

AN ABBEY THEATRE PRODUCTION

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE YOU

WRITTEN BY NANCY HARRIS
DIRECTED BY WAYNE JORDAN

27 SEP—4 NOV 2023
ON THE ABBEY STAGE

ABBNEYTHEATRE.IE
#SOMEWHEREOUTTHEREYOU



funding
theatre



An Bhean Tuarascachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeilíochta, Spóirt agus Meia
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



arcs



DUBLIN
THEATRE
FESTIVAL

IMAGE BY SARAH DOYLE

CREATIVES

CAST

Sebastian

Marcus

Brett

Marcus

Cynthia

Ensemble

Casey

Pauline

Ensemble

Gareth/Dave/Ensemble

Ensemble

Alan

Eric

Tess/Karen

Stephen Brennan

Oscar Clancy

Cameron Cuffe

Harley Cullen-Walsh

Danielle Galligan

Jess Kavanagh
Sophie Kavanagh

Eimear Keating

Lise-Ann McLaughlin

Teddy Moore

Donncha O'Dea

Aisling O'Mara

Enda Oates

Paul Reid

Kate Stanley Brennan

Writer

Director

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Composer, Sound Designer
and Musical Director

Movement Director

Wigs, Hair and Makeup

Casting Director

Voice Director

Fight Director

AV Design

Assistant Director

Assistant Set Designer

Assistant Movement
Director

Nancy Harris

Wayne Jordan

Maree Kearns

Catherine Fay

Sinéad McKenna

Sinéad Diskin

Paula O'Reilly

Val Sherlock

Sarah Jones

Andrea Ainsworth

Ciaran O'Grady

Patricio Cassinoni

Dolores Rice

Ronan Duffy

Neil O'Brien



The **Somewhere Out There You** team on the first day of rehearsals.
Image Ailbhe O'Donnell



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



The matinee performance on Saturday 28th October 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 28th October has Captioning. Captioning is similar to television subtitling and gives deaf and hard of hearing audiences access to live performance.

COMPANY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Jen Coppinger
Company Manager	Danny Erskine
Production Manager	Anthony Hanley
Company Stage Manager	Bronagh Doherty
Deputy Stage Manager	Tara Furlong
Assistant Stage Manager	Aidan Doheny
Producing Assistant	Clara Purcell
Technical Production Co-ordinator	Justin Murphy
Head of Costume and Costume Hire	Donna Geraghty
Costume Supervisor	Eimear Farrell
Breakdown Artist	Sandra Gibney
Costume Maintenance	Vicky Miller
Cutter/Maker	Tara Mulvihill
Costume Dresser	Eimear Hussey Juliana Schmidt Tomazini
Props Master	Eimer Murphy
Props Supervisor	Adam O'Connell
LX Programmer	Simon Burke
Sound Supervisor	Morgan Dunne
Sound Engineer	Sean McKeown
Radio Technician	Kate Crook
Chaperone	Emma Ní Riain
Stage Technicians	Larry Jones Phil Hughes Oisín McMahon Eimear O'Meara Emmett Brady Dunne Darren Magnier

Fly Crew

Pat Russell
Pat Dillon
Davy McChrystal

Set Construction

Triangle Productions
Andrew Clancy
Gorilla Design
Crew Metalwork

Scenic Artist

Musician—Violin
Musician—Trumpets
Musician—Drums
Musician—Strings

Vinnie Bell
Maria Ryan
Kevin Foran
Jake Nagle
Oleh Mytrofanov

Marketing

Muireann Kane
Heather Maher
John Tierney
Stephen Moloney
Jack O'Dea

Press

Social Media

Publicity Image
Photograph

Sarah Doyle
Ros Kavanagh

Production Photographs

Irish Sign Language
Interpreter

Vanessa O'Connell
Bríd Ní Ghruagáin

Audio Describer

Artistic Director/
Co-Director

Caitriona McLaughlin

Executive Director/
Co-Director

Mark O'Brien

Somewhere Out There You play scripts, published by Nick Hern Books, are available to purchase in the Abbey Theatre foyer.

