

Katie O'Kelly's Counter Culture

Written and performed by Katie O'Kelly, directed by Donal O'Kelly

A show about justice... and drapery

Welcome to the world of Macken's department store in Dublin, a labyrinth of sequins and hangers, filled with fake smiles, sales targets and bunions.

Four shop employees. One day on the shop floor. A day so jam-packed it is bursting at the seams, and the workers feel as disposable as the clothes they sell. What's all the fuss about the new zero-hour contracts anyways?

A whirlwind solo show by Stage Best Solo Performer nominee (Ed Fringe 2012) Katie O'Kelly. Directed by double Fringe 1st winner Donal O'Kelly.

Katie O'Kelly's Counter Culture is a one woman show, written and performed by Katie. Underneath the glitz and glamour of a fictitious department store, and the whirlwind comic performance portraying customers and staff in all their multitudinous glory, lies a serious heart which questions the insidious effects of the very topical zero hours contracts. Where staff sign on the company's dotted line in return for no guarantees or rights at all. A fair retail fairytale? Don't make me laugh!

Writer and actor **Katie O'Kelly** is the talented daughter of highly acclaimed, award winning Irish playwright, actor, director and human rights activist **Donal O'Kelly**.

Her previous (and debut) appearance at the Edinburgh Fringe was in 2012 with *JOYCED!* (written by father Donal) when she was nominated for **The Stage Award for Acting Excellence** (Solo Performer). *JOYCED!* has since toured nationally in Ireland - including performances in the National Library and National Concert Hall of Ireland - and to Finland, Brighton and Oslo.

Katie recently appeared in The New Theatre productions of *Lockout* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, which toured to the Centre Culturel d'Irlandais in Paris and the Celtic Festival in Wales as well as a national tour of Ireland.

Counter Culture, her first play, was originally developed with help from the Show in a Bag initiative (run by Fishamble: The New Play Company, Irish Theatre Institute and Dublin Fringe Festival) and first performed in the Dublin Fringe Festival 2013. It has since been touring throughout Ireland to great audience reception and reviews.

'One of those performers with true stage presence' – British Theatre Guide (*for JOYCED!*)

'A kaleidoscopic story... pitch-perfect O'Kelly' - Irish Theatre Magazine

'Moves flawlessly from belly laughs to breaking the audience's hearts' – Liberty

Counter Culture was selected as a **2014 Theatre Highlight** by the Irish Independent

This Edinburgh Fringe production is sponsored by **Mandate Trade Union**.

Donal O'Kelly is also appearing elsewhere in the Fringe, as the writer and one of the actors in **Little Thing Big Thing** (produced by the award winning Fishamble: the New Play Company) which has a full 3 week run at Assembly George Square. **Fishamble** is also producing **Underneath** at Dance Base.

LISTINGS

UK premiere of

Katie O'Kelly's **Counter Culture**

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The Just Festival at St John's (Venue 127)

Aug 7, 9-16, 18-23, 25-30 at 20.30 (60 mins)

£12 (£10)

Box Office 0131 226 0000

Website www.just-festival.org/

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For more press information, photos, interviews etc

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