

Galway International Arts Festival

Dressing Room

written and directed by **Enda Walsh**

design by **Paul Fahy**

featuring the voice of **John Olohan**



BANK OF IRELAND THEATRE,
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

13-26 JULY

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL 2026





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*I woke up before she did. The morning pushing through the curtain.
My feet on the carpet and lifting me upwards. The brain switchin'
on and remindin' me of who I was, and where I was, and what I was
waking up into. All in that order they were answered. And there I
was. Another day.*

A 70 year-old man and coach of the Under 13's Gaelic Football team has his quiet life upended. He walks through their town to the football pitch and the dressing room trying to understand this new future he's been handed.

A new work in the evolving *Rooms* series, this immersive installation draws audiences into intimate interior worlds shaped by Enda Walsh's texts and Paul Fahy's atmospheric design.



ENDA WALSH, JOHN OLOHAN AND PAUL FAHY

CREATIVE TEAM

Design **Paul Fahy**

Sound Design **Helen Atkinson**

Master Carpenters & Draughtsman **Dave O'Dowd**

Carpenters **Simon Kennedy, Arthur Bell**

Scenic Artists **Craig Starkey, Liz Smeaton**

Props **Ciara O'Reilly**

Technicians **Susan Collins**

Production Manager **Adam Fitzsimons**

CEO Galway International Arts Festival **John Crumlish**

Producer & Artistic Director Galway International Arts Festival **Paul Fahy**



Enda Walsh

Writer/Director

Enda Walsh is a Tony and multi award-winning Irish playwright. His work has been translated into over 20 languages and has been performed internationally since 1998. His recent work include *Safe House* [2024] Abbey Theatre; *Medicine* [2021], produced by Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival; *The Same* [2017], produced by Corcadorca; *Lazarus* [2016] with David Bowie; *Arlington* [2016], *Ballyturk* [2014] and *Misterman* [2012], produced by Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival; and the operas *The First Child* [2021], *The Second Violinist* [2017] and *The Last Hotel* [2015] produced by Landmark Productions and Irish National Opera.

His other plays include *Once* [2011]; *The New Electric Ballroom* [2009], *Penelope* [2010] and *The Walworth Farce* [2006] with Druid Theatre Company; *Chatroom* [2005] with the National Theatre; *The Small Things* [2005] with Paines Plough; *Bedbound* [2000] with Dublin Theatre Festival; and *Disco Pigs* [1996] with

Corcadorca. Most recently, he wrote the book for the musical adaptation of the 2016 film *Sing Street* by John Carney which opens at the Huntington Theatre, Boston in August.

For the past sixteen years he has been supported by, and shown work at, St. Ann's Warehouse in New York. He has made an ongoing series of immersive theatre installations, *Rooms* with Paul Fahy, for Galway International Arts festival including this year's *Dressing Room*.

His film work includes *I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning* [2026]; *Die My Love* [2025]; *Ish* [2025] co-written with director Imran Perretta; *Small Things Like These* for Big Things Films; *Disco Pigs* for Temple Films and Renaissance; *Hunger* for Blast and FILM4; and *The Last Hotel* which was made into a film for Sky Arts, produced by Brink Films, Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera. In 2014, he received an honorary doctorate from University of Galway.



John Olohan

Actor

John Olohan is one of Ireland's best-known actors, with an acclaimed career spanning stage and screen.

Recent film credits include the role of Dermot in the feature film *Landlines*, directed by Tristan Heanue. He most recently appeared on stage as Michael James Flaherty in *The Playboy Of The Western World*, directed by Aaron Monaghan for Livin' Dred Theatre Company, which toured throughout Ireland. Other recent theatre credits include Sean Dóta in *Sive*, directed by Andrew Flynn for The Gaiety Theatre, and Janet Moran's *Quake*, presented as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival.

John was a member of the Abbey Theatre Company for ten years and has enjoyed a long association with Druid Theatre Company, appearing in acclaimed productions of *The Seagull*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *DruidMurphy*, *DruidGregory* and *DruidShakespeare*.

His performance as Byrne in Druid's production of *Big Maggie* earned him the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor.

His extensive screen work includes the role of The Shah in Pat Collins' adaptation of John McGahern's *That They May Face The Rising Sun*, followed by the feature film *Lies We Tell*. Television credits include *Borderline*, *Harry Wild* and the Netflix series *Bodkin*.

Most recently, John completed filming the short film *What Now*, written and directed by his son, Jack Olohan.



Paul Fahy

Producer and Designer

Paul Fahy is the Artistic Director of Galway International Arts Festival [GIAF] a position he has held since 2005. Prior to this he worked as a freelance arts publicist and producer from 2000–2005.

He studied art at the RTC Galway [now Atlantic Technological University]. He programmed and produced the Cúirt International Festival of Literature, in 1998 and 1999 and was one of the key visual arts curators for Galway Arts Centre from 1990–1999.

He was the Consultant Programme Director with Kilkenny Arts Festival from 1999–2003 for whom he also directed and designed a major street theatre spectacle *The Art of the Game*.

Since being appointed Artistic Director of GIAF the Festival has become a producing-led festival forging close creative partnerships with Irish artists and producers most notably Enda Walsh, Hughie O'Donoghue, Olwen Fouéré, John Gerrard and Landmark Productions.

GIAF's productions have toured extensively to some of the world's leading theatres, festival and biennales in New York, London, Edinburgh, Adelaide and Sydney amongst others.

Under Fahy's tenure GIAF has worked with leading Irish and international visual artists with the Festival repurposing, reimaging and building major temporary art galleries in Galway.

Fahy has created twelve immersive theatre installations with playwright and director Enda Walsh collectively known as *ROOMS*, all of which have premiered in Galway and toured to Washington, New York and the Barbican, London.

He received an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from University of Galway in 2017. He was also awarded a Chevalier, L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Government.