

EVA'S ECHO PRESENTS

JUNGLE DOOR

BY RENA BRYSON



Mick Lally
Theatre
Oct 30th 8pm

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Eva's Echo Theatre Company was founded by Rena Bryson and Hazel Doolan in 2017, with a mission to bring innovative theatre set in modern Ireland to both theatre lovers and new audiences. Their work often explores Queer theatre, social media, women's issues, and mental health.

Jungle Door was originally written for and performed as part of the Where We Are Now LGBT+ theatre festival. The show has since evolved and developed into the production you will see this evening. This development was a collaborative creative process, during which based on discussions with the team the playwright rewrote the text several times while performing in Sligo, Galway, Kildare and Edinburgh.



Playwright's Note

It was very important to me while writing the play to present Queer characters with struggles not solely related to their sexual orientation. Through this I aimed to destigmatize Queer characters on stage while telling an engaging and authentic story. I feel that goal has been achieved thanks to an amazing team that share my passion for this play. As the text has developed we've really narrowed in on issues unique to Queer relationships, in this case specifically a relationship between Lesbian and Bisexual characters. How they are treated by society and the Queer community affects not only how they view each other but themselves.

Michelle and Louise's relationship is at the heart of this play, the love that was once shared and the friendship that remains drives both of the characters to grow and change for better or worse. They share a connection that allows them to reveal their true self's to one another.

Developing this text alongside such a talented team has been a truly special experience I will treasure forever. I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we have putting it together.

Rena Bryson

Director's Note

In my 20 odd years of theatre work I have never seen a play grow and evolve in the way that Jungle Door has. What you are watching is the culmination of 4 years of active development, determined script analysis, intensive atmosphere and character work. To call it a collaborative experience is to sell short just how much love and trust and sheer gumption that went into making this show the best we can make it.

It has been my unrivalled privilege to be a part of this process. It's been truly affirming to work on a piece of queer theatre that isn't about the traumatic elements of queer identity. We do not shy away from the problems faced by queer women but at it's heart, it's a story about two people who are inextricably bound. The queerness, while important, is not the entirety of who they are and that has been very important to us as a creative team. As a queer person, I firmly believe in the power of representation and of queer stories told by queer people but there is an element of tokenisation that can often creep into media "about" queerness. There is also a preponderance of stories about the trauma inherent in the queer experience, and while they are certainly important stories to tell it can quickly feel like being queer is being traumatised. I feel we have managed to convey a more nuanced and grounded representation of queerness, and I will forever adore the creative team behind this work for joining me in this endeavour and for elevating my arty bullshit into the visceral and compelling show you see before you.

Thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy the show!

Cornelius Dwyer



RENA BRYSON (SHE/HER)
PLAYWRIGHT / LOUISE

Rena is a Galway based theatre artist and actor who holds an honors degree and master's degree in Theatre studies. She co-founded Eva's Echo in 2017 and since then has produced, written, directed and starred in many of the company's productions.

She has been acting on stage and on screen for 10 years, and enjoys exploring Queer issues, the internet and mental health in her work. Her most recent acting projects include Under the night Sky by Treasa Nealon, Latte by Sarah Fahy and the Unholylands by Paddy Duffy.

She is currently developing her latest script Stardom as part of Druid theatre company's artist residency programme Druid FUEL.



CORNELIUS DWYER (THEY/THEM)
DIRECTOR / LIGHTING DESIGNER

Cornelius is a Galway based theatre maker who has been working in theatre for 20 years, during which they have filled every available position they could get their hands on. Cornelius was trained in Drama and Theatre Studies in UCC where they learned devising, directing, stage management and technical theatre. They are currently the house technician at the Mick Lally Theatre.

Cornelius has worked extensively with Eva's Echo in the past as technician and director. They are absolutely delighted to be back making the Queer character focused theatre that they want to see.



HAZEL DOOLAN (SHE/HER)
MICHELLE

Hazel is a graduate of Performing Arts at the Atlantic Technological University, Sligo. As co-founder of Eva's Echo she wrote, directed and played Caroline in the company's award-winning first production Match.

Hazel has co-starred as Michelle in Jungle Door in several productions since the plays debut during the Where We Are Now Festival 2018. Hazel directed Dayshift by Darren Donohue and Vlogger by Rena Bryson. She was also assistant director for Dance of the Furies and stage manager for Starseed.

Recent acting projects include Uniform (a one woman show written and performed by Hazel), It's True, I Love You All So Much and Stardom (as part of DRUID FUEL 2022).



SABRINA KELLEHER (SHE/HER)
COSTUME & SET DESIGNER

Before leaving Ireland, Sabrina Kelleher was a regular face at The Theatre Room Galway. Having performed for the first time with them in Jan 2016 and then becoming a member of the committee from 2017-18. She has worked on performances for the direct provisions in Galway (2016), Culture Night (2017), and the Where We Are Now LGBTQ+ Festival in Sligo (2018). Since moving to UK, she has been involved in many Pantomimes across Yorkshire. She played the Genie in Aladdin (2018) and the evil sidekick Jiggle in Cinderella (2019) - both with Restless Entertainment.

Sabrina's day job is with Sky based out of Sheffield, where she is a Champion of the LGBT+ Network, within this role she attends networking events and helps to create content to engage her colleagues across the country. Sabrina is studying a degree in Film Production at the University of East London. Sabrina has been involved with Eva's Echo and Jungle Door since 2018 and she loved being a part of the team that brought Jungle Door to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



AOIFE LANNON (SHE/HER)
STAGE MANAGER

Originally from Limerick, Aoife came to Galway to study theatre and has never properly left. She briefly got out to study stage management in Edinburgh, and has worked on numerous productions between there, Galway, and Limerick since graduating in 2020 (though has helped out in whatever role she could if it meant being involved in theatre!)

This is Aoife's first time working with Eva's Echo and is excited to be a part of the team and involved in putting on this piece of Queer theatre.

Jungle Door's Development

Where We Are Now Festival ,Sligo, 2018



The Moat Theatre , Kildare, 2020



Catriona Bonner Photography has been capturing the show since 2018. She has also captured the promotional images throughout the programme. The handdrawn poster by Rosie Dore (Briarhide Illustration) was based on Catriona's photography.



Thank You!

We would like to thank all of our supporters, audiences and artists, Síomha Nee and the whole Mick Lally team. Without their support this production would not be possible.

Jungle Door is supported by Galway City Council and funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 4.

We're so grateful for the continued support of the council who makes work like this possible.

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