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SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT **CORRIB THEATRE**

**Featuring contemporary Irish playwrights
with riveting stories of history, politics and human nature**

PORTLAND, OREGON – August 30, 2017. For its fifth year of offering Portland plays by contemporary Irish playwrights, Corrib Theatre brings these three gripping, politically relevant works: *Belfast Girls* by Jaki McCarrick, *Lifeboat* by Nicola McCartney and *Quietly* by Owen McCafferty. This set of play selections coming to Portland audiences are all by internationally produced, award-winning playwrights.

“These three plays bear out Corrib’s mission of presenting challenging works with universal resonance, filtered through the Irish experience,” said Gemma Whelan, Corrib’s Founding Artistic Director. “Each of these stories speaks to the triumph of communication and connection in the face of violence, chauvinism, xenophobia and hatred.”

Tickets for all performances are on sale now. General admission tickets are \$25, students and group ticket prices are \$20. Tickets are available at Brown Paper Tickets:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/616721>

2017/18 SEASON LAUNCH & FUNRAISING EVENT

Monday, October 2, 2017

7:30pm

T.C. O’Leary’s Irish Pub, 2926 NE Alberta St, Portland

The event includes Irish food, live music and readings from the three 2017-18 Season plays: *Belfast Girls*, *Lifeboat* and *Quietly*.

IMAGE SKETCHES by Jan Baross

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2017-18 CORRIB THEATRE SEASON](#)

Belfast Girls

By Jaki McCarrick

Directed by Gemma Whelan~

VENUE: Shaking the Tree Theatre, 823 SE Grant St., Portland

DATES: Nov 17 – Dec 10, 2017

Five young women depart Belfast during the Irish Famine with the hope of a better life in their hearts. Set aboard the *Inchinnan*, a ship sails in 1850 from famine-stricken Ireland bound for Australia under a British government scheme to purportedly help “orphan” girls find a better life. En route, these strong and high-spirited women discover that they have been conveniently gotten rid of. Together, they must confront the demons of the life they’ve left behind, survive the endless voyage and take strength in each other to face what lies ahead. Based on true accounts, it is a play about emigration and the female experience of the Famine, and of the powers-that-be that scapegoat and victimize their most vulnerable during a crisis.

Culture Northern Ireland offers an in-depth article about the play, an interview with the playwright and the history it covers for its London premiere [HERE](#).

CAST: Anya Pearson* (Judith), Tiffany Groben (Molly), Summer Olsson (Hannah), Brennan Dwyer (Ellen), Hannah Edelson (Sarah)

CREATIVE TEAM: Corey McCarey (Stage Manager, Production Manager), Lara A. Klingeman (Light Design, Technical Director), Anthony Arnista (Light Design), Summer Olsson (Costume Design), Sharath Patel (Sound Design), Chanell Magee (Prop Design), Charlotte Headrick (Dramaturg), Karl Hanover (Dialect Coach), Murri Lazaroff-Babin (Fight Choreographer)

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

~ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Jaki McCarrick is an award-winning writer of plays, poetry and fiction. She won the 2010 Papatango New Writing Prize for her play *Leopoldville*. Her play *Belfast Girls*, developed at the National Theatre London, was shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the 2014 BBC Tony Doyle Award. *Belfast Girls* premiered in Chicago, May 2015, to much critical acclaim (Windy City Times Critics’ Pick) and opened Spring 2016 in Vancouver. [MORE HERE](#)

Lifeboat

By Nicola McCartney

Directed by Avital Shira

VENUE: Northwest Children’s Theatre, 1819 NW Everett St., Portland

DATES: Jan 12 – Feb 4, 2018

Lifeboat is the extraordinary true story of Bess Walder and Beth Cummings, teenagers whose ship was torpedoed while they were escaping the relentless bombing of Britain during World War II. It is a story of courage, survival and enduring friendship. *A co-production with Northwest Children’s Theatre.*

“*Lifeboat* packs a wallop because it is fundamentally about life, death and the human spirit. Oh, and it's a highly entertaining history lesson too: informing the young and reminding the old.”

Theatre Review, New Zealand

CAST: Kayla Lian (Bess) and Britt Harris (Beth)

CREATIVE TEAM: Emily Trimble (Stage Manager, Production Manager), Kim Williams (Set & Props Design), Gina Piva (Costume Design), Amir Shirazi (Sound Design), Sarah Hughey (Lighting Design), Charlotte Headrick (Dramaturg), Karl Hanover (Dialect Coach)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Nicola McCartney, originally from Belfast, is an award-winning writer and director, based in Scotland. A graduate of Glasgow University, she was Artistic Director of Glasgow-based new writing theatre company, lookOUT from 1992 to 2002. Her plays include *Heritage*, *Lifeboat* and *Easy*. Her most recent plays include, *Rough Island* (Mull Theatre/Oran Mor), *Sullom Voe* (BBC Radio Drama), *Dear Scotland* (National Theatre Scotland). Nicola has worked as a dramaturge for a range of companies including Vanishing Point and the Edinburgh International Festival 2005. She has had a range of residencies both academic and community based and is one of the Associate Playwrights of the new Playwrights Studio Scotland. She was a recipient of a Creative Scotland Award 2003 to work on her first novel entitled, *Ice Angel* and also works in radio, TV and film. She is currently under commission to, among others, National Theatre of Scotland, Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh and the Abbey Theatre Dublin.

