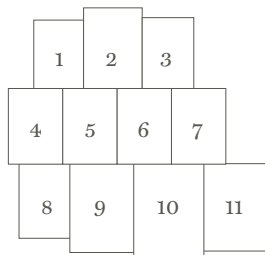

ABBAY THEATRE AMHARCLANN NA MAINISTREACH

Three-year review
2006–2008



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COVER IMAGES

1. Billy Roche; 2. Marina Carr; 3. Mark O'Rowe;
4. Paul Mercier; 5. Seamus Heaney; 6. Sam Shepard;
7. Bisi Adigun; 8. Brian Friel; 9. Conor McPherson;
10. Tom Murphy; 11. Roddy Doyle

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Chairman's introduction

As I sit to write this foreword the airwaves are full, not 'of linnets' wings', but of the poetic achievements of Seamus Heaney. Today he is 70 and the nation celebrates the life and poetry of our Nobel laureate. The Abbey is proud to have recently produced *Burial at Thebes* his translation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, a play that has a personal resonance for me as a lawyer, but one which also reminds us of our place in the literary tradition of western Europe.

An inspiration, in every sense, to the nation, Heaney continues in the tradition of Shaw, Yeats, Joyce, O'Casey, Beckett and Kavanagh. He has rekindled the artistic flame for another generation. Ever conscious of his responsibility as an artist he has never failed in his obligations to his art or to his community.

Even on institutional responsibility he is instructive. His poem *St Kevin and the Blackbird* pictures the kneeling saint with outstretched arms in penitential pose in a cell so narrow that to accommodate his extended pose one hand extends through a small window to the outside world. Opportunistically, the blackbird uses the hand-cup to lay her eggs. Appreciating his obligation to nature, Kevin remains a prisoner until the eggs are hatched and the birds have flown.

When the present board was appointed to the Abbey some three years ago we were conscious of our position as trustees of a priceless national legacy. As custodians we were obliged not only to preserve this heritage but, like the biblical good servant, we are obliged to nurture and enhance it. This report marks the achievements of the last 3 years under the leadership of Director Fiach Mac Conghail, supported by his strong management team and staff, and my thanks extend to my fellow board members all of whom have contributed greatly to this success.

I wish to acknowledge, also, the strong commitment of the Irish Government, the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism and The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon to supporting the mission and objectives of the Abbey Theatre.

Like St Kevin, we will all remain faithful to the task.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BRYAN MCMAHON, APRIL 2009
Chairman, Abbey Theatre/Amharclann na Mainistreach

Artistic achievement and financial success

Le trí bliana anuas
*d'fhreastail os cionn 370,000
duine ar 32 léiriú dár gcuid
ar ár dhá stáitse i mBaile
Átha Cliath agus ar turas in
Éirinn, i nDún Éideann, i
Londain agus i Nua-Eabhrac.
Bhí lear mór léirithe de chuid
Amharclann na Mainistreach
- lena n-áirítear 7 gcinn de
premières domhanda, 4 cinn
de premières Éireannacha
agus saothair de chuid 6 cinn
de chompántais idirnáisiúnta
- spreagúil, mealltach,
dúshlánach agus siamsúil dár
lucht féachana.*

Over the last three years more than 370,000 people have seen 32 productions on our two stages in Dublin and on tour in Ireland, Edinburgh, London and New York. The Abbey Theatre's audiences have been excited, engaged, challenged and entertained by a great variety of work which included 7 world premieres, 4 Irish premieres and work from 6 international companies.

As Ireland's national theatre our aim is to present new plays and exciting productions to our audiences and to support this with activities, debates and events that open up the theatre to our citizens by increasing and extending participation. We aim to reflect and challenge the issues that occur in Irish society and to support our writers and artists in making sense of highlighting these concerns to our citizens and our audiences.

ONE VISION, TWO STAGES

The Abbey's programming continues to reflect on our stages 'the deeper emotions of Ireland'. From 2006-2008 we presented new Irish plays, plays from the Abbey and Irish repertoire, international classic drama, and encouraged new and diverse theatre making.

We examined the new and changing Ireland in plays like *Homeland* by Paul Mercier, *The Grown-Ups* by Nick Kelly, and Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle's version of Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*. We explored the issues of leadership, democracy and political courage in productions of *Julius Caesar*, *The Crucible*, *Kicking a Dead*

Horse, An Ideal Husband, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, The Burial at Thebes, Big Love, and The Big House. We looked also to important plays by English writers Edward Bond, Caryl Churchill and Joe Penhall to examine key issues and changes occurring in Irish society. We also produced Brian Friel's exquisite versions of Chekov's *Three Sisters* and Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*.

The Abbey Theatre reengaged and collaborated with important Irish writers Bisi Adigun, Marina Carr, Roddy Doyle, Brian Friel, Seamus Heaney, Conor McPherson, Paul Mercier, Tom Murphy, Mark O'Rowe, Billy Roche, Enda Walsh. And we began to take stock of one of America's most important playwrights, Pulitzer prize-winner Sam Shepard. In this unique collaboration, Shepard has given the Abbey Theatre two world premieres and we will continue to survey his work for Irish audiences over the next couple of years.

Visiting companies enriched our programme and more than 11,000 people of all ages were introduced to the art of circus with *Aurelia's Oratorio* (France), *Taoub* (Morocco) and *Circo de la Sombra* (Franco-Catalan). We also invited the National Theatre of Great Britain's production of *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett starring Fiona Shaw.

NURTURING TALENT, UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

The Abbey maintains the only fulltime Literary Department in Ireland, which in 2006 commissioned 16 writers. Three of these plays, *Terminus* by Mark O'Rowe, *Kicking a Dead Horse* by Sam Shepard and *Lay Me Down Softly* by Billy Roche were produced in 2007/8 and a further five will premiere in 2009.

In 2007/8 we commissioned a further 17 writers and also commissioned six short plays by younger writers, which were performed as rehearsed readings in the Peacock.

The Literary Department continue to receive, assess and respond individually to up to 300 unsolicited scripts per year. Writers of the best of these submissions are considered for invitation to the New Playwrights Programme.

The Abbey Theatre is a dynamic working environment in which theatre professionals across all disciplines work to develop their creative talents, and achieve ever greater standards of excellence and quality. We have introduced a Resident Assistant Director scheme, which supports the training and development of young and emerging theatre makers. We have also encouraged Irish theatre directors and designers to work at the Abbey Theatre. We are proud to have worked with over 300 actors in 32 productions over the last three years. In our commitment to improve quality in productions at the Abbey Theatre, we have introduced extra weeks of rehearsals for productions, more low-price previews and a fully integrated understudy system.

