

**Embargoed Until 6pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**Cork Midsummer Festival  
15<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

*Festival of the Senses...*

The 2008 Cork Midsummer Festival is an arts festival for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, featuring gigs and performances for everyone over an action-packed 21 days in summer. A 'Festival of the Senses', Cork Midsummer Festival will bring the city and county to life with visual treats like site-specific theatre from **Corcadorca** and **Compagnie Dakar**; aural sensations with music ranging from **Camille** to legendary band **The Fall**; tempting touch with the human powered funfair **Sensazione** and sumptuous tastes and smells with the inaugural **Taste of Cork** weekend that will take place as part of the festival. Including events such as the **Spencer Tunick** installation, the **Abbey** production of **The Seafarer** and **The Irish Examiner Spiegelent**, there is something to tickle everyone's senses!

Continuing Cork Midsummer Festival's commitment to site-specific work, the organisers are delighted to welcome back **Corcadorca** with a highly anticipated version of Eugene O'Neill's **The Hairy Ape**, as well as the Irish premiere of **Braakland** by **Compagnie Dakar**, which will be brought to the Festival in association with Corcadorca, along with **Audio Detour**, a site-specific audio piece from Fiona Hallinan and Alex Synge that takes you on a journey through public and private spaces, using the architecture of the city. Other events taking performance to people include eco-funfair **Sensazione** in Youghal and Cork City, the Festival opener the ever-popular **Lord Mayor's Picnic in the Park** and the fantastic finale **Robodock**, which will see life-sized robots invade the docklands.

Exciting international performances will include the Irish premiere of **Propositions 1 & 2**, by **Victoria**, one of the most innovative theatre companies in Europe, Lebanese theatre with **Make Me Stop Smoking** by **Rabih Mroué**, which reconstructs the landscape of his war torn homeland, and highlight of the Edinburgh Festival last year **You've Got to Love Dancing to Stick to It** by **Julian Fox**.

Supporting the best home-grown talent, the Cork Midsummer Festival will produce the premiere of **The Magic Tree** by exciting young writer/director Ursula Rani Sarma, who studied in Cork, before it goes to the Edinburgh Festival, as well as commissioning **Hammergrin's K: The Iwoa Project**, a hilarious homage to Philip K. Dick. Other local work includes **Snatch Comedy** who will improvise a play; **Default's** production of **Generic**, a performance/installation set in an office; the Irish premiere of internationally renowned Romanian playwright, Paul Ioachim's bittersweet comedy, **End of the Line**, presented by **Magnet**; **Cleaner**, an alternative adult fairytale about a woman who falls in love with her sweeping brush by **Asylum**; **Maireann croi eadrom i bhfad – A Light Heart Lives Long** by **Croi Glan Physically Integrated Dance Company** a performance company comprised of both disabled and able-bodied dancers, as well as dance piece **The Bicycle Ballet**, performed by **No Frontiers Dance Company** in collaboration with local young people skilled in urban vehicle freestyle. Other Irish highlights include **The Abbey's** production of **The Seafarer** by Conor McPherson and **Life Shop Til You Drop**, a satiric study on self-help by **Wonderland**.

Music lovers will be well catered for during the festival, with **Scullion's** 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour, US Roots band **The Hunger Mountain Boys**, described by Mark Lamarr as "one of the best things I've ever heard" and a host of delights in **The Irish Examiner Spiegeltent** from jazz to rockabilly to gypsy punk to rock. **The Irish Examiner Spiegeltent** will take up residence on Emmet Place, with exciting acts like The Fall, Faust, Camille, The Frank and Walters, Mick Flannery, Stanley Super 800 and more. All new for 2008, **The Irish Examiner Spiegeltent** will feature the hilarious festival club **The Last Resort** with **David Hoyle**, including events such as **Yurah Langer**, a talent show for the truly talentless!

For families there will be a performance by the **Púca Puppets**, comedian David O'Doherty's **I Can't Sleep** and **Aesop's Fables and Fables** which will be brought to hilarious life by members of the **Working Actor's Workshop of Theatre Makers**, as well as events for all the family like the **Lord Mayor's Picnic in the Park** and **Robodock**.

Add to all of this, the sensation of the summer, internationally renowned artist **Spencer Tunick** with his photographic installation of nudes, and there really is something for everyone in Cork this summer!

### **Selected Festival Highlights:**

**The Lord Mayor's Picnic** will kick off the festival in Fitzgerald's Park. Attracting over 10,000 attendees annually, the event is a free extravaganza of entertainment, face-painting, music, boat trips up the Lee and delicious food.

