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Hello there!

We at Smashing Times hope you had a fantastic Christmas and a wonderful New Year! Here is some information on two events we have coming up very soon.



Through the Lens: Smashing Times Arts and Health Celebration Evening

**For First Fortnight - Europe's Mental Health Arts Festival 2019
Saturday 12 January 2019, 7pm, The Long Room Hub, Trinity
College, Dublin 2**

Compere for the Evening: Dil Wickremasinghe, journalist, broadcaster and co-founder of Insight Matters.

Awards: daa Arts Award (Allianz Business to Arts), Dublin Bus Community Spirit Award, GSK Ireland Impact Award, National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2018.

Smashing Times, in partnership with Trinity College Dublin, presents an evening of entertainment and discussion using the arts to promote Positive Mental Health and Well-Being. The evening features performances, music, a

film screening, and a panel discussion on the arts and positive mental health and well-being.

The event takes place at The Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin on Saturday 12 January 2019 at 7pm and features performances of *A Day Out* by Paul Kennedy performed by Killian Filan and *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou performed by Mary Duffin, and music by singer Carla Ryan and Rónán Ó Snodaigh, musician, poet and lead vocalist with Kíla.

The evening features 'Setting the Stage: A Panel Discussion on the Arts and Positive Mental Health and Well-Being' followed by questions and answers with the audience. A fascinating panel of artists and mental health experts will explore what role the arts can play in promoting positive mental health and well-being. The panel will discuss the increase in mental health issues affecting society today and ask what role the arts can play in impacting our minds and bodies, and how can we develop a deeper appreciation of the value of creativity for promoting positive mental health and well-being into the future. Panel members are Senator Joan Freeman, Independent Senator and founder of Pieta House; Professor Paul Fearon, Consultant Psychiatrist, St Patrick's University Hospital; Ger Ryan, Actor; Mary Moynihan, writer, theatre and filmmaker, Artistic Director, Smashing Times and Lecturer, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama; and Rónán Ó Snodaigh, musician, poet and lead vocalist with Kíla.

The compere for the evening is Dil Wickremasinghe, journalist, broadcaster and co-founder of Insight Matters.

The event is presented as part of the award-winning Acting for the Future: Theatre for Positive Mental Health project, a model of best practice that uses participative drama workshops, professional performances and post-show panel discussions with counsellors and clinical psychologists to promote active healthy lifestyles and positive mental health and well-being. The project is

implemented on an annual basis by Smashing Times in partnership with the Samaritans, with assistance from a panel of advisors, and is delivered to a range of youth and adult groups and the general public.

Supporters include the Samaritans, Erasmus+, HSE National Office for Social Inclusion, ESB Energy for Generations Fund, HSE National Lottery and Dublin City Council Arts Office. Smashing Times have been awarded the daa Arts Award (Alliance Business to Arts), Dublin Bus Community Spirit Award, GSK Ireland Impact Award and National Lottery Good Causes Award for Acting for the Future.

Tickets: €5

Bookings: <https://firstfortnight.ticketsolve.com/shows/873596678>

For further information please contact the Smashing Times office on info@smashingtimes.ie or call us on +353 (0) 1 865 6613

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The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII Comes to Cork

By acclaimed award-winning playwrights Mary Moynihan, Deirdre Kinahan, Fiona Bawn Thompson and Paul Kennedy

Imagined recreation of moments from the lives of women in WWII

'Brilliant, moving, eye opening journey into stories of women's bravery tonight. Well done to all involved', Sarah Glennane, audience Member

Following a highly successful run in Germany as part of an international tour and a national and cross-border tour, ***The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII*** can now be seen at the Mall Arts Centre, Youghal, County Cork on 15 January 2019 at 7.30pm.

Featuring guest speaker **Clodagh Finn**, feature writer, editor, trainer and author speaking about her book ***A Time to Risk All***, the incredible untold story of **Mary Elmes**, the Irish woman who saved children from the Nazi concentration camps.

The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII is a creative reimagining of moments from the lives of women during WWII recalling stories of bravery, sacrifice and love amidst the horror of war, as women stood up against Fascism and totalitarianism and refused to accept oppression. The performance is followed by a post-show discussion with the artists and invited guest speakers to explore powerful women's stories in history and themes of gender equality and peace.