*Is é ár gcuspóir mar
amharclann náisiúnta na
hÉireann ná drámaí nua
agus léirithe spreagúla
a chur i láthair lucht
féachana náisiúnta agus
idirnáisiúnta agus chun tacú
leis seo le gníomhaíochtaí,
díospóireachtaí agus
imeachtaí a osclaíonn
domhan na hamharclainne
suas dár saoránaigh
trí rannpháirteachas a
mhéadú agus chun cur le
rannpháirteachas. Tá rún
againn na ceisteanna atá i
mbéal phobal na hÉireann a
chíoradh agus chun aghaidh
a thabhairt ar na ceisteanna
sin agus chun tacú lenár gcuid
scríbhneoirí agus ealaíontóirí
chun ciall a bhaint as na
ceisteanna seo agus chun iad a
aibhsiú dár saoránaigh agus
dár lucht féachana.*

THE ABBEY EXPERIENCE

Dúshlán nua, Deiseanna nua

Táimid ag dul isteach anois i dtéimhse nua a bhfuil athrú i gceist léi, ní hé amháin d'Amharclann na Mainistreach ach d'Éirinn trí chéile freisin. Tá deis ann anois, níos mó ná riamh, le hamharclann náisiúnta na hÉireann chun léiriú a thabhairt ar shochaí na hÉireann agus chun fóram a sholáthar don phobal ina mbeadh cruthaitheacht, cumas friotail, díospóireacht agus díoscúrsa ina n-órlaí tríd. Tugann próiseas déanta drámaíochta deis comhchruthaitheachta ar leith leis i gcomhair scríbhneoirí, stiúrthóirí, aisteoirí agus lucht féachana. Ceiliúrann sé agus dearbhaíonn sé cumhacht agus láithreach an aisteora agus an scríbhneora. Is é an lucht féachana amháin atá in ann an láithreach seo a thabhairt i gcrích. Lenár linn tá spásanna fíorúla agus pobail ar líne tar éis teacht ar an bhfód ach leanann den drámaíocht bheith ina comhchuid ar leith agus fíorthábhachtach maidir le saol cultúrtha na hÉireann.

In 2007 internationally renowned designer Jean-Guy Lecat and Irish architect John Keogan transformed the Abbey auditorium, with a new floor design and seating. This enhanced the acoustics, created an intimacy between the audience and actors and has been unanimously applauded. It has transformed the theatrical experience at the Abbey Theatre.

The Abbey is continuing to build its reputation and extend the life of its new work by touring Ireland and performing overseas. In 2008 grants from Culture Ireland supported performances in both the US and the UK. The Abbey took two productions to the Public Theater (New York); *Terminus* by Mark O'Rowe ran at of as part of the Under the Radar Festival 9—20 January, followed by *Kicking a Dead Horse* by Sam Shepard, 25 June—10 August, which then transferred to the Almeida Theatre (London), 5—20 September. *Terminus* ran at the Traverse Theatre, 3—24 August, as part of the Edinburgh Festival, where it won a prestigious FRINGE FIRST, and as a result has been invited to London, Australia, New Zealand and to return to the US. *The Seafarer* by Conor McPherson enjoyed a successful Irish tour with performances in Cork, Galway and Letterkenny.

REACHING AUDIENCES

More than 370,000 people saw an Abbey show between 2006 and 2008, an increase of 19%, while a greater number of events and activities helped to engage and deepen the relationships we have with our audiences and create conversations around issues of national and international relevance. At over one hundred Abbey Talks, theatre artists, opinion makers and stakeholders critiqued, challenged and debated issues and themes with our audiences, serving to animate the work on our stages.

Initiatives such as the Matinee Club give our senior audience members insights into productions through discussions with writers, directors and cast members. Projects with disadvantaged schools combined onsite workshops, backstage tours, and teacher support to create a direct connection between the Abbey and over 2,300 students. Crucially they have also helped to break down preconceived ideas about theatre and to foster a new generation of younger theatregoers that appreciates theatre as an art-form that they enjoy, engage with and are inspired by.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Abbey suffered a major crisis culminating in 2004/05 as a result of a combination of structural and systemic weaknesses. As a result, there was a wholesale process of change from the top down. The company

and corporate structure was radically altered and new management structures, systems and skills designed and installed. This major change was financially supported by the Government through the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism (DAST) and the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and all debts were cleared. In January 2006, the Arts Council provided an historic 3 year investment of €25.7m, a sum ring-fenced by DAST, to the reconstituted Abbey Theatre under the direction of Fiach Mac Conghail.

What three-year funding empowered the Abbey Theatre to do was make enlightened artistic and business decisions which minimised risk and encouraged long term planning and programming, providing a solid foundation to build upon.

We have achieved year-on year growth in income (40%) and attendance (19%). The introduction of organisational and professional development programmes have informed working practices and work began to revitalize the Abbey's brand profile.

In 2008 we commissioned an Economic Impact Study to measure the specific contribution of the national theatre to the economy¹, using a model commissioned by Arts Council England. This confirmed the economic impact of the Abbey (combined direct and indirect spend, including turnover) at almost €40 million per year, generating €3.6 for every €1 of funding and between 2006 – 2008 the Abbey contributed over €118 million to the Irish economy.

NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We are now entering a new period of change not just for the Abbey Theatre but also for Ireland. Now, more than ever, there is an opportunity for Ireland's national theatre to hold a mirror up to Irish society and provide a forum for creativity, expression, debate and discourse. The process of making theatre offers a special kind of communion for writers, directors, actors and audiences. It celebrates and affirms the immediate power and presence of the actor and the writer. This presence can only be fully realised by the audience. In a time of virtual spaces and online communities theatre continues to be a unique and vital component of Irish cultural life.

Our long-term strategy is to relocate to a new building at George's Dock in the Dublin Docklands. When complete, the new waterside complex will give Dublin an iconic and dynamic building reflecting the city's growing reputation as a global capital of culture and creativity. Our ambition is to produce an annual programme of 16 productions and 2 national tours, to support a thriving Literary Department, develop a major programme of Engage and Learn activity, a Studio, multiple and diverse income streams and continue to build on our national and international reputation.

Is é ár stráitéis fhadtréimhseach ná athrú ionaid chuig foirgneamh nua i nDuga Sheoirse i nDughaílte Bhaile Átha Cliath a chur i gcrích. Nuair a chuirtear críoch leis an ollionad nua cois farraige seo, beidh foirgneamh iocónach agus dinimiciúil ag Baile Átha Cliath, a mbeadh cáil mhéadaitheach na cathrach mar phríomhchathair dhomhanda maidir le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht le sonrú go mór ann. Is é ár gcuspóir ná clár bliantúil de 16 léiriú, 2 thuras náisiúnta a chur i láthair an phobail mar aon le tacú le rannóg liteartha atá faoi bhláth, le mórchlár gníomhaíocht Rannpháirteachais agus Foghlama, le Stiúideo, le sruthanna ioncaim iolracha agus éagsúla agus chun cur lenár ndea-cháil náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

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NOTE 1

The Economic Impact of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, undertaken by Professor Dominic Shellard, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, The University of Sheffield, and Derrick Elliss.

Facts and figures

2006-2008*

Earned income	<i>Euros</i>
Box Office	7,648,239
Other productions	93,531
Sponsorship and donations	189,768
Trading income	1,404,751
Grants receivable	25,359,622
	34,695,911
<hr/>	
Expenditure	
Productions & direct costs	17,901,494
Theatre overheads	7,775,044
Commissions & creative development	1,267,110
Marketing, publicity and box office	4,173,561
Restructuring	216,834
	31,334,043
<hr/>	
<i>Net Surplus</i>	<i>3,361,868</i>

**Unaudited accounts. The accumulated operating surplus of €3.36m is a result of prudent budgeting, tight costs control, some plans being implemented later than expected and an increase in box office income. The accumulated surplus will fund the decrease in Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon funding in 2009.*

375,000	people enjoyed Abbey Theatre performances
7	world premieres
4	Irish premieres
309	actors worked on the Abbey stages
798	roles were cast for shows, readings and workshops
2,000	joined <i>Access All Abbey</i> , a discounted ticket scheme for young people
23,500	saw work on tour in 2008
753	unsolicited scripts were responded to by the Literary Department
32	productions staged by the Abbey in Dublin, nationally and internationally
111	talks took place at the Abbey Theatre
11,500	attended these talks
34	writers under commission plus 12 short play commissions
2,328	school children, teachers and parents took part in education programmes
50	assisted performances. (32 signed performances, 11 audio described performances, 7 captioned performances)
30	writers were commissioned to write programme notes
367	actors were engaged for inhouse play workshops and public readings
38	Literary Department workshops
€118m	contribution to the Irish economy

