



I ♥ ALICE ♥ I

HOTFORTHEATRE
IRELAND



AUCKLAND
ARTS
FESTIVAL

FREE PROGRAMME

POST-SHOW TALK
FRI 8 MAR
Q THEATRE, LOFT

I ♥ ALICE ♥ I

Q THEATRE, LOFT

Thursday 7 March, 8.00pm

Friday 8 March, 7.30pm

Saturday 9 March, 5.00pm

Sunday 10 March, 5.00pm

Monday 11 March, 8.00pm

Duration: 1 hour, no interval

Writer & Director Amy Conroy

Developed with Clare Barrett

Lighting Design John Crudden

Sound Design Jack Cawley

Company Manager/Producer Jen Coppinger

Production Manager Marie Tierney

Hair & Make Up Val Sherlock

Photography Emma Burke-Kennedy

CAST

Alice Slattery is performed by Clare Barrett

Alice Kinsella is performed by Amy Conroy

CORE FUNDERS



GOLD SPONSORS

COLENSOBBDO



Special thanks to: Veronica Coburn, Siobhán Bourke, Jane Daly and Claire O'Neill at Irish Theatre Institute, Christine Sisk and all at Culture Ireland, Andrew Ross, Colm O'Callaghan, Kerry O'Sullivan, Susannah Day and Thom Smyth at The Blue Rooms Perth, Zohar Spatz, Shannon King, Sarah Neal, Anni Bliss and Melissa Johanson at the Brisbane Powerhouse, Jo Duffy, Anne-marie Pollard and Jen Cramer at Ten Days on the Island Festival, Tasmania and most especially to Carla Van Zon, David Inns, Helaina Keeley, Amelia Cimino and Siobhan Waterhouse at the Auckland Festival for their incredible work on bringing HotForTheatre to Brisbane. We are delighted to be here.

'this is a humorous, affecting and quietly empowering work that fully convinces in its artful facsimile of real people sharing experiences both ordinary and precious.'
- *The New York Times*

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I ♥ ALICE ♥ I

Alice Kinsella and Alice Slattery are two gentle and retiring Irish sexagenarians who stole a kiss in the condiments aisle of a local supermarket and unwittingly sparked an idea.

Theatre director Amy Conroy spied the pair and persuaded them to share their ♥-warming love story with a live theatre audience. Over cups of tea and slices of pound cake, the modest couple describe their life dramas — chance meetings, infidelity, battles with cancer, overseas trips. *I ♥ Alice ♥ I* is the charming, intimate result of this chance encounter.

Alice Slattery and Alice Kinsella have known each other since childhood. At the age of 20 Alice Kinsella runs off to London. Alice Slattery stays in Dublin and marries Liam. Alice Kinsella begins a complicated life of lesbian love while working at the Times newspaper. But upon her return to Dublin to nurse her ailing mother, she quickly rekindles her friendship with Alice Slattery. At the deaths of both Kinsella's mother and Slattery's husband, they became closer.

And so begins an examination of the world of the two Alices. Love quietly bloomed despite a society-wide culture of shame, where homosexuality has been ignored, repudiated or described only in euphemisms.

Director Amy Conroy has captured the play's documentary origins through domestic details which populate the journey: passion, travel, differences in religious faith, menopause, Dusty Springfield, infidelity, cancer, Key West and coming out. The documentary techniques offer an authenticity that gives voice to a social issue that has impacted many lives and loves.

A NOTE FROM AMY CONROY (DIRECTOR)

This unexpected, award-winning, love story is here in New Zealand for the first time. Open your heart and prepare to be captivated.

I ♥ Alice ♥ I began as a response to a season of documentary theatre in the Dublin Theatre Festival. Documentary theatre was being heralded as the most honest theatrical experience ... so it was the style that first inspired this show.

I wanted to write and make a piece of theatre exploring and celebrating the notion of honesty and integrity on stage. Then the Alice's took over!

This is a love story. It is also a life story. It's the story of two ordinary people ... two ordinary lives, and the great beauty and simplicity within. I suppose really, this is a celebration of love in all its forms.

