

Remember to Breathe

Written and directed by Orla Murphy

Summerhall (Edinburgh Fringe) – venue 26



★★★★ *A play of hidden depths...* Irish Times

★★★★ *intelligent, captivating and deeply moving...* The Examiner

★★★★ *Beautiful. Profound. Uplifting...* The Red Curtain Reviews

UK Premiere of acclaimed play by new Irish writer Orla Murphy.

Nominated for Fishamble Best New Play Award (Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015).

Radio script shortlisted for BBC International Playwriting Award.

Supported by Culture Ireland

A swimming pool in post-earthquake Christchurch, New Zealand. Recent Irish emigrant Maeve is learning to swim. Swimaholic coach Doreen eggs her on. Maeve must battle the water and an unresolved dilemma with her much-loved father back home.

The aftershocks of the Christchurch earthquake create physical and emotional tremors for the young Irish emigrant, whose present and past lives blur into an anxious mess. Learning to swim becomes the metaphor for her survival in this fine, understated play, through the subtle clarity of the writing and the wonderfully judged performances... Irish Times ★★★★★

Mixing serious themes with warm humour, *Remember to Breathe* is a deeply moving play about moving home and moving on. A multi-layered, father and daughter tale in which one woman's search forces her to confront herself, her past, her fears and her future, in a swimming pool in New Zealand.

The talented cast is led by a breathtaking performance by Abbey Theatre regular **Liz Fitzgibbon** with **Julie Sharkey** and Irish Times Award nominee **David Heap** (whose extensive international theatre experience includes a recent sellout run at the Young Vic of Fringe First winner *Lippy*, and working with Stephen Berkoff and Selina Cartmell. Film and TV work includes the John Schlesinger film *Sweeney Todd*, several films with Jim Sheridan and portraying regular character Donal Maher in RTE's flagship soap *Fair City*).

Dublin based writer-director **Orla Murphy** is a talent to watch. *Remember to Breathe*, her playwriting debut, was nominated for **Fishamble Best New Play** in **Tiger Dublin Fringe** and a radio script version was shortlisted for the **BBC International Playwriting Award**.

Previously Orla has written and directed short pieces for theatre, film and radio, with her work featured in a transatlantic collaboration with Origin First Irish Festival New York, and broadcast on Times Square and primetime Christmas TV. She wrote and directed the radio drama *Indieworld* which was Irish Times 'Radio Moment of the Week' and adapted and directed six award-winning short stories for radio in the BAI funded series *Tales of Our Times*, which she then developed into sold-out shows with Bewley's Theatre. Orla's writing has also been shortlisted for **BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Award (TV Drama)** and for **Pinewood Studio's backed EnterthePitch** as well as the **Galway Film Fleadh Pitching Award**.

She was mentored by Jim Culleton of Olivier award winning Fishamble Theatre in a year-long Directing for Theatre mentorship. Orla holds an MA in Scriptwriting from IADT and teaches creative writing in NUI Maynooth.

A captivating and deeply moving production. Murphy shows she has some serious talent and is most certainly one to watch out for... The Examiner ★★★★★

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, press tickets etc,
please call **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email hellortb@gmail.com)

LISTINGS

5-14, 16-27 Aug, 5.30pm (55 mins)

Summerhall (venue 26)

1 Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

Tickets £12 (£8)

(5th Aug preview - £8, 2 for 1 on 8th, 9th Aug)

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Editors' Notes : Company biogs

Liz Fitzgibbon: Maeve

Liz Fitzgibbon is a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting. Recent theatre work includes: Bianca in *Othello*, Abbey Theatre, Min in *Inside the GPO*, Fishamble Theatre Company, Maeve in *Remember to Breathe*, Tiger Dublin Fringe. Other work for the Abbey theatre includes: *The Government Inspector*, *Bookworms*, *Christ Deliver Us!* and *The Playboy of the Western World*. Other theatre work includes *End Time*, *Stuck and Taste* (Project Arts Centre), *Last Call* (TEAM), *Bad Sunday* (Bewley's Café Theatre), *Top Girls* (Galloglass Theatre Company), *The Colleen Bawn* (Bedrock Productions), *Iron* (The Complex) *You Can't Just Leave There's Always Something* (ABSOLUT Fringe Festival 2011), *Beyond the Brooklyn Sky* (Dublin Theatre Festival) and *An Triail* (Aisling Ghéar). Film and Television work includes *Trivia*, *Grand Pictures*, *Talk it Out*, RTE, *Fair City* RTE.