--

For the finale of this year's Cork Midsummer Festival we invite you to come down to the Cork Docklands for a highly unusual experience... **Robodock** is a unique international festival from Amsterdam that merges technology and the arts. In this unique collaboration, Cork Midsummer Festival hosts its very own spectacular indoor techno-park brimming with life-size robots, fabulous robotic theatre shows and amazing industrial installations suitable for all ages. The whole of Robodock is spectacularly designed from recycled scrap metal and other industrial waste products. This is an important part of the Robodock ethos. You won't believe what the Robodock crew can do with the stuff we throw away! Robodock promises to be an unforgettable finale to this year's Midsummer Festival.

--

Running throughout the festival **The Irish Examiner Spiegeltent** will host an abundance of shows. Legendary krautrock band **Faust** will make their first highly anticipated appearance in Ireland this year live at the Irish Examiner Spiegeltent, as well as a post-punk legends **The Fall**, who will also play Earagail Arts Festival, and a return performance from Cork's favourite **Camille**. The Irish Examiner Spiegeltent will also host the cabaret variety show **The Last Resort**, a melting point where the audience meet the artists and new talents are found, hosted by punk-gay-cabaret-terrorist **David Hoyle** presenter of TV series *The Divine David Presents* on Channel 4, and actor in the film *Velvet Goldmine* and TV comedy series *Nathan Barley*.

--

Djinn Theatre Company will present **The Magic Tree** by Ursula Rani Sarma. The story of love born in a very dark place between a man who wants to belong and a woman who wants to be forgotten. On a stormy night, they shelter in an abandoned summer home and tentatively discover what it is that they have in common. But just when it seems something beautiful might emerge, the opposite appears.

For media information contact Jenny Sharif at Kate Bowe PR  
E: [jenny@katebowepr.ie](mailto:jenny@katebowepr.ie); T: +353 (0)1 671 3672; M: +353 (0)86 087 3408

*The Magic Tree* is an exploration into human behaviour at a time when humanity seems determined to endlessly repeat the mistakes of the past. It looks at why good people are capable of doing bad things and asks if love alone can save us. Produced by Cork Midsummer Festival and The Bell Table Arts Centre in association with The Granary Theatre, Project Arts Centre and Culture Ireland.

--

The Irish premiere of ***Braakland*** will tell, in sober, penetrating images, a tale of nine figures wandering about a forgotten land. They surrender to the laws of living and dying, without defense. Is this something that they have chosen or merely failed to escape? Award-winning director Lotte Van den Berg was inspired by the novels of J M Coetzee when making this astonishing piece of site-specific theatre. A performance without words, *Braakland* makes you feel the violence, the desolation and the poetry of Coetzee's work.

--

Cork Midsummer Festival is delighted to partner Junction Festival and Earagail Arts Festival, Donegal in bringing to Ireland the 2007 Tarrega prize winning spectacle ***Sensazione*** – a theatrical fairground by Belgian companies **Laika** and **Time Machine**. Once through the gateway the audience, transported to a world of fairground folk with fantastic tales, are free to roam, following the performers from location to location and enjoying the array of custom fairground rides all made from recycled materials. In the true spirit of climate change all the energy to operate the rides comes from the patrons of the funfair... even the lighting. A globascope, a ferris wheel, a merry-go-round, or a visit to the fairground fortune teller, are all activities on offer... the funfair, the carnival, theatre and circus all rolled into one fantastic spectacle that is *Sensazione*

--

**Corcadorca** will thrill audiences with ***The Hairy Ape*** by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning Eugene O'Neill. Yet to be staged in Ireland, the play will be brought to you by the same team who presented the outstanding *Woyzeck* in 2007 and will be another not-to-be-missed production from this innovative theatre company.

--

The Abbey Theatre will present Conor McPherson's celebrated play ***The Seafarer*** at the Cork Opera House as part of the Cork Midsummer Festival. Directed by Jimmy Fay and starring Don Wycherley, Liam Carney, George Costigan, Phelim Drew and Maelíosa Stafford, *The Seafarer* explores the demons in the lives of broken men.

--

Internationally acclaimed contemporary artist **Spencer Tunick** will be offering the chance of a lifetime to become part of his first back to back city art project taking place in Cork and Dublin this June. Multiple groups of nude participants will be photographed outdoors by Tunick as part of his series of installations that have previously taken place in cities around the world including New York, Amsterdam and Mexico City. Dublin Docklands Development Authority and Cork Midsummer Festival are delighted to present the first Irish installation by this celebrated artist. Participants must register at [www.spencertunickireland.ie](http://www.spencertunickireland.ie) to take part in the installations.

--

For more information contact the **Cork Midsummer Festival** office:

Civic Trust House, 50 Pope's Quay, Cork

**T:** 021 421 5131

**E:** [info@corkfestival.com](mailto:info@corkfestival.com)

**W:** [www.corkfestival.com](http://www.corkfestival.com)

For media information contact Jenny Sharif at Kate Bowe PR  
E: [jenny@katebowepr.ie](mailto:jenny@katebowepr.ie); T: +353 (0)1 671 3672; M: +353 (0)86 087 3408