

PRESS RELEASE

THISISPOPBABY with St. Patrick's Festival present

Where We Live

Stories from the city, told in the heart of town

Today, THISISPOPBABY with St. Patrick's Festival announce **Where We Live**, a two-week programme of theatre productions, work-in progress showings, music events, live art and a major exhibition from 6 to 18 March in The Complex in Smithfield as part of St. Patrick's Festival.

Where We Live is a kaleidoscope of stories about what it feels like to live in Dublin and Ireland today, told by some of the best storytellers on the island. Investigating ideas around money, housing, migration, gender, community, the city and sex, **Where We Live**, in true THISISPOPBABY fashion, will have a couple of bangin' nights out too.

Featuring plays from **Mark O'Halloran, Oonagh Murphy, Tara Flynn, Peter Daly** and **Veronica Dyas**; an astounding immersive exhibition from **Eamonn Doyle/Niall Sweeney/David Donohoe**; an incendiary talks series curated by **Willie White** of **Dublin Theatre Festival**; a one-off concert from **The High Hopes Community Choir**, Ireland's first homeless choir; **WERKhouse** - a night of performance, poetry and politics; and **City on Screen** - a day of screenings of excellent Irish-made films that resonate with the themes of the programme, each introduced by one of the key artists involved.

THISISPOPBABY Co-Directors **Jenny Jennings** and **Phillip McMahon** said, "Where We Live aims to challenge the prevailing narratives fed to us by the media, the government and increasingly, the algorithms and echo chambers of social media. We're creating a kind of Town Hall, where discussion should be heated, performance will be red hot, and where opposing views are encouraged. We want to tell funny, devastating, exhilarating and joyous stories that imagine and re-imagine what our city and country could be."

Artistic Director of St. Patrick's Festival Karen Walshe said, "We are delighted to be working with the formidable THISISPOPBABY for St. Patrick's Festival 2018, who we know have become an important and progressive voice in the Irish cultural scene. Festival-goers coming along to **Where We Live** are sure to enjoy lively discourse, plays, performances, screenings and enriching experiences from some of Ireland's most important culture-makers."

Where We Live is funded by The Arts Council.

St. Patrick's Festival's principal funders are Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Tickets for **Where We Live** events will go on sale on **Friday 1 December** at 11am on www.thisispopbaby.com.

Our **Patron ticket** is on sale now. Help support our work and get tickets to the full programme and access to special events! Check out www.thisispopbaby.com for more details and to sign up.

LINKS:

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Notes for Editors:

Where We Live Programme

THEATRE

The Mouth of a Shark

Directed by Oonagh Murphy / Composed by Maeve Stone. 11 March at 6.30pm, 12-15 March at 8.30pm.

Tickets: €16

In an era of borders, walls, travel bans and escalating far-right ideology, *The Mouth of a Shark* contrasts the real-life stories of asylum seekers here and Irish emigrants abroad. From rising star director Oonagh Murphy, with original music from Maeve Stone.

A Change of Address & THISISPOPBABY Co-Production in association with Wicklow Arts Office and supported by CREATE

HERE & NOW (*i live here now*)

Created and performed by Veronica Dyas / Directed by Amy Conroy. 7-8 March at 6.30pm, 9 March at 8.30pm. Tickets: €15

On 27 November 2011 Veronica Dyas reached the end of the Camino de Santiago and knew that everything had to be different. She returned to a house that was never really her home, 100k in negative equity with mortgage arrears. One year to the day later, she handed her keys to an estate agent and become an unlikely and nomadic landlord. This is her story.

Developed in residency at FRINGE LAB with the support of Dublin Fringe Festival

Conversations After Sex

Written by Mark O'Halloran / Directed by Tom Creed. 9 & 10 March at 6.30pm, 11 March at 8.30pm.

Tickets: €8

A staged reading of the long-awaited new play by acclaimed playwright and screenwriter Mark O'Halloran (*Viva, Adam & Paul, Trade*). Exploring intimacy in a modern age, *Conversations After Sex* follows four pairs of strangers who meet through dating apps, websites or random hook ups at the supermarket.

This is a work-in-progress presentation from THISISPOPBABY. Made with the support of The Arts Council.

Money

Written & Performed by Peter Daly / Directed by Phillip McMahon. 12-15 March at 6.30pm

Tickets: €15

On the ten year anniversary of the 'Cheapest Bailout in the World', acclaimed performer and Chartered Accountant Peter Daly gets to grip with what actually happened on the path to, and beyond, that fateful

day in 2008. It's the economy, stupid.

A THISISPOPBABY Production

Co-commissioned and presented in association with Mermaid Arts Centre

Not A Funny Word

Written and performed by Tara Flynn / Directed by Phillip McMahon / Composed by Alma Kelliher. 6-8 March at 8.30pm, 10 March at 9.30pm. Tickets: €15

With the referendum to Repeal the Eighth Amendment on the horizon, a national conversation about reproductive rights has begun. In a deeply personal and bravely funny testimony, actor, comedian and activist Tara Flynn shares her account of having to travel out of Ireland for an abortion.

A THISISPOPBABY & Abbey Theatre Presentation

EXHIBITION

MADE IN DUBLIN

Eamonn Doyle, Niall Sweeney, David Donohoe 7-18 March. Free entry.

