FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

PRESENTS

HEAVEN

A NEW PLAY BY
EUGENE O'BRIEN

DIRECTED BY
JIM CULLETON



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THEATER B

JANUARY 11 – 29

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HEAVEN

A NEW PLAY BY
EUGENE O'BRIEN

DIRECTED BY
JIM CULLETON

– CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE –

MAIREAD	JANET MORAN
MAL	ANDREW BENNETT

– CREATIVE TEAM –

PLAYWRIGHT	EUGENE O'BRIEN
DIRECTOR	JIM CULLETON
SET DESIGN	ZIA BERGIN-HOLLY
COSTUME DESIGN	SAILEÓG O'HALLORAN
LIGHTING DESIGN	SINÉAD McKENNA
MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN	CARL KENNEDY
STAGE MANAGER	HEATHER KLEIN *

– PRODUCTION TEAM –

PRODUCER	EVA SCANLAN
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	CALLY SHINE
PRODUCTION MANAGER	EOIN KILKENNY
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER	DAIRE Ó MUIRÍ
SET BUILDER	UPSTATE SCENIC
DRAMATURG	GAVIN KOSTICK
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	RONAN CAREY
GRAPHIC DESIGN	PUBLICIS DUBLIN

RUN TIME: 85 MINUTES, NO INTERMISSION

arts council / an chomhairle ealaíon funding theatre

Cultúr Éireann Culture Ireland

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City Council

1ST IRISH

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

PROGRAM NOTE

Fishamble is thrilled to be back in 59E59 Theaters, as part of Origin Theatre's 1st Irish, with ***Heaven*** by Eugene O'Brien. This is the company's fifteenth production to transfer to the US, seventh production to be presented at 59E59 Theaters, and ninth production as part of 1st Irish, all with the support of Culture Ireland.

Heaven premiered at Dublin Theatre Festival in October 2022 and then toured throughout Ireland. I am delighted that Fishamble is back in New York with this moving and beautiful play by acclaimed playwright, novelist, and screenwriter Eugene O'Brien. We always love coming to this theater on 59th Street, where we have previously presented ***The Pride of Parnell Street*** and ***On Blueberry Hill*** by Sebastian Barry, ***Little Thing Big Thing*** by Donal O'Kelly, *Charolais* by Noni Stapleton, ***Maz & Bricks*** by Eva O'Connor, and ***The Wheelchair on My Face*** by Sonya Kelly.

Heaven is about Mal and Mairead, who are at a crisis moment in their marriage. They have dark secrets and desires that they have never shared with each other. Through the play they confide in the audience as they navigate their midlife crises in the Irish Midlands. The play is set over the course of a weekend, during an Irish wedding in a rural part of the country, a unique event in itself!

We are very grateful for the support we have received from Culture Ireland, 59E59 Theaters, and 1st Irish for making this run possible.
Thanks also for the support of our friends and colleagues at the Arts Council, Irish Consulate, Irish Arts Center and Irish Repertory Theatre.

Fishamble is proud to dedicate this production to the memory of Vincent O'Doherty, who was a great friend to the company, and member of the board from 2003 until 2021.

We have always enjoyed performing new Irish plays for audiences in the US and hope very much that you enjoy *Heaven* this evening.

JIM CULLETON

Artistic Director, Fishamble: The New Play Company



Photo credit: Leo Byrne / Publicis

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Tesco	*large supermarket chain*
The sister	*her/my sister*
The jacks	*restrooms*
Ride	*having sex*
Jockey	*someone who is sexually active*
Persian rugs	*drugs*
Traveller	*member of Irish ethnic group similar to Roma*
Pissed	*drunk*
Johnny	*condom*
Happenth	*half penny*
Box room	*smallest bedroom in a house*
The Crescent	*a Jesuit school in Limerick*
Leaving	*exams at end of high school*
Raleigh chopper	*bicycle*
Council flats	*housing projects*
Sacred Heart	*picture of Jesus with exposed heart*
Thick	*annoyed*
Bord na Mona	*a semi-state company developing the peatlands of Ireland*
Tubridy	*host of the Irish TV chat show The Late Late Show*

JANET MORAN

(Mairead)