Productions, talks & readings

ABBAY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

2006 426 performances

HOMELAND

by Paul Mercier
WORLD PREMIERE
14 January - 25 February
42 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Paul Mercier
Set and lighting design:
Paul Keogan
Costumes: Niamh Lunny
Original music:
Conor Linehan

Sound: Liz Fitzgerald
Cast: Andrew Bennett, Catherine
Byrne, Liam Carney, Denis Conway,
Katy Davis, Michael Fitzgerald, Joe
Hanley, Eamonn Hunt, Eleanor
Methven, David Pearse, Gabrielle
Reidy, Norma Sheahan

EURIPIDES' THE BACCHAE OF BAGHDAD

A new version
by Conall Morrison
WORLD PREMIERE
4 March - 15 April
41 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Conall Morrison
Set design: Sabine Dargent
Costume design: Sinéad Cuthbert
Lighting design: Nick McCall
Choreography: Cindy Cummings
Sound: Cormac Carroll
Assistant director: Alice Coghlan
Cast: Christopher Simpson, Robert
O'Mahoney, Tracy Harper, Jeff
Diamond, Andrea Irvine, Simon
O'Gorman, Peter Hanly, Mojisola
Adebayo, Mary Healy, Shereen
Martineau, Merrina Millsapp, Ruth
Negga, Donna Nikolaisen

'A vibrant production ...
a visual, sensual treat.'
Rachel Andrews/Sunday
Tribune/12.03.06

TURGENEV'S A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY

A version by Brian Friel
20 May - 1 July
42 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jason Byrne
Set and Costume design:
Joe Vanek
Lighting design: Mick Hughes
Cast: Derbhle Crotty, Deirdre
Donnelly, Declan Conlon, Peter
Hanly, Elaine Symons, Fiona Bell,
Andrew Bennett, Laurence Kinlan,
Pat Laffan, Don Wycherley, Simon
O'Gorman, Laura-Jane Laughlin

'Jason Byrne's production
of A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY
for the Abbey does have an
authentic feel; it's full
of desperation, hysteria
running beneath the
surface like an earthquake
fault line ... This is
revitalization of the
Abbey as we hoped for it.'
Emer O'Kelly/Sunday
Independent/28.05.06

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde
8 July - 23 September
77 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Conall Morrison
Set design: Sabine Dargent
Lighting design: Ben Omerod
Costumes: Joan O'Clery
Cast: Alan Stanford, Stephen Hogan,
David Pearse, Michael Fitzgerald,
Marty Rea, Sean Kearns, Ned
Dennehy, Des Cave, Barry O'Connor,
Kevin Morley, Michael Winder,
Roger Thomson

'A sparkling comic
production that breathes
fresh life into an old
masterpiece.' Michael
Moffatt/Ireland On Sunday/
16.07.06

DOUBT

a parable by
John Patrick Shanley
IRISH PREMIERE
21 October - 25 November
35 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Gerard Stembridge
Set design: Alan Farquharson
Lighting design:
Kevin McFadden
Costume design: Catherin Fay,
Liz Fitzgerald
Cast: Brid Brennan, Aidan Kelly,
Starla Benford,
Gemma Reeves

'This is topical theatre
international in status,
blazingly well written and
crackingly well presented.
It's the stuff of a national
theatre.' Emer O'Kelly/
Sunday Independent/
29.10.06

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

by R. B. Sheridan
2 Dec - 20 Jan
53 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Ferdia Murphy
Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Costume design:
Léonore McDonagh
Original music:
Conor Linehan
Cast: Cathy Belton, Ned Dennehy,
Tom Vaughan Lawlor, Gemma
Reeves, Marion O'Dwyer, David
Pearse, Mark O'Regan, Mark
Lambert, Des Keogh, Simone Kirby,
Nick Dunning, Des Cave, Rory
Keenan, Joe Roch, Megan Riordan,
Yare Jegbefume

'A thousand cheers for the
Abbey Theatre's THE SCHOOL
FOR SCANDAL and director
Jimmy Fay. Richard Brinsley
Sheridan's great comedy
has for this production
been treated with absolute
respect, cast wonderfully
and made into nothing
short of a triumph.'
Bruce Arnold/Irish
Independent

THE GROWN UPS

by Nicholas Kelly
WORLD PREMIERE
10 February - 11 March
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Gerard Stembridge
Set design: Sinéad O'Hanlon
Lighting design:
Kevin McFadden
Costume design: Suzanne Cave
Sound design: Eddie Breslin
Cast: Jonathan Forbes, Leigh
Arnold, Fionnuala Murphy, Stephen
Brennan, Dan Colley

'Part social satire and
part urban thriller,
Nicholas Kelly's piece is
a pertinent dissection of
the excesses of a modern
Ireland.' Daragh Reddin/
Metro/16.02.06

TRUE WEST

by Sam Shepard
4 March - 22 April
28 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Ferdia Murphy
Lighting design: Sinéad Wallace
Costume design: Johanna Connor
Sound: Ivan Birthistle,
Vincent Doherty
Cast: Aidan Kelly, Declan
Conlon, Emmet Bergin, Maria
McDermottroe

'An unmissable examination
of creativity, violence
and the fluid nature of
identity.' Daragh Reddin/
Metro/03.04.06

HOWIE THE ROOKIE

by Mark O'Rowe
5 May - 3 June
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set and Costume design:
Johanna Connor
Lighting design:
Sinéad McKenna
Cast: Aidan Kelly, Karl Shiels

'This is an electrifying
production; I would go so
far as to suggest that it
is faultless.' Emer O'Kelly/
Sunday Independent/14.05.06

BLUE ORANGE

by Joe Penhall
16 June - 15 July
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Annabelle Comyn
Set design: Annabelle Comyn
Set design: Paul O'Mahony
Lighting design:
Sinéad Wallace
Costume design:
Niamh Lunny

Sound design:
Richard Barragay
Cast: George Costigan, Christopher
Staines, Emmanuel Ighodaro

'Joe Penhall's taut, astute
drama deftly straddles the
intellect and the heart.
The story is delivered
at a frenetic pace to a
laughing, gasping audience
that cares deeply about
its outcome.' Helen Boylan/
Sunday Business Post/
26.06.06

ALICE TRILOGY

by Tom Murphy
 IRISH PREMIERE
 6 October – 4 November
 29 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Tom Murphy
Set and Costume design:
 Johanna Connor

Lighting design: Tina MacHugh
Sound design: Vincent Doherty and Ivan Birthistle
Cast: Jane Brennan, Mary Murray, Robert O'Mahoney, Enda Kilroy, Bosco Hogan, Des Nealon, Stella McCusker

2007
437 performances

JULIUS CAESAR

by William Shakespeare
 12 February - 17 March
 34 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jason Byrne
Set and Costume design:
 Jon Bausor

Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Fight director: Paul Burke
Cast: Robert O'Mahoney, Aidan Kelly, Declan Conlon, Frank McCusker, Deirdre Roycroft, Dairíne Ní Dhonechú, Peter Hanly, Mark D'Aughton, Jack Walsh, Will O'Connell, Des Nealon, Bosco Hogan, Ciarán O'Brien, Tadhg Murphy
19 citizens: Sarah Barragry, Patrick Carrol, Ian Cooke, Cecil Coughlan, Jonathan Delaney Tynan, Cahit Ece, David Ferguson, Mark McCabe, Aoife Moore, Glenn Mullins, Glenn Naughton, Kate Nic Chonaonaigh, Donncha O'Dea, Ciarán O'Grady, Olivia Pouyanne, Janee Rambocus, David Sheehan, Keith Ward, Stephen Wilson.

