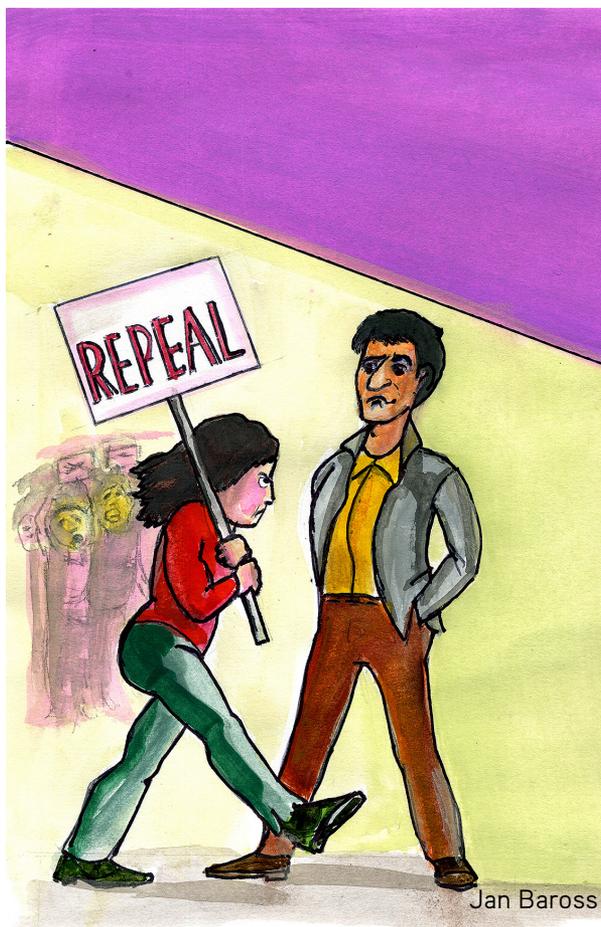


Corrib Theatre presents

# Maz & Bricks

by **Eva O'Connor**

Directed by **Melody Erfani**



**Feb 18 – Mar 13, 2022**

**the Boiler Room, Lincoln Hall, PSU Portland**

**[corribtheatre.org](http://corribtheatre.org)**

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

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**SPECIAL THANKS:**

Brenda Honeyman and Karin Magaldi at Portland State University, Clark College  
Theatre Department, Iain Chester.

**ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION TEAM:**

**Dialect Coach:** Karl Hanover  
**House Manager:** Bronnie Rice  
**Program:** Karl Hanover and Adam Liberman  
**Cover Drawing:** Jan Baross  
**Media Relations:** Karl Hanover

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Corrib Theatre presents

# Maz & Bricks

by Eva O'Connor

Directed by Melody Erfani

**CAST**

**Maz** ..... Eliza Frakes  
**Bricks** ..... Ken Yoshikawa\*

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**Scenic Designer** ..... Kyra Sanford  
**Costume Designer** ..... Gregory Pulver  
**Lighting Designer** ..... Anthony Arnista  
**Sound Designer** ..... Andrew Bray  
**Stage/Production Manager** ..... Emily Trimble

**Setting:** On public transport and around the streets of Dublin, 2017.  
**Running time:** 100 minutes, no intermission.

Presented by special arrangement with Rochelle Stevens & Co Ltd.  
*Maz & Bricks* was first presented by Fishamble in Dublin Ireland, in April, 2017.

**Show sponsored by Bob and Janet Conklin**  
**Season sponsored by Ronni Lacroute**

Additional funding through the generosity of Corrib donors and the following:



Photos, video, or audio recording of this performance is prohibited.  
Please feel free to take and share photos of the set before and after the show.

\*  Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.



## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT: EVA O’CONNOR

“I’m absolutely thrilled that Maz and Bricks is being produced by Corrib Theatre. It is a huge privilege that the play is having a life in Portland. I wrote the play in the run up to the repeal of the Eighth (Amendment) referendum in Ireland, but its themes, sadly, remain as pressing as ever. I wish I could be there to see the Corrib production come to life. Instead I am sending my warmest wishes to cast crew and audiences all the way from Ireland.”



### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Eva O’Connor is an Irish writer and performer from Ogonnelloe, Co. Clare. She studied English and German at Edinburgh University before completing an MA in theatre ensemble from Rose Bruford drama school in London.

