

**Minister Ó Ríordáin Congratulates Irish Artists
On their Success at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015**

Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht today (14th August 2015) sent his congratulations to the Irish artists on their award-winning success at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Earlier today, Fishamble's production of **Underneath** with **Pat Kinevane** received the prestigious Fringe First Award while on Tuesday 11th August, **Aoife Duffin**, performing in The Corn Exchange's **A Girl is a Half-formed Thing** won The Stage Award for Acting Excellence.

Minister Ó Ríordáin said, *"It is an amazing tribute to the strength and imaginations of our artists that, once again, Irish culture has achieved substantial success in a global context. I know that the competition is fierce at the Edinburgh Festivals and it's a fantastic result for these performers and their shows. I know also that it will generate further opportunities for them and I look forward to congratulating them in person when I travel to Edinburgh later this month."*

Minister Ó Ríordáin travels to Edinburgh for the Culture Ireland networking event (24 August) for international promoters and presenters where they will meet Irish artists and companies who are presenting work in Edinburgh. This networking opportunity attracts a strong group of promoters/buyers from around the world and is key to advancing careers and generating jobs for Irish artists.

Both shows have already achieved critical and public acclaim in Ireland and received offers to tour internationally over the coming months and years.

Through its Showcase programme, Culture Ireland has been supporting Irish artists at Edinburgh since 2008 in venues across the length and breadth of the city. Irish artists have offered audiences and promoters a snapshot of the diverse and exciting new work being created in Ireland. The Showcase programme has consistently attracted sell-out audiences and awards during the Festival season. In 2014, awards included Fringe Firsts for Dead Centre's production of **Lippy** and Gúna Nua's production of **Pondling** as well as The Stage Awards for Olwen Fouéré in **riverrun** and Bryan Burroughs in **Beowolf**.

Ends

Editor's Notes:

Culture Ireland is supporting a range of work across three major Edinburgh Festivals in 2015 – the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe:

At the **Edinburgh International Festival**, under the direction of Irishman Fergus Linehan, *The Last Hotel*, a new chamber opera by Enda Walsh and Donnacha Dennehy and *Celtic Dialogues* featuring Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill both opened this week to critical acclaim.

At its Charlotte Square Gardens venue, **the Edinburgh International Book Festival** opens on Saturday 15th August and features an extensive programme of Irish writers in readings and panel discussions.

During the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, Culture Ireland has selected six Irish productions to showcase. Many of these feature key partnerships with Edinburgh venues including Traverse Theatre and Dance Base.

Culture Ireland has developed these relationships over many years and it is critical for artists in such a competitive environment that they are in well recognised and promoted venues if they are to be well promoted and reviewed.

Full information on all the productions being supported by Culture Ireland is available here: <http://www.cultureireland.ie/downloads/culture-ireland-edinburgh.pdf>