'Jason Byrne has taken JULIUS CAESAR in a magnificent grip in his new production for the Abbey ...A stirring evening's theatre and a production standard that is exactly what a national theatre should be aiming for.' Emer O'Kelly/Sunday Independent/25.02.07

THE CAVALCADERS

by Billy Roche
 10 April – 19 May
 39 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Robin Lefèrve
Set design: Alan Farquharson
Lighting design: Mick Hughes
Costume design:
 Sinéad Cuthbert
Music director:
 Pat Fitzpatrick
Choreography:
 Muirne Bloomer
Cast: Stephen Brennan, John Kavanagh, David Ganly, Garrett Lombard, Ingrid Craigie, Simone Kirby

'Robin Lefevre's direction is elegantly paced, not least when it comes to affording the original songs the space to evoke a poignant sense of time and place.' Declan Burke/Sunday Times – Culture/22.04.07

THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller
 26 May - 7 July
 42 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Patrick Mason
Set and Costume design:
 Conor Murphy
Lighting design: Lucy Carter
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Declan Conlon, Cathy Belton, Deirdre Donnelly, Derry Power,

Tom Hickey, Ruth Negga, Gemma Reeves, Aoife Duffin, Laura Jane Laughlin, Suzy Lawlor, Peter Gowen, Des Cave, Mark D'Aughton, Chris McHallem, Peter Hanly, Laurietta Essien, Christopher Saul, Phelim Drew, Marion O'Dwyer, Máire Ní Ghráinne, Eric Higgins

'The production at the Abbey ...has restored the play to its fascinating and vital historical context in a truly admirable production.' Bruce Arnold/Irish Independent/01.06.07

THE BIG HOUSE

by Lennox Robinson
 28 July – 8 September
 42 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Conall Morrison
Set design: Francis O'Connor
Costume design: Joan O'Clery
Sound design: Philip Stewart
Cast: Lucy Gaskell, Patrick Godfrey, Deirdre Donnelly, Matthew Douglas, Derry Power, Philip O'Sullivan, Marty Rea, Georgina Miller, Sean O'Neill, Ger Kelly, Brian Bennett

'What is extraordinary is its relevance; we are still imposing definitions of Irishness for all our supposed 'celebration' of difference. It's one hell of a timely revival, and the production is a fine one.' Emer O'Kelly/Sunday Independent

KICKING A DEAD HORSE

by Sam Shepard
 WORLD PREMIERE
 12 - 22 September
 12 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Sam Shepard
Set design: Brien Vahey
Lighting design: John Comiskey
Costume design: Joan Bergin
Cast: Stephen Rea, Joanne Crawford

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

a new version by Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle
 WORLD PREMIERE
 29 September - 24 November
 56 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Anthony Lamble
Lighting design:
 Sinéad Wallace
Costume design: Catherine Fay
Sound design: Vincent Doherty and Ivan Birthistle
Cast: Eileen Walsh, Liam Carney, Laurence Kinlan, Giles Terera, Olu Jacobs, Phelim Drew, Joe Hanley, Angeline Ball, Charleen Gleeson, Kate Brennan, Aoife Duffin

THE RECRUITING OFFICER

by George Farquhar
 3 December - 26 January
 52 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Lynne Parker
Set design: Ferdia Murphy
Lighting design: Tina MacHugh
Costume design: Kathy Strachan
Music director: Hélène Montague
Musicians: Ellen Cranitch, Hélène Montague
Cast: Declan Conlon, Garrett Lombard, Peter Hanly, Miche Doherty, Kathy Keira Clarke, Cathy Belton, Janet Moran, Fergal McElherron, Eleanor Methven,

Denis Conway, Des Cave, Pat Laffan, Derry Power, Dermot Magennis, Marc O'Shea *Musicians:* Helene Montague, Ellen Cranitch

'This is a deft production...a fine ensemble, beautifully directed.' Colin Murphy/Sunday Tribune

A NUMBER

by Caryl Churchill
 6 February - 3 March
 27 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Annabelle Comyn
Set design: Brien Vahey
Lighting design:
 Sinéad Wallace
Costume design: Joan O'Clery
Original music: Philip Stewart
Cast: Alan Williams, Stuart Graham

'Thought-provoking, superbly-written and sharply acted.Everything you could ask for from a play.' Edel Coffey/Sunday Tribune/11.02.07

KICKING A DEAD HORSE

by Sam Shepard
 12 March - 14 April
 31 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Sam Shepard
Set design: Brien Vahey
Costume design: Joan Bergin
Lighting design:
 John Comiskey
Dialect Coach: Brendan Gunn
Assistant Director:
 Wayne Jordan
Cast: Stephen Rea, Joanne Crawford

SAVED

by Edward Bond
 27 April - 26 May
 29 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Paul O'Mahony
Costume design: Catherine Fay
Lighting design:
 Sinéad Wallace
Sound design: Vincent Doherty and Ivan Birthistle
Fight Director: Paul Burke
Cast: Tom Vaughan Lawlor, Eileen Walsh, Eleanor Methven, Paul Moriarty, Rory Keenan, Marty Rea, John Cronin, Ciarán O'Brien, Kate Brennan

'Jimmy Fay's production of the play is pretty well faultless ...This is an evening of extraordinary, horrible, devastating theatre. See it.' Emer O'Kelly/Sunday Independent/06.05.07

TERMINUS

by Mark O'Rowe
 WORLD PREMIERE
 9 June - 7 July
 29 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Mark O'Rowe
Set and Costume design:
 Jon Bausor
Lighting design:
 Philip Gladwell
Sound design: Philip Stewart
Cast: Andrea Irvine, Eileen Walsh, Aidan Kelly

WOMAN AND SCARECROW

by Marina Carr
IRISH PREMIERE
6 October - 10 November
35 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Selina Cartmell
Set and Costume design:
Conor Murphy
Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Olwene Fouéré, Barbara
Brennan, Brid Ní Neachtain,
Simon O’Gorman

2008
376 performances

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare
12 February - 17 March
47 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jason Byrne
Set and costume design:
Jon Bausor
Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Sound Design: Denis Clohessy
Choreography: Ella Clarke
Fight director: Paul Burke
Cast: Noelle Brown, Liam Carney,
John Cronin, Jonathan Delaney
Tynan, Peter Gaynor, Brian Gleeson,
Darren Healy, Bosco Hogan, Jessica
Kennedy, Megan Kennedy, Ronan
Leahy, Frank McCusker, Michael
McElhatton, Aaron Monaghan,
Aonghus Óg McAnally, Anita Reeves,
Gemma Reeves, Karl Shiels,
Áine Stapleton, Aidan Turner,
Ali White

THE SEAFARER

by Conor McPherson
IRISH PREMIERE
26 April - 7 June
36 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Paul O’Mahony
Lighting design:
Sinéad Wallace
Costume design:
Niamh Lunny
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Liam Carney, George Costigan,
Phelim Drew, Maeliosa Stafford,
Don Wycherley

