

Festival Announces Major World Premiere Production

Invitation To A Journey
Inspired by Eileen Gray

Galway International Arts Festival is delighted to announce the world premiere of *Invitation to a Journey* a co-production between **CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Crash Ensemble, Fishamble: The New Play Company & Galway International Arts Festival**. *Invitation to a Journey* premieres at the Black Box Theatre, Galway on Tuesday 12th July.

In what promises to be one of the cultural highlights of the year *Invitation to a Journey* is a new work inspired by the architect and designer Eileen Gray, featuring an original score composed by Deirdre Gribbin, as commissioned by CoisCéim for Crash Ensemble with funds from the Arts Council.

Eileen Gray defied expectations - from her innovations in modern design to her unconventional personal life, she challenged what it meant to be an artist, to be a woman and to be Irish. Inspired by her inimitable life and work, *Invitation To A Journey* is a powerful, evocative new work by Ireland's leading performance companies combining dance, music and theatre to create a compelling illustration of a once-forgotten, now celebrated, Irish modernist.

Now lauded by many as one of the most influential modernist designers and architects of the 20th Century, during her lifetime Eileen Gray was in many ways an outsider. In the world of design her approach to shapes, lines, textures and colours was distinctly visionary, and still continues to inspire designers today. She was renowned for her work in lacquer, steel and glass furniture, and created the iconic Dragon and Bibendum chairs. One of the high points of her career was the E1027 house she built for her lover Jean Badovici with the inscription "invitation to a journey" (Baudelaire). Uniting architecture, interior and furniture, this seminal house in France brought international modernity to life.

Quite simply Eileen Gray was a radical sensation.

Described by The Irish Times as '...the force of a revelation in Irish Culture...' under the direction of David Bolger, CoisCéim is one of Ireland's leading dance companies. **Crash Ensemble**, a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today has been praised by The Washington Post as '...an Irish new-music collective with international cachet and considerable chops. Fishamble: The New Play Company under the direction of Jim Culleton is the recent recipient of a prestigious Olivier Award. *Invitation To A Journey* is set to become one of the hottest tickets and most talked about productions during the Festival this year.

Invitation To A Journey brings together the multi award-winning team of choreographer David Bolger, director Jim Culleton, musical director Kate Ellis, composer Deirdre Gribbin, writer Gavin Kostick, and designers Maree Kearns, Sinead McKenna and Kevin Gleeson. The cast of 10 performers includes Justine Cooper, Ingrid Craigie, Kate Ellis, Ivonne Kalter, Ronan Leahy, Emma O'Kane, Deirdre O'Leary, Alex Petcu, Maria Ryan and Kate Stanley Brennan.

Invitation To A Journey runs at the Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway from 9-16 July, 2016.

BOOKING for *Invitation To A Journey* opens today at www.giaf.ie/eileengray

#eileengray

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FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION:

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