Alice and Alice are older, Alice and Alice are women, and Alice and Alice are gay, so to put it bluntly, Alice and Alice are invisible. It is about time we see them ... in all their glory.

We have been delighted with the audience's response to this show ... we've toured all over, and it seems to resonate with men and women of any age, regardless of whom they fight with for the bed covers. It's for you; we really hope you enjoy it.

***Amy Conroy is a member of
Six in the Attic, an Irish Theatre
Institute resource sharing initiative***



IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE
creating opportunities abroad strengthening resources at home

Amy Conroy—Director



Amy Conroy has been a professional actor for over ten years and has enjoyed a varied and busy career. She founded HotForTheatre in 2010 and wrote their debut show *I ♥ Alice ♥ I*, which premiered in Dublin Fringe Festival 2010, winning her the Fishamble

New Writing Award. It was programmed in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2011, the Peacock stage of the Abbey Theatre, the Irish Arts Centre In New York, LÓKAL Festival in Iceland, Electric Picnic Festival, and the Glasgow Festival in Glasgow. Her Second show, *Eternal Rising of the Sun*, for which she won the Best Female Performer Award premiered in Dublin Fringe Festival 2011, was programmed in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2012, and has just finished a successful run in Perth Fringe Festival. HotForTheatre will tour both shows nationally in 2013 and Amy's new show *Break* will premier later in the year.

Clare Barrett—Developer & Performer



Clare Barrett graduated from the Conservatory of Music and Drama D.I.T. with distinction in 2003. For HotForTheatre she has played Alice Slattery in *I ♥ Alice ♥ I* – Dublin Fringe Festival/Dublin Theatre Festival/Peacock Theatre Dublin/ Irish

Arts Centre New York/ LOKAL Festival Iceland/Glasgay-Glasgow and was the Winner of Best Female Performer

for this role in Dublin Fringe Festival 2010. Since graduating Clare has worked on numerous Radio plays (All for RTE Radio One), her recent Film/TV work includes Run and Jump (Samson pictures), Dark Touch (Element pictures), Roy (Paperboy Productions/CBBC) and Fair City (RTÉ). She has also worked with a variety of Theatre companies playing both in Ireland and Internationally.

They include The Abbey Theatre, Deeramber Productions, Barabbas, Lane Productions, The Performance Corporation, Tall Tales, Corn Exchange, Pan-Pan, PBM, The Theatre Project, Monkeyshine, The Ark and TEAM. Clare's most recent theatre productions include *I'm not A.D.H.D, I'm B.O.L.D.*

(Wicked Angels-Winner of the Little Gem Award-Dublin Fringe Festival /Bewleys 2012); *The Mary Lavin Project (Tall Tales)*; *A Galway Girl* (Bewley'sTheatre); *The Government Inspector* (The Abbey Theatre); *The Blonde the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* (TheTheatreProject); *The Field* (Lane Productions-Olympia Theatre/Irish Tour).

TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH HOTFORTHEATRE



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Email us: jen@hotfortheatre.com

Caoimhe Regan

Company Stage Manager

Caoimhe's work includes; *Dublin City Counseling* with Gentle Giant Productions, *City Breaks* with GoLightly Productions, *The Matchmaker* (tour) with City Theatre Dublin, *Come Forward to meet you and Mango tree* with Upstate Theatre Company, *God of Carnage* in the Gate Theatre, *The End of the Road* with Fishamble: The New Play Company, *The Trailer of Brigid Dinnigan* with Dylan Tighe in association with The Irish Traveller Movement, *Aladdin* with C21 Theatre Company and The 24 Hour Plays with The 24 Play Company. Her work with Anu Productions includes *Corners*, *Basin*, *Down the Valley*, *Memory Deleted*, *Worlds End Lane*, *Laundry* and *The Boys Of Foley Street*.

