and got great reviews, as did her one-woman show based on three of the stories from the book. She has just finished another collection of short stories and is working on a novel.

GILLIAN HACKETT
WRITER

Gillian Hackett began her theatre career acting and devising plays with Team Educational Theatre Company in 1976. She then went on to act and direct in the Focus Theatre, Dublin and with a variety of other companies acting in stage and film. She was a co-founder of Smashing Times Theatre Company in 1991 and has since gone on to work as a drama facilitator, producer, director, writer and actor for the company. Gillian’s play The Climber was produced by The Latin Sphere Theatre, for the 10 Day Festival in Dublin in July 2013.

TARA MCKEViTT
WRITER

A writer and Drama Facilitator from Donegal, Tara’s play Grenades won the RTÉ PJ O’Connor Radio Drama Award in 2010, and went on to win Gold at the New York International Radio Awards, and a PPI Award in 2011. Her radio play An System Nua was broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 in 2012. Chosen for the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh’s Traverse Fifty Programme 2012, Tara was also part of the New Playwrights Programme at the Abbey Theatre in 2011. Having just finished training with NÁVD on their Artstrain course, Tara currently facilitates playwriting workshops at NUIG.

BAILBRE NÍ CHAOIMH
DIRECTOR

Bairbre Ní Chaoinmh is a freelance actor and director. She has worked extensively in Ireland and also on shows that toured to England, Scotland, Germany, Kosovo, Macedonia, America, Japan and Australia. She was an Associate Artist at the Abbey Theatre and Artistic Director of Calypso Productions, during which time she received an Irish Times, a MAMA and a World Refugee Day award. Favourite shows she directed include the multi-award winning Catalpa, Come And Go, Play and Act Without Words III (the Gate’s Beckett Festival in the Lincoln Center, NY and the Barbican, London), Master Harold and the Boys and The Wonderful World Of Dissocia (Calypso).

PAUL KENNEDY
WRITER

Paul recently directed Morning and Afternoon by Andy Hinde at the Project Arts Centre. Plays by Paul include Down By the River (Theatre Upstairs@Lanigans/Focus Theatre / Viking Theatre / Bewley’s Café Theatre), Crossings (Smashing Times Theatre Company), Be My Love In The Rain (Focus Theatre / Powerscourt Centre), The Tenants (Project Arts Centre), Desert Places (Druid Debuts), Acquainted With The Night (Andrews Lane Studio), Beautiful Creatures (Andrews Lane Theatre), Testimonies (Co-authored with Mary Moynihan- Helix/New Theatre), Put Out The Light (New Theatre/Garage Theatre), Acquainted with the Night (Andrews Lane Studio), Gloria (International Bari St John’s Listowel), Shopping By The Woods (International Bar/Dublin Fringe Festival).

In 2004 Paul received an Artist-in-the-Community Award from the Arts Council for which he wrote and directed A Journey Through The Markets for Smashing Times Theatre Company.

ADAM TRAYNOR
ACTOR

Adam graduated with a Honours degree in Drama from the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama Rathmines. He has worked in the areas of Theatre, Film and Television.

His previous theatre roles include: John Proctor The Crucible 2010 (Grangegorman), Liam Orphans (Focus) 2011, Hearing Voices (Civic) 2008, Euripides Must Die (DIT) 2009, A Day Out 2013 (currently on tour), His Film and Television roles include: Ceart agus Cor (TG4) 2011, Fair City (RTE), Promised Land (RTE) 2011, Jay and Jacinta (2008), A Fistful of Diamonds (2010), Mommy’s Boys (2010), Redline (2012), Used (2013) and The Observers (2009).
Promised Land was selected for the prestigious festival which is Oscar-affiliated and BAFTA-recognised for Best Short Film in the 2011 Foyle Film Festival and had its network premier on RTE Two last year to excellent reviews. Adam is currently shooting a leading role in feature film Sweet Cake directed by world-renowned photographer/visual artist Kevin Abosch. His recent film Redline, in which Adam plays a leading role alongside a cast which includes Peter Coonan (Love/Hate) and Mary Murray (Magdalene Sisters) to name but a few has recently been accepted for the Belfast Film Festival. Redline will be getting its network premier on RTE at the end of the year. Adam finished shooting Used with Fastnet Films which aired on RTE this summer.

He has finished writing his first feature film The Exchange in which he will play the leading role and co-direct. Pre-production will begin in Nov/Dec.

For Adam’s role in Orphans by English author Dennis Kelly, he was described by the Irish Independent as “versatile”. Irish Theatre Magazine stated that he “excellently carried off the threat and unpredictability of the schizophrenic Liam”. The Sunday Tribune said “Adam Traynor simmers and boils as Liam”. The Dubliner magazine described his performance in Orphans as “one of the finest performances they have seen this year”.

He has recently played a role in the feature film I used to live here with award-winning director Frank Berry.

ANNETTE FLYNN

ACTOR

Annette previously worked with Smashing Times Theatre Company on the Irish premiere of Orphans by Dennis Kelly. The show was a co-production between Smashing Times, her own company PlayLeft Productions and in association with the Focus Theatre.

Other theatre credits include Barnstorm’s A Murder of Crows, Married to the Sea (Dublin Fringe), The Winter’s Tale (Project Arts Centre), Tonight Everything’s Going To Change (Dublin Fringe), Some Explicit Polaroids (Dublin Fringe); How Tom Beat Captain Najork and His Hired Sportsmen (Belfast Children’s Festival) and Public Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors. Annette’s most unusual acting role was playing a mermaid and starfish in Big Telly Theatre Company’s water-based musical Sinbad which went on a UK and Northern Irish tour.

