

Festival  
Program



12<sup>th</sup>

annual

**INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN  
GAY THEATRE FESTIVAL**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**

[www.gaytheatre.ie](http://www.gaytheatre.ie)

#GayTheatre

**BOXOFFICE FROM 27.04. 12:00 - 15:00 (Mon-Sat) | 085 1298158**

## **Welcome to the Twelfth International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival!**



**When** we started in 2004 we didn't hope to reach our 3,000th performance which we proudly present this year. Here in IDGTF we have hosted the world's biggest and most diverse gay theatre festival and continue to welcome artists and audience regardless of their sexual identity. We welcome and include everyone! We want you to enjoy our theatre because it is good theatre. This Festival is for you, about you, your family, friends and communities. We are all parts of the arts. Now we have another chance to see LGBT culture on our stages in new writing from Ireland, UK, USA, Canada, South Africa,

Iceland and Russia for a fortnight May 4th-17th. Thank you to The Mercantile Hotel, Pisces Print and RTE Supporting the Arts and our great team of volunteers for keeping us going!

The Festival is still wearily under-resourced. We need your talents to help LGBT talent to continue to shine! We can not develop it or push out the boundaries of our theatrical identity in the way we are capable of doing. We acknowledge the support of the Arts Council, Dublin City Council, Failte Ireland which has maintained us barely at survival level for over a decade. I am not sure how much more 'survival' is in our generous volunteer led event, realistically at that level of funding. We get combined funding of 75 euros per performance and everyone knows that is funding at an unsustainable level. We have no staff, office, desk or chair - all we have is our great and unique commitment to diverse theatre! Our resourceful companies are most welcome again this year. They make great sacrifices to celebrate gay theatre in Dublin. They love the opportunity we provide. Your support is vital in keeping us alive! Festival 2015 presents a great value programme of love, laughter, politics, history, music and dance. It is for everyone to enjoy, but especially you! Thank You!

Brian Merriman; Founder IDGTF

**BOXOFFICE: The Grattan Café, 6A Ormond Quay Lwr., Dublin 1**

SECURE BOOKING ONLINE 24 HOURS [WWW.GAYTHEATRE.IE](http://WWW.GAYTHEATRE.IE)

This Theatre Festival is brought to you with the generous support of



Dublin City  
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WILDE STAGES IN DUBLIN  
A DECADE of GAY THEATRE



An up-to-date social history of growing up in the last country in Western Europe to decriminalise homosexuality. A memoir and commentary on law, religion, policy, media internationally by the Founder of the world's biggest gay theatre event.

A unique compendium of new writing for gay theatre with over 200 festival productions included.

Copies available online at [www.gaytheatre.ie](http://www.gaytheatre.ie) or on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) costing

15 euros & 5e p&p. Also available at 'Books Upstairs', Opposite Trinity College Dublin.

FACEBOOK: Dublin Gay Theatre Festival

TWITTER: @gaytheatre

Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

Players Theatre TCD 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

15:45\* / 19:30 (70 min)

## The Further Adventures of...

Comedy / Drama

TOSOS (The Other Side of Silence)

Tune in again for "The Further Adventures of..." Follow Maggie Day as she uncovers the story of Commander Zoron and Prince Kal in the '50s sci-fi serial, 'Atlantis: 1 Million Years B.C.', and the actors who portrayed them, Drake Darling and Frank Gallagher. Follow their paths from a classic sci-fi show to the age of the internet, revealing hidden secrets, lost loves, and the things people couldn't say then (and maybe even now?)

Written by Kathleen Warnock; Directed by Eric Chase

\*only on Monday & Saturday



Players Theatre TCD 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

14:30\* / 21:00 (60 min)

## Adam and Eva

Drama

Temporary Theatre

Adam wants to be a Nun. Eva wants to be a boy. They meet by chance. And when they take a leap of faith it changes their lives in a way they never imagined. Finding the courage to be themselves, they embark on their first adventure together on the mean streets of Southampton.

A true story of friendship, bravery and being who you are. Inspired by real life homophobic bullying, this urgent play comes with love and hope for change.

Written by: Jack McMahon and Yasmin Zadeh

Created by Temporary Theatre

\*only on Monday & Saturday



Teachers Club (main) 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

15:45\* / 19:30 (75 min)

## CASTRATI – An Electro Drag Opera

Musical Comedy Drama

THEATRE OUTRÉ

YOU are invited to the final ecstatic gathering of the 'Cult of Cosmic Purgatory'. This is the last chance for worship before the great erotic rapture to the comet Eros where lust rules supreme. Presided over by Mama Didi and her son, our saviour, the martyr Castrati, YOU are invited to praise with us in this original Electro-Drag, Opera of Jealousy, rage, lust vice: All are welcome. All will be revealed. Don't be left behind!

