

[ZEITGEIST
IRLAND ²⁴]

IRISH

THEATRE

BERLIN



ENGLISH
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BERLIN

International Performing Arts Center

PROGRAM

ETBERLIN.DE



IRISH THEATRE BERLIN: THREE WEEKS OF CONTEMPORARY IRISH THEATER AND PERFORMANCE

Dear audience,

From Richard Brinsley Sheridan to George Bernard Shaw, Seán O'Casey, Samuel Beckett, Marina Carr, Marie Jones, Enda Walsh and Conor McPherson, to name just a few of its most prominent dramatists, Ireland has influenced the theater world far beyond its borders for centuries.

Alongside its wealth of play-based theater, companies like Brokentalkers, Pan Pan Theatre, Fishamble: The New Play Company and Dead Centre have been radically expanding the boundaries of theater and performance making for decades.

Our collaborations with the Irish theater community spans the entire thirty-four year history of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center – the very first international guest performance in 1990 came from Dublin. We have presented the work of Gare St. Lazare Players, Blue Raincoat and Gina Moxley, to name just a few, and presented a ten-day festival dedicated to Irish theater and performance in 2013, *The Full Irish*.

It should be no wonder, then, that our nearly annual visits to the Dublin Theatre Festival and Dublin Fringe Festival are a highlight of the year. This year, we are thrilled to be able to bring the work back with us to Berlin to share with you in the form of a three-week festival.

The guest performances include Brokentalkers with *The Examination*, Fishamble: The New Play Company with *Silent* and *KING* by Pat Kinevane as well as *Mustard* by Eva O'Connor and an audio walk by Pan Pan Theatre featuring Samuel Beckett's radio play, *Cascando*. We also have two productions from Berlin: *Where Ye From?*, featuring Dee Mulrooney as Growler and our own production of Beckett's dystopian classic, *Happy Days*, directed by Beckett's former collaborator Walter D. Asmus and featuring Berlin-based Irish actress Mary Kelly.

We would like to thank Culture Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland in Germany for their generous support in funding both Irish Theatre Berlin as well as the production of *Happy Days*.

Günther Grosser and Daniel Brunet
Curators, Irish Theatre Berlin

Irish Theatre Berlin is part of **Zeitgeist Irland 24**, an initiative of Culture Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland in Germany.



Botschaft von Irland
Deutschland

CALENDAR
MAY 23 - JUNE 8 | 2024

MAY

23 Thu | 24 | 25 |
8pm

THE EXAMINATION

An Award-Winning Production by **Brokentaklers**25 Sat | 26 |
2pm | 5pm | 8pm

CASCANDO

An Audio Walk by **Pan Pan Theatre**

OFF-SITE

27 Mon | 28 |
8pm

WHERE YE FROM?

A Performance by **Dee Mulrooney**30 Thu | 31 |
8pm

MUSTARD

A Play by **Eva O'Connor** (Fishamble: The New Play Company)

JUNE

3 Mon
8pm

SILENT

A Play Written and Performed by **Pat Kinevane**
(Fishamble: The New Play Company)4 Tue
8pm

KING

A New Play Written and Performed by **Pat Kinevane**
(Fishamble: The New Play Company)7 Fri | 8 |
8pm

HAPPY DAYS

A Play by **Samuel Beckett**, Directed by **Walter D. Asmus**



Brokentaklers

Performed by Willie White & Gary Keegan | Written & Directed by Feidlim Cannon & Gary Keegan | Creative Produced by Rachel Bergin | Research by Associate Professor Catherine Cox | Set Design by Ger Clancy | Sound Design by Denis Clohessy | Lighting Design by Stephen Dodd | Costume Design by Sarah Foley | Animation Design / Illustration by Gareth Gowran | Movement Direction by Eddie Kay | Photo by Luca Truffarelli

The Examination is a collaboration with Professor Catherine Cox, as part of the Wellcome Trust Award for Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000 and is supported by UCD Research. Originally commissioned by UCD School of History.

Duration: 70 min.

Brokentaklers' *The Examination* originally premiered at Project Arts Centre, Dublin in February 2019.