Unlike her character Maeve, Liz loves swimming, having grown up next to the beach in the Irish seaside village of Youghal where her parents own a celebrated fish restaurant.

David Heap: Johnny

Recent stage work includes a sell-out run of **LIPPY** by Bush Moukarzel with Mark O'Halloran (Winner of a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014/Winner of the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Production 2013) at the Young Vic, London and the Peacock Theatre, Dublin. He was seen as *Hawthorne* in the world premiere of the bi-lingual play **MAUM** directed by Diarmuid de Faoite, as part of the International Galway Arts Festival 2015. Other theatre includes two one man shows - **THE RACE OF THE ARK TATTOO** – for which he was nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award and **LOVE AND FURY**, his own adaptation of the writings of Jonathan Swift, both of which toured throughout Ireland, the title role in Brian Friel's **FAITH HEALER** (Tinderbox), **SALOME** directed by Steven Berkoff (Gate Theatre Dublin, Edinburgh Festival, Spoleto Festival), **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN** (Edinburgh Festival), **TITUS ANDRONICUS AND MACBETH** directed by Selina Cartmell, **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** (The Lyric, Belfast,) and **HAMLET, KING LEAR** and **PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME** for Second Age. His film credits include **IN AMERICA, THE BOXER** and most recently **THE SECRET SCRIPTURE**, all directed by Jim Sheridan, **MIRACLE AT MIDNIGHT, FRANKY STARLIGHT** and the John Schlesinger film **SWEENEY TODD**. He played regular character **Donal Maher** for 10 years in RTE television's flagship soap **FAIR CITY**.

Julie Sharkey: Doreen

Julie is a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting.

Recent theatre includes **The Big Wall** Hawkswell Sligo, **The Secret Garden Brokencrow/ Everyman** Cork, **A Game Called Lucy** Last Serenade, **The Far Off Hills** Nomad and Mikel Murfi, **Goodnight Irene, Raccoon, There Are Little Kingdomr** Meridian Theatre. **Harold and Sophie**, Piccolo Milan Abbey Theatre **Merchant of Venice** Cork Opera House **The Glass Menagerie** Everyman Palace **Bedbound, Frozen** Asylum.

TV/Film include **Smalltown, Mammal, Death of a Superhero, The Runway, 32a, Red Rock, Fair City, The Clinic**.

Julie works extensively as a voice over artist on Radio and TV.

Orla Murphy Writer-Director

Writer-Director Orla Murphy's playwriting debut **Remember to Breathe** was nominated for **Fishamble Best New Play in Tiger Dublin Fringe** and a radio script version was shortlisted for the **BBC International Playwriting Award**. Previously Orla has written and directed short pieces for theatre, film and radio. In 2013, her short play *Valentine's Dead* was staged as a transatlantic collaboration with Origin First Irish Festival New York. Her short film **Nollaig Shona** was widely selected at international festivals and broadcast on primetime Christmas TV. She wrote and directed the radio drama **Indieworld** which was Irish Times 'Radio Moment of the Week' and adapted and directed six award-winning short stories for radio in the BAI funded series *Tales of Our Times*, which she then developed into sold-out shows with Bewley's Theatre. Orla's writing has also been shortlisted for **BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Award (TV Drama)** and for **Pinewood Studio's backed Enterthepitch** as well as the **Galway Film Fleadh Pitching Award**.

In 2015 Orla was mentored by Jim Culleton of Fishamble Theatre in a year-long Directing for Theatre mentorship. Orla holds an MA in Scriptwriting from IADT and teaches creative writing in NUI Maynooth. Orla collaborates occasionally as a voiceover artist, most recently working with visual artist Hong-An Truong for a work-in-progress incorporating the plays of Samuel Beckett during a recent residency in IMMA.

Orla is also a serial emigrant and a self-taught, head-above-water, seriously imperfect swimmer.