Women's stories that have inspired the performance include **Mary Elmes** (1908-2002), a Cork woman who was the first Irish person honoured as 'Righteous Among Nations' for her work saving Jewish children from the Nazi gas chambers during World War II; **Ettie Steinberg** (1914-42) the only female Jewish Irish citizen known to have been murdered in Auschwitz; **Marta Hillers** (1911-2001) from Germany who wrote her autobiography *Eine Frau in Berlin (A Woman in Berlin)* under the name 'Anonyma' (Anonymous), detailing her experiences of the last days of WWII as she and over one million other women were raped and abused by Allied soldiers of the Red Army; **Neus Català Pallejà** (b.1915) from Spain, a member of the United Socialist Party of Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War, an active collaborator with the French Resistance during WWII and the only living Spanish survivor of Ravensbrück concentration camp for women; **Maria Eugenia Jasińska** (1906-43) from Łódź in Poland who worked for the resistance and gave up her own life rather than 'name names'; and **Dolores Ibárruri**, or **La Pasionaria** (1895-1989), from Spain, a revolutionary leader, political activist, communist and crusader against Fascism during the Spanish Civil War who created the famous cry 'They Shall Not Pass'.

Audience Feedback

- 'It was just brilliant! The two actors were phenomenal. Well done to everyone involved!' – Niamh Clowry, audience member
- 'Such a moving piece of theatre. The performances were excellent.' – Sabina Coyne Higgins
- 'The piece of theatre was so moving I cried. What wonderful stories and very important.' – Raphaela Kula, audience member, Germany
- 'The emotive performances pulled me in immediately to each story. Thank you.' – Nicole Nagel, audience member, Germany
- 'Beautiful performances from the actors, I loved it.' – Zee Upitis, Audience Member, Germany
- 'I think the work Smashing Times are doing is brilliant. Important issues being addressed while maintaining a level of artistic excellence is great.' – John Paul McGrogarty, audience member and director, Leith Theatre, Scotland
- 'Thank you to Smashing Times for wonderful performances and presentations. It has been a pleasure to have you at the festival.' – Ralph Wurfel, audience member and festival coordinator, Theaterlabor, Germany
- 'I'm amazed I never heard those stories before. It was so interesting, thank you for a wonderful performance' Elaine Cronin, audience member
- 'Thanks to all the cast and crew of The Woman is Present! What a wonderful evening' Mary Duffin, audience member

What the papers say on the work of the company:

Sunday Independent

- 'Fascinating, executed by the innovative and dynamic Smashing Times Theatre.'

The Irish Times

- 'The plays are true theatre... Extraordinary. Smashing Times must continue with it'

Performance Details: Tuesday 15 January 2019, The Mall Arts Centre, Youghal 7.30pm

Booking from <http://themallartscentre.com/>

T: +353 (0) 24 81823 M: +353 (0) 87 959 3276

themallartscentre@gmail.com

Tickets €12/€10 conc.

The performance is followed by a post-show panel discussion with the artists and featuring invited guest speaker **Clodagh Finn**, writer, editor, trainer and author, who will be speaking about her book ***A Time to Risk All***, the incredible untold story of **Mary Elmes**, the Irish woman who saved children from the Nazi concentration camps. Books available at a discounted price for this event only.

When, in 2016, Clodagh saw a performance of ***The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII***, she was so moved by the evocative portrayal of Mary Elmes that she set about piecing together the real-life story of how this courageous Cork woman saved hundreds of lives in Franco's Spain and Nazi-occupied France. She trawled archives in Paris, London and the US and managed to track down several of the refugees that Mary saved as children. She tells of this in a new biography, ***A Time to Risk All***, the incredible untold story of Mary Elmes, the Irish woman who saved children from Nazi Concentration Camps, now published by Gill Books.

The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII

By Mary Moynihan, Deirdre Kinahan, Fiona Bawn Thompson and Paul Kennedy

Directed by Mary Moynihan and Bairbre Ni Chaoimh

Cast: Róisín Mc Atamney and Fiona Bawn Thompson with Margaret Toomey, Ella Brady, Fiona Bawn Thompson and Romana Testasecca featuring on film.

Production Team: Tara Doolan, Set Design and Projection/AV Programme; Risa Ando, Costume Design, Cillian McNamara, Lighting Design

This project is supported by Cork County Council, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Creative Ireland under the Creative Ireland County Cork Grant Scheme 2018 implemented by Cork County Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The project plays a part in promoting County Cork's culture and is under the Creative Ireland programme strand of Creative Industries and Community Participation (Strand Two), meeting the County Cork Culture and Creative Priorities in relation to liberating creativity (inclusivity and new participants); knowing ourselves – knowing our traditions; community engagement in culture and creativity and showcasing County Cork's culture and creativity.

For further information contact

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