

DLR MILL THEATRE PRESENTS

HAMILET

DIRECTED BY KATIE O'HALLORAN

5-27 OCTOBER



milltheatre.ie





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**Suddenly this defeat./This rain./The blues gone gray/and yellow/a terrible
amber./In the cold streets your warm body./ In whatever room your warm body./
Among all the people your absence./The people who are always not you./I have
been easy with trees too long./Too familiar with mountains./Joy has been a
habit./Now/suddenly/this rain.** – “Rain” by Jack Gilbert

While preparing to direct *Hamlet*, one of Horatio's lines ensnared my curiosity and ultimately inspired our creative team's realisation of the production: **“This bodes some strange eruption to our state”**. The world of *Hamlet* is a pressurised one. Each character is under pressure with the tight and unrelenting grasp, command and expectation set on them by another character, pressing them to take certain action and to obey. While the characters are navigating the pressure they feel as individuals, the physical space of Denmark is also constricted; Fortinbras has gathered a list of lawless resolute and is threateningly surrounding Denmark. A world closing in around its inhabitants cannot come to good.

Shakespeare's words do not belong to the past. Understanding that his writing must feel fresh and alive to the eyes and ears of today's audiences is crucial in approaching his plays. In viewing this script as a new piece of writing, I could see so much of our contemporary experience in it. Sometimes the world we live in does indeed seem full of injustice, threat, dishonesty; sometimes, as Marcellus says, there is something rotten in the world. Despite this, we continue to hope, to strive towards action, to seek ways of setting things right. Like the Prince of Denmark, we are puzzled and riddled with guilt when we “lose the name of action” in the face of all that disheartens us.

For a play in which grief is a central theme, that heaviness of heart is almost never discussed, interrogated or shown proper care between characters. Grief is a problem to be solved. To effectively care for a grieving person may be something humanity always struggles to learn and master. Is some level of destruction inevitable (or even necessary) in times of grief? How do we cope when we feel the weight and pressure of individual, national or global injustice?

Grief has the potential to make people dangerous. The ache that accompanies the loss of someone deeply loved can make the mourner feel utterly and uniquely alone. When one has suffered a great loss or is experiencing profound grief, only that individual can truly understand the pain they endure. This is the root of *Hamlet's* ever-growing inwardness. To be in grief is to be certain; to know someone in grief is to be in doubt. It is this clashing of certainty and doubt that fuels the action and contradictions in ***Hamlet***.

Katie O'Halloran

October 2023

CAST & CREW

CAST

Hamlet | **Tiernan Messitt-Greene**
Claudius | **Ruairí Lenaghan**
Gertrude | **Jenny Fennessey**
Polonius | **Karl Quinn**
Ophelia | **Isolde Fenton**
Laertes | **Kerril Kelly**
Ghost King/Gravedigger/King Player | **Jed Murray**
Horatio | **Darragh Feehely**
Guildenstern/Fortinbras | **Ben Waddell**
Rosencrantz | **Molly Whelan**
Female Cover | **Katherine Field**
Male Cover | **Matthew O'Brien**

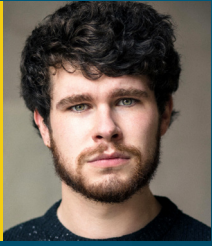
CREATIVES & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director | **Katie O'Halloran**
Set & Costume Design | **Louise Dunne**
Lighting Designer | **Colin Doran**
Sound Designer | **Cameron Macaulay**
Fight Director | **Jay Cosgrave**
Stage Manager | **Sarah Wiley**
Assistant Stage Manager | **Sarah Mooney**
Sound Operator | **Sofia Arteaga**
Set Builder | **Ste Bourke**
Chief Lx | **Kris Mooney**
Photography | **Ste Murray**
Vocals | **Eleri Ward and Fran Greene**

DLR MILL THEATRE

Artistic Director | **Kate Canning**
Theatre Manager | **Shona Ashmore**
Technical Manager | **Kris Mooney**
Lighting Operators | **Barry Donaldson**
and **Michelle Barry**
Box Office | **Bairbre Murray, Scarlet Short,**
Stephen Hennessy, and **Jill Kelly**
Social Media | **Ali Hardiman**
Bar Manager | **Tom Ronayne**
Bar Staff | **Una O'Regan** and **Liam Ryan**
Accounts | **Marian Lewis**
Production Assistant | **Jessica Graham**