THREE SISTERS

by Anton Chekhov
In a version by Brian Friel
18 June - 2 August
45 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: David Leveaux
Set and costume design:
Mike Britton
Lighting design:
Brian MacDevitt
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Andrew Adamson, Fiona Bell,
Lorcan Cranitch, Derbhle Crotty,
Brian Doherty, Darragh Kelly, Tom
Vaughan Lawlor, Nick Lee, Stella
McCusker, Dearbhla McGuinness,
Andrew Macklin, Justine Mitchell,
Eamon Morrissey, Tadhg Murphy,
Aoife O’Donnell, Derry Power,
Emily Taaffe

**THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF
ARTURO UI**

by Bertolt Brecht
4 November - 6 December
35 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set and costume design:
Conor Murphy
Lighting: Paul Keogan
Sound design: Denis Clohessy

Cast: Malcolm Adams, Ian Lloyd-
Anderson, Jane Brennan, Kate
Brennan, Des Cave, John Cronin,
Peter Gaynor, Bosco Hogan, Damien
Kearney, Aidan Kelly, Tom Vaughan-
Lawlor, Ronan Leahy, Eamon
Morrissey, Diarmaid Murtagh,
Ciarán O’Brien, Philip O’Sullivan,
George Seremba, Karl Shiels, Shawn
Sturnick

**THE PLAYBOY
OF THE WESTERN WORLD**

a new version
by Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle
12 December - 31 January
47 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Jimmy Fay
Set design: Anthony Lamble
Lighting design: Sinéad Wallace
Costume design: Catherine Fay
Sound design: Vincent Doherty
and Ivan Birthistle
Cast: Ruth Bradley, Kate Brennan,
Liam Carney, Phelim Drew, Hilda
Fay, Liz Fitzgibbon, Charlene
Gleeson, Joe Hanley, Chuk Iwuji,
Rory Nolan, George Seremba

FOOL FOR LOVE

by Sam Shepard
19 February - 15 March
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Annie Ryan
Set design: Paul O’Mahony
Lighting design:
Kevin McFadden
Costume design:
Sonya Lennon
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Andrew Bennett,
John Kavanagh, Catherine Walsh,
Don Wycherley

THE BURIAL AT THEBES

a version of Sophocles’ Antigone
by Seamus Heaney
4 April - 3 May
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Patrick Mason
Set and costume design:
Ferdia Murphy
Lighting design:
Sinead McKenna
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Jane Brennan, Barry Cassin,
Des Cave, Declan Conlon, Kevin
Flood, Peter Hanly, Eric Higgins,
Eamonn Hunt, Chris McHallem,
Des Nealon, Kathy Rose O’Brien,
Aonghus Óg McAnally, Gemma
Reeves, Oscar Hernandez Rodriguez

BIG LOVE

by Charles Mee
5 July - 2 August
28 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Selina Cartmell
Set and costume design:
Jon Bausor
Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Sound design: Denis Clohessy
Cast: Malcolm Adams, Brian
Bennett, Barbara Brennan, Daniel
Brocklebank, Martin Brody, Stav
Dvorkin, Tim Gahan, Kelly Gough,
Jose Miguel Jimenez, Aonghus
Óg McAnally, Robert McDermott,
Chris McHallem, Rory Nolan,
Donncha O’Dea, Ciara O’Callaghan,
Marion O’ Dwyer, Judith Roddy

LAY ME DOWN SOFTLY

by Billy Roche
WORLD PREMIERE
14 November - 13 December
30 performances
on the Peacock stage

Director: Wilson Milam
Set and costume design:
Ferdia Murphy
Lighting design: Paul Keogan
Sound design: Philip Stewart
Cast: Joe Doyle, Gary Lydon,
Ruth Negga, Barry Ward,
Aisling O’Sullivan, Lalor Roddy

WRITERS

1. Billy Roche *Lay Me Down Softly*;
2. Marina Carr *Marble*;
3. Mark O’Rowe *Terminus*;
4. Paul Mercier *Homeland*;
5. Seamus Heaney *The Burial At Thebes*;
6. Sam Shepard *Kicking A Dead Horse*;
7. Roddy Doyle and Bisi Adigun
Playboy Of The Western World;
8. Brian Friel *Three Sisters*;
9. Conor McPherson *The Seafarer*;
10. Tom Murphy *Alice Trilogy*



ABBEY TALKS

2006

26 JANUARY **A Response to Homeland** / 1 FEBRUARY **The Making of Homeland** / 21 FEBRUARY **The Pope's Children** / 6 MARCH **Art in the Age of Anxiety** / 24 MARCH **Being in Baghdad** / 30 MARCH **Play it again Sam** / 4 APRIL **This so-called Disaster** / 4 MAY **Aurélia's Oratorio** / 1 JUNE **Talking Turgenev** / 8 JUNE **The Making of A Month in the Country** / 27 JUNE **Post Show Discussion — Blue/Orange** / 6 JULY **Race, Prejudice, Power and the Health Service** / 14 JULY **'A work of art is a unique result of a unique temperament'** / 25 JULY **'I love acting. It is so much more real than life'** / 3 AUGUST **'Life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about'** / 23 AUGUST **Oscar's Shadow: Wilde and Modern Ireland** / 26 OCTOBER **Meet the Makers: Doubt** / 31 OCTOBER **Meet the Makers: Alice Trilogy** / 7 NOVEMBER **'Doubt requires more courage than conviction does'** / 23 NOVEMBER **On Diversity** / 12 DECEMBER **Meet the Makers: The School for Scandal**

2007

9 JANUARY **Homage to Outrage** / 16 JANUARY **It's Shirley** / 23 JANUARY **Outrage in Business** / 26 JANUARY **The Unmentionable Shift** / 13 FEBRUARY **Hello Dolly** / 20 FEBRUARY **Meet the Makers: Jon Bouser, Set Designer** / 27 FEBRUARY **Me Myself and I** / 6 MARCH **There is a Tide in the Affairs of Men** / 8 MARCH **Sam Shepard** / 13 MARCH **Lend Me Your Ears** / 27 MARCH **Meet the Makers: Brien Vahey** / 3 APRIL **One City One Block** / 17 APRIL **Music For the Cavaliers: No Crows!** / 24 APRIL **What's a Play For: Why Playwright** / 30 APRIL **Meet the Makers: Edward Bond** / 1 MAY **Meet the Makers: Billy Roche** / 3 MAY **What's a Play For?** / 8 MAY **American Voices: E. Annie Proulx** / 10 MAY **What's a Play For? Blast Theory and Gob Squad** / 15 MAY **What's a Play For? Liz Lerman Dance Exchange** / 17 MAY **Mellowchords Barbershop Harmonic Chorus** / 22 MAY **What's a Play For? Cheap Art Philosophy** / 6 JUNE **American Voices: Richard Ford** / 17 JUNE **Meet the Makers: Mark O'Rowe** / 26 JUNE **1599 And All That** / 5 JULY **Meet The Makers: Patrick Mason** / 31 JULY **Hadani Ditmars** / 7 AUGUST **What's A Play For: Canon Fodder?** / 21 AUGUST **Memory, Forgiveness and Conflict** / 4 SEPTEMBER **Caught up in Controversy** / 18 SEPTEMBER **In Conversation: Steven Rea** / 9 OCTOBER **In Conversation: Garry Hynes** / 16 OCTOBER **How we die. Good deaths real and imagined.** / 23 OCTOBER **Meet the makers: Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle** / 25 OCTOBER **What's a play for? Dead Good Guides** / 30 OCTOBER **Meet the makers: Selina Cartmell** / 6 NOVEMBER **On Playboys: Niamh Greene** / 7 NOVEMBER **On Playboys: When the Boys are Away** / 8 NOVEMBER **On Playboys: Something Like Love** / 13 NOVEMBER **Outrageous Fortune — Dr Joe Cleary** / 20 NOVEMBER **International Playboy Declan Kiberd** / 11 DECEMBER **Meet the Makers: Lynn Parker**