Her plays include *My Best Friend Drowned in a Swimming Pool*, *Kiss Me and You Will See How Important I Am*, *My Name is Saoirse*, *Overshadowed*, *The Friday Night Effect* (co-written with Hildegard Ryan), *Maz and Bricks*, and *Mustard*. Eva runs her own theatre company, Sunday’s Child, with Hildegard Ryan. She has won various awards for her work, including Best Emerging Artist Award 2012 (Edinburgh Fringe), First Fortnight Award 2014 (Dublin Fringe), Argus Angel Award 2015 (Brighton Fringe), Fishamble Award for Best New Writing 2015, Best Theatre Award 2019 (Adelaide Fringe), Scotsman Fringe First Award 2019 (Edinburgh Fringe), and Lustrum Award 2019 (Edinburgh Fringe). Her play *Overshadowed* was recently adapted for television by BBC3 and Rollem productions and won Best Drama at the Mind Media Award 2019. Eva has also written for radio. Her play *My Name is Saoirse* was adapted by RTÉ Radio 1 and her short story *The Midnight Sandwich* was recently aired on BBC Radio 4.



### DIRECTOR’S NOTES: MELODY ERFANI

Maz & Bricks was written by Eva O’Connor as a rallying cry for Ireland to move to repeal the Eighth Amendment. The amendment granted an equal right to life of the mother and unborn child, regardless of any risks childbirth would present to the mother. The play toured Ireland in 2017. In 2018, the amendment was repealed. The arts played a pivotal role in

changing the political landscape for women’s reproduction rights in Ireland.

This play still has significant relevance, as our country’s laws are regressing. Texas is now offering rewards of \$10,000 or more towards lawsuits against anyone thought to have aided in an abortion. Being set in Ireland, I feel the play gives us the distance to really experience the fight for bodily autonomy without so directly addressing the reopened wounds of our current turmoil.

Shakespeare would employ a similar device. His plays were often set in far off foreign countries in the distant past so that he could tackle sensitive political topics.

While it is set at a march for choice, this play is not solely an issue play or even a very political play. First and foremost, it is about two people making a connection. Maz and Bricks are two very different people with contrasting views, but thanks to the vulnerability they share, they change each other’s lives in ways that they never thought possible. Eva mentions in one of her interviews: “I wanted to show that if you meet someone on a human level so often you surprise yourself. You can find a connection with someone on the complete opposite side of the fence to you.”

Our ability and need for understanding, love, and community is at the heart of this play and is something, I think, that is a worthy reminder.

### EIGHTH AMENDMENT

The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of Ireland, passed by referendum in 1983, inserted a subsection recognizing the equal right to life of the pregnant woman and the unborn.

### THIRTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT

The Thirty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution of Ireland, passed by referendum in May 2018, permits the Irish Parliament to legislate for abortion. The constitution had previously prohibited abortion unless there was a serious risk to the life of the mother.

### HEALTH (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) ACT 2018

Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, signed into law on December 20, 2018, defines the circumstances and processes within which abortion may be legally performed in Ireland. It permits termination under medical supervision, generally up to 12 weeks’ gestation, and later if pregnancy poses a serious health risk or there is a fatal fetal abnormality.

## ABOUT CORRIB THEATRE

Corrib Theatre’s mission is to bring Irish playwrights’ unique perspective on oppression and empowerment, and conflict and resolution, to Portland in order to change our world for the better. We celebrate Ireland’s dramatic transformation in the recent decades of the 21st century and its emergence as a world leader in social and progressive arenas. Corrib Theatre engages, inspires, entertains, and challenges audiences with theatrical productions dealing with universal issues filtered through the Irish experience, with a focus on women, and lesser-known voices.

## **GLOSSARY:**

**1916:** Refers to the 1916 Easter Rising, an armed insurrection against British Rule in Ireland with the goal of establishing an independent Irish Republic.