Janet is an actor, playwright and director based in Dublin. Selected theater work includes ***Spinning, Swing*** (co-writer), and ***Rathmines Road*** for Fishamble; ***Ulysses, The Plough & The Stars, Juno and the Paycock*** (National Theatre, London/Abbey Theatre co-production); ***Shibari, Translations, No Romance, The Recruiting Officer, The Cherry Orchard, She Stoops to Conquer, Communion, The Barbaric Comedies, The Well of the Saints***, and ***The Hostage*** all at the Abbey Theatre; ***Car Show, Dublin by Lamplight, Everyday, Freefall***, and ***Desire under The Elms*** for Corn Exchange. Film and television work includes *The Dry, Trivia, Love/Hate, Love is the Drug, T* (RTE), *Dublin Oldschool, The Bailout* (TV3), *The Butcher Boy, Breakfast on Pluto, Milo, Minim Rest, Bono and My Ex, Moll Flanders, Nothing Personal, Volkswagen Joe* and *Quirke* (BBC). She co-wrote the hit play ***Swing*** and wrote and directed ***A Holy Show*** which sold out at the Dublin and Edinburgh fringe festivals as well as its national tour in spring 2020. She also recently directed ***My Romantic History, Virtual Verse*** (Verdant Productions); ***Looking for América*** (Dublin Theatre Festival and Edinburgh Fringe), and ***Pure Mental*** (National Tour).

ANDREW BENNETT

(Mal)



Andrew's previous work includes ***Big Bad Woolf, Foley, Freefall*** (Corn Exchange); ***The Rehearsal Playing The Dane, The Seagull, Endgame*** (Pan Pan); ***Le Roi Lear*** (Théâtre National Populaire); ***Schöne Neue Welt*** (Stadttheater Bonn); ***The Marriage of Figaro, Lolita, The House*** (Abbey). Film work includes *Garage, The Stag, Black '47,* and *An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl).*

EUGENE O'BRIEN

(Playwright)

Eugene wrote the play ***EDEN*** which debuted at the Peacock Theatre in 2001 and transferred to the Abbey stage later that year and then onto the Arts Theatre in London's West End in 2002. It has been translated into Romanian, Italian, Catalan, Dutch, and German. ***EDEN*** received the Irish Times Theatre Award, the Stewart Parker Award, and the Rooney Prize for Literature. Eugene adapted the play for the screen and the film, directed by Declan Recks, which played many festivals around the world including Edinburgh and New York's Tribeca Festival where it won Best Actress for Eileen Walsh. Eugene also wrote *Pure Mule*, a six part series for RTE, winner of five IFTA awards and a two part follow up *Pure Mule - The Last Weekend*. Other work includes *The Nest, Sloth*, and *Numb* (nominated for ZEBBIE AWARD) all for RTE radio drama, and an adaptation of Roddy Doyle's *Barrytown* trilogy for BBC radio drama. Other theater work includes ***Savoy*** produced in the Peacock Theatre, and ***The Good House of Happiness*** and ***Eliza's Adventures in the Uncanny Valley***, both in collaboration with PAN PAN Theatre Company. Other work includes film comedy *The Flag*, starring Pat Shortt, and co-writing credits on the TV3 drama *Red Rock* and the films *The Food Guide to Love,* and famine drama *Black '47*. Eugene's recent work includes *Tarrac!,* a Cine 4 Irish language feature film which debuted at this year's Galway Film Festival; ***Mespil in the Dark***, a web series and theater show with PAN PAN; and his novel "Going Back" was published by Gill in September.

JIM CULLETON

(Director)

Jim is the artistic director of Fishamble: The New Play Company, for which he has directed productions on tour throughout Ireland, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the US. His productions for Fishamble have won Olivier, The Stage, Scotsman Fringe First, and Irish Times Best Director awards. Jim has directed for the Abbey, the Gaiety, the Belgrade, 7:84 Scotland, Project, Amharclann de hÍde, Tinderbox, Passion Machine, the Ark, Second Age, Dundee Rep, CoisCéim/Crash Ensemble/GIAF, Frontline Defenders, Amnesty International, Little Museum of Dublin, Fighting Words, Scripts Festival, and Baptiste Programme. He has directed audio plays for Audible, BBC, RTÉ Radio 1, and RTÉ lyric fm. He has also directed for Vessel and APA (Australia), TNL (Canada), Solas Nua, Mosaic, and Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), Odyssey (LA), Origin, Irish Arts Center, New Dramatists, Irish Rep, and 59E59 (New York), as well as for Trafalgar Theatre Productions on the West End, and IAC/Symphony Space on Broadway. Jim has taught for NYU, NUI, GSA, Uversity, the Lir, Villanova, Notre Dame, UM, UMD, JNU, and TCD.

ZIA BERGIN-HOLLY

(Set Designer)

Zia is an award-winning lighting and set designer working internationally in theater, dance, opera, and live music events. Her stage set and lighting designs include ***Embargo*** (Fishamble), ***Solar Bones*** (Rough Magic & Kilkenny Arts Festival), ***The Misfits*** (Corn Exchange), ***User not found*** (Dante or Die), and ***They called her Vivaldi*** (Theatre Lovett). She also designed the set for the Olympia Theatre, Dublin performances of Grace Jones' concerts for *Bloodlight and Bami* by Blinder Films. Recent lighting design include ***The Border Game*** (Prime Cut and Lyric Theatre Belfast), ***Skin Hunter*** (Dante Or Die), ***Two*** (Hull Truck Theatre), ***Meat*** (Theatre503), ***Flights*** (One Duck Theatre), ***Promises Promises*** (Centrál Színház Budapest), ***Top Hat*** (Silver Blue Entertainment), ***Bread not Profits*** (Gúna Nua), ***Apologia*** and ***The Lion in the Winter*** (English Theatre Frankfurt).

