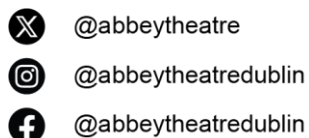




Join the conversation

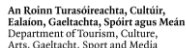


Join Us in making a difference

As Ireland's national theatre, we are committed to fostering a lifelong love of theatre and using it as a powerful platform to amplify the voices of all communities. By partnering with us, you can help us expand our outreach to schools and community groups, making a lasting and meaningful impact.

If you're passionate about enriching lives and foster inclusivity, we invite you to connect with us.

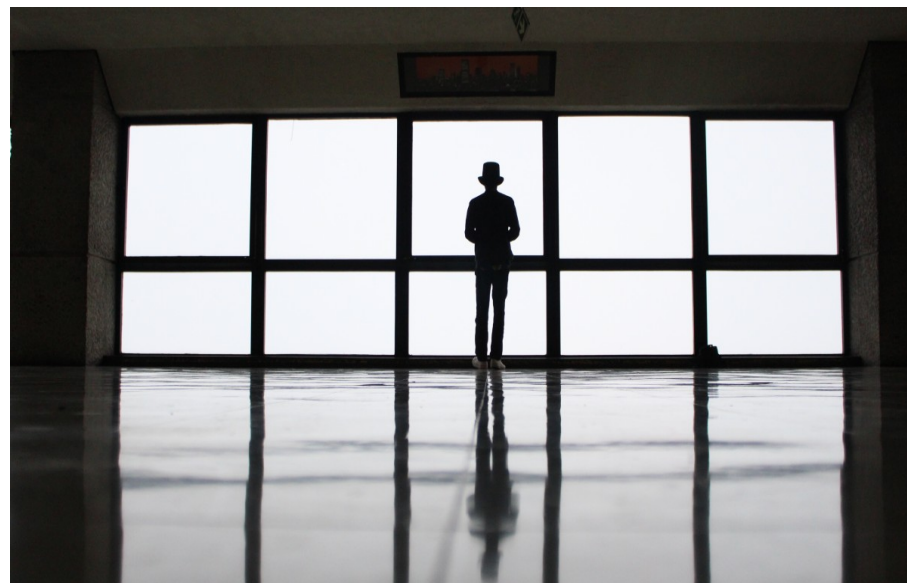
Please contact Marie Lawlor at marie.lawlor@abbeytheatre.ie to learn more.



The Abbey Theatre and South Dublin County Council present

HALFWAY TO HEAVEN

devised by the City West TH Drama Group
directed by Newton Barabara



27th September 2024,
City West Transition Hub, Saggart, Dublin

CREATIVES AND COMPANY

CAST

ENDURANCE IMARENEZOR IMARALU – GEORGE
MOSHOD AWODYI – PAUL (SA GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL) SIDNEY
OSAMUDIAMEN ELAIHO – JACKSON (GEORGE'S FRIEND) DANIEL
OBINWA – MIKE (GEORGE'S FRIEND IN IRELAND) SHARAF
ADEKUNLE ADESANYA – (JOE aka REDHIT) MOHAMED
ABDIJABAR ABDULLAHI – (DRUG DEALER) ABDULFATAI
ABDULRASAQ – (DRUG DEALER)
IBRAHIM SOYEBO – (SECURITY OFFICER)
ALADE NATHANIEL – (SECURITY OFFICER)
SALEH ALAZZEH – (POSTMAN)
ABENIGO NDLOVN (THUG)
OGHALI BENJAMIN (THUG)
GABRIEL OLUWASANMI ATIJOHAN – (EXTRA)
SAMSON VICTOR FABOADI – (EXTRA)

Director Newton Barabara

Special thanks to Maureen Hughes and Ruth McGowan for helping initiate this project

International Organisation of Migration – Jerry Akinlemibola,
Violeta Mooney

South Dublin County Council – Assistant Arts Officer Meabh
Butler

Abbey Theatre – Community and Education Phil Kingston, Austin
Holt, Grace McKiernan

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I've experienced first-hand the agonizing journey of fleeing one's homeland for safety. 'Halfway to Heaven' is a deeply personal project that seeks to shed light on the struggles, resilience, and unwavering hope that often accompany such experiences.

The play centres on George, a journalist forced to leave everything behind. His story is a testament to the human spirit's ability to endure immense hardship. Through his perilous journey and subsequent challenges as an asylum seeker, we witness the devastating physical and emotional toll, as well as the unwavering determination to rebuild a life.

I aim to create a play that not only entertains but also provokes empathy and understanding. By exploring themes of friendship, perseverance, and the pursuit of a better future, I hope to inspire audiences to see beyond the headlines and recognize the humanity of those seeking refuge.

'Halfway to Heaven' is a heartfelt tribute to the resilience of the human spirit and a call for compassion and solidarity.

– Newton Barabara, Sept



THANKS

Newton – Maureen and Shruthi former staff of IOM for laying the foundation for this project / Phil Kingston and Abbey Theatre for their invaluable guidance, expertise and technical support / Meabh Bulter and SDCC for their generosity and belief in the power of theatre to make a positive impact on the lives of asylum seekers / Jerry Akinlemibola and IOM for connecting with asylum seekers and providing the venue support / The incredible cast and crew.

Jerry Akinlemibola – IOM Ireland (MHPSS) Mental Health Psycho-Social Support Team for their support