From the award winning team of 'My Funny Valentine' and UNSEX'd.

Created by Aaron Collier, Jay Whitehead,  
Richie Wilcox & Kathy Zaborsky; Directed by  
Richie Wilcox \*only on Monday & Saturday



Teachers Club (main) 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

14:30\* / 21:00 (60 min)

## By the Bi

Music, Dance & Words

Blazing Change Players

'By the Bi' unpacks how society isolates bisexual culture perpetuating bisexual stereotypes of being greedy, sluts, and confused. Seventeen vignettes mixing modern dance and spoken word shine a light on the other side of this 'greed' - suicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape –the realities of out bisexual young life. This unforgettable story with an invaluable cause, weaves together beautiful music, dance, and spoken word. Join us in shattering the bisexual silence.

Created by Caroline Downs and Morgan Barbour

\*only on Monday & Saturday



Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

Teachers Club (studio) 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

15:45\* / 19:30 (75 min)

## Short Skirt Butch / Country Song

Comedy

LAP-Pro

'Short Skirt Butch' follows Jean (Stephanie MacDonald), a brokenhearted queer, post break-up, in a show that explores 'femme', sexual polyamory and heartbreak. "Jean wants what we all want: love, security and hot sex. She may apologize for her behaviour, she never apologizes for who she is. Very refreshing." - The Coast 'Country Song' completes this double bill, is a love letter to country music and a queer identity. "spellbinds audiences" - Chronicle Herald. "Lee-Anne Poole had the audience eating from her hands from the first strum of her guitar and held them there with her humour and grace." -The Coast

Written by Lee-Anne Poole and performed by Stephanie MacDonald and Lee-Anne Poole \*only on Monday & Saturday



Teachers Club (studio) 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May

14:30\* / 21:00 (50 min)

## Going Up

Comedy

91 CENTRAL

"I should've taken the stairs." That's what Jack thinks when he finds himself stuck in a lift with transvestite entertainer, Simone. The two instantly hate each other but unlikely circumstances make unlikely allies! What can two strangers get up to in a confined space? With drugs, yoga, music & dance these two really push each other's buttons.

A fun, fresh American comedy by the award winning transatlantic writing and directing duo that collaborated in last year's Festival with BITTEN.

Written by Penny Jackson; Directed by Mark Pollard

\*only on Monday & Saturday



**Outhouse 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**15:45\* / 19:45 (60 min)**

## **BIRD**

**Comedy**

MVD Entertainment

People travel through life in search of love and happiness like flocks of migrating birds. They fly and fly until they meet the love of their life. Together, they fly some more, discovering new worlds, experiencing new horizons, they laugh and play and grow. They build nests, perhaps lay some eggs together, share dreams and visions and goals and then... one day their nest made of twigs, leaves and grass falls apart. One of these people is the narrator we meet in Bird.

A story about love and self-discovery. A story about falling and flying. A story we all share of the hope of a new day.

Written by Marnitz van Deventer; Directed by Gerrit Schoonhoven  
\*only on Monday & Saturday



**Outhouse 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**14:30\* / 21:00 (50 min)**

## **Leaving Narnia**

**Comedy**

CONOR BURKE

James Michael O'Sullivan is about to tell his parents that he is gay, and quite frankly, he is as terrified as a turkey in November.

James reflects on all of the situations he found himself in, and asks himself what's next?

Join James on his funny and often touching journey of self discovery, self acceptance and most importantly, self defence. He has written it all in his personal diary. The pages are about to open!

Written & Directed by Conor Burke

\*only on Monday & Saturday



Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

**The Cobalt Cafe 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**19:30 (70 min)**

## **Angela, She wrote : Lansbury the Musical**

**Comedy**

GLAD Productions

Dame Peggy Ashcroft hosts a musical tribute to her fellow member of the Damery, Angela Lansbury, in this hilarious and lightning-paced new show.

From her early years in London to a glorious career on Broadway and in Hollywood, Dame Angela's story is brought vividly to life through the songs of Noël Coward, Jerry Herman, Stephen Sondheim and others.

Judy Garland, Katherine Hepburn and, er, Peter Ustinov join in the party.

