



Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival
in association with Irish Arts Center, New York

Dating Amber

An alternative love story

written by **David Freyne**

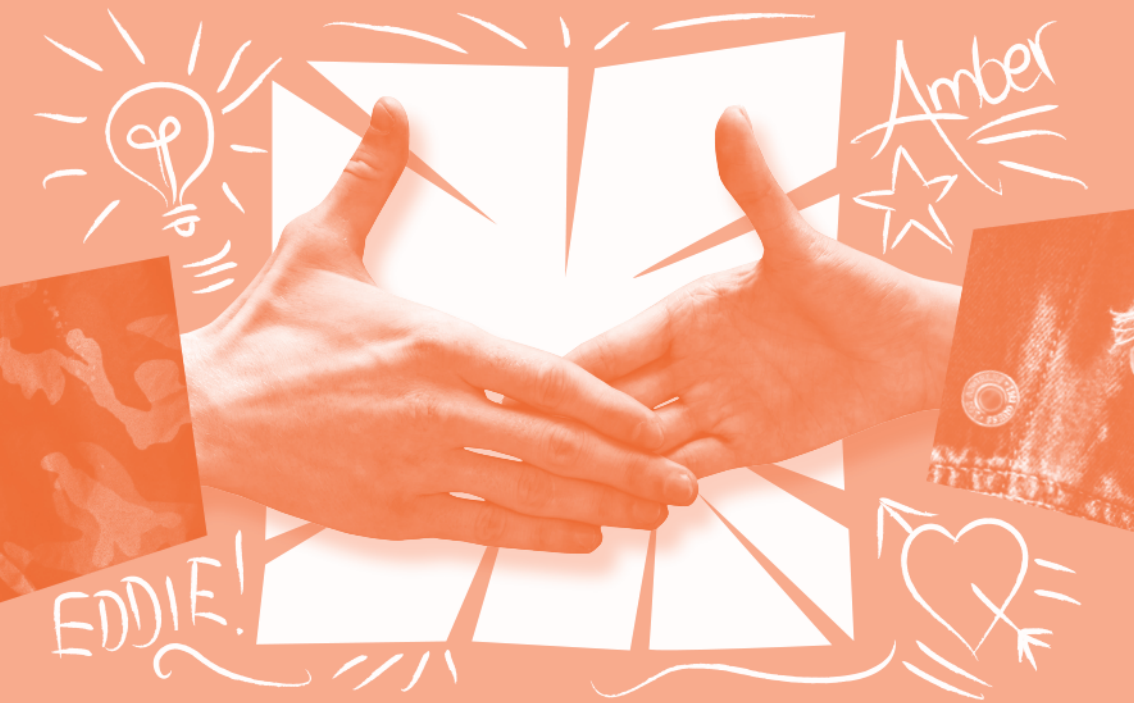
directed and co-created by **Des Kennedy**

music and lyrics by **Katie Richardson**

O'DONOGHUE THEATRE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL 2025





ABOUT THE SHOW

Ireland, 1995. Mary Robinson is President, the country is on the brink of a divorce referendum, and sex is something you get taught by the Sisters of the Holy Faith.

17 year old Eddie is shy, sensitive, and seriously stressed. He wants to be in the Army just like his dad. 17 year old Amber is fearless, ferocious and an antifascist.

She is counting the days until she can escape to London. They couldn't be more different, except for one thing—they are both hiding the same secret. So Amber

and Eddie make an arrangement that will help them impress their parents and silence the bullies. How long can they keep up the pretence? What happens if feelings get in the way? Can Eddie stop having horny dreams about his maths teacher Mr. Sweeney? *Dating Amber* is a teenage queer love story about beards, bodies and learning to be brave.

With an original score packed with punk, pop and 90s grunge, this work in progress sharing is a sneak peek at a joyful new musical about coming of age and coming out.