SAILEÓG O'HALLORAN

(Costume Designer)

Theater credits include ***Duck Duck Goose, The Alternative*** (Fishamble); ***The Wakefires*** (ANU Productions & Cork Midsummer), ***Dances Like a Bomb*** (Junk Ensemble), ***The Secret Space*** (ANU Productions), ***To The Lighthouse*** (Cork Everyman & Hatch Productions), ***The Great Hunger*** (Abbey Theatre), ***The Fall of the Second Republic*** (Abbey Theatre & Corn Exchange), ***Danse Macabre*** (Macnas 2019), ***Beckett's Room*** (Dead Centre), ***The Bluffers Guide to Suburbia*** (Cork Midsummer & DTF 2019), ***The Anvil*** (ANU & Manchester International Festival), ***The Misfits*** (Corn Exchange), ***Trial of the Century*** (Dublin Fringe 2018); ***Macnas 2018***, ***Copperface Jacks The Musical*** (Verdant); ***GPO 1818*** (Fishamble), ***The Half of It*** (MOMMO), **The Shitstorm** (Dublin Fringe), ***The Seagull*** (Corn Exchange), ***To Hell In A Handbag*** (Show In A Bag/Tiger Dublin Fringe), ***Town is Dead*** (Peacock Theatre), ***Embodied*** (Dublin Dance Festival), ***Shibboleth*** (Peacock Theatre), ***Chekhov's First Play*** (Dead Centre), ***Thirteen*** (*Irish Times* Judges Special Award, ANU Productions), and ***Wake*** (Chamber Made Opera).

SINÉAD McKENNA

(Lighting Designer)

Sinéad is an internationally renowned designer working across theater, opera, dance, and film. She has won two Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Lighting Design and a Drama Desk nomination for Best Lighting Design for a Musical. Previous designs for Fishamble include ***Maz and Bricks, The Gist of It***, and ***Invitation to a Journey***. Her other recent designs include **Walking with *Ghosts, Straight to Video***, and ***The Approach*** (Landmark Productions); ***Maria Stuarda*** (Irish National Opera), ***Elsewhere*** and ***Faith Healer*** (Abbey Theatre), ***Dēmos*** (Liz Roche Company), ***Parade*** (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris), and ***Angela's Ashes: The Musical*** (Bord Gais/Tour). She has designed for many notable companies including the Gate Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Donmar Warehouse, Cork Opera House, Lyric Theatre Belfast, Rough Magic, CoisCeim, Gúna Nua, Decadent, Gare Saint Lazare, Corn Exchange, THISISPOPBABY, Siren, Second Age, Performance Corporation, and Semper Fi.

CARL KENNEDY

(Music & Sound Designer)

Carl has worked on numerous theater productions, working with venues and companies including Fishamble: The New Play Company, The Gaiety, The Abbey, The Gate, Rough Magic, Landmark, Decadent, The Lyric Theatre, Theatre Lovett, ANU Productions, HOME Manchester, Prime Cut Productions, HotForTheatre, Speckintime, Guna Nua, and Peer to Peer, among others. He has been nominated three times for the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Sound Design. He also composes music and sound design for radio, TV, and video games. He was composer and sound designer for *Mr Wall* on RTÉJr which was shortlisted for an IMRO Radio Award in the 2018 drama category. Game titles include *Curious George, Curious about Shapes and Colors, Jelly Jumble, Too Many Teddies, Dino Dog* and *Leonardo and His Cat*. TV credits include sound design for *16 Letters* (Independent Pictures/RTE), and SFX editing and foley recording for *Centenary* (RTE).