Our thanks to Tallaght Theatre and Michael Lynchehaun for rehearsal space



TIERNAN MESSITT-GREENE **HAMLET**

Tiernan most recently filmed the role of Mark opposite Aoife Hinds in the film SWEDISH DEATH directed by Kristina Yee. On stage he most recently played the role of Ted in Billy Roche's THE CAVALCADERS, directed by Aaron Monaghan for Druid Theatre Company; and the part of Ray alongside Marion O'Dwyer, Mark Fitzgerald and Sarah Madigan in THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE directed by Ben Barnes. Just prior he worked on the development of the theatre production EVENING TRAIN, written by Ursula Rani Sarma and with music by Mick Flannery, directed by Séimí Campbell. Last year he filmed the role of Noah Henderson alongside Jane Seymour in the TV series HARRY WILD directed by Ronan and Rob Burke; and Claire Niererpraum's feature LUCKY IN LOVE alongside Allen Leech. His further credits include the role of Conor in ASKING FOR IT at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, The Gaiety Theatre Dublin, and The Everyman Cork. ASKING FOR IT was directed by Annabelle Comyn for Landmark Productions.



RUAIRÍ LENAGHAN **CLAUDIUS**

Ruairí is a Fermanagh native and graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting's full time programme. Most recently he has been seen in Season 2 of Netflix's Valhalla, as well as Revolutionary (dir. Katie O'Halloran) by Emilie Hetland and EMERGENCY by Sam Ford at Bewley's Café Theatre (dir. Michael James Ford). Other theatre credits include the title roles in Macbeth (2022, dir. Geoff O'Keefe) & Hamlet (2019, dir. Joe Dowling), 48 by Gemma Kane at Bewley's, new Irish musical Tír na nÓg by Shauna Carrick, the Irish premiere of Polly Teale's Brontë at Smock Alley Theatre, The Importance of Being Earnest and Othello (Mill Theatre Dundrum) and The Crown and The Red Cross, which was staged in the state apartments of Dublin Castle. Ruairí is currently reprising the role of Matthew, from the acclaimed sell out run of Oh, Brother at Dublin Fringe Festival 2022, on a national tour.



JENNY FENNESSY **GERTRUDE**

Jenny is an acting graduate from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. TV credits include Call the Midwife (BBC) and The Doireann Project and Seriously, Sinéad? (RTE). Theatre credits include Greg Doran's King Lear and Melly Still's Cymbeline (Royal Shakespeare Company), Richard Eyre's Liola (National Theatre, London), Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Nurse in Romeo and Juliet and Emilia in Othello (Mill Productions), A Life (Finborough Theatre), The Flags (Cork Arts Theatre, Garter Lane – Red 'n Blue Theatre Company) Lovesong (Garter Lane, Civic Theatre, Cork Arts Theatre – Red 'n Blue Theatre Company), There's Always Tomorrow and The Bus (Barnstorm Theatre Company), The Salvage Shop (Garter Lane), Riders to the Sea (Fractured Lines), King Lear, Macbeth and Othello (Theatre Royal). Jenny was one of the finalists for the Michael Bryant Verse Speaking Award at the National Theatre, London. She won the Waterford News and Star Green Room Best Supporting Actress award for her role as Ursula in The Flags. She is a very experienced voice over actor. Jenny is co-founder of Red 'n Blue Theatre Company. Their next production is John Morton's Taboo which begins November 21st at the Cork Arts Theatre.



KARL QUINN **POLONIUS/ENSEMBLE**

Karl is a Dublin based Theatre Maker with over twenty-five years' experience creating work nationally and internationally. He is currently exploring the application of live Motion Capture in VR and mixed reality theatre spaces with Performance Corporation. Following up on the success of Emperor 101 in Texas, Vancouver and Dublin we will present a WIP of our new XR show in DTF 2023. Also developing a new play, The Trolley Man which has been kindly supported by The Glens Centre (Manorhamilton) and Axis theatre (Dublin). Recent work includes Staging the Treaty, a recreation of Ireland's parliamentary debates on ending the War of Independence with the British Empire with multi-disciplinary theatre company Anu; a national tour of Breath (Carpet Theatre), a music play with Steve Wickham (The Waterboys); and Holding (ITV) a mini-series based on Graham Norton's novel, directed by Kathy Burke. International work includes SXSW, (USA), Washington DC (USA), Yukon and Vancouver (Canada), with The Performance Corporation; (Romania), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Wales (UK) with Carpet Theatre; London (UK) with Tall Tales and The Bush Theatre; Edinburgh (UK) with Yew Tree. In Ireland my work includes Actor (Fidget Feet, The Performance Corporation, Abbey Theatre, Rough Magic, Ark Theatre, Broken Talkers); Director (Crude Mechanicals, The Ould Fella, Trolly); Writer (Connected, Crude Mechanicals, Trolly); Devising (Aeneid, The Flood, Pigeon); Applied Drama Facilitator (Abbey Theatre, Globe College, Munich); Voice Over (RTE TV and Radio continuity).