Don't miss this intimate evening with the Dames!

Written & Directed by Andrew Deering



**The Cobalt Cafe 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**21:00 (55 min)**

## **I'm going through something**

**Drama**

THE DEAN KRIEL

Preparing for a private conversation with Putin, 'I'm Going Through Something' where even I doubt the possibility of a Russian LGBT society existing.

Our interests are caught in the crossfire between the preservation of conservative Russian values and progressive interaction with the international community. Western media cannot comprehend the necessity of this volatile conflict, beyond the very evident atrocities against LGBT.

Take a journey into the mind of a man split between himself, his nation and his dreams.

In support of the LGBT community of the Russian Federation.



Teachers Club (main) 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

14:30 / 21:00 (70 min)

## International Theatre Shorts

### GAY HEAVEN - Laughter Lines - Ireland

Some proclamations by Pope Francis call on the faithful to stop marginalizing LGBT people. He says they can now reside for eternity in heaven! This creates a panic in Heaven and several Angels are assigned with designing 'up-grades' for their newest guests. This unconventional debate between these architects ends in a zany implementation of project "Gay Heaven."



Written by Lisa Saleh; Directed by Aislinn Ní Uallacháin

### JUST SAY YES - CTEK ARTS - USA



Same sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts in 2004! Hundreds of couples flock to Provincetown, MA and stand in line in front of Town Hall to get marriage licenses. Ace television anchor Olivia covers the excitement of the first weddings in Provincetown for her national network, but she just cannot 'come out'. This social comedy explores why she cannot just say yes when Molly pops the question. JUST SAY YES premiered at the 'Women's International Theater Festival' in Provincetown in 2014.

Written by Lynda Sturner ; Directed by Margaret Van Sant

### ICARUS - Blue Heart Theatre - Ireland

Icarus is falling, falling fast and hard for a girl called Bea - the greatest human to have ever lived. It all happens very quickly. Suddenly they're splitting rent, grocery bills and pulling each other's hairs out of the shower drain. Icarus has a secret she'd give anything to keep. A modern re-imagining of a classic myth, Icarus is a funny and touching tale about fighting your fears and letting the people you love most see you at your worst.



Written by Margaret Perry; Directed by Oonagh O'Donovan

### STRAIGHT TALKING - Acting Out - Ireland



Tom is blessed with the most liberal and loving parents. Before leaving home to start college, he decides to 'come out' to them. He doesn't get anything like the reaction he was anticipating! This short comedy presents a new twist on the 'coming out' story!

Written by Sean Denyer; Directed by Ayrton O'Brien

Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

Players Theatre TCD 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

15:45\* / 19:30 (75 min)

## The Astonished Heart

Drama

Behind The Moon Productions

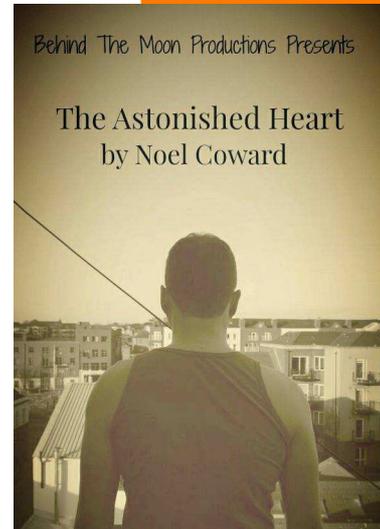
Gay playwright Noel Coward when asked why he didn't 'come out' replied 'I didn't want to offend other people's prejudices'. He wrote sexually ambiguous plays. 'The Astonished Heart' stars a tormented psychiatrist, his wife and her friend in a toxic love affair that splinters their very existence. A raw and emotional journey through the landscape of repressed love and shattered illusions.

Behind the Moon Productions reveals the now eighty year old play reclaiming Coward's queer sensibilities in a stripped down, visually engaging and theatrically inventive presentation.

Contains scenes of a sexual nature.