LANDMARK



Galway International
Arts Festival

IRISH ARTS CENTER

CREATIVE TEAM

Eddie

Amber

Hannah

Ian

Jill, Sister Angela, Reporter and others

Cian, Kev, Jack and others

Tracey, Sarah and others

Sweeney, Liberties and others

Writer

Director and Co-Creator

Composer and Lyricist

Lighting Designer

Movement and Choreography

Dramaturg

Assistant Musical Director

Production Manager

Assistant Production Manager

Stage Manager

Costume Sourcing

Props

Illustrations

Sound Engineer

Venue Staff

Graphic Design

Programme Design

Producer | Landmark Productions

Producer | Galway International Arts Festival

Executive Director | Irish Arts Center

Director of Programming | Irish Arts Center

Associate Producer / Company Manager | Landmark

Marketing | Landmark Productions

Publicity

Aran Murphy

Orla Scally

Aoife Mulholland

Paul Reid

Clare Barrett

Charlie Reid

Lila Coleman

Sean Landau

David Freyne

Des Kennedy

Katie Richardson

Jack Knowles

Jennifer Rooney

Eleanor White

Matt Evans

Eamonn Fox

Annabelle Comer-Halliwell

Brendan Galvin

Shauna Ward

Síobhra O'Farrell

Paul Reid

Keeva O'Shea

Mike O'Halloran

Lucy Birmingham

Gareth Jones

Hilda Reid

Anne Clarke

Paul Fahy

Aidan Connolly

Rachael Gilkey

Jack Farrell

Hannah Morris

**Sinead O'Doherty |
O'Doherty Communications**

CREATIVES

David Freyne | Writer

David Freyne is a screenwriter and director from County Kildare, Ireland. He made his feature debut with *The Cured* starring Elliott Page, which won best horror feature at Fantastic Fest, before moving to comedy drama with his second feature, *Dating Amber*, a semi-autobiographical story shot in his hometown. The film stars Fionn O'Shea, Lola Petticrew and Sharon Horgan.

David has recently finished his third feature, *Eternity*, a romantic comedy for A24, which stars Elizabeth Olsen, Miles Teller, Callum Turner and Da'Vine Joy Randolph. It is due for release in Autumn 2025.

Des Kennedy | Director and Co-Creator

Des is the Artistic Director of the Everyman in Cork.

Credits as a director include *Making History* [The Everyman]; *Good Vibrations* [Lyric Theatre Belfast, Grand Opera House Belfast and Irish Arts Center New York] [New York Times Critic's Pick]; *Piaf* starring Camille O'Sullivan [Gate Theatre Dublin]; *Teenage Kicks* [Millennium Forum Derry]; *White Star Of The North* [Lyric Theatre Belfast/Theatre Clwyd Cymru]; *How The World Began* [Out of Joint], *God's Country* [Tinderbox Belfast]; *The Prophet Of Monto* [The Flea Off-Broadway]; *Woman and Scarecrow* [Solas Nua]; *Johnny Meister and The Stitch* [Mead Theatre Lab, Washington D.C.]; *Dying City* [Rough Magic Seeds] and *Scenes from the Big Picture* [Callan Theatre, Washington D.C.] which was

named one of the best 10 theater productions of the decade by Peter Marks at the Washington Post.

Associate Director credits include: *Harry Potter* and the *Cursed Child* [West End/Broadway/Melbourne/Toronto/San Francisco/Tokyo/Hamburg/Chicago]; *The Glass Menagerie* starring Cherry Jones [West End]; *Once* [West End/Dublin/Seoul]. In 2023 he was director of Little Amal's 5-day visit to Belfast.

Television credits include *The Girl at the Window* [BBC NI].

Katie Richardson | Composer and Lyricist

Katie is a composer, sound designer, music producer and performer working across stage, screen, live and immersive projects.

As a performer, she has worked and collaborated with musicians such as Foy Vance and Duke Special as well as supporting artists like Van Morrison, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Jesca Hoop, Bell X1, All Saints and many more. For several years she was a member of Choice nominated 'Pleasure Beach' with whom she toured the UK and Ireland.

Some of her recent composition projects include: *Shadowdock*—an immersive, large scale, outdoor sound and light show; *The Tragedy of Richard III* [Lyric Theatre]; *Good Vibrations* [Grand Opera House Belfast and Irish Arts Centre NYC transfer]; *Disco Dykes* by Stacey Gregg [Outburst Festival]; and *The New Electric Ballroom* [Gate Theatre].

Katie has recently been elected to sit on the Ivor's Academy Senate and is currently working on several exciting screen and stage projects for 2025 and beyond.