ISOLDE FENTON OPHELIA

Isolde is an actor from Limerick. She trained with the Gaiety School of Acting from 2019 - 2021. In 2022, she was chosen out of 2,000 applicants to participate in the UK National Youth Theatre's Rep Company in London. Recent credits include Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Duke of York's Theatre, West End), Stacy in *Gone Too Far!* (Theatre Royal Stratford East) Bakkhai Ensemble in *Bakkhai* (NYT Holloway Road Theatre) Cheese in *Chalk & Cheese* (Smock Alley Theatre, self-penned) Juliet/Helena in *ShakesVR* (Smock Alley Theatre) and Rogue in *Rogue* (Smock Alley Theatre)



KERRIL KELLY LAERTES

Kerril is a graduate of both London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Samuel Beckett Centre at Trinity College Dublin. Roles at RADA include Eric in *Cyprus Avenue*, Anthony in *Sweeny Todd*, Rupert in *NSFW* and Sam Plowman in *Vincent in Brixton*. Other credits include Borrachio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), David in *Sondheim's Company* (Vanbrugh Theatre RADA), Ensemble in *Half Light* (Bombinate Theatre @ Dublin Fringe and First Fortnight Festivals) and Eugene in *Grease* the musical at the Gaiety Theatre.



JED MURRAY GRAVEDIGGER, GHOST, KINGPLAYER

Jed is a writer, director, actor and drama facilitator from Dublin City centre. Over the past fifteen years he has worked with a variety of groups from diverse backgrounds to develop pieces of theatre and film. As a performer he has been very fortunate, working with some very talented people on some fantastic projects such as 'The Boys of Foley St' (Anu), 'Game of Thrones', 'Quantico', 'Love Hate' and "Extra Ordinary". He is a member of the theatre company 'The Corps Ensemble.' When not working he can be found chopping logs or kayaking on the canal in Phibsboro!



DARRAGH FEEHELY HORATIO

Darragh is an actor from Cork. Among his most recent work includes *The Glass Menagerie* (Everyman Theatre), *An Old Song*, *Half Forgotten* (Abbey Theatre), *Staging the Treaty* (ANU) *The Flags* (Red 'n' Blue Theatre Company, for which he received a Waterford News Green Star Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor) and *The Book of Names* (ANU / Landmark Productions). He also worked as an understudy on productions of *Letters of a Country Postman* (Everyman Theatre) and *The Blackwater Lightship* (Verdant Productions). He is co founder and co Artistic Director of Full Measure Theatre alongside Grace Donnery and Katie O Halloran, their debut piece *Almost*, was written and performed by him. He graduated from the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2021.



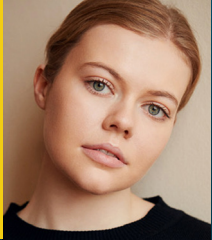
BEN WADDELL GUILDENSTERN/FORTINBRAS/ENSEMBLE

Ben is a 2020 graduate of The Lir Academy, where he received First Class Honours. Notable credits there include John Buchanan Jr in *Summer and Smoke* (dir. Joe Dowling), Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* (dir. Lynne Parker) Woodcutter and various in *Blood Wedding* (dir. Catriona McLaughlin) Professional stage credits include *Hand me down the Moon* at Dublin Fringe Festival (dir. Louise Lowe 2011), *Meeting Ghosts* in College Park at Trinity 16:16 Festival, *A Day Out* as part of Testemonies, *Balsamic Vignettes* at Edinburgh Fringe (2016) *A life in Theatre* at Smock Alley, *Boy's School* (2017), *Roderigo* in *Othello*, *Mercutio* in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Banquo* in *Macbeth* (Mill theatre, Dundrum 2021/22) . Professor Micheal Hayes in *Anu's Staging the Treaty* (dir. Louise Lowe 2022) and *That in This, That and the Other* (2022/2023). Screen credits include *The Man with the Hat* (official selection, Galway Film Fleadh, 2018), *Red Rock* (Virgin Media TV) and *Sad clown* in the music video for the Villagers' *So Simpatico* (2021).



