

Welcome to the
National Theatre
of Ireland

ROUGH
MAGIC
FORTY



ABBAY
THEATRE
AMHARCLANN
NA MAINISTREACH

Children of the Sun



A Rough Magic
and Abbey Theatre co-production
Written by Hilary Fannin after Gorky
Directed by Lynne Parker

13 Apr-11 May 2024
On the Abbey Stage



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ABBAY
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YOUR ABBEY THEATRE EXPERIENCE

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ATTENDED WITH

CREATIVES & COMPANY

CREATIVES

Melania
Troshin
Vagin
Chepurnoy
Misha
Lusha
Protasov
Elena
Roman
Lisa
Yegor

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Composer & Sound Designer
Hair & Make Up
Voice Director
Casting Director
Assistant Director
Assistant Sound Designer
Literary Translation

Fiona Bell
Colin Campbell
John Cronin
Brian Doherty
Rowan Finken
Eavan Gaffney
Stuart Graham
Aislín McGuckin
Peter Newington
Rebecca O'Mara
Ian Toner

Lynne Parker
Sarah Bacon
Sorcha Ní Fhloinn
Sarah Jane Shiels
Mel Mercier
Val Sherlock
Andrea Ainsworth
Deborah Pearce
Lianne O'Shea
Aoife Kavanagh
Olga Taranova

COMPANY

For Rough Magic

Artistic Director
Producer
General Manager
Literary Manager
Communications
& Development Officer
Bookkeeper

Lynne Parker
Sara Cregan
Gemma Reeves
Karin McCully

Liza Cox
Seerish Sanassy

For the Abbey Theatre

Producer
Production Manager
Company Manager
Company Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Producing Assistant
Technical Production Coordinator
Head of Costume & Costume Hire
Costume Supervisor
Costume Maker

Craig Flaherty
Anthony Hanley
Danny Erskine
Orla Burke
Tara Furlong
Emily Rose Champion
Clara Purcell
Justin Murphy
Donna Geraghty
Síofra Ní Chiardha
Tara Mulvihill

Costume Assistant
Breakdown Artist
Laundry & Maintenance Supervisor
Costume Dresser
Costume Tailor
Design Assistants

Set Construction
Props Supervisor
Chief LX
LX Programmer
Sound Supervisor
Sound Engineers

Stage Technicians

Marketing

Publicity
Social Media
Publicity & Production images
Irish Sign Language Interpreter
Audio Describer
Captioner
Artistic Director/ Co-Director
Executive Director/Co-Director

Yvonne Kelly
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Vicky Miller
Iseult Deane
Gillian Carew
Maybelle Rainey
Harry Wainright
Ruth Keogh
Connacht Production Services
Adam O'Connell
Simon Burke
Jonathan Daley
Morgan Dunne
Derek Conaghy
Leon Henry
Johnny Finnegan
Pat Dillon
Pat Russell
Phil Hughes
Heather Maher
John Tierney
Conleth Teevan
Jack O'Dea
Ros Kavanagh
Ali Stewart
Bríd Ní Ghrúagáin
Michael Poynor
Caitríona McLaughlin
Mark O'Brien

Children of the Sun was developed in association with the Theatre Royal Waterford.
Special thanks to Maureen White.



The performance on Friday 10th May has a professional interpreter who translates the production into Irish Sign Language.



The matinee performance on Saturday 4th May is Audio Described. Audio Description 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 4th May is Captioned. Captioning is similar to television subtitling and gives deaf and hard of hearing audiences access to live performance.



HILARY FANNIN,
PLAYWRIGHT, AND LYNNE
PARKER, DIRECTOR

‘Beauty always has an element of strangeness. I do not mean a deliberate cold form of strangeness, for in that case it would be a monstrous thing that had jumped the rails of life. But I do mean that it always contains a certain degree of strangeness, of simple, unintended, unconscious strangeness, and that this form of strangeness is what gives it the right to be called beauty.’

Charles Baudelaire

Maxim Gorky wrote **Children of the Sun** over a nine-day period while briefly imprisoned in St Petersburg during the abortive 1905 Russian revolution.

Olga Taranova’s literal translation of Gorky’s original text revealed a gargantuan, unwieldy four-act play that painted a detailed picture of a volatile society teetering on the edge of revolutionary chaos. Focusing on one small family and their quixotic retinue of staff and hangers-on, it provides a seductive snapshot of the self-regarding intelligentsia, sitting around in all their pre-revolutionary splendour, talking about art, love, strangeness and beauty while, beyond the boundaries of their estate, the world they thought they knew is seismically shifting, creating a fissure that might eventually swallow them whole.

In fact, the whole set-up feels entirely contemporary; by the time I got to the last page of the literal, I felt as if I’d been in the company of people I’d already met at various points in my life in dark bars and at late night dinner tables.

Its portrait of a society on the verge of momentous upheaval - to which all but one of the family remains blind-gives this somewhat rushed, big-hearted play a timeless universality that almost seems to demand collaboration across time and space.

Gorky’s work raises the question of the role of the artist in dark and uncertain times. How do we avoid the

temptation to cover our eyes and block our ears when the horrors of the world beckon?

Now certainly seems like an apt moment to revive **Children of the Sun**, albeit in a radical interpretation that may leave Gorky purists grinding down their dentistry (and for that, I apologise in advance). The seeds of the original text are there, but the desire to excavate the relationships and make up background and foreground stories for his characters was too tempting to ignore.

This new version seeks to amplify the relevance of the play’s themes, from interrogating the role of the artist to questioning the nature of progress in a world that seems determined to ignore the lessons of history.

Rough Magic is truly delighted to celebrate its 40th birthday in this co-production with the Abbey Theatre. **Children of the Sun** is part of the COMPASS strategy, which will see a variety of new work co-produced with venues in Dublin and around the country.

Happy Birthday, Rough Magic, and thanks to all at the Abbey Theatre for making this production a memorable and wonderful experience.

Hilary Fannin
Playwright
APRIL 2024

THANK YOU FROM ROUGH MAGIC

Rough Magic would like to thank our Patrons, we could not do this work without your generous support.

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ROUGH MAGIC 40TH
ANNIVERSARY (2024)
IMAGE ROS KAVANAGH

Rough Magic's COMPASS Programme of new play commissions, development and production is supported by The Lackendarragh Bursary - a significant donation from benefactor Seán Páircéir.

Keep Making Magic!

If you would like to know more about Rough Magic and ways to support future work, then visit us at www.roughmagic.ie

Rough Magic is proudly supported by The Arts Council.

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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



ABBAY THEATRE AND ROUGH MAGIC STAFF
WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE SUN COMPANY
IMAGE AILBHE O'DONNELL

COMING NEXT



30 April–25 May 2024

Tom Moran is a Big Fat Filthy Disgusting Liar

A Tom Moran and Abbey Theatre co-production

Written by **Tom Moran**
Directed by **Davey Kelleher**



13 June–20 July 2024

The Sugar Wife


An Abbey Theatre production


Written by **Elizabeth Kuti**
Directed by **Annabelle Comyn**


Check out our website for more upcoming productions and additional information.

www.abbeytheatre.ie/whats-on


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