EVA SCANLAN

(Producer)

Eva is the executive director at Fishamble: The New Play Company. Current and recent producing work includes ***Outrage*** by Deirdre Kinahan, ***The Treaty*** by Colin Murphy, and ***Embargo*** by Deirdre Kinahan, both as part of the Decade of Centenaries; ***The Alternative*** by Michael Patrick and Oisín Kearney; ***On Blueberry Hill*** by Sebastian Barry on the West End, Off Broadway, and on Irish and international tour; Fishamble's award-winning plays by Pat Kinevane ***Before, Silent, Underneath***, and ***Forgotten*** on tour in Ireland and internationally; ***The Humours of Bandon*** by Margaret McAuliffe, ***Maz and Bricks*** by Eva O'Connor, ***Inside the GPO*** by Colin Murphy, ***Tiny Plays for Ireland and America*** at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and the Irish Arts Center in New York; and ***Swing*** by Steve Blount, Peter Daly, Gavin Kostick, and Janet Moran on tour in Ireland, the UK, and Australia. Eva produces ***The 24 Hour Plays: Dublin*** at the Abbey Theatre in Ireland (2012-present) in association with the 24 Hour Play Company, New York, as a fundraiser for Dublin Youth Theatre. She has worked on ***The 24 Hour Plays*** on Broadway and ***The 24 Hour Musicals*** at the Gramercy Theatre in New York. Previously, she was producer of terraNOVA Collective in New York (2012-2015), where she produced ***Underland*** by Ally Collier, ***terraNOVA Rx: Four Plays in Rep*** at IRT Theater, the soloNOVA Arts Festival, the Groundworks New Play Series, ***Woman of Leisure and Panic*** (FringeNYC), ***P.S. Jones and the Frozen City*** by Rob Askins, among other projects. She has worked on events and conferences at the New School, the Park Avenue Armory, and Madison Square Garden.

CALLY SHINE

(Associate Producer)

Cally has worked across the United States as an actor, teaching artist, company manager, and creative producer. Born and raised in Seattle, WA, she holds a BA in Theater and a Minor in Irish Studies from the University of Montana and a graduate diploma in Cultural Policy and Arts Management from University College Dublin. When not working with Fishamble, Cally is an assistant producer at Once Off Productions.

FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

Fishamble discovers, develops and produces new plays of national importance with a global reach. It has toured its productions to audiences throughout Ireland, and to 19 other countries. It champions the role of the playwright, typically supporting over 50% of the writers of all new plays produced on the island of Ireland each year. Fishamble has received many awards in Ireland and internationally, including an Olivier Award.

"The much-loved Fishamble [is] a global brand with international theatrical presence... an unswerving force for new writing"
— Irish Times

"Ireland's leading new writing company"
— The Stage

"The respected Dublin company...forward-thinking Fishamble"
— New York Times

"Excellent Fishamble...Ireland's terrific Fishamble"
— The Guardian

"When Fishamble is [in New York], you've got to go"
—Time Out New York

"That great Irish new writing company, Fishamble"
—Lyn Gardner, Stage Door

"Fishamble puts electricity into the National grid of dreams"
—Sebastian Barry

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EVA SCANLAN ..... EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GAVIN KOSTICK ..... LITERARY MANAGER
CALLY SHINE ..... PRODUCER
RONAN CAREY ..... OFFICE & PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
FREYA GILLESPIE ..... FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

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FISHAMBLE WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS OF FISHAMBLE & CORPORATE MEMBERS FOR THEIR INVALUABLE SUPPORT:

Alan Ashe, ATM Accounting Services, Mary Banotti, Tania Banotti, Grainne Holmes Blumenthal, Doireann Ní Bhriain, Colette and Barry Breen, Sean Brett, John Butler, Betsy Carroll, Breda Cashe, Barry Cassidy, Maura Connolly, Finola Earley, J. Fitzgibbon John & Yvonne Healy, Alison Howard, Geoffrey & Jane Keating, Stephen Lambert, Damian Lane, Angus Laverty, Patrick Lonergan, Sheelagh Malin, Monica McInerney, Ger McNaughton, Anne McQuillan, Annique Menninga, Liz Morrin, Pat Moylan, Liz Nugent, Ronan Nulty, Lisney, Siobhan O'Beirne, Tom O'Connor Consultant, Siobhan O'Leary, Muiris O'Reilly, Andrew and Delyth Parkes, Margaret Rogers, David & Veronica Rowe, Judy Regan, Roisin, Jennifer Russell, Eileen Ryan, Coleen Savage, Brian Singleton, William J. Smith, and Mary Stephenson. Thank you also to all those who do not wish to be credited.

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For smaller contributions and Friends membership, we accept donations via PayPal or debit/credit card at www.fishamble.com/support-us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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arts council an chomhairle ealaíon funding theatre

Cultúr Éireann Culture Ireland

CURATOR'S NOTE



Welcome back to Origin Theatre and their 15th annual *1st Irish Festival* which kicks off with ***Heaven*** produced by Dublin's Olivier Award-winning Fishamble: The New Play Company. Written by Eugene O'Brien (winner of the Rooney Prize for Literature), and directed by Jim Culleton (Irish Times Best Director Award winner 2019). For more than 30 years, Fishamble has championed the role of the playwright, typically supporting over 50% of the writers of all new plays produced on the island of Ireland each year.

VAL DAY
Artistic Director

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
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NEXT IN THEATER B **MARCH 18 - APRIL 15**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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