MOLLY WHELAN ROSENCRANTZ/ENSEMBLE

Molly is an actor from Dublin. She graduated from The Lir Academy with a B.A. in Acting in 2021. Her most recent credits include *The Miller in Krabat* by Common Crow Theatre and *Rehearsal Performer in Good Sex* by Dead Centre and *Emilie Pine*. During her time at The Lir Molly's most memorable roles were *Brigit Murphy in Eclipsed* directed by Caroline Byrne, *Cassius in Julius Caesar* directed by Marc Atkinson Borrull and *The Defence Lawyer in Machinal* directed by Holly Griffith. Molly is fluent in French and has a decade of dance training in Ballet and Contemporary dance.



KATHERINE FIELD FEMALE COVER

Katherine is a past graduate of The Lir Academy, Ireland's National Academy of Dramatic Art. Katherine's theatre credits include *'Image of an Unknown Young Woman'* directed by Katie O'Halloran, *'Blood Wedding'* directed by Catriona McLaughlin, *'The Merchant of Venice'* directed by Lynne Parker and *'Anatomy of a Suicide'* directed by Tom Creed with The Lir Academy. Katherine also studied Shakespeare and classical texts in great depth whilst training at the Lir Academy, she worked on Productions of "ROMEO AND JULIET" playing 'The Nurse', "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" playing 'Old Gobbo' directed by Lynne Parker, and "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS" playing 'Luciana'. She is currently cast in *'The Night Caller'* (post-production) a 4 x 60 drama for Channel 5 directed by Irish director Diarmuid Goggins the series is being produced by the same team that was behind Netflix's highly acclaimed television drama *'WITNESS NUMBER THREE'* in which Katherine starred in as 'Dee'.



MATTHEW O'BRIEN MALE COVER

Matthew can currently be seen playing 'James Raffety' in RTE's soap drama "FAIR CITY". In post-production is Treasure Entertainment's feature film "KATHLEEN" which was directed by Eva Birthistle. Also in post-production is "BLACK CAB" a 4 x 60 dark drama for Channel 5 which although set in Liverpool was filmed in Dublin. Directed by Irish director Diarmuid Goggins the series is produced by Story Films. Screen credits also include 'Philip Turner' in Studio Atlantic's Victorian-era thriller "THE GATES" (CIFF) Directed by Stephen Hall, the BBC and Hulu TV series "CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS", Mopar & Subotica's thriller "RED ELECTION" (Viaplay), Lochlainn McKenna's award-winning short film "POCKETS", the lead role of 'Ed Smith' in Kevin Henry's feature film "SOULSMITH", the BBC television drama "RIPPER STREET 4", Oscar winning Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos's feature film "THE LOBSTER", Techno Wolf's IFB Signatures Short "BLIGHT" directed by Brian Deane who also directed Matthew ('Fitch') in his award winning short "VOLKSWAGON JOE". Theatre credits also include multiple roles in Mill Productions staging of Shakespeare's "MACBETH", the lead role of 'DOG / later SHARIK / later MR. SHARIK' in "HEART OF A DOG" by Éadaoin O'Donoghue which ran in Cork's Everyman Theatre and also in The Civic Theatre in Tallaght, and Mill Productions end of year productions "CINDERELLA" and "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" (The Mill Theatre, Dundrum).

KATIE O'HALLORAN DIRECTOR

Katie is a Dublin-based, interdisciplinary director from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has worked with Druid (Druid O'Casey, *The Last Return*), Irish National Opera (*Fidelio*, *Don Pasquale*, *Der Rosenkavalier*), Volya Theatre (*Revolutionary*), Dublin Youth Theatre (*Chatroom*), Aon Scéal Theatre/dlr Mill Theatre (*Tír na nÓg*), Dublin Fringe (*Eleanora Salter & the Monster from the Sea*, *The Perfect Immigrant*), the Lir Academy and Fishamble. Other Shakespeare directing credits include *Macbeth*, *Coriolanus* and *Twelfth Night*. She was the recipient of Druid's Marie Mullen Bursary in 2022 and a studio director with Irish National Opera for their 2023 season. Katie holds a BFA (Hons) in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and an MFA (Distinction) in Directing from The Lir Academy.

LOUISE DUNNE SET/COSTUME DESIGN

Lou is a Masters Graduate with Distinction from the Lir Academy of Performing Arts. She is a full time freelance set & costume designer for stage and film. Her recent work includes *The Mother of all The Behans* at The Olympia Theatre, Dublin and *Revolutionary* at The Konzerthaus in Norway. Her short film 'Licence for Nil' had its debut at The Galway Film Fleadh, in July. Lou's approach to design and her style, gives freedom to the actors and Director to play with and within their imagined world. She often takes one singular tangible item which serves as metaphor and grounding for the entire piece and builds the design upon this. A background in art education and graphic design underlines her understanding of communication and the importance of engagement with each audience.

