

Press Release 21st April 2008

Walworth Creates Major Buzz in New York

*“Directed with unfaltering brazenness by Mikel Murfi in a style that walks the line between madcap and stark, raving mad, the four wonderful performers here make **The Walworth Farce** feel like a homecoming for all those who have felt trapped by the way their families rewrite history.”*

Ben Brantley, New York Times

*“...impending doom doesn't stop the **Farce** from being horribly funny.”*

Sam Thielman, Variety

*“**The Walworth Farce** is as brilliant an original as you are likely to see in the theater this year.” Joy Goodwin, *The New York Sun**

The Walworth Farce recently made its American premiere when it opened at St. Ann's Warehouse - New York's go-to space for cutting-edge theatrical offerings - and is creating a major buzz Stateside with a glowing review by Ben Brantley in the New York Times.

Following the critically acclaimed performances at Traverse at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2007 where the production won the prestigious Fringe First award, Druid now plays St. Ann's Warehouse with a stunning play by one of Ireland's finest young playwrights before it heads to London's National Theatre in September.

Commenting on Druid's recent success in New York, Artistic Director, Garry Hynes said *“we're absolutely thrilled with the New York Times review and with the great reaction from audiences over here. We always knew we had a fantastic show and it's tremendous to take a play this far and to get such a positive response. It first premiered in Galway in 2006, toured to Cork and Dublin, won a Fringe First in Edinburgh in 2007 and now a five star review in The New York Times - it's great news for Enda Walsh, our brilliant team and for Irish theatre generally”*

Enda Walsh's plays have contributed significantly to the ongoing interest in new Irish theatrical writing around the world and his plays have been translated and performed worldwide.

The US Premiere of Enda Walsh's remarkable play combines hilarious moments with shocking realism and delivers an achingly tender insight into what can happen when we become stuck in the stories we tell ourselves about our lives. Delivering an acting tour-

de-force, this work uses the story of a family endlessly re-enacting a farcical, false version of their past as a metaphor for a country telling lies about itself.

The cast features Denis Conway as Dinny, Tadhg Murphy as Sean, Garrett Lombard as Blake and Mercy Ojelade as Hayley. Directed by Mikel Murfi, the production features set design by Sabine Dargent and lighting design by Paul Keogan.

On seeing the production in Edinburgh, St. Ann's Warehouse Artistic Director Susan Feldman said, "*I left amazed that the writer, the director, and these actors could make me laugh so much and so often, even as the truth is gradually revealed beneath the theatrics.*"

About St. Ann's Warehouse

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 they have built a strong and loyal audience. It has become the home for the American avant-garde and international companies of stature. The New York Times recently acknowledged St. Ann's Warehouse for walking "*the creative line where the sharpest edges are cut.*"

The Walworth Farce opened at St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, New York on April 15th and runs until May 4th.

For more details on *The Walworth Farce*, please visit www.druid.ie

This production is proudly supported by Culture Ireland

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