2008

10 JANUARY **What's a Play For? John McGrath** / 15 JANUARY **Meet the Makers: Hélène Montague** / 14 FEBRUARY **Inspiring Love: Shakespeare's Sonnets** / 21 FEBRUARY **Inspiring Love: 'If Not For Love'** / 26 FEBRUARY **Meet the Makers: Annie Ryan** / 28 FEBRUARY **Meet the Makers: Jon, Jason and Juliet** / 6 MARCH **Foolish Talk** / 2 APRIL **Inspiring Love: A Brief History of Contemporary Circus** / 3 APRIL **Augusto Boal** / 3 APRIL **Inspiring Love: Oisín McGann** / 9 APRIL **Meet the Makers: Circo de la Sombra** / 10 APRIL **Title Deeds: Translating a Classic** / 18 APRIL **Meet the Makers: William Forsythe** / 23 APRIL **What's a Play For? Greeks!!!** / 13 MAY **A Powerful Tale: Donal O'Kelly** / 22 MAY **Bearing Witness: Tea Alagic** / 22 MAY **What's a Play For? Allan Buchman** / 4 JUNE **Meet the Makers: The Brothers Size** / 10 JUNE **What's a Play For? David Lan** / 25 JUNE **Meet the Makers: David Leveau** / 1 JULY **Inspired By Love: Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill** / 10 JULY **Meet the Makers: Charles Mee** / 15 JULY **Friel and his 'Sisters': Nicholas Grene** / 17 JULY **Meet the Makers: Ballgowns and Blood!** / 22 JULY **The Death of Criticism? Ronan McDonald** / 29 JULY **Meet the Makers: Dennis Clohessy** / 31 JULY **A Powerful Tale: Little John Nee** / 13 AUGUST **Meet The Makers: Neil Bartlett and Rae Smith** / 19 AUGUST **Wilde Reflections: Gerard Howlin** / 29 AUGUST **Wilde Reflections: Justin Bond** / 2 SEPTEMBER **Hugh Lane and the Abbey: Robert O'Byrne** / 9 SEPTEMBER **Wilde Reflections: Derek Davis** / 23 SEPTEMBER **Wilde Reflections: Mary Banotti** / 4 OCTOBER **State of play** / 7 OCTOBER **Meet The Makers: Deborah Warner and Fiona Shaw** / 17 OCTOBER **Meet The Makers: Theatre O** / 21 OCTOBER **Meet The Makers: Fiach Mac Conghail with Joe Duffy** / 12 NOVEMBER **Bearing Witness: Sláinte Mr. President** / 18 NOVEMBER **Bearing Witness: Iraq Veterans Against The War** / 25 NOVEMBER **Meet The Makers: Billy Roche and Conor McPherson** / 4 DECEMBER **Bearing Witness: John O'Shea** / 8 DECEMBER **American Voices: Liz Lerman** / 9 DECEMBER **Boxing Clever: Jimmy Magee** / 11 DECEMBER **Bearing Witness: Colm O'Gorman**

VISITING COMPANIES

IRISH PREMIERES OF INTERNATIONAL WORK

AURELIA'S ORATORIO

a *Victoria Thierrée*
Chaplin production
3 – 13 May 2006
10 performances
on the Abbey stage

TAOUB

Collectif Acrobatique de Tangier
11 – 21 July 2007
9 performances
on the Abbey stage

CIRCO DE LA SOMBRA

presented in association with *Crying Out Loud*
1 – 12 April 2008
11 performances
on the Abbey stage

THE FORSYTHE COMPANY

Dublin Dance Festival
17 – 19 May 2008
3 performances
on the Abbey stage

HAPPY DAYS

by *Samual Beckett*
A NATIONAL THEATRE OF GREAT BRITAIN PRODUCTION
3 – 25 October 2008
25 performances
on the Abbey stage

Director: Deborah Warner
Set Design: Tom Pye
Associate Set Designer: Vicki Fifield
Lighting design: Jean Kalman
Sound Score: Mel Mercier
Sound Design: Christopher Scott

Costume Consultant: Luca Costigliolo
Cast: Fiona Shaw, Tim Potter

THE BROTHERS SIZE

by *Tarell Alvin McCraney*
A PRODUCTION OF THE FOUNDRY THEATER IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PUBLIC THEATRE (NEW YORK)
16 May – 14 June 2008
29 performances on the Peacock stage

Director: Tea Alagic
Set Design: Peter Ksander
Lighting design: Burke Brown
Lighting design: Zane Philstrom
Cast: Keith Eric Chappelle, Brian Tyree Henry, Marc Damon Johnson

DELIRIUM

Created by *Theatre O*, written by *Enda Walsh*
AN ADAPTATION OF THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV
30 August – 25 October 2008
29 performances on the Peacock stage

Director: Joseph Alford
Set and costume design: James Humphrey

Lighting design: Aideen Malone
Composer/Sound: Gus MacMillan
Choreography: Eva Vilamitjana
Animation and Illustration: Paddy Molloy
Cast: Joseph Alford, Julie Bower, Dominic Burdess, Nick Lee, Lucien MacDougall, Carolina Valdés

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

by *Bertolt Brecht*, in a version by *Frank McGuinness*
28 August – 1 September 2006
7 performances on the Peacock stage

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by *William Shakespeare*
27 – 30 August 2008
7 performances on the Peacock stage

PUBLIC READINGS

2007

O'CASEY LESSER KNOWN WORKS

THE BISHOP'S BONFIRE
Directed by Wayne Jordan

COCK-A-DOODLE DANDY
Directed by: Roisin McBrinn

THE DRUMS OF FATHER NED
Directed by: Bairbre Ni Chaoimh

GRACE AND ELIZABETH
by *Jessica Cooke*
Directed by Rachel O'Riordan

SPIDER AND THE LILY
by *Conall Quinn*
Directed by: Jim Culleton

GOO GOO G'JOOB
by *Sean McLoughlin*
directed by Conall Morrison

2008

CATCHPENNY TWIST
by *Stewart Parker*
Director: Lynne Parker
(co-production with Rough Magic)

20:LOVE

STOP/OVER
by *Gary Duggan*
Director: Rachel West

WHEN COWS GO BOOM
by *Stacey Gregg*
Director: Rachel West

LOVE IN A GLASS JAR
by *Nancy Harris*
Director: Wayne Jordan

TWO HOUSES
by *Belinda McKeon*
Director: Wayne Jordan

INVESTMENT POTENTIAL
by *Phillip McMahon*
Director: Deirdre Molloy

KAMA
by *Paul Murray*
Director: Deirdre Molloy

BEARING WITNESS

HOW MANY MILES TO BASRA?
by *Colin Teevan*
Director: Conall Morrison

RETURNS
by *Joshua Casteel*
Director: David Gothard

ZERO HOUR
Written and Directed by Tea Alagic

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Fiach Mac Conghail

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Declan Cantwell

LITERARY DIRECTOR

Aideen Howard

DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

Tony Wakefield

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sally Anne Tye

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Tomás MacAnna

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Matt Torney
Louise Lowe

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Holly Ní Chiardha

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Fiona Reynolds

VOICE

Andrea Ainsworth

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Jenny Holland

LITERARY

Christine Madden,
Jessica Traynor

ARCHIVE

Mairéad Delaney,
Mairéad Lynch

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Suzanne Forbes,
Lorraine Hanna,
Marie-Claire Hoysted,
Aoibhin Kenny
Deborah McHugh,
Iain Mullins,
Ciarán O'Grady,
Mardi Osborn