Jack Knowles | Lighting Designer

Recent theatre credits include *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *1536*, *Spring Awakening*, *Carmen Disruption* [Almeida Theatre]; *Sunset Boulevard* [Broadway/Savoy Theatre]; *Two Strangers* [Carry a Cake Across New York] [American Repertory Theatre/Criterion Theatre/Kiln Theatre]; *London Tide*, *Romeo and Julie*, *Top Girls*, *Barber Shop Chronicles*, *Cleansed* [National Theatre]; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Venice Preserved* [Royal Shakespeare Company]; *Patriots* [Broadway/Noël Coward Theatre/Almeida Theatre]; *Long Day's Journey Into Night* [Wyndham's Theatre]; *Best of Enemies* [Noël Coward Theatre]; *Caroline, or Change* [Broadway/Playhouse Theatre]; *Beginning* [Ambassador's Theatre/National Theatre]; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* [Gillian Lynne Theatre/UK Tour]; *Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp. The End of History* [Royal Court]; *Private Lives*, *Committee* [Donmar Warehouse]; *Light Falls*, *The Producers*, *Happy Days* [Royal Exchange]; *Julie* [Internationaal Theater Amsterdam]; *4.48 Psychosis*, *Happy Days*, *Travelling on One Leg* [Schauspielhaus Hamburg]; *Salt of the Earth* [Venice Biennale]; *The Night Train* [Schauspiel Köln]; and *Lungs* [Schaubühne Berlin].

Opera credits include *La Bohème* [Göteborgsoperan]; *The Seven Deadly Sins* / *Bluebeard's Castle* [Teatro Colón].

Awards for his work on *Sunset Boulevard* include Tony Award for Best Lighting

Design of a Musical, Olivier Award for Best Lighting Design, Drama Desk Award for Best Lighting Design of a Musical, WhatsOnStage Award for Best Lighting Design. He was also awarded the Knight of Illumination Award for *Barber Shop Chronicles*.

Jennifer Rooney | Movement and Choreography

Jennifer is a choreographer and movement director with over 25 years' experience.

Her TV and film credits include *Derry Girls* [series 2 and 3], *How to Get to Heaven from Belfast* [Series 1], *World on Fire* [series 2], *Old Friends and Other Days* [Northern Ireland Opera], *Flight* [BBC and One Dance UK] and *Lark* [NI Screen].

Musical Theatre credits include *Murder for Two* [The MAC], *Fun Home* and *Piaf* [Gate, Dublin], *Good Vibrations* [Lyric Belfast and IAC New York], *Into the Woods* [West Australian Opera and Northern Ireland Opera].

Opera credits include *Eugene Onegin*, *The Juniper Tree* and *La Bohème* [Northern Ireland Opera], *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *L'elisir d'amore* [Diva Opera].

Her Associate Movement Director credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* [Palace Theatre London], *Once* [Coex Theatre Seoul], *Truth* [Helen Chadwick Company, UK Tour], *Once* [Olympia Theatre, Dublin and Charlotte Theatre, Seoul], and Resident Movement Director credits include *Once* [Phoenix Theatre, London] and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* [Palace Theatre, London].

Eleanor White | Dramaturg

Eleanor is a dramaturg and script consultant from Dublin. She is currently Development Executive at Deadpan Pictures.

Prior to joining the Deadpan team in 2022, Eleanor was Literary Manager at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, where she drove all aspects of the commissioning process and the development of new writers of all levels. Work for the Traverse includes *Wilf*, *This is Paradise*, *Still*, *The Monstrous Heart* and *Crocodile Fever*, in addition to many developmental readings and work-in-progress sharings.

Other credits as Dramaturg include *The Hare* [Once Off Productions and Cairde

Arts Festival], *The Saviour* [Landmark Productions], *The Country Girls* [Abbey Theatre], *Richard III* [as Associate Dramaturg, Druid Theatre Company].

She is currently acting as Dramaturg on another new musical in development: *Lourdes! The Musical!* [Xnthy Ltd].

Eleanor has been a script reader for a number of leading UK and Irish companies and has worked in the literary departments of Irish Arts Center and Signature Theatre Company in New York. She was the inaugural recipient of Druid's prestigious Marie Mullen Bursary.

CAST

Aran Murphy

Aran made his acting debut playing the title character in Dead Centre's *Hamnet*, written and directed by Bush Moukarzel and Ben Kidd; the show opened in Dublin before touring to London, New York, Boston, Brisbane and Hong Kong.

He will soon appear in the leading role of Rick in Taika Waititi's feature film adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara And The Sun*, opposite Jenna Ortega, Amy Adams and Steve Buscemi.

Orla Scally

Orla is an actor and singer from West Cork. They studied Drama Performance at Technological University Dublin and hold an MFA in Professional Acting from London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Theatre credits include *Beards* [New Theatre]; *Creatures of Habit* [Cork Opera House]; *The Summer I Robbed a Bank* [Everyman Theatre Cork]; *Peter Pan* and *Fun Home* [Gate Theatre]; and *Strike!* [Southwark Playhouse].

