

DRUID IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEATRE FORUM PRESENTS

BELARUS FREE THEATRE FEB 21st 2008

As Ireland approaches the centenary of the 1916 Rising, *Druid*, in common with many other cultural organisations will be seeking to reflect upon and interrogate the events leading to the foundation of the state.

As an early part of this process, the company is developing a programme of events with writers and theatre companies working in places of revolution around the globe today.

One such theatre company is **Belarus Free Theatre**. Based in Minsk, **Belarus Free Theatre** creates performances that are acclaimed internationally yet continuously face suppression on its home ground.

Druid in association with Theatre Forum has arranged for a public interview with **Belarus Free Theatre** to take place at **Project, Dublin, at 3pm, 21 February 2008.**

Founding member, Art Director and award-winning writer Nikolai N. Khalezin will be joined by his key associates, co-founder and General Director, Natalia A. Koliada and collaborator and director Vladimir Sherban.

Home for **Belarus Free Theatre** is various discrete apartments in Minsk where performances are held in private in order to elude the authorities of Alyaksandra Lukashenka, head of what's known as the '*last dictatorship in Europe*.' On 22 August 2007, a performance by this underground theatre group was stormed by state forces and fifty people were arrested

"To attend one of our performances today, you need to find out a special telephone number, call it, someone will write down your name, then you need to go to a place far from the city centre, where you will be identified. Seats are booked for many performances in advance, and entering the room on your own is almost impossible."

ABOUT BELARUS FREE THEATRE

Belarus Free Theatre has been seen in the UK, the US, France, Greece, Russia and elsewhere and acknowledged with some of the most prestigious theatre, cultural and human rights honours in Europe including 'Premiums of Europe' award from the European Theatrical Convention and the French Republic Awards in Defence of Human Rights. It continues to draw international support from prominent playwrights Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard and Václav Havel.

Belarus Free Theatre states that its task "*will be ended when the situation in Belarus will be changed from dictatorial regime to democracy.*" This young, underground theatre troupe are currently bringing a rare performance of two plays

(Being Harold Pinter and Generation Jeans) in repertory to the Soho Theatre, London from Feb 11 – 23, 2008.

Druid in association with Theatre Forum invites you to attend this one-off public interview with three of the key theatre-makers of our time at **Project, 3pm, 21 February 2008.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION see www.druidtheatre.com or www.theatreforumireland.com

THIS EVENT IS FREE but seating is limited so early booking is advised. To book, contact Project on 01 881 9613/14.

For more press information please contact Kate Bowe / David McCadden in Kate Bowe PR on 01-6713672 or kate@katebowepr.ie / david@katebowepr.ie