

A Luke Casserly, Abbey Theatre
and Solas Nua production



Distillation

Created and performed by
Luke Casserly

IMAGE: FERGAL STYLES

22 Jan–10 Feb 2024
On the Peacock Stage

abbeytheatre.ie
#distillation

dtf DUBLIN
THEATRE
FESTIVAL

JUMP THE HEDGES
positive change



SOLAS NUA



COMPANY

Created by **Luke Casserly**
Perfume Artist **Joan Woods**
Sculpture **Ger Clancy**
Dramaturgy **Rex Daugherty**
Costume **Doreen McKenna**
Additional Costume **Síofra Caherty**
Video **Robert Higgins**
Sound **Sam Hardiman**
Artistic Documentation **Fergal Styles**
Production Photography **Patricio Cassinoni**

ABBEY COMPANY

Head of Producing **Jen Coppinger**
Producer **Aoife McCollum**
Production Manager **Cliff Barragry**
Company Manager **Danny Erskine**
Stage Manager **Jill Jeffries**
Publicity **Stephen Moloney**
Marketing **Muireann Kane, John Tierney**
Artistic Director/
Co-Director **Caitriona McLaughlin**
Executive Director/Co-Director **Mark O'Brien**

PROGRAMME NOTE

Luke Casserly

As an artist from the rural midlands, the landscape where I grew up has had a major impact on my sensibility as a human being. Over the last three years the physical landscape in this area has undergone enormous change through the cessation of the peat harvesting industry.

I have experienced first hand the complex nature of this change - with optimism for a new era of environmental potential, there also comes difficult questions around the disintegration of an industry and the impacts of this on the cultural and socioeconomic well-being of the community.

Like many, as the world began to incrementally shut down on account of the global pandemic, my journey got re-routed. I returned home to the place I grew up.

In its now fallow state, I began to wonder how many micro-pandemics had occurred here in the last century. How many species had been disturbed on account of human activity and industrialisation. I began to see the landscape as a vulnerable thing - unable to speak up for itself. I started to wonder how it might feel, having been degraded and abused so consistently for such an extended period of time. I wondered what it might say, if it had a voice. Would it be angry? Would it want to cry? Or would it be forgiving? I changed my perspective, and re-learned how to look.

Distillation is an attempt to imagine the adjacent possible. The project is dedicated to the future of our broken landscapes - in the hope that by listening to them, we might be able to better understand them.