COLIN DORAN LIGHTING DESIGN

Colin is a Lighting Designer from Wexford, with a Masters of Fine Arts in Stage Design (Lighting and Dramaturgy) from The Lir Academy. Recent design credits include 'Isla' by Tim Price (Verdant Productions & Four Rivers, Sublin Theatre Festival 2023), 'The Curious Case of Albert Cashier' (Quintessence Theatre, National Tour 2023), 'Tom Moran is a Big Fat Filthy Disgusting Liar' by Tom Moran (Dublin Fringe 2022, Edinburgh Fringe 2023), 'The Perfect Immigrant' by Samuel Yakura (Dublin Fringe 2022, National Tour 2023), 'The Last Stand' by Dominic Palmer (Four Rivers, Wexford Arts Centre 2023), 'Amongst Men' by Eoghan Rua Finn (Four Rivers, Wexford Arts Centre 2023), 'Romeo and Juliet' (Mill Theatre 2023), 'Unguarded' by Anthony Kinahan (Droichead Arts Centre 2022, An Tain 2023), and 'Looking for América' by Federico Juilian Gonzalez & Janet Moran (Dublin Theatre Festival 2020, Edinburgh Fringe 2021 and National Tour March/April 2022).

CAMERON MACAULAY SOUND DESIGN

Cameron is a composer, sound designer, musician and actor based in Dublin. Selected composition credits include *Revolutionary* (Stavanger Konserthus), *Miasma* (ANU), *The Saviour* (Cork Midsummer Festival, Landmark Productions); *Some Names Were Changed* (Dublin Fringe, 15th Oak); *Cleft* (Galway International Arts Festival, Rough Magic); *Bears in Space* (59e59 Theaters New York, Soho Theatre London and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Collapsing Horse); *Gladys and The Gutter Stars* (Dublin Fringe); *The Water Orchard* (Collapsing Horse); *Before Monsters Were Made* (15th Oak); *Everything Between Us* (Rough Magic) and *Way To Heaven* (Rough Magic SEEDS). Associate credits include *Walls and Windows* (Abbey Theatre) and *The Glass Menagerie* (Headlong). He also wrote the score for the feature film *Rebecca's Boyfriend* (Vah Vah Films). Beyond theatre and film, he releases original music as State Actor: <https://stateactor.bandcamp.com/album/endling>

SARAH WILEY STAGE MANAGER

Sarah is a Stage Manager, Producer and Drama teacher, based in Dublin. Sarah Graduated from TU Dublin Conservatoire with a B.A (Hons) in Drama Performance. She also studied at Columbia College Chicago, where she trained in Stage Combat, Stage Make-up and Farce & Absurd Theatre. Stage Manager credits include 'The Spanish Tragedy' (DYT, Upstairs Space The Project Arts), 'A Natural Science' (Fizz & Chips Productions), 'Clearance' (Queer Moon Productions), Manifesto Showcase 2022 + 2023 (The Gaiety School of Acting, Smock Alley Main Space), SIU Original Theatre Project (The Gaiety School of Acting, Smock Alley Boys' School) and has a long standing relationship with Feis Maitiú Dublin. Previous producing credits include 'Blister' by Síoфра O'Meara (Nominated for First fortnight Award and Bewley's Cafe 'Little Gem' Award), rehearsed reading of 'Blister' as part of SASH 2022, 'Evaluation of Brian' (Giant's Garden Theatre), 'It Iz Wot It Iz' (Squad Productions), and she was Ass. Producer on 'Birthright' by Nadine Flynn (Dublin Fringe Festival 2019). Sarah has most recently produced 'Dog Sh*t' by Bellaray Bertrand-Webb and 'RETCH' by Leanne Bickerdike as part of this year's Dublin Fringe Festival. Sarah worked as Production Manager Cover on The Gaiety School of Acting's Graduation show 'Hub Nub' and as Covid Compliance Officer on Sticky Tape Productions 'Mildly Different' currently running in Newport Beach Film Festival.

dIr Mill Theatre presents William Shakespeare's

The Merchant of Venice

Directed by Geoff O'Keeffe

All
that
glisters
is not
gold



22nd February to 15th March

School Weekday Performances 10am & 1.30pm

Public Evening Performances Thursday 7th March
& Saturday 9th March at 7.30pm

Tickets €20/ €18 /€15

Public Bookings open Tuesday 7th November: milltheatre.ie/ 01 296 9340

School bookings open Tuesday 7th November
at 9am by email only: info@milltheatre.ie

