

A new play by  
**EUGENE O'BRIEN**

Directed by  
**JIM CULLETON**

**FISHAMBLE**

The New Play Company **PRESENTS**

# HEAVEN

A HIT IN DUBLIN, NEW YORK, AND EDINBURGH  
WINNER IRISH TIMES AWARD FOR BEST NEW PLAY  
WINNER IRISH TIMES AWARD FOR BEST ACTRESS  
WINNER SCOTSMAN FRINGE FIRST AWARD

*HEAVEN* is presented by the Olivier Award-winning Fishamble, written by Eugene O'Brien (winner of the Rooney Prize for Literature for *EDEN*), and directed by Jim Culleton (Irish Times Best Director Award winner for *THE ALTERNATIVE*). The production opened in Dublin Theatre Festival and toured Ireland in 2022, then transferred to 59E59 Theaters in New York and TravFest23 as part of the Culture Ireland Edinburgh Showcase in 2023. Fishamble is delighted to bring it to the Southwark Playhouse, back to the Traverse, followed by another tour of Ireland.

Content warning: contains adult themes and strong language.

DIRECTOR Jim Culleton  
SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER Zia Bergin-Holly  
ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGNER Sinead McKenna  
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER Carl Kennedy  
DRAMATURG Gavin Kostick  
PRODUCER Laura MacNaughton  
PRODUCTION MANAGER Eoin Kilkenny  
STAGE MANAGER Abi Morris (London & Edinburgh)  
STAGE MANAGER Steph Ryan (Ireland)  
CHIEF LX Archer Bradshaw  
MARKETING Allie Whelan  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Eva Scanlan

CAST  
MAL - Andrew Bennett  
MAIREAD - Janet Moran

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## Biographies

**Eugene O'Brien** wrote the play EDEN which debuted at the peacock theatre in 2001 and transferred to the Abbey stage later that year and then onto the Arts Theatre in London's West end in 2002. It has been translated into Romanian, Italian, Catalan, Dutch and German. EDEN received the Irish Times Theatre Award, the Stewart Parker award and the Rooney Prize for Literature. Eugene adapted the play for the screen and the film, directed by Declan Recks, played many festivals around the world including Edinburgh and New York's Tribeca Festival where it won best actress for Eileen Walsh.

Eugene also wrote PURE MULE, a six part series for RTÉ, winner of five IFTA awards and a two part follow up PURE MULE - THE LAST WEEKEND. Other work includes the THE NEST, SLOTH and NUMB (nominated for ZEBBIE AWARD) all for RTÉ radio drama and an adaptation of Roddy Doyle's Barrytown trilogy for BBC radio drama.

Other Theatre work includes FALLING TO EARTH – MY SUMMER WITH BOWIE produced at the 2023 Dublin theatre Festival, SAVOY produced in the Peacock Theatre and THE GOOD HOUSE OF HAPPINESS, ELIZA'S ADVENTURES IN THE UNCANNY VALLEY, MESPIL IN THE DARK, all in collaboration with PAN PAN theatre company. Most recently HEAVEN, produced by Fishamble, debuted at The Dublin Theatre festival 2022 and completed a very successful run in the 59E59 theatre in New York. Heaven was named best new play at the Irish Times Theatre Awards and won a Fringe First at the 2023 Edinburgh Fringe festival.

Other work includes film comedy THE FLAG, starring Pat Shortt and co writing credits on TV3 drama RED ROCK and the film's THE FOOD GUIDE TO LOVE and famine drama BLACK 47. Eugene's novel GOING BACK was published by GILL in 2022 and TARRAC, a cine 4 Irish language feature film opened in cinemas in 2023.

**Jim Culleton** is the Artistic Director of Fishamble: The New Play Company, for which he has directed productions on tour throughout Ireland, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US. His productions for Fishamble have won Olivier, The Stage, Scotsman Fringe First, and Irish Times Best Director awards. Jim has also directed for the Abbey, the Gaiety, the Belgrade, 7:84 Scotland, Project, Amharclann de hÍde, Tinderbox, Passion Machine, the Ark, Second Age, Dundee Rep, CoisCéim/Crash Ensemble/GIAF, Frontline Defenders, Amnesty International, Little Museum of Dublin, Fighting Words, Soho Theatre, Scripts Festival, and Baptiste Programme. He has directed audio plays for Audible, BBC, RTÉ Radio 1, and RTÉ lyric fm. He has directed for Vessel and APA (Australia), TNL (Canada), Solas Nua, Mosaic, and Kennedy Center (Washington DC), Odyssey (LA), Origin, Irish Arts Center, New Dramatists, and 59E59 (Off-Broadway), as well as for Trafalgar Theatre Productions on the West End, and IAC/Symphony Space on Broadway. Jim has taught for NYU, NUI, GSA, Uversity, the Lir, Villanova, Notre Dame, UM, UMD, JNU, and TCD.

