



Rosa Productions

The House Must Win

a new musical in development

based on the album *Evening Train*


written by **Mick Flannery**

directed by **Julie Kelleher**

O'DONOGHUE THEATRE,
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL 2025





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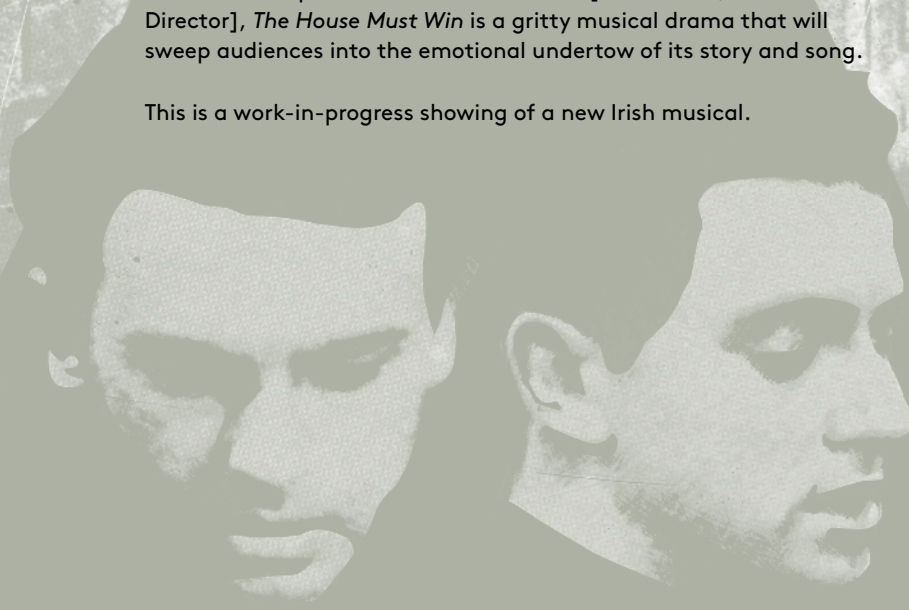
by **Mick Flannery**

On the western edge of Ireland, in the 1970s, two brothers live with the odds stacked against them. They take separate paths in a bid to lead the 'good' life, and try to honour the girl who has both their hearts.

The people of this town must figure out how to play the cards they've been dealt, in a world of backroom poker-playing, secrets and bribes, broken families and broken hearts.

The stage adaptation of Mick Flannery's extraordinary and acclaimed concept album *Evening Train* has been in development for a number of years. With music and book by Flannery, and under the musical supervision of Liam Robinson [Hadestown, Musical Director], *The House Must Win* is a gritty musical drama that will sweep audiences into the emotional undertow of its story and song.

This is a work-in-progress showing of a new Irish musical.



CAST & BAND

Grace

Frank

Luther

Sara

Rat

John

Paulie

Keys

Strings

Reeds

Bass

Drums

Guitars

Writer & Creator, Music & Lyrics

Director

Music Supervisor

Movement & Choreography

Music Director

Associate Music Director

Music Assistant

Producer

Company Manager

Stage Manager

Sound Engineer

Venue Staff

Graphic Design

Tabitha Smyth

Myles Feerick

Ferdia Walsh-Peelo

Polly Barrett

Fergal McElherron

Bryan Quinn

John McCarthy

Killian Browne

Shelley Soerensen

Matthew Berrill

Daniel Bodwell

Dominic Mullan

Alan Comerford

Mick Flannery

Julie Kelleher

Liam Robinson

Meadhbh Lyons

Killian Browne

Oisin Walsh-Peelo

Gavin Smith

Sheena Keane

Lindsay Hayes

Louisa Adamson

Sandra O'Mahony

Mike O'Halloran, Lucy Birmingham

Daniel Ledwell



Mick Flannery

Writer & Creator, Music & Lyrics

Mick Flannery is a multi-award-winning, double-platinum-selling singer-songwriter from Cork, widely regarded for his raw, emotive songwriting and compelling live performances.

His debut album *Evening Train* [2005], written while studying music and inspired by narrative songwriting, marked the beginning of a remarkable career. Flannery became the first Irish artist to win at the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville, receiving two top prizes.

His breakthrough came with *White Lies* [2008], which went platinum and was nominated for the Choice Music Prize. The album also earned him the Meteor Award for Best Irish Male. Subsequent releases, including *Red to Blue* [2012], *By the Rule* [2014], and *I Own You* [2016], solidified his reputation, each reaching the Irish Top 5. In 2019, his self-titled sixth studio album debuted at No. 1 on the Irish Album Charts—making him the first independent Irish artist in years to achieve that feat.

Flannery's work has been praised for its lyrical depth, and his latest projects continue to showcase a unique voice in Irish music, rooted in storytelling and rich in emotional honesty. *The House Must Win* is based on Mick's album *Evening Train*.



Julie Kelleher

Director

Julie Kelleher is a Theatre Director and Producer. She holds a BA and an MA in Drama & Theatre Studies from UCC and was the 2022–2023 Jerome Hynes Clore Leadership Fellow.

Directing credits include *Found* by Aideen Wylde [BrokenCrow/Cork Midsummer Festival]; *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh [The Everyman]; *Bluetooth* by Rachel Thornton [The Everyman]; *Autumn Royal* by Kevin Barry [The Everyman, associate director for remount]; *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel [The Everyman]; *The Factory Girls* by Frank McGuinness [The Everyman]; *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* by David Greig [The Everyman]; *Lovers* by Brian Friel [The Everyman] and *Mantle* by Ronan FitzGibbon [BrokenCrow].

Julie was Artistic Director/CEO at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray from 2020–2024 and Artistic Director of The Everyman, Cork from 2014–2020. She has a professional background in performance [acting and singing] and worked as an actor, director and producer with numerous Irish arts organisations and companies, including Painted Bird, Conflicted, BrokenCrow, Kinsale Arts Week, Cork Midsummer Festival, Hammergrin, Corcadorca, Meridian, Dublin Theatre Festival, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, The Performance Corporation, Gare St. Lazare, Once Off Productions, Landmark Productions, and Siren Productions.

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