THE EXAMINATION

The Examination is the award-winning production by Brokentaklers exploring mental health and human rights in the prison system, performed by Brokentaklers' Gary Keegan and stand-up comedian and former prisoner Willie White.

Featuring Brokentaklers' distinctive blend of biography, socio-political discourse and breathtaking theatricality, *The Examination* draws on historical research and testimony from current and former prisoners. With powerful imagery and a visceral soundscape, it is an uncompromising and revelatory interrogation of an aspect of society too often ignored.

The Examination is the outcome of a 12-month research period that saw Brokentaklers' directors Gary Keegan and Feidlim Cannon hold theater workshops and interviews with life sentence prisoners and former prisoners in various settings including Mountjoy Prison and PACE Training and Education Services. They have also drawn on wider historical analysis undertaken by Associate Professor Catherine Cox (UCD) and Professor Hilary Marland.

OFF-SITE



Pan Pan Theatre

Directed by Gavin Quinn | Designed by Aedín Cosgrove | Sound Design and Music by Jimmy Eadie | Dramaturgy by Nicholas Johnson | Opener: Daniel Reardon (Voice Recording) | Voice: Andrew Bennett (Voice Recording) | Photo by Tristram Kenton

Duration: 40 min.

Pan Pan's *Cascando* originally premiered at the Samuel Beckett Theatre in Dublin on April 19, 2016.

Please note that CASCANDO will start at the EMBASSY OF IRELAND IN GERMANY | Jägerstrasse 51 | Berlin-Mitte | U2 Hausvogteiplatz or U6 Stadtmitte

Please make sure to be at the starting point of the walk at least ten minutes before the scheduled beginning!

CASCANDO

Pan Pan Theatre's *Cascando* by Samuel Beckett

Accompany Samuel Beckett's curious figures into an uncertain future. Attired in dark cloaks and given headphones, audiences are guided through a rhythmic, immersive, group choreographical experience.

First broadcast in 1963, *Cascando* begins with the curious character Opener (Daniel Reardon) setting the scene: the month of May, a time of "reawakening". The Opener commands two other presences: the winding Voice (Andrew Bennett) caught between arrest (" - stories ... if you could finish it ...") and progress (" - nearly ... just a few more ... a few more"), and Music (designed by Jimmy Eadie), whole and forceful.

Director Gavin Quinn, dramaturg Nicholas Johnson and designer Aedín Cosgrove recognize this as a journey. The audience are sent walking in an outdoor landscape, wearing cloaks and listening to the play on headphones. The unhurried pace of Bennett's deep and riveting voice provides a rhythm for our steps, as we listen to Voice's struggle to tell a story.



Dee Mulrooney

Created and Performed by Dee Mulrooney | Musical Accompaniment by Seán Mulrooney | Sound Engineering and Musical Accompaniment by Aidan Gorman | Photo by Simon Lazewski

Duration: 70 min.

Where Ye from? originally premiered in 2022 at the Dublin Fringe Festival.

WHERE YE FROM?

Meet Growler, the 82-year-old drum banging, shamanic vulva from the Liberties in Dublin.

Wise as witches with a tongue like a lash and a heart of gold, she will take you on an alchemical theatrical journey.

Using storytelling, song, spoken word and comedy, her mission is to give voice to the voiceless and to transmute the shite out of the female collective trauma.

"The beauty of Growler is in its roughness, its erratic meandering, its refusal to be one thing or another. It has a sacred chaos of its own, in which Mulrooney thrives."

The List



**Fishamble: The New Play Company /
Eva O'Connor**

Written and Performed by Eva
O'Connor | Directed by Hildegard
Ryan | Lighting Design by Marianne
Nightingale | Relighter: Suzie
Cummins | Produced by Eva Scanlan
for Fishamble, Dublin | Photo by
Hildegard Ryan

Duration: 60 min.

Mustard originally premiered in 2019
at Summerhall, Edinburgh.

MUSTARD

When E meets the man of her dreams, a professional cyclist, love hits her in the pubic bone like a train. But when it ends she plummets into a black hole of heartbreak at the speed of a doped up team on the Tour de France.

