

Edinburgh International Book Festival announces James Crawford as new Chair of Board of Directors

25th July 2024

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Today Artistic Director Willie White invited audiences to play their vital role in this year's festival, creating a shared civic space to share live collective experience, as DTF 2024 explores stories about family, identity, migration, climate, colonial legacies, conflict and its resolution. The programme also strives to be ever more accessible with initiatives such as 10 for 10 (which will see 10% of tickets for select festival productions be available for €10 to under 30s, unwaged, freelance artists and arts workers).

The programme announced today features more than 30 productions - world premieres of new Irish work and acclaimed international productions, showcasing artists exploring the issues that define our times, in settings from the domestic to the global, in vital and engaging performances.

DTF 2024 welcomes back Teac Damsa for a joyful opening production, *Nobodaddy*, a feast of music and dance rooted in Corca Dhuibhne and created by Michael Keegan Dolan with a team of Irish and international artists.

New Irish work features strongly with premieres of new plays by Ross Dungan, Kate Heffernan, Caitlin

International highlights include three remarkable pieces from England. Leading experimental theatre company Forced Entertainment's *Signal to Noise*, which continues their interest in pulling at and pulling apart the forms of contemporary culture, Javaad Alipoor's *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* an intriguing political mystery that expands into an exploration of storytelling and truth in the Internet age and Benji Reid's *Find Your Eyes*, a soulful and visually stunning work that combines theatre, dance and photography.

The Festival continues to look for ways to make it ever more accessible and is delighted to announce that **10 for 10**, supported by Aviva, will once again see 10% of tickets for select festival productions be available for €10 to under 30s, unwaged, freelance artists and arts workers. To book, eligible customers need to register in advance – see dublintheatrefestival.ie

Artistic Director Willie White said: "*In a turbulent and divided world, theatre can offer refuge, a place to think through our dilemmas together, offering moments of reflection and most importantly time for solidarity and celebration.*"

Officially opening DTF 2024 will be *Nobodaddy* a new work by acclaimed choreographer **Michael Keegan-Dolan** and **Teač Damsa** (*Swan Lake/Loch na hEala and MÁM*) bringing together familiar and new collaborators in the West Kerry Gaeltacht. An affecting large-scale dance and theatre ritual for 9 dancers and 6 musicians including renowned folk singer and musician Sam Amidon. (O'Reilly Theatre, Belvedere College)

Gare St Lazare Ireland take Beckett's character Belacqua on a journey to the source in Dante, discovering how Melville's character, Bartleby travels a similar road. Tracing a path across time, this devised work combines a newly commissioned score and visual artworks with an ensemble of theatre makers (Samuel Beckett Theatre).

Dream Factory, a modern legend about over-consumption and environmental collapse told by a star-studded cast in the playful and infectious comedic style of **Lords of Strut** (The Civic).

Reimagined for 2024 by **Abbey Theatre** Artistic Director Caitríona McLaughlin, for its first ever production at the Abbey Theatre, Grania Lady Gregory's groundbreaking 1912 play, will connect us to our past and illuminate our present.

Playing Fields is a youth driven, outdoor, participatory sound performance that takes place on your local field. **The Chop Theatre** (Canada), using interviews with teenagers ages 13–16 from Ireland and around the world about ownership and belonging.

Time Based Editions' ingenious new format offers 'audio-visual' as two separate elements, held together in the present through a physical synchronisation of our hands. Printed photography brought alive by a soundscape that both guides and surrounds us in *Borderline Visible* (Patrick Sutton Studio, Gaiety School of Acting)

Nightlife gatecrash, raucous cabaret and musical extravaganza; *0800 CUPID* is a genre-defying queer countercultural opus from **THISISPOPBABY** that fizzes between performance and reality. Through her drag persona, crumbling club-kid Cupid, Emer Dineen grapples with love in a lonely capitalist paradigm (Project Arts Centre).

At the Gaiety Theatre, **Druid** presents Tom Murphy's classic play, *The House*, directed by Garry Hynes, a tense drama of desire, belonging and possession.

The personal becomes political in *Sandpaper On Sunburn*, written and directed by David Horan, a funny and fascinating exploration of identity and family (Smock Alley Theatre – **David Horan & Verdant Productions**).

From **Dee Roycroft** *amelia* is a solarpunk play about birds, migration and leaving home, set in an offline future where actors make theatre sustained by radical hope, despite carbon quotas and power cuts. (Project, Cube).

Home, Boys, Home by Dermot Bolger (**Speckintime**) completes a unique trilogy that started with *In High Germany* (DTF 1990) three standalone plays, written fifteen years apart, recounting the lives of three friends, as emigrants abroad and now as returnees to Ireland (The Civic, Studio).