Running time

Approx. 2 hours and 45 minutes

THANK YOU

Thank you to Cian O'Brien, Project Arts Centre, Annaghmakerrig Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Willie White and all at the Dublin Theatre Festival, Anne Harris, and Dublin Bus.



PROGRAMME NOTE

Writer Nancy Harris

September 2023

“I don’t want realism. I want magic!”
–Tennessee Williams, **A Streetcar Named Desire**

Romantic comedy is possibly the genre most often referred to as ‘escapism’, especially as it follows that most familiar of narrative structures – the love story. It is also a deeply comforting genre because we always know how it’s going to end. The protagonists are going to fall in love. It’s going to work out, they’re going to live happily ever after. In essence, it’s a genre of magical thinking.

Interestingly, for a genre that is considered so contrived, romantic comedy is largely preoccupied with questions of authenticity. The most famous romcoms tend to take us on the same journey – usually involving an ending where a protagonist is seen and loved for who they really are, in all their goofy, flawed humanity – think Bridget Jones and Mark Darcy or even Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy... and is it a surprise. For isn’t that what we all want?

But when we ask someone to love us for who we are, who are we actually asking them to love? In other words, who are we? And how do we know?

Somewhere Out There You sits somewhere within the genre of romantic comedy, but the genesis of the idea started with the above line from Tennessee Williams’ **A Streetcar Named Desire**, one of my favourite plays and undoubtedly, a tragedy.

Divorced from its context, the line can sometimes read as a little fey or flowery. Within Williams’ play and coming out of the mouth of an emotionally complex protagonist like Blanche Dubois, it’s as ambiguous as it is poignant. Are these the words

of a narcissistic fantasist who won’t accept the reality of her life and past? Or the soul cry of a woman so brutalised by experience – in the end raped by her sister’s husband and incarcerated when no one believes her – that she is in fact, the ultimate realist? A person who accepts that in the face of life’s savage and unjust ‘realities’, a logical response might be an escape into fantasy – as opposed to the descent into ‘madness’ so often attributed to her – where a better ‘reality’ might be created?

In theatre, we are often engaged with ideas of ‘truth’: the truth of a character, or a performance or an idea, despite the fact we know that what we are watching isn’t (for want of a better word) ‘real’. And in life, we all occupy ‘roles’: at work, in friendships, and especially within our families. Some roles sit more comfortably than others, but does that make them an authentic expression of our true selves? Or are we all simply playing the parts we’ve been assigned – by society, our peers, circumstance? And what happens when these parts become a prison?

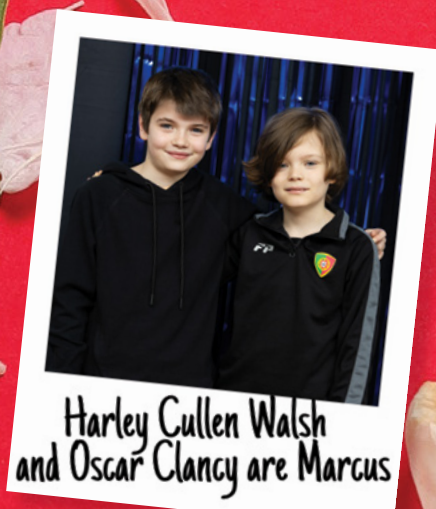
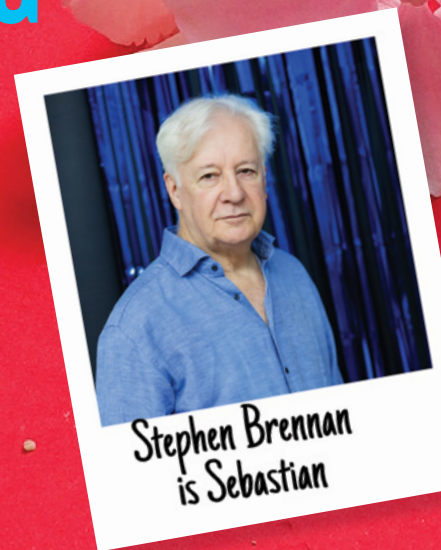
Somewhere Out There You is my attempt to explore these sometimes paradoxical ideas of truth, fantasy, narrative and how we express our authentic selves in the world – and what happens when the world refuses to allow us to do so. Ideas which are ultimately deeply serious. But the play is still at its heart a romantic comedy, intended with all the joy, exuberance, and magic those of us who love the genre hope for. For who said romantic comedy can’t be serious? After all, the very existence of a genre that can so easily be described as ‘escapism’ leaves one glaringly serious question to be answered: what is it that we are trying to escape?