\*only on Saturday

Written by Noel Coward; Directed by Geoff O' Keeffe



Players Theatre TCD 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

14:30\* / 21:00 (55 min)

## St. Joan

Drama

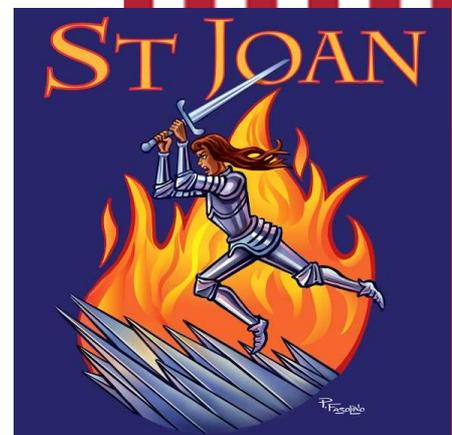
Pascal Theatre Company / ManyTracks / add2 productions

Three women are Joan, trying to save history from itself in this highly physical, darkly funny and entrancing work of theatre. An exhilarating delve into the heady themes of national identity, purity of race and the role of women as both the victims and makers of history.

Would Joan, the girl fighter, with the voices of God in her head, really boot out the foreigners today? She challenges the view that only a dead saint is a useful saint and dreams of going back to stop history's atrocities. Can she overturn its course? Can she even save one life?

Written by Julia Pascal; Directed by Katrin Hilbe

\*only on Saturday



Teachers Club (main) 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

15:45\* / 19:30 (75 min)

## The Equals

Comedy

### Acting Out

Finbar is relocating to quiet Leitrim to escape a failed relationship. But Leitrim is being run by a new political force, 'The Lesbian Alliance', whose leaders had successfully beaten fierce competition from San Francisco and New York to host the world's largest LGBT community drama festival. Now they want to win it! They 'persuade' Finbar to cobble together a group that includes, the Mayor, a local sheep farmer, as well as the local parish priest and Quentin, a washed up director to help. Quentin's plan for a 'gritty' musical called 'The Lesbians of Leitrim', is heading towards a very humiliating public disaster. Can they possibly triumph? This comedy, with songs, presents a hilarious take on life in rural Ireland - from the same team that produced last year's hit comedy, 'Tits Up!'

Written by Sean Denyer (with songs by Sean Denyer, Mark Power and Ian Faulkner); Directed by Howard Lodge

\*only on Saturday



The Mercantile Hotel 10<sup>th</sup> May

14:30 (90 min)

## RAW (play reading - free)

Drama

### Ten Foot Pole Theatre

RAW is a deliciously dark comic drama about sexual ethics and HIV in the 21st century. Two men become bound by sex, violence and fear after a sexual encounter. Stephen didn't tell James that he is HIV-positive. An anonymous letter warns James to get tested. He confronts Stephen, the man he believes has killed him.

Rob Salerno's RAW was selected in nationwide competition as one of eight theatre artists invited to the Banff Playwrights Colony in 2014, where he developed the script under the guidance of Canada's most renowned theatre makers.

Free Play reading.

Written & Directed by Rob Salerno



Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

**Teachers Club (studio) 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**15:45\* / 19:30 (75 min)**

## The Perfect Equal

Comedy / Drama

Artik

Five gay men in Reykjavík tell their stories with humour and compassion, unveiling their lives and their fate. This rollercoaster of gay life in Iceland is a contemporary mix of biography and is also inspired by the poetry of the iconic gay writer Walt Whitman.

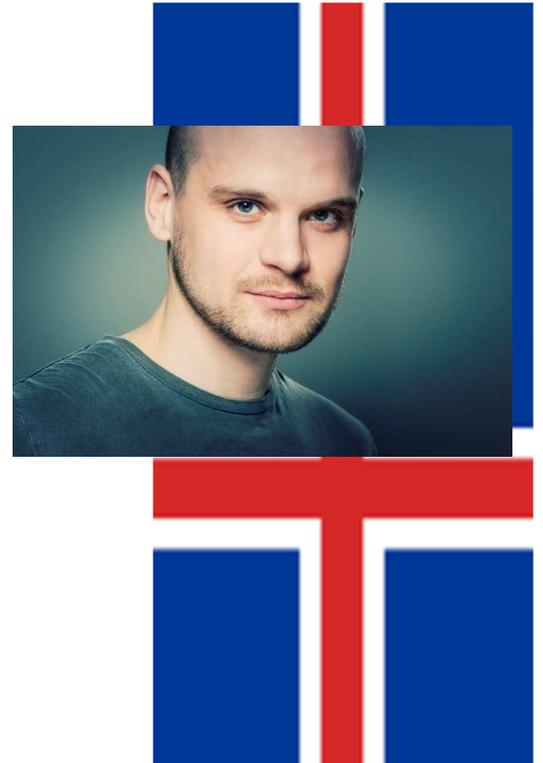
The Perfect Equal rocked Reykjavík and was an instant success there and in London's 'The Drill Hall'. This challenging solo performance play put the lives of gay Icelanders at the centre of public debate.

