

National Youth Theatre

presents

The Seagull

by Anton Chekhov in a version by Martin Crimp

Directed by Wayne Jordan.

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

At the Peacock Theatre

Monday 24 August - Saturday 29 August, 2009

"The Seagull is a brilliant choice for youth theatre! A lot of the time, we put on plays centered around young people and it gets boring after a while, but this play is so good and well-written and its not about drugs or joy-riding or anything like that (not that they're bad, but this is better!)."

- Damien O'Sullivan (18) CSM Youth Theatre, Cork

"This play is something a young actor can get their teeth stuck into."

- Shannon Comiskey (16) Wexford Youth Theatre

"I saw NYT's production of the "Caucasian Chalk Circle" two years ago and I sat in awe through the whole performance. It was theatre at it's very very best and when I found out the performers were my age and we had the chance to be part of something as amazing and professional as that, I knew that I was going to audition every year I had the chance."

- Sinéad Bolger (17) Waterford Youth Drama

"When the curtain goes up on yet another adapted novel... when shouting and banging the scenery is mistaken for good acting... when I see people churn out the same theatrical cliches time after time after time after time after time, then I want to scream and scream..."

- The Seagull, Anton Chekhov.

A cheeky Irish production of Chekhov's classic The Seagull, is currently being rehearsed by 16 young people from youth theatres across Ireland.

Showcasing the work of young people aged 16-20 from around Ireland, the National Association Youth Drama is producing the National Youth Theatre's annual show. **The Seagull** will be performed at the **Peacock Theatre** by the National Youth Theatre in August 2009.

The 2009 cast of sixteen talented young people from youth theatres all over Ireland – Waterford, Sligo, Dublin, Wexford, Cork, Leitrim and Roscommon– could be the theatre stars of our future, and the opportunity to perform at the National Theatre while still in their teens, is exhilarating.

The chance to work with the fearless young Irish theatre director du jour Wayne Jordan, is another advantage of being cast in this show. His reputation goes from strength to strength after recent successes with *Everyone Loves Sylvia* at Project Arts Centre, *La Dispute* at the Peacock Theatre, and the recent announcement that he is to direct the [Abbey's](#) mainstage world premiere production of *Christ Deliver Us!* by Thomas Kilroy in 2010.

As for characters in *The Seagull* - Kostya wants to be a writer and Nina wants to be a star but Masha wants Kostya and Medviedenko wants Masha and Kostya wants Nina but Nina wants Trigorin who is already a writer and he's with Arkadina who is already a star. And who better to interpret this hotbed of emotional turmoil than young people?

The National Youth Theatre provides an opportunity to celebrate the talent and commitment of the many young people involved in theatre in Ireland.

NYT and Young People

The NYT surrounds the young actors with a professional team, with the focus on creating a strong group ensemble; the young people respond by committing to the process, working together as a group of actors towards creating great theatre.

Step 1 - Auditions

NAYD holds open auditions for young people from youth theatres affiliated to NAYD. The young people must be aged over 16 years of age.

Step 2 - Rehearsals

The successful actors then come together for a 3-4 week rehearsal period on a full-time residential basis, usually during the summer on a university campus.

Step 3 - Performance!

The final stage of an NYT is a production/performance week; this is based in the venue so that the young people feel comfortable with the stage and set.

Step 4 - Finale

In short, an NYT is a wonderful experience for the young actors involved. It is also NAYD's opportunity to showcase all that is great about youth theatre.

Irish youth drama has its own distinct place in the spectrum of theatre - and the National Youth Theatre is an opportunity to show it off!

Cast

Over 150 young people from 32 youth theatres auditioned for the show, but the final cast of the 2009 NYT production of *The Seagull* will be: **Sinéad Bolger**, Waterford Youth Arts **Nigel Brennan**, Co. Sligo Youth Theatre **Dylan Coburn Gray**, Dublin Youth Theatre **Thomas Collins**, Roundabout Youth Theatre **Shannon Comiskey**, County Wexford Youth

Theatre **Shaun Dunne**, Independent Youth Theatre **Sam Ford**, Dublin Youth Theatre **Amy Hibbitts**, Droichead Youth Theatre **Eve Russell**, Activate Youth Theatre **Zarima McDermott**, Waterford Youth Arts **Gavin Sweeney**, Leitrim Youth Theatre Company Carrick on Shannon, **Kimberley Tanoh**, Droichead Youth Theatre **Emily O'Reilly**, CSM Youth Theatre **Damien O'Sullivan**, CSM Youth Theatre **Ben Waddell**, Dublin Youth Theatre **Diarmuid Woods**, Roscommon County Youth Theatre

Creative Team

Director Wayne Jordan

Assistant director David Kelly

Set and costume design Diego Pitarch

Lighting design Eamon Fox

Sound design Carl Kennedy

Listings Information

Dates

24 - 29 August

Previews: Monday 24 August, Tuesday 25 August

Opening Night: Wednesday 26 August

Matinee: Saturday 29 August at 2.30pm.

Nightly at 8.00pm.

Tickets: €25 (€18 concession)

Matinee: €20

Youth Theatre members: €15

Booking: 01 87 87 222 www.abbeytheatre.ie

The National Youth Theatre is an initiative of NAYD, the development organization for youth drama and theatre in Ireland. www.nayd.ie.

FOR FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:

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