She recently played Áine in the Irish radio play Cú Bhfuil Muid? by Brian Ó Tiomain for Raidió na Life. Bhfuil Muid?

Northern Irish tour.

Sinbad and starfish in Big Telly Theatre Company’s water-

Shakespeare’s I Run, I Sing, I Swim, I Dive. the one-woman show from Trinity College Dublin in 2011, she trained with a BA in Drama Studies and English Literature and the short films Layla and The Pilgrim’s Coat. This is Evelyn’s first time to work with Smashing Times and she is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

EVELYN SHAW

ACTOR

Evelyn Shaw is an actor and drama teacher from Co Kildare. After graduating with a BA in Drama Studies and English Literature from Trinity College Dublin in 2011, she trained with the Break-away Project and the short films Layla and The Pilgrim’s Coat. This is Evelyn’s first time to work with Smashing Times and she is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

FIONA BAWN-THOMPSON

ACTOR

Fiona has a BA (hons) in Drama from Queen’s University, a HND in Performing Arts through BIFHE, and has also furthered her studies in Drama Facilitation with UCD and Smashing Times Theatre Company. Fiona has worked for over ten years in the arts industry and has facilitated many specialist workshops on racism, sectarianism and children’s rights. Fiona is also a qualified dance teacher and often uses her knowledge and skills in this area to complement drama work with groups.

MARGARET TOOMEY

ACTOR

Margaret Toomey trained at Focus Theatre under the direction of Deirdre O’Connell and played in many productions there including Suddenly Last Summer, Night Mother, The House of Bernarda Alba, Picnic. Theatre work includes Testimonies at the New Theatre, Happy Birthday Dear Alice at the Mill Theatre and The Only Jealousy of Emer at the National Library of Ireland. She received an award as Best Supporting Actress for her part in The Country Boy at a festival of Irish Theatre in Florida. Film and Television work includes This Time Round, Rat, Not Afraid Not Afraid, Fair City, Dear Daughter, The Old Curiosity Shop, Private Lives, Past Pull, Close, Schumacher ar a Bhealach, Claire sa Spéir, Zula 9, In Loving Memory, and for Channel 4 Good Morning Good Mormon. She also played a role in Hold the Passion, a documentary on Focus Theatre which premiered at the Cork Film Festival.

CATHY WHITE

ACTOR

Cathy is originally from Belfast and trained at Guildhall Drama School in London. Work in the UK includes the RSC, National Theatre and Royal Court, radio, film and TV. Next to be seen in the Vikings TV series shot in Wicklow. Dublin work includes the Abbey Theatre and Improbable Frequency with Rough Magic.

After retraining six years ago with Smashing Times and various colleges, she is also a facilitator in Drama and Art, currently working with the Abbey Theatre Outreach Department.

MARK FLYNN

ACTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

Mark has just completed a BA Hons in Drama (Performance) at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama in Rathmines.

He has been a performer most of his life and started at the age of six. He was an Irish dancer for many of his younger years too, competing for Ireland several times at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales. It wasn’t until the age of 16 when he took to performing again and he hasn’t looked back since. Some of Mark’s recent acting credits include: Benvolio in Romeo and Juliet, Claudius in Hamlet and Kreon in Antigone.

Mark has performed many times at the National Concert Hall with Festival Productions performing in The Mikado, Pirates of Penzance and The Gondoliers. These shows also travelled to Buxton, England where Mark got the pleasure of competing in the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at the Buxton Opera House for three years running, where the group won best overall show every year. Mark has also performed as far abroad as Landskrona in Sweden, both in 2008, in Hollywood Pinafore, and in 2010 in Fiddler on the Roof where he played Perchik.

He has been a dance and drama teacher since 2008 and has taught with Spotlight Academy of Theatre Arts, Stagebratz Theatre productions, Elevations School of Performing Arts and the Razzle Dazzle Academy and also teaches dance classes by himself in various places around Wicklow and Dublin.

PAUL NOLAN

ACTOR

Paul’s previous work with Smashing Times includes the role of Mark in Shattering Glass which toured Donegal in 2011.

Paul’s work includes Danny Hall in Time’s Tide (Disaffection), Sidney in No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish (Morton), Martin in The Goat or Who is Sylvia? (O’Kued), Richard in Reptilian (Dragonfly), Mark in Shattering Glass (Smashing Times), Neil Boyle in The Mundy Scheme (Tavistock), the Old Man in After Midnight, before Dawn (Silent Blade), Schigolch in Lulù at the Sam Beckett, Klaus in La Corbière (Group X), Bottom in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Sycamore), Senchil in Portis Coughán (Bleathpatch), Gerry and the Peace Process (Velta/Lane Productions), the Eider in Human Herd (New Theatre), Harry in The Lost Weekend (Axis, Ballymun), Maitre Jacques in The Miser (Wonderland).

He has appeared in several WB Yeats works with Dublin Lyric in the National Library. Film work includes The Man in 301, Your Money or Your Life and Happy Birthday Timmy.

He made his writing and directorial debut with Soul of My Saviour as part of Picturing the Soul in February 2012 and is a founding member and performer of The Open Rehearsals improvisation group. Paul trained at the Focus Theatre under Mary Moynihan and at the Gaiety School of Acting.