John Crudden

Lighting Designer

John holds a Higher National Diploma in Performance Studies from Colaiste Dhulaigh. Previous design credits include; *Reaching*

Richie's Freedom (The New Theatre), *Men are from Stoney-batter and Women are from Philsboro* (Maylin theatre company) *Memoirs of a Dublin Bus Driver* (Maylin theatre company) *Billy The Boat Loves Angelina* and *Jo Bangles* (Eska Riada) *Ghost Stories* (Eska Riada, Mill Theatre); *The Stone* (The New Theatre) *Blood Wedding* (Project Arts Centre), *According to Sydney* (The Mill) *Independence* (Playing Space Productions, Smock Alley), *Crave* and *The Vagina Monologues* (Smack Carrot, Smock Alley), *A Decent Woman and Wither* (Tabs Theatre Company) *Blood Wedding* (The Cube, Project), *Weaving The Cry* (Nervoussystem, 565 (Project Arts Centre), *Agememnon* (Classic Stage Ireland), *Possessed* (Ex), *Delicious O'Grady* (Ouch Entertainment), *Overtime* (The New Theatre), *Waiting for Godot* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (AC Productions), *The Hunt for Red Willie* (Exit Excitedly) and *Dead Womans Son* (Maylin Productions).

Jen Coppinger—Producer/Company Manager

Jen is Producer and Company Manger for HotforTheatre and works as Producer for a number of artists and companies including The Company, Dylan Tighe, TheEmergencyRoom, Emma Martin Dance, Peer to Peer and The Stomach Box.

Most recently she produced *Dogs* by Emma Martin Dance at the Dublin Fringe Festival 2012 (winner Best Production) and *The Trailer of Bridget Dinnigan* by Dylan Tighe, Catherine Joyce and Cast in association with the Irish Traveller Movement at Axis Ballymun in December 2011 as part of Traveller Pride Week (winner Traveller Pride Award, Culture, 2011). She also produced *Politik* by The Company and an In Development of *riverrun* by The Emergency Room in last years Dublin Theatre Festival.

Jen also works as Projects Manager for Arts Audiences and previously worked with Irish Theatre Institute, City Arts Centre, Dublin Writers Festival, RADE (Recovery through Art, Drama and Education), and The Abbey Theatre. She sits on the board of RADE, Dublin Fringe Festival and NAYD (the National Association of Youth Drama). Jen is Independent Producer in Residence at Rough Magic Theatre Company, Dublin.



ABOUT HOTFORTHEATRE

HotForTheatre was formed in 2010 and believes that theatre should provoke, move and delight in equal measures. Their first show *I ♥ Alice ♥ I* premiered at Dublin Fringe Festival 2010 in the New Theatre, winning the Fishamble Award for New Writing for Amy Conroy and Best Female Performance Award for Clare Barrett. It was then programmed as part of the ReViewed season in the 2011 Dublin Theatre Festival, a showcase of successful Irish productions restaged in partnership with Culture Ireland and Irish Theatre Institute.

HotForTheatre second show *Eternal Rising of the Sun*, written and performed by Amy Conroy had its premiere at Project Arts Centre for Dublin Fringe Festival 2011 and won the Best Female Performance Award and was nominated for the Irish Times Best Actress Award in 2011. *Eternal Rising of the Sun* recently appeared in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2012 as part of the ReViewed season and had its Australian premiere at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts as part of the Summer Nights season programmed by The Blue Rooms (Perth Fringe World Festival).

Following its run on the Peacock stage at the Abbey Theatre in February 2012, *I ♥ Alice ♥ I* was presented at the Irish Arts Centre in New York, the LOKÁL Festival,

Reykjavík, Iceland, the Electric Picnic, Ireland and the Glasgay Festival, Glasgow, Scotland. HotForTheatre were part of the 2013 World Theatre Festival at the Brisbane Powerhouse where we staged the Australian premiere of *I ♥ Alice ♥ I* at the Powerhouse before touring it to the Auckland Arts Festival for our New Zealand premiere. We are thrilled to be here! Our final trip in the Southern Hemisphere takes us to Ten Days on the Island in Tasmania (March 16–21).

When we return to Ireland we embark on an national tour – HotForTouring.

Development is underway for HotForTheatre's third show *Break* which will premiere in September 2013.

