

Press Release – Wednesday August 3, 2011

“It only ever happens in the movies...”

National Youth Theatre Presents

a new production devised by the cast and **MIKEL MURFI**

On the Peacock Stage at the Abbey Theatre

Produced by the **National Association for Youth Drama**

8pm **Wednesday 24 – Saturday 27 August, 2011**

Previews 8pm Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 August

What’s your favorite Romantic Comedy?

Annie Hall? Roman Holiday? When Harry Met Sally? Four Weddings & A Funeral? *Juno*?

Whatever it is, you’ll be inspired as Ireland’s energetic National Youth Theatre takes over the Peacock stage this summer, with the youngest cast in town. This vivid theatrical experience uses classic romance movies as inspiration for a new show about being 17 when love is in the air.

The 2011 cast of 16 teenage actors (aged 16-20) are now rehearsing in Dublin 5 days a week with one of Ireland’s leading theatre directors **Mikel Murfi** whose recent directing credits include *Penelope*, *B is for Baby* and *The Walworth Farce*. National Youth Theatre is produced by **Orlaith McBride**, Director of the National Association of Youth Drama. Orlaith will take up her new role as Director of the Arts Council in September 2011.

The cast is made up of youth theatre members from all over Ireland – Sligo, Cork, Wexford, Dublin, Donegal, Limerick and Waterford– who came through a rigorous national audition process. This talented group, some of whom will receive their Leaving Cert results during rehearsals, will work alongside Mikel Murfi to devise and perform the piece.

Teenage Thoughts on Treading the Boards

“It is so exciting to think that in so little time, I will be up there on the Peacock stage acting in a play that I helped to create. During the next 5 weeks I will be eating, drinking, sleeping drama.”

- **Mollie Ball (16), Dublin.**

“Being in shows full of young people (not that there's anything wrong with the oldies) is just a great experience.”

- **Sarah Mc Goohan (16), Letterkenny**

“Everyone’s ideas are listened to no matter how much experience you have or don't have. Nobody is too crazy to be part of it, actually the crazier the better! “

- **Kate Finegan (20), Dublin**

“The stage is like my home away from home, I just feel so comfortable. I love being on stage and being someone else for an hour.”

- **Lisa Daly (16), Mallow**

“I am looking forward to getting up in the morning and doing nothing but theatre all day. It’s pretty much every young actors dream.”

- **Darragh Downes (16), Sligo**

Cast Details

Jordan Gallagher (18) & Darragh Downes (16) **Sligo Youth Theatre**

David Atkinson (17) & Clodagh Duggan (19) **Wexford Youth Theatre**

Liam Mulcahy (17), Molly O’Shea (16), Julie Maguire (17) **CSM Youth Theatre, Cork**

Lisa Daly (16) **Lightbulb Youth Theatre, Mallow, Cork.**

Sarah McGoohan (16) **Letterkenny Youth Theatre, Donegal**

Eilis O’Sullivan (18) **Limerick Youth Theatre**

Charlie Kelly (17) **Waterford Youth Arts**

Mollie Ball (16) & Michael Noonan (18) **Boolabus Youth Theatre (Dublin)**

Donall Courtney (16), Aine O Hara (20) & Kate Finnegan (20) **Dublin Youth Theatre**

Creative Team

Director Mikel Murfi

Producer Orlaith McBride, NAYD

Assistant Director John Taite

Set Design Sabine Dargent

Costume Design Catherine Fay

Lighting Design Eamon Fox

Listings Information

Dates: 22 – 27 August, 2011, 8.00pm

Previews: Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 August

Opening Night: Wednesday 24 August

Matinee: Saturday 27 August at 2.30pm

Tickets:

Tickets: €12 – €25 (Youth Theatre Member rate €12)

Previews €15 – €18

The National Youth Theatre is an initiative of the National Association for Youth Drama, the development organization for youth drama and theatre in Ireland.

www.nayd.ie.

FOR FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:

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