



KILN
THEATRE

AN ABBEY THEATRE
AND KILN THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION

GIRL ON AN ALTAR by MARINA CARR

Directed by Annabelle Comyn



FINANCIAL TIMES



BROADWAY WORLD



THEATRE WEEKLY



THE GUARDIAN



EVENING STANDARD



THE OBSERVER

8 JULY–19 AUGUST 2023
ON THE ABBEY STAGE

ABBeyTHEATRE.IE
#GIRLONANALTAR



An tAonán Fianúinéireachta, Cultúir,
Éalaíona, Caeleachta, Spóirt agus Meaisín
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaelic Language, Sport and Media



IMAGE BY MICHAEL WHARLEY

CREATIVES

CAST

Aegisthus

Daon Broni

Tyndareus

Jim Findley

Cassandra

Pattie Maguire

Cilissa

Aoibhéann McCann

Agamemnon

David Walmsley

Clytemnestra

Eileen Walsh

Writer

Marina Carr

Director

Annabelle Comyn

Set and Costume
Designer

Tom Piper

Lighting Designer

Amy Mae

Composer and
Sound Designer

Philip Stewart

Projection Designer

Will Duke

Original Movement and
Intimacy Director

Ingrid MacKinnon

Dublin Movement and
Intimacy Director

Sue Mythen

Hair and Makeup

Leonard Daly

Associate Lighting
Designer

Kevin McFadden

Voice Director

Andrea Ainsworth

Original Casting

Cathal Quinn

Dublin Casting

Julia Horan CDG

Sarah Jones



Left to right: Philip Stewart, Daon Broni, David Walmsley, Annabelle Comyn, Jim Findley, Tom Piper, Aoibhéann McCann, Pattie Maguire and Eileen Walsh
Image Róisín Murphy O'Sullivan



The performance on Friday 11 August has a professional interpreter who translates the production into Irish Sign Language.



The matinee performance on Saturday 19 August has Audio Description. This is a live verbal commentary fed through an ear-piece that captures the visual elements of a production as it unfolds, that a blind or partially sighted person might otherwise miss.



The matinee performance on Saturday 19 August has Captioning. Captioning is similar to television subtitling and gives deaf and hard of hearing audiences access to live performance.

COMPANY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Craig Flaherty
Company Manager	Danny Erskine
Production Manager	Andy Keogh
Company Stage Manager	Clive Welsh
Deputy Stage Manager	Tara Furlong
Assistant Stage Manager	Leanne Vaughney
Head of Costume and Costume Hire	Donna Geraghty
Costume Supervisor	Síofra Ní Chiardha
Breakdown Artist	Sandra Gibney
Head of Costume Maintenance	Vicky Miller
Cutter/Maker	Tara Mulvihill
Costume Assistant and Dresser	Yvonne Kelly
Props Supervisor	Dylan Farrell
LX Programmer	Simon Burke
Sound Supervisor	Derek Conaghy
Stage Crew	John Finnegan Larry Jones Shane Kenny Davy McChrystal Brian O'Carroll Martin Reid Pat Russell
AV Operator	Mags Mulvey
Technical Production Co-Ordinator	Justin Murphy
Set Construction	Illusion Design & Construct Ltd

Local Scenic Artist

Sandra Butler

Producing Assistant

Aoife McCollum

Marketing

Muireann Kane

Heather Maher

John Tierney

Press

Stephen Moloney

Social Media

Jack O'Dea

Publicity Image

Michael Wharley

Production Photography

Pat Redmond

Irish Sign Language

Interpreter

Amanda Coogan

Audio Describer

Mo Harte

Captioner

Jen Sinnamon

Artistic Director

Caitríona McLaughlin

Executive Director

Mark O'Brien

FOR THE KILN THEATRE

Artistic Director

Indhu Rubasingham

Executive Director

Daisy Heath

THANK YOU

Thank you to Catherine Thornborrow, Nicki Brown and EJ Saunders at The Kiln Theatre; Caroline Burrell at the RSC; and Róisín Tierney-Crowe at Lancôme.

PROGRAMME NOTE

Director Annabelle Comyn

July 2023

“We want to think of families as safe havens in a heartless world and of our own country populated by enlightened, civilised people. We prefer to believe that cruelty only exists in faraway places..”

– Bessel Van Der Kolk, *The Body Keeps the Score*

Last year when researching the original production of *Girl On An Altar* at The Kiln Theatre, London, designer Tom Piper and I drew inspiration from past and present conflicts around the world; Afghanistan, Srebrenica, and of course, the war in Ukraine. Russia’s invasion was a clear signal that such events are not far from our shores. Marina Carr’s *Girl On An Altar* is a play about us, here, now. A play set in a world of conflict, where teenage boys are used as cannon fodder in an autocrat’s lust for power, where women and girls are trafficked, and men of god(s) exploit the innocent. Today girls, women, and young men are not literally sacrificed on the altars of gods, but we are not so far removed.