**Aer úr:** Fresh air.

**Aggro:** 1. Aggression; 2. Exasperation, irritation.

**Bogger:** A person from the country (or the bogs) in Ireland (pejorative term).

**Corconians:** People from the city of Cork.

**Culchie:** An unsophisticated person outside of Dublin (pejorative term).

**Do Lally:** A bit mad.

**Dossing off:** Avoiding work or effort.

**Eckied as a racehorse:** Like a racehorse on the drug ecstasy.

**Fag:** Cigarette.

**Gaf:** Home.

**Gagging:** Desperately eager for, craving (often with a sexual connotation).

**Gob:** Mouth.

**GPO:** General Post Office.

**Head-the-ball:** A stupid person.

**Hen party:** Bachelorette party.

**Het up:** Worked up, anxious.

**Leaving Cert:** Nationwide final exams for all secondary school students.

**Liffey:** River Liffey runs through the center of Dublin.

**Lippy:** Insolent, impertinent.

**Luas:** Light rail transit system in Dublin (the name is the Irish word for speed).

**OAPs:** Old age pensioners.

**Offies:** Off license, a liquor store.

**Minted:** Rich.

**Morto:** Mortified with embarrassment.

**Mot:** Girlfriend.

**Nicked:** Stole.

**Numpty:** A stupid person.

**Pioneer:** Member of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Assoc., who promote sobriety.

**Schtum:** Keep quiet, say nothing.

**Skived off:** Avoided work or school by staying away (played truant).

**Snog:** Kiss.

**The Guards:** Garda Síochána, the national police force of the Republic of Ireland.

**Weetabix:** A type of breakfast cereal.

**Yokes:** The drug ecstasy.

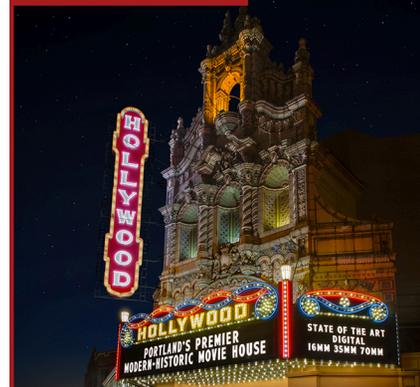
**ANN LOVETT:** Ann Lovett was a 15-year-old schoolgirl from Granard, County Longford, who died giving birth beside a grotto on January 31, 1984. Her baby son died at the same time.

**SAVITA HALAPPANAVAR:** On October 21, 2012, Savita Halappanavar was admitted to University Hospital Galway suffering from severe pain. Seventeen weeks pregnant, doctors determined a miscarriage was inevitable. The following day Ms. Halappanavar discussed an abortion with the consulting physician but was refused, as Irish law forbade abortion if a fetal heartbeat was still present. She later developed sepsis and, on October 28, died of cardiac arrest at the age of 31.

**JOANNE HAYES:** On April 14, 1984, a newborn baby boy was found dead of 28 stab wounds on a beach in County Kerry. A woman, Joanne Hayes, who was known to have been pregnant, was arrested and under pressure confessed to the murder of the baby. She and her family later withdrew their confessions and admitted instead that Hayes' baby had died shortly after birth and was buried on the farm in secret. Tests showed that the baby had the same O blood type as Hayes and its (married) father, Jeremiah Locke. The baby on the beach, however, had blood type A. The Gardaí nevertheless insisted that Hayes had become pregnant simultaneously by two different men and had given birth to both children, killing the one found on the beach. Four years later the "Kerry Babies Tribunal" issued a report critical of the Garda conduct in the investigations. In 2020, the Irish state formally apologized after 36 years to Joanne Hayes for wrongly accusing her of the murder and for the "appalling hurt and distress caused."

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## BIOS



### MELODY ERFANI

#### Director

Melody is excited to work with Corrib Theatre. She is an East/West Coast director specializing in new works and classical adaptations. She received an MFA in Directing from the Actors Studio Drama School, and was a participant of the 2013 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. She graduated with a BFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Texas, during which she procured an internship with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. She received an HB Residency in 2017 and a First Stage Drama Arts League Residency in 2019. Favorite credits: *You Got Older* (Zoom reading Third Rail Rep); *Bee* روبيز (creator/director), *Antigone, Romeo + Juliet* (Lower East Side Shakespeare Co); *97 Orchard St.* (creator/director), *All an Act* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *Dying City, Raised in Captivity* (ASDS Repertory); *Our Town, The Importance of Being Earnest* (Stagedoor Manor, NY). melodyerfani.com



### ELIZA FRAKES

#### Maz

Eliza Frakes is an actor, writer, and filmmaker based out of Portland and Los Angeles. She graduated from Lewis and Clark College, where she also received the Departmental Distinction Award in Acting. Some of her favorite roles include Mash in *Stupid F\*\$king Bird*, Tabby in *Cuddles*, Lily in *Waterlily*, and Sarah in *Murky* (short film). In 2021, she completed a year-long residency with Echo Theatre as one of their selected young playwrights, where she debuted her first full-length play, *Moleman*. Eliza is the founding director of 920 Collective, an interdisciplinary production company that supports collaboration among early career makers in the generation of new works. She is thrilled to bits to make her debut with Corrib Theatre, alongside such a thoughtful and talented cast and crew. Thank you to her stellar partner, her wonderful family, her many teachers, and the greatest friends around.