**Andrew Bennett's** previous work includes *Big Bad Woolf*, *Foley*, *Freefall* (Corn Exchange), *The Rehearsal Playing The Dane*, *The Seagull*, *Endgame* (Pan Pan), *Le Roi Lear* (Théâtre National Populaire), *Schöne Neue Welt* (Stadttheater Bonn), *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Lolita*, *The House* (Abbey). Film work includes *Garage*, *The Stag*, *Black 47* and *An Cailín Ciúin*.

**Janet Moran** is an actor, playwright and director based in Dublin. Selected Theatre work includes *Spinning*, *Swing* (co-writer) and *Rathmines Road* for Fishamble, *Ulysses*, *The Plough & The Stars*, *Juno and the Paycock* (National Theatre, London/Abbey Theatre co-production), *Shibari*, *Translations*, *No Romance*, *The Recruiting Officer*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Communion*, *The Barbaric Comedies*, *The Well of the Saints* and *The Hostage* all at the Abbey Theatre, *Car Show*, *Dublin by Lamplight*, *Everyday*, *Freefall* and *Desire under The Elms* for Corn Exchange. Film and television work includes *The Dry*, *Trivia*, *Love/Hate*, *Love is the Drug*, *T* (RTÉ), *Dublin Oldschool*, *The Bailout* (TV3), *The Butcher Boy*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, *Milo*, *Minim Rest*, *Bono and My Ex*, *Moll Flanders*, *Nothing Personal*, *Volkswagen Joe* and *Quirke* (BBC). She co-wrote the hit play *Swing* and wrote and directed *A Holy Show* which sold out at the Dublin and Edinburgh fringe festivals as well as its national tour in Spring 2020. She also recently directed *My Romantic History*, *Virtual Verse* (Verdant Productions) *Looking for América* (Dublin Theatre Festival and Edinburgh Fringe) *Pure Mental* (National Tour).

**Zia Bergin-Holly** is an award-winning lighting and set designer from Dublin who works internationally. Zia designs for theatre, dance, opera and live music events.

To see more examples of Zia's work please check out her website [www.ziaholly.com](http://www.ziaholly.com).

Theatre Lighting & Set Designs includes: GRACE (Once Off Productions & Graffiti Theatre), GAMMY (Laura Sheeran, Project Arts Centre and Galway Theatre Festival), TONIC (Fionn Foley and Rough Magic), EMBARGO (Fishamble), SOLAR BONES, NORTHERN STAR (Rough Magic); THE MISFITS (Corn Exchange, Dublin); THE SHIT STORM (Abbey Theatre & Dublin Fringe Festival), USER NOT FOUND (Dante or Die), THEY CALLED HER VIVALDI (Theatre Lovett), and THE DEAD (Dublin Theatre Festival).

Theatre Lighting Designs includes: ACCENTS (by Emmet Kirwan and Eoin French); Other Worlds (Jess Rowell Dance); FREEFALLING, CLEFT and MELT (Rough Magic); THE LOVED ONES (Gate Theatre and Rough Magic); PRICKLY (DLR Mill Theatre); WHAT IS NOT OURS TO CARRY (Ali Clarke Dance); THE TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC (Theatre Lovett), THE BORDER GAME (Prime Cut & Lyric Theater Belfast), SKIN HUNGER (Dante Or Die); TWO (Hulltruck); MEAT (Theatre503); PROMISES PROMISES (Centrál Színház, Budapest); TOP HAT (Silver Blue Entertainment and Cunard); IGNITION 2019 (Frantic Assembly); APOLOGIA, THE LION IN WINTER, and HAND TO GOD (English Theatre Frankfurt); VESPERTILIO (Fight and Hope); THE BYSTANDER (Junk Ensemble); FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE (Northern Stage); ANNIE (Cork Opera House), ROMEO AND JULIET (Ballet Ireland); THE LADYKILLERS (Lyric Theatre Belfast) and THE NEST (Lyric Theatre Belfast & Young Vic Theatre).

