

**An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, ag tacú le Tóstal Éireann 2013.
Téigh chuig www.thegatheringireland.com agus Bí Páirteach ann!**

Press Release

28 February

The opening of the Gate Theatre's production of *Watt* by Samuel Beckett's in the Barbican Theatre in London on Thursday 28 February 2013 will be attended by Dinny McGinley, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht .

This one man production with Barry McGovern is being presented as part of *Culture Connects* - the Culture Programme which celebrates Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union during which approximately 400 events are taking place across in Ireland and across the European Union.

Speaking in advance of the opening night Minister McGinley said: *"I am very much looking forward to seeing the wonderful Barry McGovern in the role as Watt. This production has toured internationally to critical acclaim. The Gate Theatre has deservedly won a global reputation for its presentation of Beckett's work and under the directorship of Tom Creed, this is a production which showcases all that is excellent about Irish writing, theatre and performance."*

This production of *Watt* has just completed a sell out run in Perth Australia and previously toured in the US in 2011.

Minister McGinley will meet the production team the Gate and Barbican theatres after the show.

The show will run at the prestigious Barbican Centre, where it will play in the Pit Theatre from 26 February 2013 to 16 March 2013. This is the Gate's fourth engagement with the Barbican where it presented Beckett Festivals in 1999 and 2006. Barry McGovern also performed in Beckett's "I'll Go On" in 2000 in the Barbican's Pit Theatre. The Barbican is one of Europe's largest multidisciplinary venues and offers Irish theatre a high profile opportunity to present their work in London.

Minister McGinley added that "Ireland's high global cultural reputation can be attributed to the a top class production such as this by the Gate Theatre which has for so many years proudly represented Ireland abroad!".

Full details of the *Culture Connects* Programme can be found at <http://www.cultureireland.ie/eu2013>

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