

Minister Humphreys Congratulates Irish Artists on Success at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014 Wednesday 3 September 2014

Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht today met with Olwen Fouéré's to celebrate the success of Culture Ireland's showcase programme at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014. This year Irish artists won many prestigious awards and critical acclaim for their performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world's largest and most competitive showcase for theatre. Included in the awards were two for Olwen Fouéré – the much coveted Herald Archangel award for outstanding contribution to theatre and the Stage Award for Acting Excellence for her performance of *riverrun*, her acclaimed adaptation of the voice of the river Liffey in James Joyce's Finnegans Wake which was produced by TheEmergency Room and Galway International Arts Festival in association with Cusack Projects Limited at the Traverse Theatre.

Dead Centre's *Lippy* created by Bush Moukarzel with Mark O'Halloran and presented at the Traverse Theatre attracted three awards - a Herald Angel Award, a Scotsman Fringe First Award and a Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with Form.

Minister Humphreys said *"I wish to extend my congratulations to all the Irish artists who took part in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. It is a source of great pride to see Irish artists winning prestigious awards and receiving justly deserved critical acclaim in such a competitive marketplace. These awards are a well earned acknowledgement of the talent and dedication of our artists who continue to be fantastic ambassadors for Ireland."*

Culture Ireland supports showcasing of Irish artists at Edinburgh Festival as it is a key opportunity to present their work to hundreds of festival and venue programmers who attend the Festivals each year in search of new work. Selection of work for international touring creates employment for Irish artists and enables them to develop new audiences and increase international interest in Irish arts and Ireland.

Both award winning shows have already attracted international interest with *riverrun* programmed as part of the high profile Next Wave Festival at BAM, Brooklyn, New York from 15- 30 September and is also to be presented at the Ivy League colleges Harvard and Princeton before travelling to Australia for an extensive tour from February to April 2015.

Lippy will be presented in New York at the Abrons Arts Center, in co-production with the Irish Arts Center, 10 October - 2 November 2014 as well as in London's Young Vic in early 2015.

Minister Humphreys added "*Having met with the international presenters in Edinburgh this year to encourage the programming of Irish artists I am delighted that such high profile international venues have already committed to contracting Irish artists and I know that their work will generate significant interest in Ireland, which is home to so many outstanding creative talents*".

The two other Culture Ireland supported shows, CoisCéim's production of the dance piece **Missing**, and the Fishamble production of **Swing** gained hugely positive reviews and attracted significant international interest. All shows are expected to attract further international offers for presentation.

The Minister extended congratulations to two other Irish award winning productions at Edinburgh - the Stage Awards for Acting Excellence was also awarded to Bryan Burroughs for his performance in Pat Moylan's production **Beowulf** and Guna Nua's **Pondling** won The Scotsman Fringe First Award.