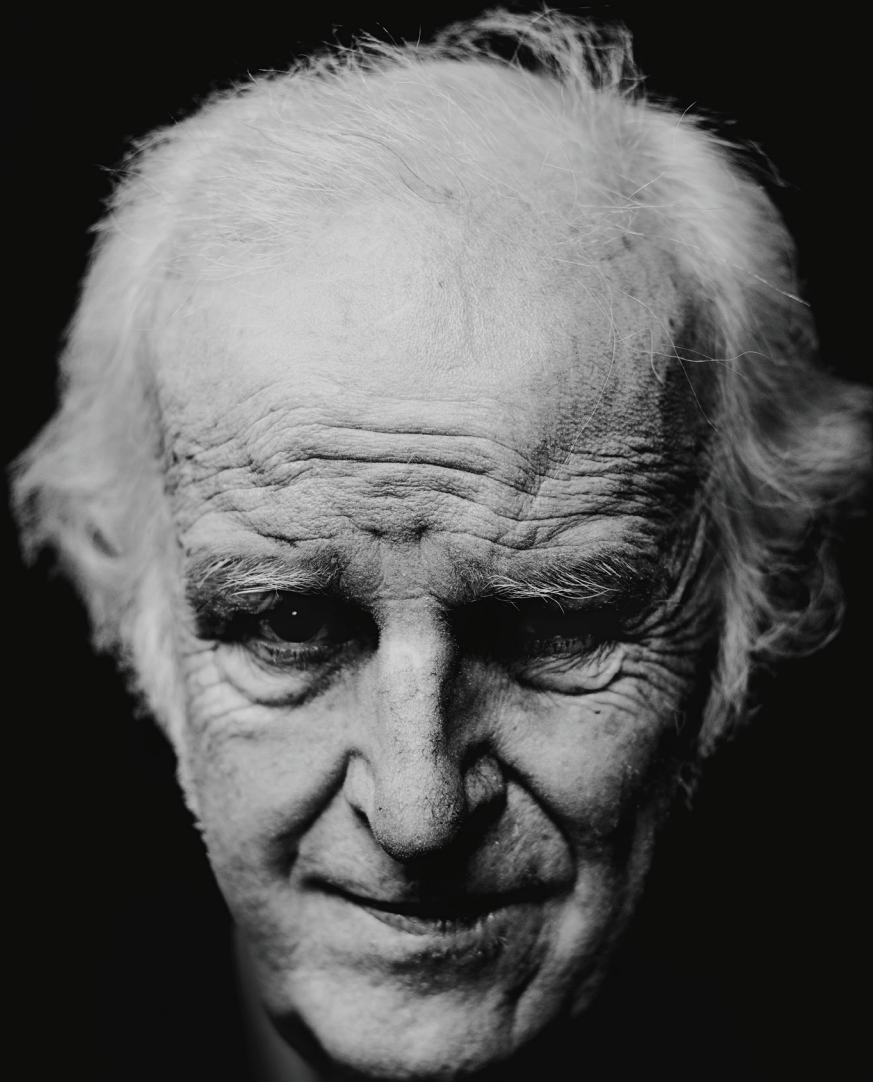




AN ABBEY THEATRE PRODUCTION

A WHISTLE IN THE DARK

BY TOM MURPHY



Directed by Jason Byrne

ABBAY THEATRE
4 OCTOBER – 5 NOVEMBER
ON THE PEACOCK STAGE

ABBAYTHEATRE.IE
#AWHISTLEINTHEDARK

IMAGE BY ELLIUS GRACE



An tAonán Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeilge agus Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaelic, Sport and Media





Top row: Brian Gleeson, Peter Claffey, Timmy Creed | Middle row: James Doherty O'Brien, Seán Mc Ginley, Peter Coonan | Bottom row: Sarah Morris, Jason Byrne, Ruairí Heading | Image: Ste Murray

CREATIVES

CAST

Iggy Carney	Peter Claffey
Michael Carney	Peter Coonan
Hugo Carney	Timmy Creed
Des Carney	James Doherty O'Brien
Harry Carney	Brian Gleeson
Mush	Ruairí Heading
Dada	Seán Mc Ginley
Betty	Sarah Morris