## Biographies

**Saileóg O'Halloran** is an award winning Irish costume designer working between film, TV, theatre and street spectacle. She studied fashion before taking up formative positions with Macnas in Galway and the Abbey Theatre Dublin, where she managed the Abbey's costume hire warehouse for a number of years. Her film credits include *September Says* (2024 Dir: Ariane Labeled) & *Kathleen Is Here* (2024 Dir: Eva Birthistle), and as assistant costume designer on seasons of *Wheel of Time* (Amazon Prime) & *Outlander* (Starz). Theatre credits include *A Whistle in the Dark*, *Tales from the Holywell* & *The Great Hunger* for the Abbey Theatre. She has designed theatre shows that have travelled worldwide, with her work on *Chekhov's First Play* for *Dead Centre* touring to various countries in Europe, Asia and Australia. Saileóg was awarded the Discovery Award at Dublin International Film Festival in 2021 and is an Irish Times Irish Theatre Award nominee.

**Sinéad McKenna** is an internationally renowned designer working across theatre, opera, dance and film. She has won two Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Lighting Design and a Drama Desk nomination for Best Lighting Design for a Musical.

Previous designs for Fishamble include *Maz and Bricks*, *The Gist of It* and *Invitation to a Journey*.

Her other recent designs include *Walking with Ghosts*, *Straight to Video* and *The Approach* (Landmark Productions), *Maria Stuarda* (Irish National Opera), *Elsewhere* and *Faith Healer* (Abbey Theatre), *Dēmos* (Liz Roche Company), *Parade* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris) and *Angela's Ashes: The Musical* (Bord Gais/Tour).

She has designed for many notable companies including the Gate Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Donmar Warehouse, Cork Opera House, Lyric Theatre Belfast, Rough Magic, CoisCeim, Gúna Nua, Decadent, Gare Saint Lazare, Corn Exchange, THISISPOPBABY, Siren, Second Age, Performance Corporation and Semper Fi.

**Carl Kennedy** is a composer and sound designer for theatre. He trained at Academy of Sound in Dublin. He has worked on numerous theatre productions, working with venues and companies including Fishamble: The New Play Company, The Abbey, Lyric Theatre, The Gate, The Gaiety, Landmark, Decadent, ANU Productions, Rough Magic, Theatre Lovett, HOME Manchester, Prime Cut Productions, Graffiti, HotForTheatre and Speckintime among others. In 2023 he received The Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Soundscape, and he also has been nominated three times previously in this category. He has made a number of audio pieces for installation and radio, working with ANU, Upstate Theatre Project, various museums in Dublin City and many others. He also composes music and sound design for radio, TV and video games. He was composer and sound designer for *Mr Wall* on RTÉjr which was shortlisted for an IMRO Radio Award in the 2018 drama category. Game titles include *Curious George*, *Curious about Shapes and Colors*, *Jelly Jumble*, *Too Many Teddies*, *Dino Dog* and *Leonardo and His Cat*. TV credits include sound design for *16 Letters* (Independent Pictures/RTE) and SFX editing and foley recording for *Centenary* (RTÉ).

**Gavin Kostick** works with new writers for theatre through a variety of courses, script development workshops and award-winning schemes as Literary Manager at Fishamble. Gavin is also an award-winning playwright. His works have been produced nationally and internationally. Favourite works for Fishamble include *The Ash Fire*, *The Flesh Addicts* and *The End of The Road*. Works for other companies include *This is What We Sang* for Kabosh, *Fight Night*, *The Games People Play* and *At the Ford* for RISE Productions and *Gym Swim Party* with Danielle Galligan in co-production with The O'Reilly Theatre. He wrote the libretto for the opera *The Alma Fetish* composed by Raymond Deane, performed at the National Concert Hall. As a performer he performed Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness: Complete*, a six hour show for Absolut Fringe, Dublin Theatre Festival and The London Festival of Literature at the Southbank. He has recently completed a new version of *The Odyssey*, supported by Kilkenny Arts Festival.

**Laura MacNaughton** has worked in the professional arts sector for over twenty years in theatre, film and dance. She has worked primarily as a General Manager, Producer and Programmer. Laura has worked at a senior level in multiple arts organisations, these include The Gate Theatre, Dublin Dance Festival and The O'Reilly Theatre. She is Co-founder and Creative Producer of *Exit Pursued by a Bear*, a theatre company for young audiences. Their first work *Our Little World* (2022), was commissioned in response to the impact of Covid on primary school children. Laura is a drama facilitator and director with Belvedere College Drama Department. She currently sits on the Arts Council Peer Panel for Theatre and the Producers Working Group for the Performing Arts Forum. Laura is the Producer at Fishamble: The New Play Company and previous credits include *In Two Minds* (2023) and *Taigh Tí Teach* (2024).

