

Eccles Theatre Group
presents

The Windstealers

by Jane Madden
directed by
Anushka Senanayake

Creative team:

Monika Bieniek – movement director
Hanna Bowe – lighting designer
Ger Clancy – set designer
Joanna Crawley – producer
Evie McGuinness – stage manager
Dylan Tonge Jones – sound designer
Mary Sheehan – costume designer
Sarah Foley – costume assistant
Ola Cieślak – poster
Jim Byrne – photo

Cast:

Colin Campbell, Lloyd Cooney, Rory Corcoran, Katie Honan, Alan Mahon, Christiane O'Mahony, Roseanna Purcell

Running time: 70 minutes

Contact:

Joanna Crawley - producer
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00353 86 453 8792

Welcome to Ballygweeha, the windiest town in Ireland!

The people haven't heard each other properly in years over the roar of the gales, no-one's ever been able to get a fire lit and everywhere you look, shit's just blown over.

The locals have spent their whole lives walking against the wind, resulting in the famed half bent-over, sideways shuffle known as the 'Gweeha sidle.

When prodigal son Luc Torney returns after ten years to save the town from ruin with a windfarm scheme, he is hailed as a hero. But town layabout Jacinta Nangle is brewing up a storm.

A cast of gurrriers, property developers and mummies collide in this modern Irish satire on corruption and national character.

This is an ambitious project and a great vehicle for the ensemble cast of seven, who are immaculate and hilarious.

- Irish Times, ****

The Windstealers casts its gaze on the exploiters and exploited in modern Ireland. The cast of the Eccles Theatre Group possess a fantastic dynamism and superb comic timing.
- Public Review ****

Premiere:
Smock Alley Theatre
Sep 8th 2015
Tiger Dublin Fringe

ECCLES THEATRE
GROUP
PRESENTS

the Windstealers

by Jane Madden /// directed by Anushka Senanayake

Ger Clancy / SET DESIGNER /// Evie McGuinness / STAGE MANAGER
Dylan Tonge Jones / SOUND DESIGNER /// Mary Sheehan / COSTUME DESIGNER
Joanna Crawley / PRODUCER /// Hanna Bowe / LIGHTING DESIGNER
Monika Bieniek / MOVEMENT DIRECTOR



The Windstealers - Reviews

The Irish Times

Seona Mac Réamoinn

It's an idea that Flann O'Brien would have relished: stealing wind and selling it back to the hapless inhabitants of a small Irish town plagued by epic gales and economic woe.

Jane Madden's new play for Eccles Theatre is **an exuberant satiric romp** involving wide boys, cowboys, anagrams and dollops of corruption, and is confidently directed with great pacing by Anushka Senanayake. Into Ballygweeha with a plan to harness the big wind comes Luc Torney, native son turned high-flying entrepreneur, glad-handing and greasing palms until the windmills whirl. But there is a strong scent of double-dealing, and Jacinta Nangle, the young town dissenter (betimes loaded with indignation and a bottle of Tesco gin), is having none of it. Madden's stints in TV comedy are evident, and there are familiar echoes, from Ballymagash to Craggy Island, but but where *Windstealers* sparks and soars is in its huge physicality and theatrical energy (with much credit to movement director Monika Bienek).

No one is spared, be they on the make or on the dole: the sideswipes are gentle but ecumenical, for politicians, bankers, developers, overbearing mothers and whingers. This is **an ambitious project and a great vehicle for the ensemble cast of seven** (mostly recent graduates from the Lir Academy), who are immaculate and hilarious.

The Public Review

Liam Harrison

“Any work today? Any work yesterday? Any work tomorrow?” In Jane Madden’s **raucous satire on modern Irish society and corruption**, you think you know the answer to all three questions before they’re given. Only the last question isn’t answered with another no, but “Fuckin’ hope not,” delivered with a half-hearted laugh.

