



**EVA'S ECHO THEATRE PRESENT
RENA BRYSON'S**

RUFFLED FEATHERS

A RETELLING OF THE CHILDREN OF LIR

Eva

**THE
MICK
LALLY
THEATRE**





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.

Championing emerging talent, Eva's Echo strives to nurture their creative team, fostering an ecosystem of emerging and experienced theatre professionals. The core creative team is a strong force of women and non-binary individuals.



@evasecho





Playwright's Note

Ruffled Feathers is a story that has been living and growing in a small apartment of my mind for many years. The name Eva's Echo originates from the Legend The Children of "Lir". This famous tale begins with a mention of Eva, Lir's wife and mother to the four children but after her death, she is seemingly forgotten. As artists, we strove to give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves through our work. And so we honored Eva by carrying on her name as we presented each new story. But this was not enough for Eva and her sisters, whose stories were too important, funny, tragic, and beautiful to ignore.

The play explores the tumultuous relationships between the sisters and how surviving (or not surviving) their patriarchal kingdom made them who they were. Which sounds very heavy! And some moments are (the children were turned into swans after all.) But the team and I also wanted to explore the ferocious brave, and girlish joy that sisters share. And we experienced much of that joy in the rehearsal room, I could not have asked for a more supportive, creative, and talented team to bring Eva's Echo's swan song to the stage.

Rena Bryson

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Family is tricky business at the best of times, what happens when you add curses and thousands of years to the pot. Getting to explore the stories of these three sisters with the Ruffled Feathers team has been a joy. It has reminded me how much we all care and benefit from telling stories. Scéals bring us together, get us thinking and allow us to understand ourselves and each other better. These past few weeks have allowed us to dig into our own experiences and give space to these women - Eva, Aoife and Ailbhe and all who they represent. I hope you find a piece of yourself with these sisters and the highs and lows they've experienced. Thank you for witnessing their story and supporting us to tell it.

Órla Kelly-Smith





**RENA BRYSON (SHE / HER)
PLAYWRIGHT / EVA**

Rena is a theatre artist and actor whose work seeks innovative ways of staging modern Ireland, with a particular focus on mental health and sexuality, often through a Queer lens. She holds an honors degree and a Master's degree in Theatre Studies. Since co-founding Eva's Echo Theatre in 2017 she has produced, written, directed, and starred in many of the company's 10+ productions.

She's currently developing 'Across From Me People Are Watching' an autobiographical one-woman show exploring trauma and creativity, with support from the Arts Council's Agility Award. Recent acting projects include: Stacey in The Unholylands (Feature Film), Lisa Yates in Bloodline Detectives (Television), and Aoife Connor in I See A Voice (Short Film). Off-stage, Rena loves coffee, yoga, and horror films (even the bad ones).



**ÓRLA KELLY-SMITH (SHE / THEY)
DIRECTOR**

Órla is a storyteller based in Galway who enjoys telling scéals through lighting, performing and directing. They are currently working with Blue Teapot on their autumn project Fairy Tree as stage manager and co-lighting designer.

They are keen to work on developing projects, stories geared towards young audiences agus tionscnaimh gaelach. Bain taitneamh as scéal na ndeirfiúracha!



**HAZEL DOOLAN (SHE/HER)
AOIFE**

Hazel Doolan is a Sligo based actor, playwright and drama facilitator. She co ran Eva's Echo Theatre Company for seven years. Through the company she starred, directed, produced and has written some of the company's plays including "Match" and "Uniform."

Hazel trained in theatre acting but has delved into screen acting recently. She featured in a short film "Retirement Regrets" as the Nurse. She is currently pursuing a Speech and Drama Diploma through the Leinster School of Music and Drama and facilitates at National Learning Network Sligo.

She continues to act in other projects, and is currently in rehearsals for Pop Up Theatre Sligo's production of Sweeney Todd where she plays Mrs Lovett.



**LEANNE POWELL (SHE / HER)
AILBHE**

Leanne Powell is a Sligo born actor who studied Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies in University of Galway. During her time in university she performed in many society plays including “79 Ballinfoyle Park” by Lea Beckmann which won ‘Best Ensemble’ at the 2021 ISDA Awards. Leanne was also nominated for ‘Best Actress’ at these awards for her portrayal of Niamh in the same play.

Leanne also devised many theatre pieces during her time in university with her main focus being on psycho-physical acting.

