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HAPPENSTANCE THEATRE COMPANY, NORTHERN IRELAND
PRESENTS

THE BOAT FACTORY

BY **DAN GORDON**
DIRECTED BY **PHILIP CRAWFORD**

JUNE 4 - 30, 2013



BRiTS OFF BROADWAY

HAPPENSTANCE THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS



BY DAN GORDON

DIRECTED BY
PHILIP CRAWFORD

DAVY GORDON
DAN GORDON

GEORDIE KILPATRICK
MICHAEL CONDRON

COMPOSER
CHRIS WARNER

PRODUCER
ANGELA McCLOSKEY

PERCUSSION
GARETH McLEES

COSTUME DESIGNER
LISA LAVERY

STAGE MANAGER
RAYNELLE WRIGHT*

The running time of ***The Boat Factory*** is 2 hours including an intermission.

Member of Actors' Equity Association

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

I vividly recall being six years old, watching our black and white television and having to leave the room to cry. The film was ***A Night to Remember*** with Kenneth More - the story of the sinking of the Titanic. My mother followed me out and comforted me and explained that my father worked in the place where it was built.

We have many traditions in my community in East Belfast and one of them is not promoting ourselves. We don't want to "put anybody to any trouble" and we don't want to "show ourselves up in front of the neighbours". We had spotless front doorsteps and a rarely used "good" room reserved for "special occasions". We paid the Milkman and the Insurance Man on Friday nights, we left money on windowsills for the Window Cleaner. We carried Bibles to church on Sundays and we watched the Orange Order marching bands on the 12th of July. But above all - we worked. For many in the East it was in the Boat Factory - the shipyards of Harland & Wolff.

I've lived in the shadow of the Boat Factory all my life. In my childhood I was wakened in the mornings by its horns and in my later years I've been haunted by its silence. It is a heritage and a history that has all but disappeared - and with it, the skills, the memories and the men who made it great. I want to remember them - for my father was one of them.

Philip Crawford, Michael Condron, Angela McCloskey and Happenstance Theatre Company embraced and nurtured the idea and gave me the opportunity to write and perform this play, for which I am eternally grateful.

Don't stand and wonder how to do it -
do it and wonder how you did it.

Dan Gordon

DAN GORDON

Writer and Performer, Davy Gordon



Dan is one of Northern Ireland's most popular and prolific actors and has enjoyed a long and successful career in theatre and television over three decades. A particular stage highlight was his award-winning performance in the one-man show ***A Night in November*** by Marie Jones in which he toured extensively throughout the UK and Ireland and to New York. He also has many directing credits, including a production of ***Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*** by Frank McGuinness which he directed in a prison with a cast of young offenders and was the subject of an acclaimed four part documentary series for the BBC. He has made many other documentaries on subjects ranging from marching bands and Irish author Brian Moore to the renovation of Belfast's famous Crown Bar. He is heavily involved in arts in education and recently won a major UK award for his ***Pat and Plain*** series of plays for schools. Almost ten thousand children throughout Northern Ireland have been involved in productions of these plays to date. He wrote ***The Boat Factory*** to celebrate the history and heritage of the men who worked in Belfast's famous shipyard, including his father, and the play has toured widely in the UK and Ireland to great acclaim.

MICHAEL CONDRON

Geordie Kilpatrick



Michael performs regularly at Belfast's Lyric Theatre where his credits include: ***Macbeth*** and ***Much Ado About Nothing*** by William Shakespeare, ***John Bull's Other Island*** by George Bernard Shaw, ***A Very Weird Manor*** and ***Xmas Eve Can Kill You*** by Marie Jones, and ***The Miser*** by Molière adapted by David Johnston. He has worked with many venues and touring companies in the UK and Ireland, including: ***Mirandolina*** (Manchester Royal Exchange), ***Mojo-Mickybo*** (Lyric Hammersmith), ***Borderland*** (7:84 Theatre Company), ***Da*** (Art NI), ***Revenge*** (Tinderbox), ***The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty*** (GBL Productions), and ***Oh What A Lovely War***, ***Threepenny Opera***, ***Blue Remembered Hills***, ***The Government Inspector*** (Bruiser Theatre). Television and film credits include: ***Last Man Hanging*** (BBC NI), ***Fairytales*** (BBC), ***The Tudors*** (HBO), and ***Keith Lemon The Film*** (Generator Films). He has been an integral part of ***The Boat Factory*** since its earliest stages of development.

PHILIP CRAWFORD

Director



Philip trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and is the founder of Happenstance Theatre Company. Directing credits include: ***Our Country's Good*** by Timberlake Wertenbaker, ***Oedipus the King*** by Sophocles and ***Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*** by Carol Churchill (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), ***Not About Heroes*** by Stephen Macdonald (Happenstance NI Tour), ***Francis*** by Julian Mitchell (in the UK & Italy), and ***Dancing at Lughnasa*** by Brian Friel (Blairstown, New Jersey). Assistant Director credits at the Grand Opera House in Belfast include: ***The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty*** by Martin Lynch and ***Women on the Verge of HRT*** by Marie Jones.

CHRIS WARNER

Composer



As a theatre composer Chris' recent credits include: ***Henry V*** (RSC Studio), ***Our Country's Good*** (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), ***Private Resistance*** (Eastern Angles), and a new opera ***Insein*** (Tête à Tête Opera Festival, London). His work as a composer, arranger and orchestrator has taken him to some of the top London recording studios, including the world famous Abbey Road. He orchestrated the BAFTA nominated ***Make a Musical*** (BBC Learning), and was the scoring assistant for the award-winning new British feature film ***Common People***. He also composes music for Film and Television, much of which is produced by Audio Network.

