

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 6pm WEDNESDAY April 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2008**

## **MAKING EXCITING THEATRE AT HOME AND ABROAD**

### **Druid announces plans for 2008**

**Druid** sets out to consolidate and expand its reputation as a major force in theatre nationally and internationally in 2008. Highlight events on its programme this year include the company's US premiere of *THE WALWORTH FARCE*; the English language premiere of *THE NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM* for Galway Arts Festival which will tour to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe; an Irish and UK tour of *THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN*, and a North American tour of *THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD* and *THE SHADOW OF THE GLEN*.

**Druid** is also delighted to announce that it will carry out a major refurbishment of its premises in Chapel Lane, Galway.

Building on the success of Druid's 2007 theatre season, which attracted close to 35,000 theatre-goers over the course of 79 performances, Druid is looking forward to its most ambitious and wide reaching season. Anticipated capacity audiences of 50,000 from Ireland, the UK and coast to coast in North America - '08 is shaping up to be a stand-out year with 213 performances lined up for 26 venues.

Commenting on Druid's latest projects, Artistic Director, Garry Hynes said: *"It's a very exciting year for Druid with the refurbishment of our much loved home in Chapel Lane, a fantastic Enda Walsh season, the Druid debuts, performances in Ireland, the UK and the US and finally working with Martin again. Martin McDonagh is excited at the prospect of Hynes' vision for THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN saying "I am so happy to be working with Druid again. It'll be good to get back to basics"*.

Hynes' disappointment at having to postpone Druid's plans to present Enda Walsh's two companion pieces in repetition because of lack of funding in 2007 is more than compensated for this year. *"It's terrific because of its success that The Walworth Farce will be playing New York; we will also be premiering two new one acts by Enda as well as The New Electric Ballroom. We are giving an unprecedented commitment to the new work of one writer and we are very proud to do so.*

Speaking about the American Premiere of *The Walworth Farce* in New York, Susan Feldman from St. Anne's Warehouse where the production will take place said: *"Ever since I saw The Walworth Farce at the Edinburgh Festival last summer, I have been so excited to be bringing Druid to St. Ann's Warehouse this April, Americans love a hilarious, dark Irish tale. (Is there any other kind!?), and this cast is not to be missed. The Walworth Farce will mark a wonderful return for Druid to New York – following DruidSynge at the Lincoln Center and their earlier productions of Lonesome West and Beauty Queen of Leenane on Broadway"*.

Details of Druid's 2008 programme are as follows:

- ***My Brilliant Divorce*** Irish Spring Tour 2008 – February / March
- ***The Walworth Farce*** in St. Ann's Warehouse, New York – April / May and The National Theatre, London in September
- ***The New Electric Ballroom*** at Galway Arts Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe – July / August
- ***The Cripple of Inishmaan*** in Galway and Dublin Theatre Festival followed by Irish and UK tour – September
- ***The Playboy of the Western World*** and ***The Shadow of the Glen*** on a North American Tour – October
- Refurbishment of Druid's Chapel Lane premises in Galway

**For further press information please contact:**

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## **Druid's Spring tour of *My Brilliant Divorce* with Deirdre O'Kane**

*"...timed to perfection, delivered with gusto, and performed with real emotional understanding."*  
**The Sunday Independent**

*"...what's being offered here is an opportunity to spend 80 minutes in a roomful of people who sound like they haven't laughed so much in ages."* **The Irish Times**

*"Deirdre and Druid a match made in heaven"* **The Irish Independent**

Following its hugely successful sell out tour last November, **My Brilliant Divorce** was back by popular demand for a 2008 Spring tour. Starring Deirdre O'Kane, this hilarious but poignant story is about Angela who has been recently deserted by her accountant husband for a younger model. She finds herself adrift in a sea of weird sexual encounters, sneaky solicitors, phone-in counsellors, a bad case of hypochondria and the spectre of poverty.

### **2008 SPRING TOUR DATES:**

18 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> February:	Town Hall Theatre Galway
25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> February:	Cork Opera House
28 <sup>th</sup> February-1 <sup>st</sup> March:	Dunamais Arts Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> March:	Siamsa Tire
6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> March:	Limerick Millennium Theatre

## **American Premiere of *The Walworth Farce*, 16th April – 4th May**

### **St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, New York**

Druid's production of **The Walworth Farce** by Enda Walsh will have its American premiere on 17<sup>th</sup> April at St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, New York. The company achieved unprecedented success at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2007 where the production won the Fringe First award. This critically acclaimed stand-out production combines frantic madcap slapstick with deeper, darker concerns and delivers an acting tour-de-force.

St. Ann's Warehouse is an internationally respected theatre which has consistently commissioned, produced and presented an eclectic range of innovative theatrical works as well as presenting the cream of musicians from a rich mix of musical backgrounds.

They present work that is tough, raw and thought-provoking and have built a strong and loyal audience, where Druid anticipates a welcome response.

## **English language premiere of The New Electric Ballroom – July 2008**

### **Galway Arts Festival - July 2008**

Druid will present the English language premiere of **The New Electric Ballroom** by Enda Walsh in the Galway Arts Festival in July 2008. As part of its strategic objective to develop international audiences for productions of new Irish writing, this exciting new work, by one of Ireland's finest writers, will also be presented at the home of new writing in The Traverse Theatre as part of the 2008 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. *The New Electric Ballroom* will be directed by Enda himself and is very much a companion piece to *The Walworth Farce*. Druid has secured generous support from Culture Ireland for this venture as well as for its other international work.

## **Tour of The Cripple of Inishmaan - September – November 2008**

### **Town Hall Theatre, Galway; Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival, followed by Irish and UK tours**

In the autumn, Garry Hynes will direct Martin McDonagh's **The Cripple of Inishmaan**, which will reunite director and writer for the first time in many years and revive a unique relationship between Druid and McDonagh which created such ground-breaking work in the past. **The Cripple of Inishmaan** will open in the Town Hall Theatre, Galway in September before transferring to the Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival in October. Then it will go on an Irish tour to include Cork, Ennis, Letterkenny, Tralee, Portlaoise, Longford, as well as several weeks touring in the United Kingdom

## **US Tour of The Playboy of the Western World and Shadow of the Glen**

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| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> October:   | Colwell Playhouse, Champagne Urbana, Illinois                        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> October:  | The Roda Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley<br>California |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> October: | Freud Playhouse, UCLA Live, Los Angeles                              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> October: | Terrace Theatre, The Kennedy Centre, Washington DC                   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October: | Memorial Hall, Chapel Hill, North Carolina                           |

Druid has been working with leading US theatre presenter, David Eden on a unique double-bill of **The Playboy of the Western World** and **The Shadow of the Glen** by John Millington Synge - two plays at the core of the highly acclaimed **DruidSynge**. These productions will be presented in some of the most prestigious theatres in North America in October this year.

Throughout 2008, Druid will continue its commitment to bring ground-breaking theatre to the world stage and truly engage the hearts and minds of its audiences.

### **Refurbishment of Druid's Chapel Lane premises in Galway**

Druid was recently awarded €150,000 from Galway City Council to help complete the matching funding necessary to begin the refurbishment of the theatre at Chapel Lane. This will allow the company to draw down funds secured from the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism previously secured under the Government's ACCESS capital fund. The tendering and planning stages are currently being completed and a contractor will be appointed in the coming weeks. The plan is to insulate, sound-proof and re-roof the rehearsal and performance spaces and to undertake and complete this work in the current calendar year – so no more buckets in the ceiling!

#### **For further press information please contact:**

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