**Eoin Kilkenny** has toured across Ireland and the world with theatre productions from Landmark Productions, Rough Magic Theatre Company, Fishamble: The New Play Company, CoisCeim Dance, Abbey Theatre, and many more. He has worked at some of the best festivals at the Traverse Theatre Edinburgh during the Festival Fringe, Galway International Arts Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival and London International Festival of Theatre. He trained as a production manager with the Rough Magic SEEDs programme, working on their productions in Dublin, Belfast and New York. He is a product of UCD Dramsoc and has completed an MA in Producing at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

**Abi Morris** trained at Guildford School of Acting in MA Stage and Production Management, and previously graduated from the University of Birmingham with a degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. Recent productions include: *My English Persian Kitchen* (Traverse Theatre and Soho Theatre); *Fun at the Beach Romp-Bomp-A-Lomp!!* (Southwark Playhouse); *Boy Out The City* (UK Tour); *Exhibitionists* (King's Head Theatre); *Good Enough Mum's Club* (UK Tour); *The Boy Who Sailed The Ocean In An Armchair* (National Youth Music Theatre, Leicester Curve); *The Girls Guide To Good Sex* (Old Joint Stock); *The Secret Life of Humans* (English Theatre Frankfurt); *love & piss* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2022); and *I Don't Know What Else To Say* (Kickback Theatre Company). Productions while training include: *Nine*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, *Waiting for the End of the World*, *The Velveteen Daughter*, and *Treasure Island*

## Biographies

**Steph Ryan** has worked in theatre for many years and with many companies including CoisCéim, Rough Magic, Abbey/Peacock Theatres, OTC and INO to name a few. Work with Fishamble includes Handel's Crossing, The End of The Road, Noah and the Tower Flower, Spinning, Little Thing Big Thing, Invitation to a Journey (a co-production with CoisCéim, Crash Ensemble and GIAF); Mainstream, Rathmines Road, On Blueberry Hill, Embargo, Duck Duck Goose, In Two Minds, Heaven, Breaking and Pat Kinevane's Forgotten, Silent, Underneath, Before and KING.

**Archer Bradshaw** is a freelance lighting technician, programmer and designer based in Dublin, working nationally and internationally. Some of his recent credits include: Touring relighter on Fishambles: Outrage, Chief LX on This Is Pop Baby's 0800 Cupid and Lighting Designer on Anna Newell's Attempt To Talk With The Beginning Of The World, as part of Dublin Fringe 2024. Archer trained in The Lir Academy, graduating with a B.T in Stage Management and Technical Theatre in 2023, since graduating he has specialised in lighting, working primarily in theatre, dance and especially in work for younger audiences, and work for those with complex needs.

**Allie Whelan** is the Marketing, Outreach and Engagement Manager at Fishamble: The New Play Company. Allie has worked on Mustard, King, In Two Minds, Breaking, Outrage and now Heaven with Fishamble. She has previously worked in marketing, social media and content creation roles with Dublin Fringe Festival, Poetry Ireland, Landmark Productions, Pan Pan, Glass Mask Theatre, The RDS Visual Art Awards and Music Network Ireland.

**Eva Scanlan** is the Executive Director at Fishamble: The New Play Company. Current and recent producing work includes Taigh/Tý/Teach, a trilingual co-production with partners in Scotland and Wales, In Two Minds by Joanne Ryan, Heaven by Eugene O'Brien, Outrage by Deirdre Kinahan, The Treaty by Colin Murphy, Embargo by Deirdre Kinahan, The Alternative by Michael Patrick and Oisín Kearney, On Blueberry Hill by Sebastian Barry, Fishamble's award-winning plays by Pat Kinevane King, Before, Silent, Underneath and Forgotten, and many other productions on tour in Ireland and around the world.

Eva produces The 24 Hour Plays: Dublin at the Abbey Theatre in Ireland (2012-present), in association with the 24 Hour Play Company, New York as a fundraiser for Dublin Youth Theatre. She has worked on The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway and The 24 Hour Musicals at the Gramercy Theatre in New York. Previously, she was Producer at terraNOVA Collective in New York (2012-2015) and has worked on events and conferences at the New School, the Park Avenue Armory, and Madison Square Garden.



