



## Irish Success at the Edinburgh Festivals 2013

### Minister Deenihan Congratulates Artists

**Tuesday, 2nd September, 2013:** Irish artists excelled at the Edinburgh Festivals this year, winning an unprecedented level of awards for their performances and productions, presented over the month of August. The Edinburgh Festivals are amongst the most important and competitive arts events in the world for artists, with thousands of shows on offer to the 400,000 visitors which Edinburgh attracts each year.

Jimmy Deenihan, T.D. Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, congratulating the Irish participants in the Edinburgh Festivals at a special gathering in their honour, said: *“The level of success this year has attracted a heightened interest in Irish arts and has drawn special attention to the creative strength of the Irish. We are very proud of the achievements of our actors, writers and producers at the Edinburgh Festivals. They are wonderful ambassadors – both for Irish arts and for Ireland as a dynamic and creative hub.”*

The Beckett productions by the Gate Theatre and Pan Pan Theatre, presented as part of the Edinburgh International Festival, won The Herald Angel Award. **Eh Joe, I'll Go On** and **First Love** were presented by the Gate Theatre and **Embers** and **All That Fall** were presented by Pan Pan Theatre.

The Abbey Theatre production of Owen McCafferty's **Quietly**, Donal O'Kelly's solo work **Fionnuala**, and Deirdre Kinahan's **These Halcyon Days** attracted Fringe First awards. brokentalker's **Have I No Mouth** won a Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with Form and Paddy O'Kane won The Stage Best Actor Award for his role in **Quietly**.

Culture Ireland, operating under the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, has presented showcases of work by Irish artists at the Edinburgh Festivals since 2008. The Festivals offer a unique opportunity for Irish artists to gain international critical acclaim and to present their work to the hundreds of festival and venue programmers who attend the Festivals each year in search of new work. This year's success has already generated significant international touring opportunities for Irish productions, creating employment for Irish artists and enabling them to develop new audiences and increase international interest in Ireland and Irish arts.

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## Notes for Editor

2013 is the fifth year that Culture Ireland has presented a showcase of Irish artists at the Edinburgh Festivals.

The Edinburgh Festivals, comprise the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Irish artists have consistently won awards at the Festivals including Fringe Firsts for the Abbey Theatre [*Terminus*] Druid Theatre company [*The Walworth Farce*, *New Electric Ballroom* and *Penelope*], CoisCéim Dance Theatre [*Knots*], Fishamble [*Fogotten*, *Silent*]. Pat Kinevane and Camille O'Sullivan won Herald Angel awards for their performances in *Silent* and *The Rape of Lucrece*, respectively. Gúna Nua won the Carol Tamber Best of Edinburgh award for their production of *Little Gem*.

The Fringe First Awards recognise outstanding new writing premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Total Theatre Awards recognise innovative work by professional artists and companies in the areas of theatre, live art, visual performance and experimental theatre, amongst other art forms.