

# For Immediate Release

**The National Folk Theatre**

**Siamsa Tíre in association with The Irish Landmark Trust presents**

## **WHAT THE FOLK!**

**As part of ABSOLUT Fringe 2010**

**16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**No 25 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2**

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### ***What The Folk is it all about?***

Uncover what lies fermenting between the jigs and the reels at the heart of **Ireland's National Folk Theatre**. ***What The Folk!*** will be presented at No 25 Eustace Street this September as part of ABSOLUT Fringe 2010. Performances take place at 1pm and 7pm daily from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of September.\*

This is an intimate and revealing session for the culturally curious – part storytelling, part impromptu knees-up, looking beyond the clichés to the passion and pain of a lifetime of practice, graft and dedication. Find out about the bubblewrap horses, how the steps talk and fingers dance, the 40 sheep, the embarrassing scenes and the amorous undertones.

***What The Folk!*** is directed by Jo Mangan who garnered critical acclaim for her recent direction of ***Slattery's Sago Saga***. Mangan's **Performance Corporation** has consistently been recognised as one of the most exciting theatre companies in the country, and presents three other productions in this year's ABSOLUT Fringe.

The National Folk Theatre is based in Siamsa Tíre, Tralee and has been presenting and producing works in a folk theatre idiom since 1968. The company most recently toured in 2009 with ***Rithim Rhythm***, a work produced in collaboration with San Francisco based dance company, Printz Dance Project. ***Moriarty*** a production exploring the life of Kerry philosopher, John Moriarty also premiered in Tralee in 2009.

Lead by the National Folk Theatre's Artistic Director, Jonathan Kelliher, the performers in ***What The Folk!*** are: Anne O'Donnell, Joanne Barry and Adrienne Heaslip. All three have been involved in the National Folk Theatre since they were children and bring a lifetime's experience to bear on their performance.

Over the last 16 years, the ABSOLUT Fringe has grown to become Ireland's largest and most exciting multidisciplinary festival, attracting hundreds of thousands of people into the unlikelyst of venues. This year's festival begins on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September and continues until the 26<sup>th</sup> with over 100 different shows. Full details on all the events are available on [www.fringefest.com](http://www.fringefest.com)

*“Perhaps the last company you would expect to see in ABSOLUT Fringe, the National Folk Theatre presents an up-to-date documentary piece, inviting the audience into their temporary home”.* **Róise Goan, Director, ABSOLUT Fringe**

Visit The National Folk Theatre in a bit of Georgian elegance at No. 25 Eustace Street, and be part of the conversation! Whatever you thought we were, you were probably wrong...

Directed by **Jo Mangan** of The **Performance Corporation**.  
Supported by The Irish Landmark Trust Ltd.

**Siamsa Tíre** gratefully acknowledges the support of **The Irish Landmark Trust**. The trust saves buildings of architectural importance and gives these properties a new lease of life by letting them as self catering accommodation so they can be enjoyed by present and future generations. To date, The Irish Landmark Trust has rescued 19 historical landmarks which include Castles, Lighthouses and Gate Lodges in Ireland.

Siamsa Tíre is funded by the Arts Council.

*\*There is no 7pm performance on the 26<sup>th</sup>.*

**(066) 7123055**

**Siamsa Tíre, Town Park, Tralee, Co Kerry**

***For further press information please contact : [Catriona Fallon, Siamsa Tíre,](mailto:Catriona.Fallon@siamsatire.com)***

***Tel. 066 7123055 Fax. 066 712 7276***

**e-mail : [marketing@siamsatire.com](mailto:marketing@siamsatire.com)**

**[www.siamsatire.com](http://www.siamsatire.com)**

**Ends**