'Artik Theatre Group' has produced its own take on 'The Perfect Equal' in Reykjavik and now Dublin.

Written by Felix Bergsson; Directed by Jenný Lára

Arnórsdóttir

\*only on Saturday



**Teachers Club (studio) 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**14:30\* / 21:00 (50 min)**

## Tuesdays at Tesco's

Drama

BLUE HEART THEATRE

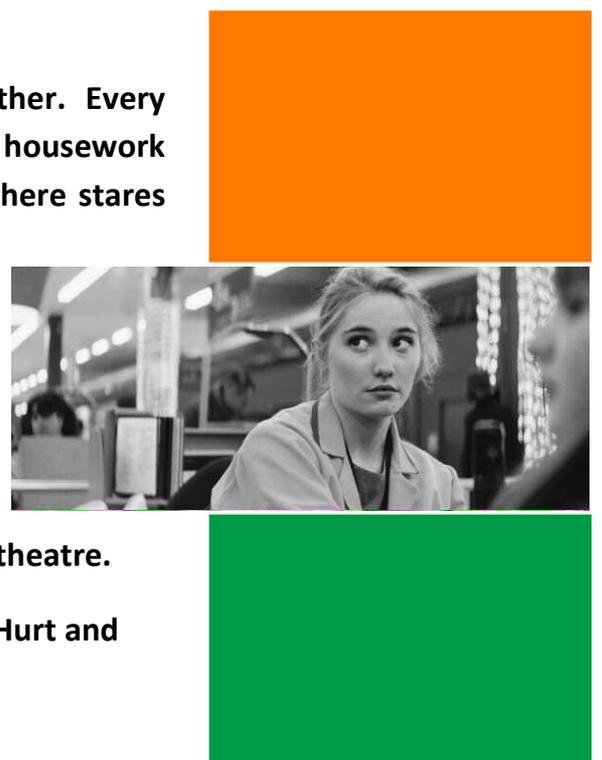
Tuesday is the day Pauline takes care of her ageing father. Every Tuesday she returns to streets of her youth to do the housework for him. And on Tuesday, they both go to Tesco's where stares and stolen glances follow them.

Before she became Pauline, her name was Paul and to her father she remains Paul despite all appearances to the contrary.

Blue Heart Theatre is proud to present the Irish premier of this, moving, one-person play about a person's true identity. It is a simple, beautiful piece of theatre.

Written by Emmanuel Darley; Translated by Matthew Hurt and Sarah Vermande; Directed by Niamh Denyer.

\*only on Saturday



**Outhouse 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**15:45\* / 19:45 (60 min)**

## Blind Date

Drama

Home You Go productions

Two couples. Two dates. One gay. One straight. Same story. Two different dates. Sophie and Karl are persuaded to go on a blind date by mutual friends. Mark and Alan meet through Facebook. A compelling and intense drama about looking for love and its consequences.

A world premier from the producer of 'BEASTS' (Collaborations 2015, Smock Alley) and the short play 'FOREVER' IDGTF 2014.

Written & Directed by Colette Cullen

\*only on Saturday



**Outhouse 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**14:30\* / 21:00 (50 min)**

## First Day Back

Drama

Ten Foot Pole Theatre

It's the first day back after a gay ninth grader, Ollie, has killed himself, following years of bullying and abuse. There's an eerie hush in the halls as Ollie's friends and tormenters gather to figure out who's responsible.

Take your seats in the art room and be prepared to have your prejudices about school, homophobia, bullies and teenagers shaken to their core.

"Captivating and performed with such incredible authenticity" – Monday Magazine

Written/performed by Rob Salerno; Directed by Steven Gallagher

From the company that brought the 2011 IDGTF hit 'Big In Germany'.



\*only on Saturday

Tickets 10€/13€/15€. Nightly Venue tickets 25€

**The Cobalt Cafe 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**19:45 (50 min)**

## **Stella full Of Storms**

**Drama**

The Cup Theatre Company

Stella is from Wexford. She has fallen in love for the first time at school. She has fallen for Anna. For Stella, this is fated, decided before any of us were born. For Anna, it is time to decide between Stella and Mr. Sorenson... Mr. Sorenson is the English teacher.

“Stella full of Storms” is a dark and witty new play about a teenage anti-heroine and the lengths she’ll go to while addicted to her first love.