Under the direction of Anushka Senanayake, The Windstealers casts its gaze on the exploiters and exploited in modern Ireland. It is a hilarious romp, the cast of the Eccles Theatre Group possess a fantastic dynamism and superb comic timing. The modern Gombeen men – the swindlers and charlatans, politicians and bankers – are laid bare as usurious parasites. They talk plenty of long-winded gas, resembling the bloated rhetoric of Ulysses’ Aeolus chapter. (...)

The Windstealers performs an array of voices from across society – from the mayor's whipped husband to the droll tones of the unemployment officer. Madden has shown she has a great ear for dialogue. The movement director Monika Bieniek must also be credited for perfecting the windswept choreography, which matches the sharp-wittedness of the speech. (...)

Madden crafts a speech which is fully flavoured, prompting bittersweet laughter, as the apple she uncovers is rotten to the core.

The Broadway World

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The Windstealers - Technical Requirements

Contact:

Joanna Crawley - producer
joannadcrawley@gmail.com
00353 86 453 8792

General:

Seven cast members
Two OPs

Running time: 70 minutes



1. Main set pieces

1. A tree on a whelld platform

Measurements:

Base piece - 160cms wide X 160cms deep X 110cms high

Trunk piece - 180cms high X 80cms wide X 80cms deep

Branch piece- same as trunk piece

2. Two benches

A truck pallet will be needed to get the tree into the space.

Lights (specials):

6 LEDx and 4 moving lights
few more generic lamps



Special thanks to:

The Lir, Rough Magic, The Irish Writers' Centre, Gavin Kostick and Fishamble - New Play Clinic, Aidan Doherty, Kate Ferris, Pádraig Baggott, Mary Darby, Allegra FitzHerbert, Barry McStay, Lian Bell, Louise Bruton, Ross Dungan, Saoirse Jacoby, Peter Crawley, Maria Guiver, Robert Gelberg, Caitriona Flanagan, Katie Holly, Orla Murphy, Fionn Kidney, Oonagh Kearney, Sharmini Senanayake, Anna McInerney, Tomas Nieboer, Rachel Collins, Bevin Dooley, Peter Farnsworth, Roisin McGann, Emma Gleeson, Aoife Kelly, Sarah Fox, Emma Somers, Emma Keaveney, Una Mullally, Brenna Klomp, Jack Harte, Mary Ireland, Natasha Senanayake, Conor Horgan, Hugh Madden, Liz Nugent, Sara Joyce, Jane O'Sullivan, Peter McCartney, Don McAuliffe, Meadhbh Ní Chonchúir, Andrew O'Sullivan, Andrew Clancy, Ciaran Bonner, Eugenia Genunchi, Katrina O'Sullivan, Lisa Reilly, David Madden, Ivan Birthistle



"And they're considering withdrawing us from the Eurozone. Not Ireland, just this town."

- Francesca, the mayor

Jane Madden

Jane holds an undergraduate degree from Trinity College in English and Theatre Studies. She is currently completing an MFA in Playwriting at The Lir Academy of Dramatic Art. Previously, she worked in television production (The Savage Eye, Irish Pictorial Weekly, ArIntinnEile) and in literary management. Professional productions include *Memory Palace* (Bluepatch Productions, Galway Arts Festival 2010) *He and She* (Mamuska at the Back Loft Theatre 2010) and *246 Letters* (Daguerrotype Theatre Company 2010)

Anushka Senanayake

Anushka is the founding artistic director of Theatre Junction, a theatre company based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She is currently reading for a MFA in Theatre Directing at The Lir Academy, Trinity College Dublin. She completed a Bachelor

of Arts, double majoring in Theatre and Economics at Converse College, USA. Anushka has directed, assistant directed, and performed in productions in Sri Lanka, USA and Ireland.

Eccles Theatre Group

Eccles was formed by recent graduates of The Lir Academy - the creative team are former students of the Playwriting, Directing, and Designing MFA programmes. Elsewhere, many cast members completed the Bachelor in Acting course.

PLAY DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY'S NEW PLAY CLINIC SCHEME

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