Built around Doyle's photography, with drawings and sound by Sweeney and Donohoe, *Made In Dublin* is an immersive installation, in sound and vision, constructed as an unravelling coil of events played out by the movement of people caught up in time and place. And that place is Dublin.

MUSIC

RAINFEAR

Created by David Donohoe with the RAINFEAR ensemble. 10 March at 8.00pm. Tickets: €8

An intimate musical response to the *MADE IN DUBLIN* exhibition, this once-off performance by *Rainfear*, a loose arrangement of improvising musicians from Dublin co-ordinated by David Donohoe, with Donohoe on synthesizers and David Lacey on drums and percussion.

A St. Patrick's Festival Presentation

HOME

by The High Hopes Community Choir. 16 MARCH at 8.00pm. Tickets: €10

A new and ambitious mixed-performance project from the acclaimed High Hopes Choir, Ireland's first homeless choir, created by David Brophy with the assistance of Musical Director Carmel Whelan and Managing Coordinator Glenn Alexander.

A St. Patrick's Festival Presentation made with the support of The Complex

TALKS

Town Hall Sessions

Curated by Willie White

A furious and incendiary talks programme that amplifies and contextualises the works in *Where We Live*, curated by Willie White from Dublin Theatre Festival. Programme to be announced in early 2018.

A THISISPOPBABY & St. Patrick's Festival presentation

PERFORMANCE / ART / CLUB

WERKhouse

17 March at 7.30pm. Tickets: €15

We're turning up the heat on Dublin City. Expect savage bites, gut punching truths and a deluge of delicious discomfort. Performance Sweatshop, Literary Frenzy and Centre for Outrageous Investigation: WERKhouse unites underground heroes, glorious outsiders, drama queens & unbridled voices in a furious and feverish night of passion for this town.

It's all back to our House. Clock in, WERK out.

CITY ON SCREEN

Sun 18th March. Tickets: €8 per screening

A series of acclaimed Irish film screenings that examine and question our sense of home, quietly and riotously throwing into question our past, present and future. Each one of these extraordinary films will be introduced by one of the key artists involved.

1pm: Adam & Paul *Introduced by writer and lead actor Mark O'Halloran*

Directed by Lenny Abrahamson / Starring Tom Murphy, Mark O'Halloran. *An Element Films Production.*

Featuring brilliant performances in the lead roles, *Adam & Paul* follows two hapless Dublin drug buddies through a single day, which, like every other, is entirely devoted to the business of scrounging and robbing money for drugs. The difference today is that Adam and Paul, already at rock bottom, have finally run out of luck, credit and friends.

3.30pm: Seaview *Introduced by Co-Director Nicky Gogan*

Directed by Nicky Gogan and Paul Rowley. *A Still Films Production.*

Seaview documents intensely close conversations with the current residents of Mosney, a holding center for asylum seekers from all corners of the globe, revealing their individual stories, from the epic to the everyday. From Congo, Kurdistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, we hear why people are forced to move to a country where they are total strangers and learn of the trauma of waiting – living in fear in this bizarre no-man's-land.

6pm: St. Patrick's Festival Film Screening *Introduced by St. Patrick's Festival & Filmmaker Donal Dineen and special guests.*

A special screening of the 2018 St. Patrick's Festival Film Commission.

ABOUT THISISPOPBABY

THISISPOPBABY rips up the space between popular culture, counterculture and high art, providing vehicles for our associate artists' dreams and exhilarating access points to the arts. In the past 11 years our shows have played to 120,000 people (and counting) around Ireland, the UK, Australia and beyond, winning five major theatre awards, with nominations for 16 more. Highlights to date include: breaking box office records and winning Best Production at Dublin Fringe 2016 with *RIOT*; a sold-out world tour of *Panti's High Heels in Low Places* in 2015; bringing 56% new attenders to the Abbey for *Alice in Funderland — A New*

Musical in 2012; winning Best New Play for *Trade* in the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards 2011; creating and running an outrageous performance arena at *The Electric Picnic Music Festival* from 2008–2010; and collaborating with hundreds (possibly thousands) of artists and creatives from different genres and backgrounds over the past decade.

Other upcoming shows include a world tour of hit show *RIOT* and family show *Lords of Strut: Absolute Legends*.

“THISISPOPBABY has redefined modern Irish Theatre” — The Irish Times

ABOUT ST. PATRICK’S FESTIVAL

St. Patrick’s Festival is a national cultural event where Ireland welcomes the world to Dublin for a celebration of Irish Culture and Heritage. The principal aim of St. Patrick’s Festival is to develop a major annual international festival around the national holiday over which the Irish people can stand proud. It reflects the talents and achievements of Irish people on national and world stages, showcasing the skills of every age and social background. There were over 105,000 out-of-state visitors at the Festival in 2016, spending an average of 8.8 days in Ireland, and 6.5 days in Dublin. During the 2015 Festival, out-of-state visitors generated an estimated total expenditure of €73m while in Ireland, including expenditure of €51.3m while in Dublin, and circa €22m which was spent in the rest of Ireland. (Independent research conducted in 2015 & 2016 by Behaviour and Attitudes on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.)

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