

axis, Ballymun presents  
**Our National Games**

by Gerard Humphreys

Directed by Ray Yeates

\*\*\*\*\*

How many of us, if asked to choose between our careers and participating in an injustice, would resign our positions rather than choose to survive?

**Our National Games** is a play of betrayal, betrayal of ideals, aspirations and people.

Every Irish generation faced its own challenges, and how we responded to those challenges shaped us as a nation. This striking new play brings to life the events surrounding one of the most high profile and dramatic events in Irish history – The Arms Crisis.

Director of **Our National Games**, Ray Yeates commented: *“This project interested me because it is a radical criticism of Ireland historically and, by implication, to the present day. It questions our courage and finds us wanting”*

In 1969 police attacks on civil rights activists in the North of Ireland caused major disturbances that threatened to engulf the Republic. Irish Army officer, Captain James Kelly, was catapulted into the limelight in 1970 when charged with illegally importing arms to Ireland for use in the defence of working class nationalist areas in the North. The event led to what became known as The Arms Crisis.

**Our National Games** explores the concept of political and military leadership, loyalty to past principles and the survival of the State as the key players, Minister Charles Haughey and Captain James Kelly, were put on trial.

Did this failure of decisive leadership partly shaped the history of the 30 years which followed, condemning another generation of young Irish people to violence and emigration?

Nearly 40 years on, we revisit the allegations behind the Arms Crisis, witnessing the power of the State and the price paid by those who would not yield to it.

\*\*\*\*\*

A debate with guest speakers will be held after each performance from June 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

## About the Author:

Educated at Colaiste Mhuire in Dublin, Gerard Humphreys first came in contact with theatre through school plays under Tomás Mac Anna. He pursued his interest in drama with An Taibhdhearc in Galway and the Little Theatre in Athlone.

His first play “Éiric” was directed by Darach Mac Con Iomaire in An Taibhdhearc in Galway in 2000. “ Geasa” his second and award winning play was directed by Ray Yeates and staged in **axis** in 2004. “Not in my Name” dealing with war in Iraq was staged in the Ireland Institute in 2007.

A graduate of the Military College, Gerard served at UNIFIL Headquarters in Lebanon in 1984/5 and with an infantry Battalion in Lebanon in 1989. His first book about a tour of duty with the United Nations “Clocha Ceangailte” was published in 1994 and won an Oireachtas prize. He currently practises as a barrister.

## Cast and Crew

Captain Kelly	Eamonn Hunt
Sargeant Krinnion	Michael Judd
Major Dully	Brendan Laird
Captain Daly	Simon Keogh
Orla Kelly	Céire O’ Donoghue

Author	Gerard Humphreys
Director	Ray Yeates
Set Design	Robert Ballagh
Lighting Design	Conleth White
Costume Design	Marie Tierney
Sound Design	Mark O’ Brien

## **axis** booking

For booking or information call (01) 883 2100 or email [info@axis-ballymun.ie](mailto:info@axis-ballymun.ie)  
Box Office is open weekdays from 9am – 5pm and for 90 minutes before events.

**Dates** 26<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> June @ 8.00pm

Performances take place at axis from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May and from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Performance takes place at The Market Place Theatre Armagh on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

## **Venues:**

<b>axis</b> , Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9	The Market Place Theatre Armagh
<b>Booking</b> (01) 883 2100	<b>Booking</b> +44 (0) 28 3752 1821
<b>Tickets</b> €15/12	<b>Tickets</b> £12/10

For more press information please contact Kate Bowe / David McCadden / Niamh Queeney in Kate Bowe PR on 01-6713672 or [kate@katebowepr.ie](mailto:kate@katebowepr.ie) / [david@katebowepr.ie](mailto:david@katebowepr.ie) / [niamh.queeney@katebowepr.ie](mailto:niamh.queeney@katebowepr.ie)