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Eimear Hannon, Suzanne Kenny, Bridget Lynskey
Faust, Lisa McCarthy,
Conor Matthews,

Soazig Metrope, Brian O'Brien, Gary O'Connell,
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Muireann O'Neill

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Dominic Campbell,
Phil Kingston

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David McCadden

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Donna Murphy

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Patrick Whelan

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Gary Mulligan

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Peter Rose

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Eoin Stapleton

MAINTENANCE

Mick Doyle,
Michael Loughnane,
Kieran Murtagh

PRODUCTION

Andy Keogh, Peter Jordan
Aisling Mooney,
Roisin Ní Loinsigh

PROPS

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Eimer Murphy

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Angie Benner, Brian Hegarty, Jennifer Moonan, Louise Roche,
Craig Starkee

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Andrea Laurent, Anne Layde, Kevin Mullery,
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Cliff Barraghy, Pat Dillon
Gerry Doyle, John Finnegan, Patrick Gannon, Fred Malone,
Brian O'Carroll,
MickRussell

SOUND

Derek Conaghy,
Ben Delaney

COSTUME

Kate Arveschoug,
Sandra Gibney,
Donna Gogarty,
Marian Kelly,
Niamh Lunny
Vicky Miller,
Siofra Ní Chiardha,
Amanda Scott

AWARDS

2006 ALLIANZ BUSINESS TO ARTS AWARD

Best Ongoing Collaboration -
Anglo Irish Bank and the Abbey Theatre

....
2006 IRISH TIMES THEATRE AWARDS
Jane Brennan -

Best Actress as Alice in Alice Trilogy

Best New Play - Alice Trilogy

Declan Conlon - *Best Supporting Actor in A Month In The Country*

Mary Murray - *Best Supporting Actress in Alice Trilogy*

2007 IRISH TIMES THEATRE AWARDS
Elieen Walsh - *Best Actress as B in Terminus*

Jimmy Fay - *Best Director for Saved*

Eleanor Methven - *Best Supporting Actress as Mary in Saved*

Sinead Wallace - *Best Lighting Design for Saved*

....

2008 EDINBURGH FESTIVAL
Edinburgh Festival Fringe First - Terminus

....

2008 IRISH TIMES THEATRE AWARDS
Tom Vaughan-Lawlor - *Best Actor as Arturo Ui in The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui*

Derbhle Crotty - *Best Actress as Masha in Three Sisters*

Rae Smith - *Best Costume Design for An Ideal Husband*

ANGLO IRISH BANK WRITERS-IN-ASSOCIATION
Enda Walsh (2006)
Stuart Carolan (2007/8)

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Denis Clohessy
David Gothard
Paul Keogan
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O'Neill; Seosamh O'Neill; Susan O'Neill; Fiona O'Regan; Miriam O'Reilly; Paul O'Reilly; Helen O'Rourke; Mary O'Rourke; Anne & Eileen O'Sullivan; Elizabeth O'Sullivan; Ian O'Sullivan; Mary-Rose O'Sullivan; Úna O'Sullivan; Tara O'Sullivan; Valerie O'Toole; Andrew & Delyth Parkes; Ruth Payne; Peader Pierce; Anthony P. Power; Michael Power; Antoinette Quinn; Michelle Quinn; Denis Reen; Andrew & Catherine Reid; Clodagh Reid; Mary Reynolds; Charles Richards; Aideen Rickard & Brian Merriman; Pauline Robertson; June Robinson; Donal Roche; Lisa Rodriguez; Eamon & Maura Rohan; Margaret Rooney; Olive Rossiter; Paul Rossiter; Nike Ruf; Anne Nancy Ryan; Sinéad Ryan; Gillian Saunders; Oliver Schubert; Fiona Scott; Clodagh Seberry; Jon Sedgwick; Martin Shanagher; Emir Shanahan; Ciaran Shanley; Ray Sheerin; Alan Sheil; Eamon Sheppard; Nicola Sherry; Philip Sherwood; Olga Short; Emma Sides; Katia Meleady; Ann Simmons; Graham

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THEATRE AS A RESOURCE



The Abbey received funding from the Department of Education and Science to fund a Theatre as a Resource (TAR) programme, aimed to introduce theatre to schools serving disadvantaged areas. From 2006 - 2008 over 2,000 students took part in workshops and theatre visits linked to productions of *Homeland*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Brothers Size*.

Images and reviews

THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI

By Bertolt Brecht
Directed by Jimmy Fay
11 November – 6 December 2008

'Tom Vaughan-Lawlor [right] is utterly compelling as the irrepressible Ui ...Visually, the courtroom scene is a jaw-dropper while the re-enacted image of a woman pelted with bullets lingers long after the curtain falls - as indeed do the play's frighteningly contemporary parallels.' Lucy White/
Metro/14.11.08



Pictured: Tom Vaughan-Lawlor

‘The Abbey’s new production is a Romeo and Juliet for our times, combining true idiosyncrasy with the Bard’s ever-relevant themes.’