WHEN WE ASK
SOMEONE TO LOVE
US FOR WHO WE
ARE, WHO ARE WE
ACTUALLY ASKING
THEM TO LOVE?



Nancy Harris





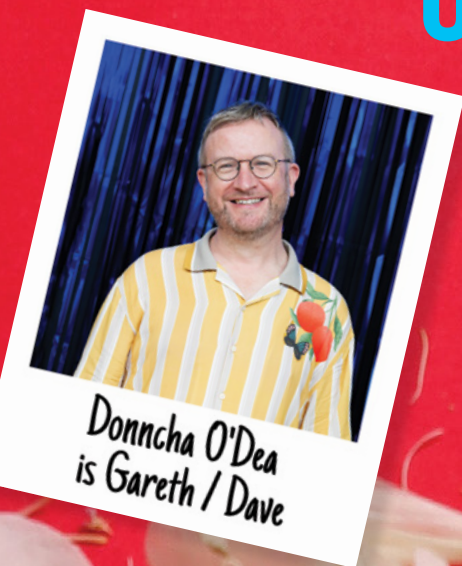
Jess Kavanagh
Ensemble



Enda Oates
is Alan

WE ARE ALL THE AUTHORS OF OUR OWN LOVE STORY.

Sebastian



Donncha O'Dea
is Gareth / Dave



Danielle Galligan
is Cynthia



Teddy Moore
Ensemble

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of Lloyd Weinreb R.I.P.
Dr. Frances Ruane

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Eugenie Mackey
Eugene Magee
Gerard and Liv McNaughton
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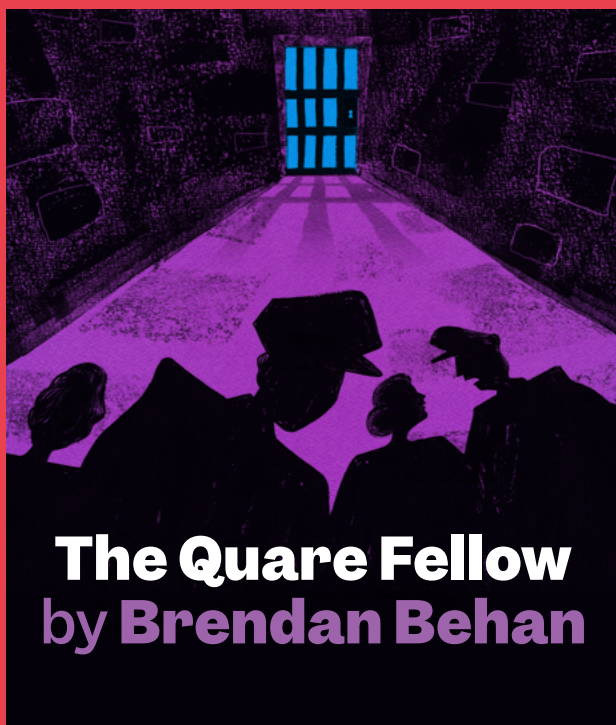
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to thank our generous supporters who
have asked to remain anonymous

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AND ANU PRODUCTIONS CO-PRODUCTION



HAMMAM

Written and Directed by Louise Lowe

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