Aoife Mulholland

Aoife is an actor, singer and musician from Salthill, Galway who studied BA Music in UCD, and Masters in Acting from Central School of Speech and Drama.

Theatre credits include *The Borrowers* and *Piaf* [Gate Theatre]; *The Sound of Music* [London Palladium]; *Chicago* [Cambridge Theatre, London]; *Legally Blonde* [Savoy Theatre, London]; and *Chess* [Royal Albert Hall, London].

TV credits include *Harry Wild* [Acorn TV] and *How do you Solve a Problem like Maria* [BBC].

Cast recordings include *Legally Blonde* [original West End cast]. She was lead vocalist in *Marty in the Evening* [National Concert Hall and Wexford Opera House] and *The Sound of Hollywood* [NCH].

Paul Reid

Paul's most recent and notable credits include *Leonard and Hungry Paul* [BBC]; *The Rainmaker*, based on the novels by John Grisham and directed by Russell Lee Fine for Lionsgate; *Power Ballad*, directed by John Carney; and the part of Inspector Bullivant alongside David Thewlis in *Sherlock & Daughter*, directed by Bryn Higgins; *Power Ballad*, directed by John Carney; *Derry Girls* for Channel 4 and *Hatrick*; Kate Dolan's horror feature *You Are Not My Mother*, and the horror feature *The Ritual*, directed by David Bruckner for The Imaginarium.

His extensive stage credits include *Dublin By Lamplight* directed by Annie Ryan [Corn Exchange], and notably the part of Gar [Public] in *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* directed by Lyndsey Turner at the Donmar Warehouse.

Clare Barrett

Clare is an award-winning actress who has worked for all the major theatre companies in Ireland. Her recent theatre appearances include *The United States vs Ulysses* [Irish Arts Center], *Emma* and *The Quare Fellow* [Abbey Theatre], *The Shadow of a Gunman* [Druid], *Every Brilliant Thing* [Decadent and Galway Arts Centre], *Gold in the Water* [Project] and *Medicine*, written and directed by Enda Walsh for Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival, which also appeared at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Festival and St Ann's Warehouse in New York and received three Irish Times Theatre Award nominations.

Clare's recent screen work includes *Fréwaka* [Cine4/Wildcard], *Only Child* [BBC1], *Sisters* [Peer Pressure/RTE/Merman], *Wild Mountain Thyme*, and independent films *The Last Right*, *Run and Jump*, *Sacrifice* and *Dark Touch*. She also appeared as Nurse Bronagh in RTÉ's *Fair City*.

Charlie Reid

Charlie played the role of Mully opposite Olivia Colman in the feature film *Joyride* directed by Emer Reynolds. He can also be seen playing Brad in Ariane Labed's debut feature *September Says*.

Further credits include Malcolm in two seasons of *Nova Jones* [CBBC], the voice role of Peat in an animated film *Tally Ho* [Fabrique D'Images and Kapers Animation]. He made his professional stage debut in 2022 playing the role of Seanin in the musical *Parcel from America* [Smock Alley].

Lila Coleman

Lila Coleman attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art from 2021-2023 and holds a Foundation Diploma in Acting and Theatre from The Lir Academy.

On stage, Lila has most recently been seen in *The Visit*, directed by Lyndsey Turner [LAMDA], and as Princess of France /Dull in Eoghan Carrick's *Love's Labours Lost* at The Lir Academy.

Recent Film & TV credits include *The Body in the Lake* [Clapperboard Studios], *Falling for the Life of Alex Whelan* [Divilment Pictures/RTÉ] and *Normal People* [BBC/Hulu].

Sean Landau

Sean is a 2024 graduate of the Lir Academy. He most recently filmed *Hope Street* [Season 5] for the BBC and BritBox, directed by Sean Glynn.

On stage he has appeared in *A Streetcar Named Desire* directed by Cathal Cleary at Smock Alley Theatre [Once Off Productions]; played the role of Stace in *Beards* directed by Ultan Pringle at the New Theatre [LemonSoap Productions]; and the role of Matthew in *Lourdes! The Musical!* directed by Claire O'Reilly. He has also worked on the development of projects including *The Boy* by Marina Carr [Abbey Theatre].

Thank You

Ian-Lloyd Anderson, Charlotte McCurry, Town Hall Theatre, Anna Walsh and all at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, and all the volunteers of Galway International Arts Festival.