### KEN YOSHIKAWA

#### Bricks

Ken is right thrilled to be joining this tidy team of artists for his first foray with Corrib Theatre. There is a strong relief in returning to the stage at this juncture of the Great Pandemic, since his 2019 role as Ben in *The Journal of Ben Uchida* with Oregon Children's Theatre was lapsed but halfway through its run. So now, having transited the deep introversion of our collective lockdown, he's very ready to publicly storytell in good company! Some other of his notable credits include Martin in *1984* (Artists Rep), Arjun in *Chitra: The Girl Prince*

(NW Children's Theater), and Keoni/Franklin in *Today is My Birthday* (Artists Rep). In 2019 he performed his solo show *The Art of Flyswatting* in tandem with Claire Aldridge's *Anatomy of a Rabbit* (Red Balloon Theatre Collective), as well as off-Broadway with the Pan Asian Rep's NuWorks 2019 in NYC. Ken has also published a book of poetry, *Monster Colored Glasses* by Lightship Press. yoshikawaken.com



### KYRA SANFORD

#### Scenic Designer

Kyra Sanford is thrilled to be doing live theatre again! She is a freelance scenic designer, props master, carpenter, and painter in the Portland area, working for theatres such as Milagro, PassinArt, Theatre Vertigo, Defunkt Theatre, Profile Theatre, Portland State University, Clark College, Lincoln High School, Third Rail Rep, and various others. She received her BFA in scenic design from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. sanfordscenic.com



### GREGORY PULVER

#### Costume Designer

Gregory is currently theatre program director and associate professor of costume design, makeup, and choreography for the University of Portland theatre department and one of the 28 resident artists at Artists Repertory Theatre. He moved to Portland after a successful run as an associate professor of costume design at Western Washington University for 12 years and chair of the WWU theatre department for three and a half of those years. Mr. Pulver holds an MFA in costume design and choreography from Humboldt State University, California. He is the 1993 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Costume Design winner for his work on *The Three Penny Opera*. He is a member of the international board of advisors for The Last Frontier Theatre Conference and participates yearly as a featured artist, mentoring new American playwrights. Designs include sets and costumes for Bag and Baggage Productions, costumes for Broadway Rose Theatre Company, and costumes for Artists Repertory Theatre (*Skin of Our Teeth, Broomstick, Cuba Libre, Foxfinder, God of Carnage, Red Herring, and Design for Living*). Gregory has also designed for several short films and TV spots in Washington, including a dance for the film *Egg Skin*. Gregory is also an accomplished director, singer, actor, and dog owner.



## Become a show sponsor!

Your help enables us to continue to engage, inspire, entertain, and challenge audiences, and is greatly appreciated!  
Email gemma@corribtheatre.org or call 503-389-0579



**ANTHONY ARNISTA**  
**Lighting Designer**

Anthony is currently the technical director at Curious Comedy Theater. He graduated with an MFA in ensemble based physical theater from Dell'arte International in 2013. He cofounded the company White Collar Crimes Theatre, which has created two original vaudeville inspired works that have toured the Canadian Fringe Festivals. He also works as a touring technician for both fringe festivals and touring companies, taking him to diverse places including Alaska, Australia, Canada, Scotland, and South Africa.



**ANDREW BRAY**  
**Sound Designer**

Andrew Bray is a Portland-based sound designer, music director, actor, and theatre instructor. Recent sound designs include *Four Last Things* (Corrib Theatre), *Nesting*, and its sequel, *Nesting: Vacancy* (JPD Productions), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Lakewood Theatre), *The Alien Chicken Remembers Galatea* and *Saying Goodbye to the Sun* (Mofsec Productions), and *A Maze and Assistance* (Theatre Vertigo). Music directing credits include *A Civil War Christmas* (Artists Rep), *13: The Musical* and *Les Miserables* (Staged!), and countless other theatrical productions. He also enjoys performing as a theatrical keyboardist and is a passionate backyard beekeeper.