Colin Murphy, Sunday Tribune, 17.02.08

ROMEO & JULIET

by William Shakespeare
Directed by Jason Byrne
12 February – 17 March

Pictured: Aaron Monaghan & Gemma Reeves



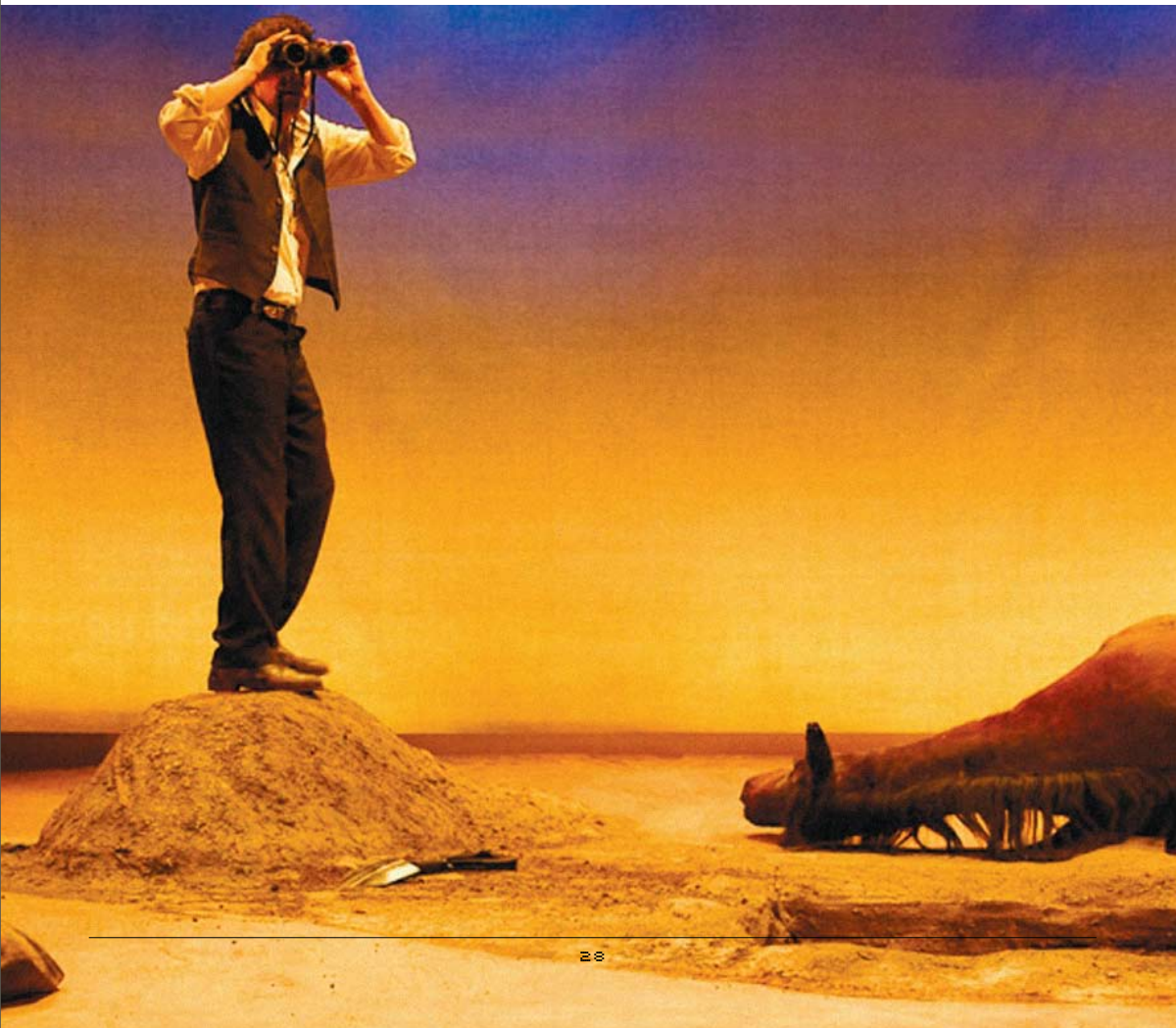
WORLD PREMIERE

KICKING A DEAD HORSE

Written & Directed by Sam Shepard
18 January – 18 February 2006

‘The chief pleasure lies in watching Rea’s performance. He captures supremely the character’s mix of the elegiac and the absurd.’

Michael Billington, The Guardian, 13.09.08



THE BURIAL AT THEBES

By Seamus Heaney
Directed by Patrick Mason
4 April – 3 May 2008

‘Seamus Heaney’s adaptation of the Greek tragedy Antigone is a triumph ... The acting is excellent, the set perfect, Patrick Mason’s direction adroit.’

Tom Rowe/Village/01.05.08

Pictured: (Above) Gemma Reeves & Kathy Rose O’Brien
(Opposite Page) Stephen Rea



IRISH PREMIERE

WOMAN AND SCARECROW

By Marina Carr

Directed by Selina Cartmell

6 October – 10 November 2007

'Carr's characteristically-dark tale is a wild, beautiful, fierce and funny creation brilliantly brought to life by director Selina Cartmell.' Paula Shields/
Irish Examiner/12.10.07

WORLD PREMIERE

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

In a new version

by Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle

Directed by Jimmy Fay

29 September –

24 November 2007



‘The only riot at the opening night of the new version of *The Playboy of the Western World* was riotous laughter. Deservedly so. The wickedly updated version by Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle is a winner all the way.’

Emer O’Kelly, Sunday Independent, 07.10.07

Pictured: (Above – Clockwise from Left) Olu Jacobs, Kate Brennan, Aoife Duffin, Joe Hanley Phelim Drew & Charlene Gleeson; (Opposite Page) Barbara Brennan & Olwen Fouéré

WORLD PREMIERE

HOMELAND

Written & Directed by Paul Mercier

18 January – 18 February 2006

'(Mac Conghail's) choice of Mercier for what could be considered his inaugural production constitutes a bold statement that the Abbey is going to engage head-on with contemporary Irish society - An entertaining night at the theatre and a step in the right direction.'

Ian Kilroy/Irish Examiner/19.01.06



*Pictured: (Left to Right) David Pearse, Andrew Bennett, Katy Davis
Norma Sheahan, Liam Carney & Gabriel Reidy*



WORLD PREMIERE

LAY ME DOWN SOFTLY

Written by Billy Roche

Directed by Wilson Milam

19 November – 13 December 2008

'There's plenty to enjoy here, not only in the careful recreation of a lost world, but in Ferdia Murphy's splendid set.'

Daragh Reddin/Metro/21.11.08

IRISH PREMIERE

THE SEAFARER

By Conor McPherson

Directed by Jimmy Fay

2 May – 7 June 2008



*Pictured: (Above) Don Wycherley & Maelíosa Stafford
(Opposite Page) Joe Doyle & Ruth Negga*

'The Seafarer is a fine theatrical achievement ... Conor McPherson's superb dialogue captures with utter credibility the type of desperate, self-destructive people he depicts...'

Edward O'Hare, Sunday Tribune, 11.05.08



THREE SISTERS

By Anton Chekhov

in a new version by Brian Friel

Directed by David Leveaux

18 June – 2 August 2008

'This production leaves nothing to chance: you can't misunderstand a moment or a nuance, and Leveaux's cast rise breathtakingly to the challenge of the tempestuous pace and almost insane levels of emotion ...this is ragingly wonderful, classic theatre.'

Emer O'Kelly/Sunday Independent/ 29.06.08

Pictured: (Left to Right) Derbhle Crotty, Justine Mitchell & Emily Taaffe

'Terminus is a fantastic piece of writing, O'Rowe's best so far, because it recognises that this fractured Ireland needs a new mythology, its own daring and heart-thumping epic, to bind us together in story.' Peter Crawley/The Irish Times/15.06.07

WORLD PREMIERE

TERMINUS

Written and Directed
by Mark O'Rowe
9 June - 7 July



Pictured: (Above - Left to Right) Andrea Irvine, Aidan Kelly & Eileen Walsh; (Opposite Page) Jane Brennan



IRISH PREMIERE

ALICE TRILOGY

Written & Directed
by Tom Murphy
10 October -
4 November 2006

'Directed by the playwright, Jane Brennan gives a luminous performance as Alice ... in a language that has an incredible level of fierce and fearless honesty. An intelligent and deeply affecting piece of theatre.'

Trish Murphy, Event Guide, 20.10.06



In 2007 internationally renowned designer Jean-Guy Lecat and Irish architect John Keogan transformed the Abbey auditorium, with a new floor design and seating. This enhanced the acoustics, created an intimacy between the audience and actors and has been unanimously applauded. It has transformed the theatrical experience at the Abbey Theatre.



Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
An Roinn Ealaíon Spóirt agus Turasóireach

BOARD

Bryan McMahon (*Chairman*)
Catherine Byrne
Tom Hickey
Olwen Fouéré
Suzanne Kelly
Declan Kiberd
Dr. Jim Mountjoy
Eugene O'Brien
Maurice O'Connell
Lynne Parker
John Stapleton

HONORARY COUNCIL

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Siobhán Bourke
Loretta Brennan Glucksman
Frank Cuneen
Mairéad Delaney
Eugene Downes
Paddy Duffy
Clare Duignan
John Fairleigh
Clive Geraghty
Des Geraghty
Eithne Healy
Peadar Lamb
John Lynch
Tomás MacAnna
Patricia McBride
Muriel McCarthy
Paul Mercier
Jimmy Murphy
Donal Nevin
Edna O'Brien
Ulick O'Connor
Peter Rose
John Stapleton

Abbey Theatre/

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Marina Carr by Colm Hogan,
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Paul Mercier, *Roddy Doyle* &
Bisi Adigun by Ros Kavanagh
Billy Roche by Simon Houston
p23: Simon Houston
p25/26/27/29/30/31/32/33/37/
38/40: Ros Kavanagh
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Board at December 2008

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