



UK Premiere
Edinburgh Fringe 2015



Fishamble: The New Play Company presents
LITTLE THING, BIG THING, a thriller by **Donal O’Kelly**

An ex-con and a nun are chased across Ireland for a mysterious roll of film from Nigeria. Why the bleedin’ fuss? Powerful, madcap political drama from Ireland, which examines the lure of black gold.

You make a promise to someone: you have to keep it. You may not want to, but you must. And that little thing leads to a bigger thing, and big and powerful people start to take notice - and they won't want you to keep that promise. But you have to keep going, don't you? And you have to keep going until you find more people, and more people, to make this little thing a very big thing indeed.

In Nigeria, a frightened child puts an old roll of film into the hands of Dublin-bound teacher Sister Martha. In Dublin, ex-con Larry, with a wounded backside, has to get out of the city to rob a convent. Meanwhile, Scarab Oil plans to unleash its new clean fuel of the future. The film roll Martha is carrying attracts the urgent interest of some very powerful and ambitious people.

Little Thing, Big Thing has an impressive pedigree. Both the writer and the company are double Fringe First winners with a string of awards and impressive track records of new plays.

Donal O’Kelly is one of Ireland’s foremost socially engaged playwrights. In addition to a Fringe First award, his last production at Edinburgh Fringe was shortlisted for the prestigious **Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award**.

In this stream-of-consciousness thriller, he pulls out all the stops. Directed by Fishamble’s **Jim Culleton**, *Little Thing, Big Thing* features **Sorcha Fox** and **Donal O’Kelly**. The actors conjure up a wealth of characters in addition to Martha and Larry, two mismatched people who take a high octane jump into the brutal world of international energy skullduggery and find passions awakened that they thought were long behind them.

***Little Thing Big Thing* is a dynamic, linguistically inventive thriller; a funny, madcap romp with an unapologetically oil-black heart.**

Since its premiere in 2014 *Little Thing Big Thing* has toured widely across Ireland, to rave reviews and packed audiences. It has recently completed a short European tour and will premiere in **New York** at the prestigious 59E59 Theaters in September 2015. It is supported at the Edinburgh Fringe by Culture Ireland.

Little Thing Big Thing is one of two Fishamble UK premieres at Edinburgh Fringe 2015, the other being Pat Kinevane’s ***Underneath*** (at Dance Base).

Donal O’Kelly is also represented elsewhere in the Fringe, being the director of ***Counter Culture*** (written and performed by his daughter Katie O’Kelly) premiering at the Just Festival (St John’s).

LISTINGS

Fishamble: The New Play Company presents the UK premiere of
Little Thing Big Thing by **Donal O’Kelly**
Assembly George Square Studios – Two

Venue 17

Thursday 6th - Sunday 30th August (not Mon 17th or 24th) at 15.40 (80 mins)

£10-£14

Box Office **Assembly** 0131 623 3030 **Fringe** 0131 226 0000

Contains strong language

Website: www.fishamble.com

twitter: @Fishamble



**For more press information, photos, interviews etc
please contact Morag Neil 0771 288 0965, or email info@scarybiscuits.com**

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Editors' Notes

Little Thing Big Thing was commissioned by Fishamble: The New Play Company in partnership with the STROLLERS Touring Network. Fishamble is funded by the Arts Council and Dublin City Council, its international touring is supported by Culture Ireland.

Fishamble: The New Play Company

www.fishamble.com

Fishamble is a multi-award winning, internationally acclaimed Irish theatre company, dedicated to new plays. It tours its productions throughout Ireland and internationally. For over 25 years, Fishamble: The New Play Company has produced 56 productions of new plays, including seven productions of multi-writer works, which included 89 short plays. These plays have been written by well-known writers including Sebastian Barry, Maeve Binchy, Colum McCann, Dermot Bolger and Joseph O'Connor, but also completely unknown writers (at the time) whose first plays were produced by Fishamble, including Mark O'Rowe, Marina Carr, Gavin Kostick, Pat Kinevane, Sean McLoughlin, Stella Feehily and Michael West.

Fishamble is committed to touring its work to audiences throughout Ireland and internationally. Fishamble has brought its productions to audiences in Ireland as well as to England, Scotland, Wales, France, Germany, Iceland, Croatia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Finland, USA, Canada and Australia.

Fishamble is at the heart of new writing for theatre in Ireland, not just through its productions of new plays, but through its extensive programme of Training, Development and Mentoring schemes. Fishamble's awards include Fringe First Awards (becoming the first Irish company to win **two consecutive Fringe Firsts at Edinburgh**, in 2011 for *Silent* and 2012 for *The Wheelchair On My Face*), **MAMCA, Argus Angel, 1st Irish and Irish Times Theatre Awards**.

Donal O'Kelly

www.donalokellyproductions.com

Donal O'Kelly is an award winning Irish writer and actor. His much-travelled solo plays include the award-winning *Catalpa* (Scotman Fringe First, London Time Out Critics' Choice, Best Event Melbourne International Festival) – which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with a 25 date tour of Ireland, *Bat The Father Rabbit The Son* (Best Writer and Best Actor nominations Irish Theatre Awards), and *Jimmy Joyced!* (Best Actor nomination, Irish Theatre Awards)

His 2013 production *Fionnuala*, about the Shell Corrib Gas pipeline in County Mayo, won a **Scotsman Fringe First** and was shortlisted for an **Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award**, with Donal being nominated for a **Best Actor Stage Award**.

Francisco, produced for radio by Ocean FM, in collaboration with acclaimed Irish musicians Kila, won the prestigious **2014 New York Festivals International Radio Program Award** (Best Drama Special) and the **Berlin Prix Europa** in 2013, a unique achievement for a community radio production.

Other recent productions include:

- *The Cambria*, about Frederick Douglas' voyage to Ireland in 1845, performed with Sorcha Fox, toured Ireland, as well as playing the UK and Los Angeles.
- *Vive La*, a 1798 spy story mummer play, toured Ireland in 2007, and was revived in the Project Theatre, Dublin in 2008.
- *Running Beast*, his music-theatre piece with music by Michael Holohan, has toured Europe since its premiere in September 2007.

Other plays include *The Dogs* (Rough Magic), *Hughie On The Wires*, *Trickledown Town*, *The Business Of Blood*, *Farawayan*, (all Calypso), *Asylum! Asylum!* (Peacock, Traverse Edinburgh, Ottawa and Boston), *Mamie Sighs*, *Judas Of The Gallarus* (Peacock) and *The Hand* (Dublin Theatre Festival).

Film roles include leading roles in Roddy Doyle's *The Van* and in the acclaimed bilingual film *Kings, Brainer in Spin The Bottle* and *Funny Face* in *I Went Down*.

He is a committed human rights activist.

Little Thing Big Thing Production credits:

Written by Donal O'Kelly, Directed by Jim Culleton Cast: Sorcha Fox and Donal O'Kelly
Set & Lighting Designer: John Comiskey, Sound Designer: Carl Kennedy, Costume Designer: Maria Tapper,
Producer: Marketa Dowling, Dramaturg: Gavin Kostick