**EMILY TRIMBLE**  
**Stage Manager, Production Manager**

Emily Trimble earned her BA in art and performance from the University of Texas at Dallas and spent several years working in Dallas theatre after graduation. In Dallas, she worked at Dallas Children's Theater, WaterTower Theatre, Nouveau 47 Theatre, and Undermain Theatre as both a stage manager and an assistant stage manager. She moved to Portland in 2012 and has since worked at Bag&Baggage Productions; Broadway Rose; Oregon Children's Theatre; Original Practice Shakespeare Festival; and most recently with the Ten, Tiny, Talks Festival in collaboration with Crave Theatre and T&A Grand Theater. She also occasionally dabbles in props design and was the season props designer for several years at Bag&Baggage. She is thrilled to be working for Corrib again, having previously worked as the stage manager and production manager for *Lifeboat*. In her free time, Emily enjoys rock climbing, crocheting, hanging with her cat, and watching dumb movies with her partner.



**GEMMA WHELAN**  
**Artistic Director**

Gemma Whelan is the founding artistic director of Corrib Theatre. For Corrib, she has directed numerous regional and U.S. premieres, including *James X*, *How to Keep an Alien*, *Four Last Things*, *Quietly*, *The Testament of Mary*, and *A Night in November* (Drammy nomination for Direction, Drammy award for Solo Performance). In Portland, she has also directed at Artists Repertory Theatre, Profile Theatre, CoHo Theatre, Boom Arts, and Portland Center Stage's JAW Festival. She was the founding artistic director of Wilde Irish Productions in the San Francisco Bay Area and directed at various theatres in the area for over 20 years. Gemma has taught at numerous colleges and conservatories in the Bay Area (including Mills College, American Conservatory Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre), and in Portland, Ireland, and Singapore. Her second novel will be published in spring 2022. She holds a BA in English, French, and Fine Arts from Trinity College Dublin, an MA in Theatre from UC Berkeley, and an MFA in Cinema from San Francisco State University.



**ADAM LIBERMAN**  
**Managing Director**

Adam was a sound designer in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he designed over 40 shows and was a resident designer for many years at Berkeley Jewish Theatre and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. He also studied acting at the Jean Shelton Acting School (aka Shelton Studios). Adam has worked in audio test and measurement for many years as a technical support engineer, technical writer, and test automation programmer. At Liberman Sound, which he has operated for over thirty years, he has designed, maintained, and modified audio equipment for many major motion pictures and TV shows. He also worked for many years as a production sound mixer for feature films, commercials, and documentaries, and in post-production sound as a mix engineer. Adam worked in radio at KPFA for over 15 years, as a news reporter, maintenance engineer, instructor, and on-air board-op. He has co-led musical tours to Cuba, Chile, and Mexico, and theatre tours for Corrib to Ireland. He has also registered students to attend an intensive Spanish school in Guatemala for the last 25 years. Other areas of expertise include programming, database design, web design, and photography. Adam is a member of AES and IEEE. BA drama, University of Washington; TESOL graduate certificate, UC Berkeley.

Join us for these upcoming shows and events!



## The Smuggler

by Ronán Noone

directed by Gemma Whelan

with Tom O'Leary, at T. C. O'Leary's

April 27 – May 22, 2022

Irish immigrant Tim Finnegan has aspirations of being a writer but struggles to earn a living and provide for his baby son. Spurred on by family pressure and his own loss of dignity, he discovers the price he's willing to pay to get ahead. A story in verse by a master weaver of tales, about the dark underside of the American Dream.



## Kissing the Witch

by Emma Donoghue

directed by Tracy Cameron Francis

June 9 – 26, 2022

A magical web of interconnected stories about power, transformation, and choosing one's own path in the world. These age-old fairy tales are given a new spin as women young and old tell their own stories of love, hate, honor and revenge, and passion and deception.

[corribtheatre.org](http://corribtheatre.org) 503-389-0579

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## Irish Theatre Tour

July 19 – 29 2022

Join our fourth annual Irish Theatre Tour, led by Corrib Theatre's Artistic Director Gemma Whelan and Managing Director Adam Liberman.

Attend eight performances at world-renowned theatres in Dublin and Galway (during the Galway International Arts Festival). Meet with leading Irish playwrights and theatre artists. Day trips and other activities.



### Participant comments:

"Just a lovely and lively experience. I am so grateful for the opportunity."

"If you think you could plan a tour yourself and have anything close to the Corrib tour experience, you're wrong."

"What a great experience to learn about Irish theater, Irish culture and Irish history! Worth every moment."

"My favorite group trip ever..."

[corribtheatre.org/irish-theatre-tour](http://corribtheatre.org/irish-theatre-tour)