A one-woman show about heartbreak, madness and how condiments are the ultimate coping mechanism, by award-winning playwright & performer Eva O'Connor.

"So scarring and funny, so laden with jealousy and hate and wickedness... The stagecraft is starkly simple, the set could be a work of conceptual art, but delicious and shocking to watch, if not to eat... What a privilege to see this... if you want to see a bit of real theatre, go see Mustard."

The Scotsman



Fishamble: The New Play Company / Pat Kinevane

Written and Performed by Pat Kinevane | Directed by Jim Culleton | Music Composed by Denis Clohessy | Costume Styled by Catherine Condell | Co-Producer (London, New York and Los Angeles) Georganne Aldrich Heller | Produced by Eva Scanlan for Fishamble, Dublin | Photo by Maria Falconer

Duration: 90 min.

Silent originally premiered in 2011 at the Mill in Dublin.

SILENT

“Hopeless, helpless, in-the-way person”

Silent is the touching and challenging story of homeless McGoldrig, who once had splendid things. But he has lost it all – including his mind. He now dives into the wonderful wounds of his past through the romantic world of Rudolph Valentino.

Dare to laugh at despair and gasp at redemption in this brave, bleak, beautiful production for which Fishamble and Pat Kinevane won an Olivier Award in 2016.

“A passionate one-man show ... Mr. Kinevane interprets Valentino’s highly theatrical screen presence to stunning effect ... A carefully wrought production ... [he] doesn’t just demand [the audience’s] attention, he commands it. And that difference is what makes Mr. Kinevane an artist of the theater.”

Ben Brantley, The New York Times.



Fishamble: The New Play Company / Pat Kinevane

Written & Performed by Pat Kinevane
| Directed by Jim Culleton |
Composition and Sound Design by
Denis Clohessy | Lighting Design by
Pius McGrath | Stylist: Catherine
Condell | Make Up by Zoe Clark |
Dramaturgy by Gavin Kostick |
Choreography by Kristina Chaloir and
Julian Brigatti | Voice of Tango
Instructor: José Miguel Jimenez |
Produced by Eva Scanlan for
Fishamble, Dublin | Associate
Producer: Cally Shine | Graphic
Design by Publicis | Photo by Leo
Byrne & Publicis

This production was developed with
the support of Nasc Network
Commission and Georganne Aldrich
Heller.

Duration: 75 minutes

KING originally premiered in 2023
at the Belltable in Limerick.

KING

KING tells the story of Luther, a man from Cork named in honour of his Granny Bee Baw's hero, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Luther only leaves his apartment for essential journeys, and to perform as an Elvis impersonator. The play explores prejudice, privilege and resilience, as Luther struggles to live life to the full.

"incredibly compelling and poignant narrative"
Irish Times

"the stagecraft [is] unsurpassed... immaculate"
Sunday Independent

"impressive... moments of pure Kinevane gold"
The Arts Review

"virtuosic theatricality... excellent... inventive"
Irish Independent

IRISH THEATRE BERLIN

June 7 | 8 | 8pm



A Play by Samuel Beckett

Directed by Walter D. Asmus | With Mary Kelly and Tomas Spencer | Set and Costume Design by Tomas Fitzpatrick | Lighting Design by Christian Maith | Directing Assistance by Maureen Gleason | Illustrations by Paul Netzer | Photo by Stefania Migliorati

Duration: 100 min.

This production of *Happy Days* premiered on March 28, 2024 at English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center.

HAPPY DAYS

"Oh this is going to be another happy day!" – Winnie

Under a mute sky of blazing light; Winnie, sunk to her waist in a mound of sand, and her husband Willie, mostly immobile in a cave behind her, attempt to cope with their doomed situation.

Winnie, "a bird with oil on her feathers", as Beckett once described her, is woken by a bell "piercingly sharp like a knife" that ignites her daily survival routine and quest to engage Willie with every aspect of it. Winnie's insatiable need for human connection and Willie's unwillingness or inability to answer it, contribute to their "nec cum te and nec sine te" / "neither with you nor without you" bond, full of tragicomic moments, culminating in an ambiguous surprise once Winnie is neck-deep in the sand.