Production shots by Ste Murray  
Rehearsal shots by Allie Whelan

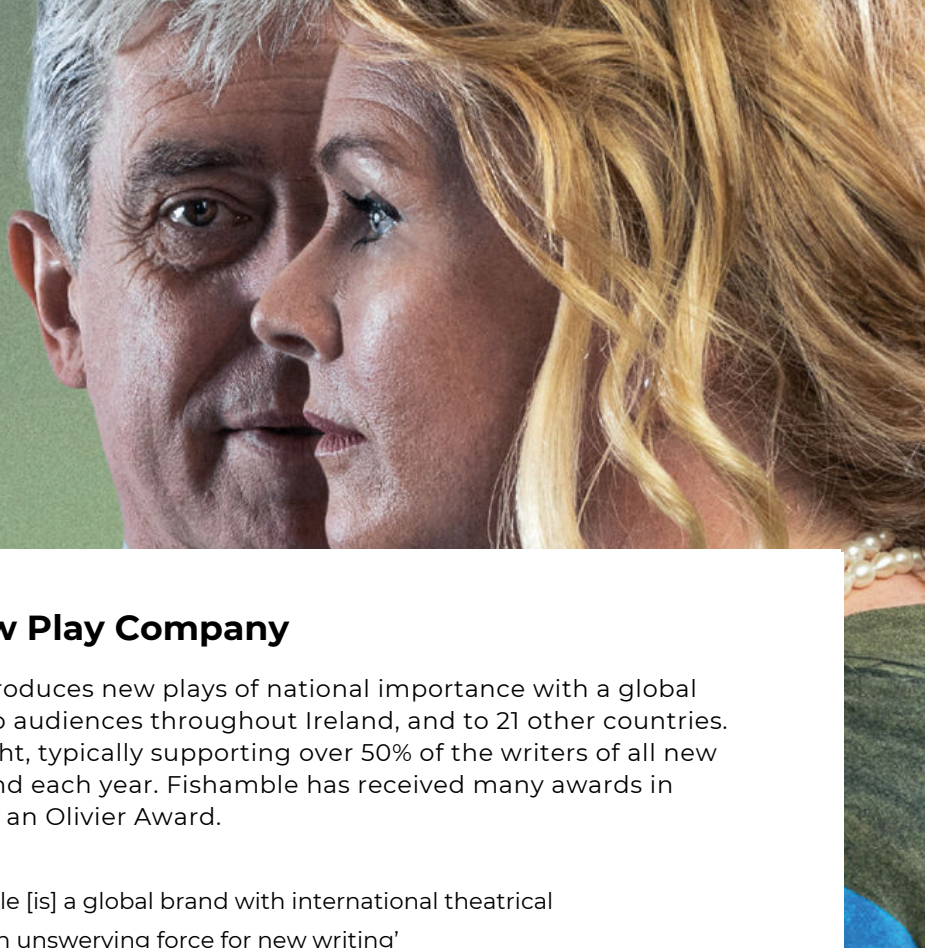
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EUGENE O'BRIEN

# HEAVEN

Playscripts of HEAVEN are available at each venue's box office.  
Also available for purchase at [fishamble.com/shop](https://fishamble.com/shop)



## About Fishamble: The New Play Company

Fishamble discovers, develops and produces new plays of national importance with a global reach. It has toured its productions to audiences throughout Ireland, and to 21 other countries. It champions the role of the playwright, typically supporting over 50% of the writers of all new plays produced on the island of Ireland each year. Fishamble has received many awards in Ireland and internationally, including an Olivier Award.

“the much-loved Fishamble [is] a global brand with international theatrical presence... an unswerving force for new writing’

**Irish Times**

‘Ireland’s leading new writing company’ The Stage  
‘the respected Dublin company...forward-thinking Fishamble’

**New York Times**

‘excellent Fishamble...Ireland’s terrific Fishamble’

**Guardian**

‘when Fishamble is [in New York], you’ve got to go’

**Time Out New York**

‘that great Irish new writing company, Fishamble’

**Lyn Gardner, Stage Door**

‘the superb Irish company Fishamble’

**Scotsman**

‘Fishamble puts electricity into the National grid of dreams’

**Sebastian Barry**

## Fishamble Team

Jim Culleton: Artistic Director & CEO

Eva Scanlan: Executive Director

Gavin Kostick: Literary Manager

Laura MacNaughton: Producer

Allie Whelan: Marketing, Outreach, and Engagement Manager

## Fishamble Board

Peter Finnegan

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**Fishamble is funded by The Arts Council and Dublin City Council.  
Its international touring is funded by Culture Ireland.**



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