



## Edinburgh Festival winners honoured

IRISH artists are riding high on a wave of success following a triumphant showing at this year's Edinburgh Festivals.

A haul of six awards has meant the 2013 festivals were Ireland's best showing since 2008.

Some of the winning productions - such as the Beckett productions by the Gate Theatre and Pan Pan - have already been snapped up by international promoters.

The Beckett productions, which included 'Eh Joe, I'll Go On', 'First Love', 'Embers' and 'All That Fall', scooped the Herald Angel Award and are now heading to the US.

Meanwhile, the Abbey Theatre's production of Owen McCafferty's 'Quietly', Donal O'Kelly's 'Fionnuala' and Deirdre

Kinihan's 'These Halcyon Days' all won awards at Festival Fringe. Brokentalkers' 'Have I No Mouth' won a Total Theatre award, while Paddy O'Kane won a best actor award for his role in 'Quietly'.

Congratulating the winners in Dublin yesterday, Arts Minister Jimmy Deenihan said Culture Ireland had supported all of these artists in going to Edinburgh, so it was important to see the fruits of their work making an impact internationally.

"Artists are our greatest ambassadors," the Minister 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."

**BREDA HEFFERMAN**