

Press Release

Joint Arts Office Backstage Theatre Artist – in - Residence Scheme

Following on the success of the 2011 Artist in Residence project with Director Padraic Mc Intyre of Livin Dred Theatre Company, Longford Arts Office and Backstage Theatre joined forces yet again in July of this year for a new Artist in Residence project with Leitrim Writer Director and Actor Seamus O'Rourke.

O'Rourke was an obvious choice for the latest Backstage project. As a writer he is best known for 'Victor's Dung' (which toured to sell out audiences) and 'Ride On' (touring nationwide in Nov/Dec 2012) as well as 'Dig' and 'The Trappe Family' which were both short listed for the 'Warehouse Theatre, (London) International playwriting Competition' in 2008.

There was no doubt that the opportunity to work this new Director in Residence was a huge draw for the many talented actors that chose to audition for the 2012 production of O'Rourke's own play "The Halfway House Hotel". Over 70 people from Longford, Westmeath Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon and Galway answered the call to audition, as everyone vied for the opportunity to work with this comedy genius. After three rounds of auditions a cast of eleven comprising of some of the finest amateur actors from across Longford, Roscommon and Cavan was assembled

After two months of intensive rehearsals the production, which took a satirical look at human behaviour, layered with comedy and thought provoking parallels with everyday life, opened on Thursday 5th July and ran for three nights of full houses.

Ends

5/07/12