Noteably for her Thesis performance she explored the character of ‘Fleabag’ by Phoebe Waller-Bridge through the study and practice of Yoga. In doing this Leanne found a way to explore difficult emotions through physical acts rather than relying on the personal emotions of the actor.

Recently Leanne has worked with Jeremie Cyr-Cooke on a work in progress further exploring physical theatre through puppetry. This is Leanne’s debut performance on the Mick Lally stage as she plays the youngest sister Ailbhe



**HAZEL STANLEY (SHE / HER)
COSTUME & SET DESIGN**

Hazel Stanley completed her Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts with a focus on Theatre Design at ATU Sligo in 2016. Since then, she has collaborated multiple times with Eva's Echo Theatre Company as a set and costume designer, contributing to their debut production, "Match," by Hazel Doolan in 2017, as well as to works such as "Starseed" by Killian Glynn, "Uniform" by Hazel Doolan, and the site-specific performance "Latte" by Sarah Fahy.



**ALAOISE SCHERER (SHE / HER)
PRODUCER**

Alaoise Scherer is an emerging creative producer, working predominately in theatre. her evolving practice is focusing on collaborative works which challenge our collective definitions of theatre.

Since moving to Galway while completing her masters she has been involved in a European project for multilingual theatre, a Macnas Halloween parade, she hosted 2 shows on Flirt FM. She has also been seen Stage Managing in the Mick Lally Theatre, and creating engaging social media content for Galway Bay FM. Ever evolving and always learning Alaoise can be found wherever the magic is.

Building on connections made during Galway International Arts Festival's SELECTED programme Alaoise is the proud producer of Ruffled Feathers.



**HANNAH BEVAN (SHE/HER)
STAGE MANAGER**

Hannah Bevan is a lighting designer and technician, stage manager, and sometime writer and director. Recently graduated from the University of Galway with a BA in Drama, Theatre and Performance with Irish, she now works as a freelance theatre maker in Galway and Dublin.

Recent credits include: Baboró International Arts Festival for Children (Venue Technician), Dublin Theatre Festival (Lx Technician and Operator), Suckin' Diesel for Dublin Fringe Festival (Lighting Designer). Hannah hopes you enjoy Ruffled Feathers!



**LUCY BIRMINGHAM (SHE/HER)
LIGHTING DESGINER**

Lucy is a Galway based lighting technician and theatre artist. Originally hailing from Meath, she graduated from Drama, theatre and Performance Studies in the University of Galway. Lucy has had a deep interest in theatre from a young age but found a new love for design, production management, and technical theatre while in college.

Since graduating has worked as lighting designer for local Galway musicians, theatre companies. Lucy has also worked as a technician with Galway Theatre Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Baboró, and Branar theatre company.

She is delighted to be working with Eva's Echo again and hopes you enjoy the show.



**FERGAL BREEN (HE/HIM)
COMPOSER**

Fergal, originally from Clare, came to Galway to study in University of Galway where he discovered his love for musical theatre and drama. He was involved in multiple productions by the Galway University Musical Society, or GUMS, and has previously composed for a production of *The Tempest* by Róisín Eyres.

This is Fergal's first production with *Eva's Echo* and he is delighted to be composing some music for this wonderful show of Celtic myth and legend.

Ruffled Rehearsals





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.

Galway City Arts Office, East London New Works Festival, The Town Hall Theatre, and the Mick Lally Theatre have supported the development of this production.

We would like to especially thank our lead sponsor, Loughwell Farm Park and supporters Catriona Bonner Photography and Galway Bay FM.

Eva's Echo Theatre Company

**THE
MICK
LALLY
THEATRE**



**TOWN HALL
THEATRE**



Winter Wonderland

2024

Loughwell Farm Park

MEET **SANTA** AT LOUGHWELL FARM PARK 2024



- Our large Barnyard theatre is transformed into the North Pole for Santa and his team
- Interactive christmas experience performed by a theatre company to keep all entertained
- Unlimited candyfloss/popcorn/ mince pies & mulled wine!
- Each child will get to choose a present from Santa's Toy Shop

-In addition to the Winter Wonderland magic, there is also loads of fun to be had in the rest of the farm park

- All Indoor & Outdoor activities are included in the package so the kids can have unlimited fun on our mega slides, soft play, go karts, sandpits, etc