[MORE HERE](#)

Quietly

By Owen McCafferty

Directed by Gemma Whelan~

VENUE: New Expressive Works, 810 SE Belmont St., Portland

DATES: Apr 13 – May 6, 2018

Two middle-aged men with a shared past meet in a bar in present day Belfast. Sharing pints as a football match between Northern Ireland is playing Poland on the TV, the men must tell their disparate stories of a day etched in their psyches, while the Polish bartender bears witness to the outcome. This is a powerful story of violence and forgiveness in the aftermath of The Troubles.

“It is difficult to imagine a piece of theater more perfectly suited to our jittery, antagonistic American moment than “*Quietly*,” Owen McCafferty’s rage-filled, wounded, mournful play about terrorism, civil war and the damage that remains after the hatred cools.” *The New York Times*

CAST: Ted Rooney* (Jimmy), Tim Blough* (Ian), Murri Lazaroff-Babin (Robert)

CREATIVE TEAM: Sarah Marguier (Costume Design), Cameron McFee (Sound Design), Karl Hanover (Dialect Coach), Charlotte Headrick (Dramaturg), additional creative team TBD

LEARN MORE: Culture Northern Ireland in-depth article [HERE](#).

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: Owen McCafferty is a playwright from Belfast, Ireland. His play *Quietly* was produced at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin in 2012 as part of their Great Irish Writers Season. The original production transferred to the Irish Rep Theatre in New York from July 20 to September 11, 2016. In

2013, the play was nominated for Best New Play at the Irish Times Theatre Awards, at Edinburgh Fringe won the Scotsman's coveted Fringe First award for new writing and the UK Writer's Guild Best New Play Award. At present, Owen is commissioned to write the book and lyrics for *Mojo Mickybo The Musical* and is writing an adaptation of *Julius Caesar* for the children's Ark Theatre in Dublin, and *Beneath* for The Abbey Theatre in Dublin. [MORE HERE](#)

ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR GEMMA WHELAN

Gemma is the founding Artistic Director of Corrib Theatre. For Corrib she has directed *The Testament of Mary* by Colm Tóibín, *Our New Girl* by Nancy Harris, *Chapatti* by Christian O'Reilly, *Little Gem* by Elaine Murphy, *The Hen Night Epiphany* by Jimmy Murphy, *St. Nicholas* by Conor McPherson, and *A Night in November* by Marie Jones (Drammy nomination for Direction, Drammy award for Solo Performance). In Portland she has directed *Broomstick* by John Biguenet, and *Ithaka* by Andrea Stolowitz at Artists Repertory Theatre, *The Call* by Tanya Barfield at Profile Theatre, *Words that Burn* by Cindy Williams Guttierrez for Los Porteños at Milagro Theatre, and others at CoHo Theatre, Boom Arts, and Portland Center Stage's Just Add Water (JAW) Festival. She was the founding Artistic Director of Wilde Irish Productions in the Bay Area. For Wilde Irish she directed Michael Mac Liammoir's *The Importance of Being Oscar* (Dean Goodman Award for Direction, Dean Goodman Award for Solo Performance), the U.S. premiere of *Ariel* by Marina Carr, Frank McGuinness' *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, Patricia Burke Brogan's *Eclipsed*, and Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. Other favorites include Jane Chamber's *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (Cable Car Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Directing), and Eileen Atkins' *Vita and Virginia* (Curve Magazine, Best Theatre of the Year Award), both at Theatre Rhinoceros; Tom Kempinski's *Duet for One* (Zephyr Theatre); Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* (Phoenix Theatre) and *Equus* by Peter Schaffer (Little Theatre Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Directing). Gemma received the Gerald Duff Award for Continuing Contribution to Theatre in the San Francisco Bay Area. Educational credits include Mills College (Chair, Drama Dept), UC Berkeley, American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, Portland Actors Conservatory, Portland State University, Literary Arts (Delve), Pacific University, Willamette University, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (Singapore). She is an award-winning filmmaker and a published novelist. She holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin, an MA in Theatre from UC Berkeley and an MFA in Cinema from San Francisco State University. She is a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). www.gemmawhelan.com

ABOUT CORRIB THEATRE

Corrib Theatre engages, inspires, entertains, and challenges audiences with theatrical productions filtered through the Irish experience, and with a focus on contemporary and lesser-known voices; we foster a diverse theatre community in our artists and patrons, and celebrate the essential power of the theatre to illuminate our common humanity.

*Corrib is a river and a lake on the west coast of Ireland.
According to place name lore, Corrib was a god of the sea.*

www.corribtheatre.org

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