Writer

Tom Murphy

Director

Jason Byrne

Set Design

Cordelia Chisholm

Costume Design

Saileóg O'Halloran

Lighting Designer

Dara Hoban

Sound Design and

Composition

George Brennan

Hair and Make Up

Leonard Daly

Fight Director

Ciaran O'Grady

Voice Director

Andrea Ainsworth

Casting Director

Sarah Jones

COMPANY

Producer

Jen Coppinger

Production Manager

Cliff Barragry

Company Manager

Danny Erskine

Company Stage Manager

Orla Burke

Deputy Stage Manager

Tara Furlong

Assistant Stage Manager

Amélie Bates

Costume Supervisor

Eimear Farrell

Producing Assistant

Aoife McCollum

Chief Electrician

Dave Carpenter

Sound Supervisor

Aidah Sama

Props Supervisor

Adam O'Connell

Props Assistant

Dylan Farrell

Stage Crew

Andrew Smith

Conor Kelly

Set Construction

TPS

Scenic Art

Sandra Butler

Marketing

Heather Maher

Social Media

Jack O'Dea

Press

Sharon Sorohan

Graphic Design

ZOO.

Maeve Keane

Publicity Image

Ellius Grace

Production Photography

Ros Kavanagh

Irish Sign Language Interpreter

Caoimhe Coburn Gray

Co-Directors

Caitríona McLaughlin

Mark O'Brien



The performance on Thursday 20th October has a professional interpreter who translates the production into Irish Sign Language.

Running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes, with an interval

THANK YOU

Jane Brennan, Julian Ellison and the Staff at the Digital Hub, Allan Hawco, Philip Riccio, Aaron Monaghan, Paula Tierney



TOM MURPHY

Tom Murphy (1935 – 2018) was born in Tuam, Co. Galway. His first full-length play, under its original title *The Iron Men*, won a number of Irish national playwrighting awards. In 1961 it was produced as *A Whistle in the Dark* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, London, one of the most momentous premieres in British Theatre in the 1960s. This production later transferred to the West End.

Tom Murphy's relationship with the Abbey Theatre spanned five decades. In 2001, the Abbey Theatre celebrated its long collaboration with Tom, presenting a special Tom Murphy season of 6 of his plays, with 2018 marking the 50th anniversary of his first production at the theatre – the seminal work, *Famine*, presented on the Peacock stage in 1968. Tom's deft ability to convey emotions of human interaction on stage has captured Abbey audiences from his first premiere to the present. In total the Abbey and Peacock stages saw 19 world premieres of Tom Murphy's original works and adaptations.

Murphy's *The Gigli Concert*, *Bailegangaire*, *The House* and *Alice Trilogy* all won Best Play at the Irish Theatre Awards. Other awards include the inaugural Irish Times/ESB Lifetime Achievement Award and the Irish Academy of Letters Award. He held honorary doctorates from Trinity College Dublin and NUI Galway. In 2013, he was awarded the Ulysses Medal, the highest honour University College Dublin bestows.

In 2017, President Michael D. Higgins presented Tom Murphy with the gold torc and the title of Saoi, Aosdána's highest honour.

Did Anyone Whistle?

By Elaine Feeney

After Tom Murphy's *A Whistle in the Dark*

Run a bog-scape of footed turf, ditches green & full, to a city where you sit in a café & drink tea till the rain eases. Bedsits & brick yards, bars for dreaming it different, as nights roll into a life & the past stretches. What

sound does bog make when the young are gone? Or the reverberation of brothers fighting in a town full of threat? How does a fist sound as it curbs a tongue? Or a mother's voice in song moments before you left? Because

after you left (& you all left), did anyone whistle? Now that we've been leaving for centuries, what sound has our leaving made? Here goes: there will be pain (derived from speech off-kilter, language a jitter). There will be

echoes, the past holds unhurried (unhinged) voices, loudest from the grave. You try to be yourself with poor precision: so now you're quick to temper & speak in story without revealing. You pummel shame to silence & this

bubbling feeling in your fists – this makes them dance. Your face now in the gutter, oh how indestructible you once were: an iron bridge, new railway lines, the park gates where you drank. But everything faded fast, right, & who was it said: speak well of us over beyond & whatever ye do, let ye mind yourselves.

Elaine Feeney writes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. In 2021 her novel *As You Were* won the Kate O'Brien Prize, the Dalkey Emerging Writer Prize, and the Society of Author's Prize, and was shortlisted for The Rathbone Folio Prize. Her next novel *How to Build a Boat* will be published by Vintage in 2023. Feeney lectures at the University of Galway.

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Dada from Act Two
A Whistle in the Dark written by **Tom Murphy**



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