\*\*\*\* Irish times

Written by Kate Gilmore

Directed by Sarah Finlay



**The Cobalt Cafe 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**21:00 (50 min)**

## **Wellbutrin Whore**

**Comedy**

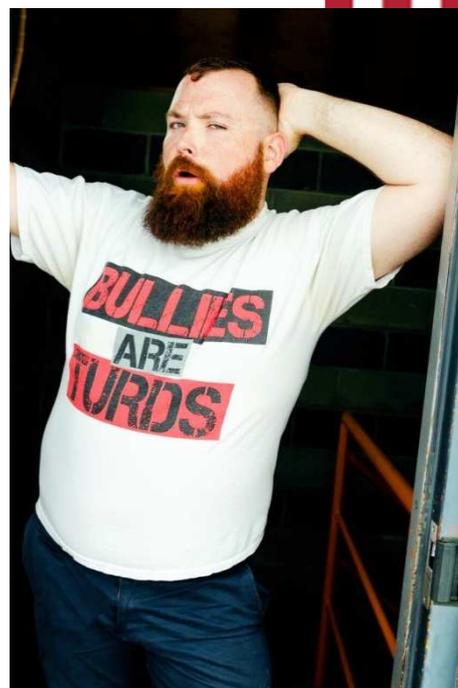
Tim Paul

Tim Paul’s latest solo show, combines his unique comedy elements of both storytelling & stand-up.

Tim Paul puts it all out there with extreme frankness and almost disturbing candor.

Paul explores such topics as Sex, Love, Depression, Circumcision, Body Image, Chubby Chasers, Monogamy, Exes, Open Relationships, Therapy, Psychedelics and well, Wellbutrin.

Written & Directed by Tim Paul



**The Cobalt Cafe 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**22:15 (60 min)**

## **Acoustical The Musical**

**Comedy / Music**

Tiny Top Hat Productions

Following their successful 80's revue in 2014, Lady K and Ruby Noir return to share their love of musical theatre. Bringing their unique acoustic style to some of their favourite musical numbers, the duo will prove that you don't need an orchestra to perform a show stopping number.

Expect hits from 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch', 'Rocky Horror Picture Show', 'Cabaret', 'Avenue Q' and more.

Written by Kiara Gannon & Siobhán Killen

Directed by Emma Weafer



**The Cobalt Cafe 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**22:15 (60 min)**

## **Graham J. does Cabaret**

**Comedy / Music**

Graham J.

One Bear, his band and a bunch of Torch songs. Join sultry contralto songster Graham J. and members of Orpheus Blues for an eclectic mix of mellow jazz, pop and contemporary classics.

Graham J's career began as an Operatic soloist with some of the World's leading conductors and orchestras. Now he's building a considerable reputation as a modern day jazz/blues, contemporary pop and cabaret singer.

"The love child of Shirley Bassey and Anthony Hegarty from Anthony and the Johnsons". Graham J.'s seductive voice and quirky sense of humour explores "One Bear's search for an emotionally healthy Boyfriend, One Diva at a Time".

Written and Performed by Graham J.



## **GALA AWARDS NIGHT 2015**

Comedy, Music & Drama – 17<sup>th</sup> May

at THE TEACHERS CLUB (MAIN)

Join us for a celebration of the best of the Festival at our closing Gala Awards Night.

Join us for snippets of the plays that have entertained you during the past fortnight, for our awards in the names of Oscar Wilde, Micheál MacLiammóir, Eva Gore-Booth, Hilton Edwards, Doric Wilson and Patrick Murray.

With special guests this not to be missed programme is the highlight of IDGTF 2015!

Doors open: 19:30; Duration: 150 mins (with interval)

Tickets at the BOXOFFICE or [www.gaytheatre.ie](http://www.gaytheatre.ie)



## **OUR VENUES IN 2015**

**Teacher's Club; 36 Parnell Square; Dublin 1**

**The Cobalt Café; 16 North Great George's Street; Dublin 1**

**Outhouse; 105 Capel Street; Dublin 1**

**Player's Theatre on Trinity; College Green; Dublin 1**

**The Mercantile; 28 Dame Street; Dublin 2**

The IDGTF needs qualified and committed Board members to help develop festival 2016.

Apply in confidence to [Merriman.brian@gmail.com](mailto:Merriman.brian@gmail.com).

Administration, Fundraising, Marketing, PR, Sponsorship and arts skills very welcome.

Or volunteer with us: [volunteers@gaytheatre.ie](mailto:volunteers@gaytheatre.ie)

