

ABBAY THEATRE AMHARCLANN NA MAINISTREACH

**The Abbey Theatre presents ‘I ♥ ALICE ♥ I’
written and directed by Amy Conroy**

~ Multi-award winning show on the Peacock stage ~

Wednesday 1st February 2012 – Saturday 18th February 2012

(Previews Monday 30th January 2012 & Tuesday 31st January
2012)

***“an impeccably executed piece of documentary
theatre”***

- The Irish Times

Monday, 16th January 2012 – The Abbey Theatre is delighted to present the multi-award winning **HotForTheatre** production of **I ♥ ALICE ♥ I** (also as **I (HEART) ALICE (HEART) I**) written and directed by **Amy Conroy**. Opening on Wednesday 1st February 2012 for a three week run, this continues the Abbey Theatre’s commitment to presenting the best of independent theatre on its stages.

Fiach Mac Conghail, Director of the Abbey Theatre said, *‘I am delighted to present a play as fresh and as intimate as **I ♥ ALICE ♥ I** to kick off 2012. **Amy Conroy** is a current participant on the Abbey’s **New Playwrights Programme** and an exciting emerging talent as a writer and a performer. What she captures in this celebratory piece of theatre is very special and true.’*

I ♥ ALICE ♥ I is a beautiful love story that explores the relationship of two amazing women. Defying stereotype, they are here to share with the audience something they’ve never dared to before.

I ♥ ALICE ♥ I has received wide acclaim receiving two ABSOLUT Fringe awards, the Fishamble New Writing Award and Best Female Performer for **Clare Barrett** in 2010. The show also featured in

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the ReViewed series as part of the Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival in 2011.

Amy Conroy is currently a participant in the Abbey's **New Playwrights Programme** 2011 which nurtures and develops emerging writers over 18 months of workshops and master-classes.

Amy Conroy, writer and director of the production said, *'I ♥ ALICE ♥ I will catch you off guard, it's funny, moving, tender and powerful. It's a seldom told story about seldom seen people, scratching at the surface revealing the beauty beneath. I'm very excited to present this show on the Peacock stage; I hope it stays with the audience long after they've left the theatre.'*

I ♥ ALICE ♥ I was developed with **Clare Barrett** who also performs in the play, set and lighting design is by **Ciarán O'Melia**, sound design is by **Jack Cawley** and the producer is **Maria Fleming**.

In the Abbey Talks series, **Amy Conroy** will speak to **Veronica Coburn** of **Tenderfoot Theatre Programme** about this award-winning production on Tuesday 7th February at 6pm. Also, on Valentine's Day, Tuesday 14th February at 6pm, be inspired by **Senator Katherine Zappone** and **Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan** as they speak about living their lives out loud as a married couple, championing love and campaigning for justice.

In summer 2012 the Abbey Theatre will present the work of **Fishamble: The New Play Company** with **SILENT** written and performed by **Pat Kinevane** and directed by **Jim Culleton** on the Peacock stage. The production won both *Fringe First* and *Herald Angel Awards* in Edinburgh in 2011.

In 2011 the Abbey Theatre was proud to support and showcase the best of the independent theatre sector in Ireland. Six visiting theatre companies presented work at the Abbey including **Theatre Lovett**, **The Ark**, **Fíabín Teo**, **National Youth Theatre**, **Silken Thomas Players** and **The Company**.

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The Abbey Theatre acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council.

Booking and further information on www.abbeytheatre.ie and (01) 87 87 222.

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Monday – Saturday evening 8pm, Saturday matinees 2.30pm.

Sign language and interpreted performance: Thursday 16th February

Tickets: €13 – €25

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