At the heart of this play is a marriage; a man, a woman, and their children, and it is here where the themes of legacy, sacrifice, love and forgiveness are explored. Agamemnon has

offered their first child, Iphigenia, to appease the gods and to win over the army’s loyalty so that he may lead his troops in a war against Troy. This atrocity occurred ten years ago.

Events end but the fallout, like trauma, creates ripples that destroy the lives of family, a community and future generations. The play focuses on the moment of his return from Troy and the days, weeks, months after. Where the first play of the *Orestia* ends with Clytemnestra killing Agamemnon the day he arrives home, in Marina Carr’s *Girl On An Altar* Clytemnestra still loves and desires Agamemnon and the act of murdering him seems “Impossible”.

With their daughter’s ghost haunting their lives, can they move on together as husband and wife? What about their children, “the ones that are left”? Clytemnestra must contend with her body’s desire for her husband and her heart’s rancour and in their every encounter, confront whether forgiveness is possible.

**SKY. SEA. STARS.
WIND. STONE. BRONZE.
AEGEAN LIGHT.**

ABBHEY THEATRE SUPPORTERS



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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Deirdre and Irial Finan
Janice Flynn
Elisabeth and Conor Kehoe
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Tommy Gibbons
Andrew Mackey
Eugenie Mackey
Eugene Magee
Gerard and Liv McNaughton
The Kathleen Murphy Foundation
Andrew and Delyth Parkes

Patrons who wish to remain anonymous.

We thank all our generous supporters for their ongoing support.

BECOME A SUPPORTER OR CORPORATE GUARDIAN OF THE ABBHEY THEATRE AND HELP US TO BRING INSPIRATIONAL WORK TO OUR STAGES, SCHOOLS, AND TO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT IRELAND.

Our mission is to nurture a love for the art form for the generations to come, mentoring new talent and giving voice to all of Ireland's citizens. If you'd like to support us in our work, please contact: marie.lawlor@abbeytheatre.ie

**DID NO ONE
EVER TELL YOU
THE SWEETEST
REVENGE IS
TO FORGIVE?**

Agamemnon

**DO YOU
ACTUALLY THINK
YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO FORGIVE
ME ANYTHING?**

Clytemnestra

Coming Soon...

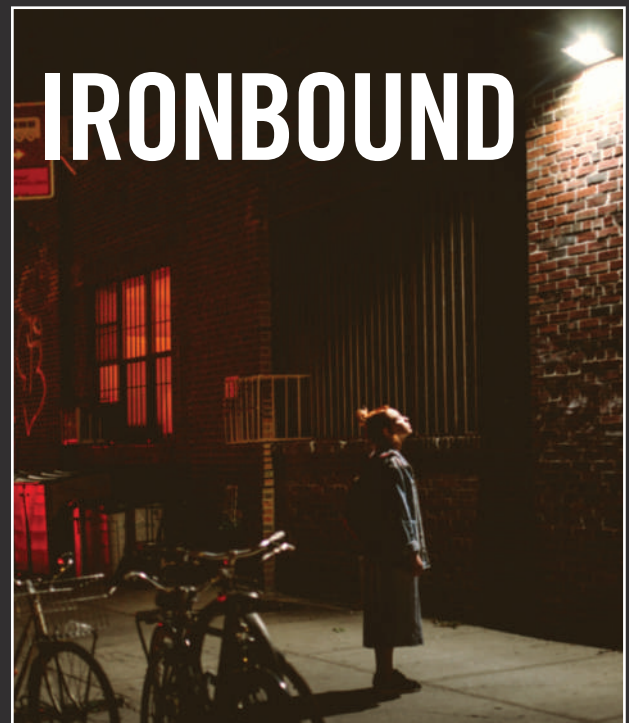
AN ABBEY THEATRE PRODUCTION
WORLD PREMIERE



Written by Nancy Harris
Directed by Wayne Jordan

27 SEP—28 OCT 2023
ON THE ABBEY STAGE

AN ABBEY THEATRE PRODUCTION
IRISH PREMIERE



Written by Martyna Majok
Directed by Aoife Spillane-Hinks

3 OCT—4 NOV 2023
ON THE PEACOCK STAGE



For more information see
www.abbeytheatre.ie or call
Box Office on (01) 87 87 222

#GIRLONANALTAR