

## **'ALL THAT FALL', by Samuel Beckett**

When the BBC asked Beckett to write a play specifically for radio in 1956 his immediate thought was to return to the landscape of his youth. He explained in a letter to the Irish writer Aidan Higgins that what he had in mind was 'feet dragging and breath short and cart wheels and imprecations from the Brighton Road to Foxrock Station and back, insentient old mares in foal being welked by the cottagers and the devil tattered in the ditch – boyhood memories'.

The result was *All That Fall*, originally titled *Lovely Day for the Races*, which tells the story of old Maddy Rooney struggling on the way to meet her husband off the train in the familiar setting (for those who know Foxrock) of the fictional village of Boghill. It's a Saturday raceday and the local station, which also serves the racecourse, is busy with recognisable local characters: the irritated station-master, the pompous clerk of the course, the workshy young porter and the outwardly pious parishioner. Maddy's earthy vitality marks her out in contrast to the general sterility and decay which surrounds her, making her one of Beckett's most memorable strong women.

Presented by Mouth on Fire Theatre Company

Starring: Geraldine Plunkett, Donncha Crowley, Michael Judd, Deirdre Monaghan, Matthew O'Brien, Neill Fleming, Melissa Nolan, Paul Marron, Síofra Quinn

Director: Cathal Quinn

Sound Designer: Paul Doran

Guest Speaker: Dr Feargal Whelan

**Mouth on Fire Theatre Company** was founded in Dublin in 2010 by Melissa Nolan and Cathal Quinn. The company specialise in innovative yet highly respectful productions of Samuel Beckett's poetry, prose and drama, as well as mounting productions of other great Irish writers: W. B. Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh and Oscar Wilde.

What makes Mouth on Fire stand out is its commitment not just to staging great works in theatres all over Ireland and worldwide, but also performing in prisons, hospitals and for the homeless. The company is dedicated to promoting the Irish language and performs in both English and Irish.

To date, Mouth on Fire has produced over twenty of Beckett's works - six of which were World Premieres - touring Ireland, Russia, Japan, India, the UK and Spain, and has won awards at the Kot Bayun Literary Arts Festival in Russia.

Mouth on Fire represented Ireland at the Hyderabad Literary Festival, and its production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was placed in the top ten of the best shows in Ireland in 2014. In 2015 they produced *Saints and Sinners* - three plays by Yeats, world premiere of 'The Cat and the Moon', translated into the Irish Language by Gabriel Rosenstock. In 2016 the company performed *Waiting for Godot* in Tokyo and Kyoto and Beckett's poetry to the Samuel Beckett Summer School in Trinity College Dublin. It staged Yeats' *Besotted*, the story of Yeats and Maud Gonne, in Bewley's Theatre in 2017 and 2018 saw Mouth on Fire dramatise 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' for the Dóchas Centre and Mountjoy prison.

This year the company performed at the International Samuel Beckett Conference in Almeria Spain, at the annual Beckett in Foxrock Festival and most recent at the Samuel Beckett Summer School at Kilmainham Gaol Courthouse.

Mouth on Fire are honoured to perform *All That Fall* for the President of Ireland for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samuel Beckett becoming a Nobel Laureate and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.