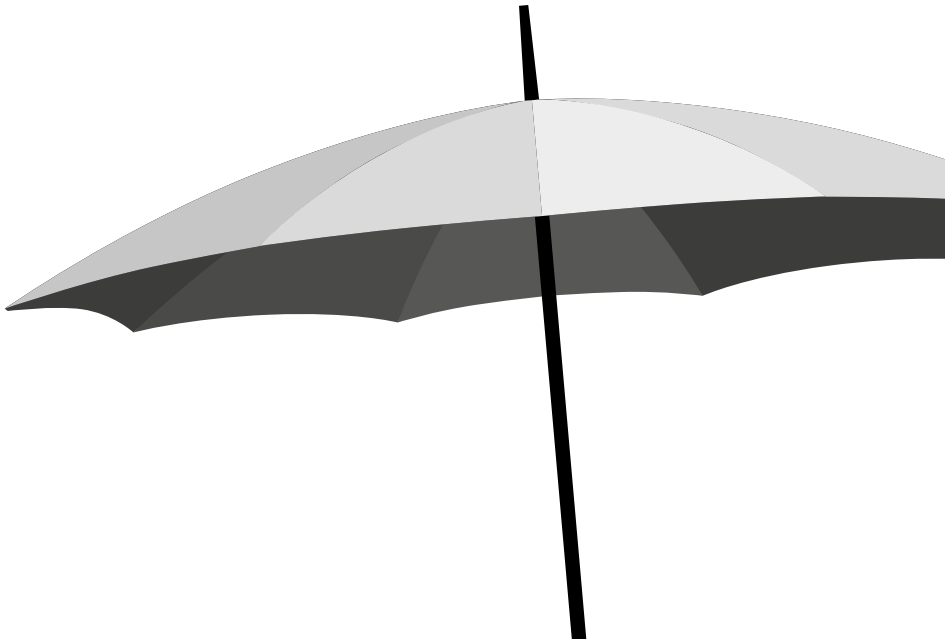
Happy Days first premiered in 1961 in New York and has since then unquestionably become a classic of the modern stage. More than six decades later, Beckett's darkly comic vision of the apocalypse and the banality that comes after remains as timely as the day he wrote it.

Samuel Beckett was one of the greatest dramatists of the twentieth century. Born in Ireland in 1906, his oeuvre included, in addition to plays, short stories, novels and radio plays. He also worked as a literary translator and theater director. His most famous works include *Waiting for Godot*, *End Game* and, of course, *Happy Days*. Long before his death in 1989, Beckett was one of the most produced playwrights in the world. His works have been translated into dozens of languages.

Walter D. Asmus collaborated with Samuel Beckett on numerous theater and television productions from 1974 until the author's death in 1989. He has directed all of Samuel Beckett's plays internationally.

The role of Winnie is played by Berlin-based Irish actor **Mary Kelly**. Mary has performed extensively in Ireland, including at the Gate Theatre, and in Germany most regularly at English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center.

The role of Willie is played by **Tomas Spencer**, who began his career at ETB | IPAC in the early 2000s and has gone on to appear in numerous films and television programs, including *The Last Station*, *Nymphomaniac* and *Passport To Freedom*.





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Fidicinstr. 40, 10965 Berlin (Kreuzberg)
Platz der Luftbrücke: U6, Bus 104, 248,
Mehringdamm: Bus M19

Daniel Brunet (Producing Artistic Director)

Günther Grosser (Artistic Director)

Bernd Hoffmeister (Managing Director)

Education Department / Kulturelle Bildung: Priscilla Bergey (Drama Educator and Berlin International Youth Theatre), Grace Holme (Drama Educator and Workshop Coordinator), Minna Partanen (Drama Educator), Brea Robertson (Drama Educator) | *Communication:* Sarah Rosenau (PR & Communication Director), Casey Tower (Digital Communication), Heiko Orłowski (Communication Assistant) | *Venue:* Torsten Litschko (Technical Director), Rose Nolan (House Manager and Volunteer Coordinator), Paul Netzer (Graphic Design)

Supported by