ANGELA McCLOSKEY

Producer



Angela has worked in the arts in Northern Ireland for over twenty-five years on a diverse range of projects, including theatre production, venue management, festivals, film production, arts policy and planning. Most recently, she was an integral part of the team that built the award-winning Lyric Theatre in Belfast. As Development Director, she led the Lyric over many years through the planning and design development of its new state-of-the-art producing theatre, including delivery of a successful £18 million capital campaign. She is very proud to be producing ***The Boat Factory*** having been involved with the show from its earliest stages of development.

RAYNELLE WRIGHT

Stage Manager

Raynelle is excited to be returning to the Brits Off Broadway festival for the third time! Broadway/1st National Tours: ***The Addams Family***, ***9 to 5 The Musical***, ***Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark***, ***The Miracle Worker***, ***Oleanna***, ***Will Ferrell: You're Welcome America***... Off-Broadway/NY: ***Company*** with the New York Philharmonic, CSC, The Public Theater, Paper Mill Playhouse, and MTC. Proud AEA Member.

THE BOAT FACTORY

The Boat Factory featuring as part of Brits Off Broadway would not have been possible without the kind and generous support of our principal sponsors Tourism Ireland, the Ulster Scots Agency and Edwards & Co Solicitors, and of sponsors NI Bureau and Invest NI. We are also deeply indebted to a number of very special philanthropic donors who continue to encourage and inspire from the wings.

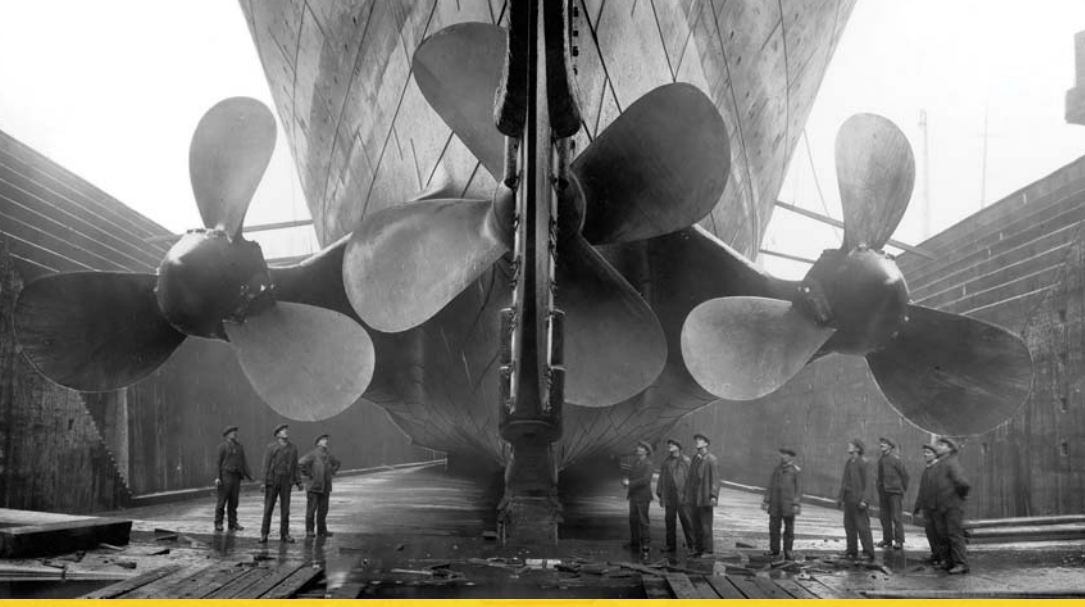
SPECIAL THANKS TO

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RMS Titanic propellers, Harland & Wolff, Belfast, 1911

HISTORIC BACKGROUND TO THE BOAT FACTORY

The development of the world-famous Belfast shipyards of Harland & Wolff and Workman Clark (known as "The Wee Yard") was the result of great determination by the Harbour Commissioners and the engineering brilliance of the Belfast workers. When King James I incorporated Belfast in 1613 he granted permission for a "landing place", but it was to take nearly 240 years to turn the mudlocked port into an outstanding harbour. The jewel in the crown was the creation of the first iron-shipbuilding yard on Queen's Island in 1853 by the Harbour Commissioners, and the arrival of a doughty genius called Edward Harland. With his partner Gustav Wolff, and another youthful and energetic genius called William Pirrie, he created one of the greatest shipyards in maritime history.

Around the year 1900 Belfast was at the height of its fame. It had 350,000 inhabitants and its engineering and textile industries, with its entrepreneurs and skilled craftsmen, had made it the twelfth largest city in the British Isles. It was also bigger and economically more important than Dublin, much to the latter's irritation. It was against this background of enormous expansion, technical skill and exuberant self-confidence that the men of ***The Boat Factory*** created some of the best vessels that the world had ever seen, including the iconic ocean-going liners Olympic and the Titanic, which sailed into sea-faring history. After two world wars and more difficult times, that same exuberant self-confidence has returned to the Harbour Estate, which now has a world-class port, the development of the Titanic Quarter and the recent opening of the truly world class attraction Titanic Belfast. Above all it is the people of Belfast who have made it a unique, tough, and yet warm-hearted city where the determination, humour and civic pride of the men of ***The Boat Factory*** live on.

Alf McCreary MBE
Writer and award-winning journalist



SS Athenic, 1901



USAT Republic, 1903



MS Alcantara, 1927



RMS Titanic and RMS Olympic



Knocking off time at Harland & Wolff, Belfast

BRITS OFF BROADWAY 2013 CONTINUES

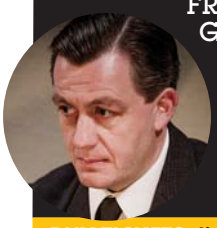
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