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Olivier Award-winning Fishamble returns to 59E59 Theaters with the US premiere of *MAZ AND BRICKS*, part of Origin's 1st Irish

Playwright Eva O'Connor was called one of the top writers to watch in Ireland by the BBC

New York, New York November 7, 2019—**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to welcome the return of Ireland's leading new play company **Fishamble: The New Play Company** with the US premiere of ***MAZ AND BRICKS***, written by **Eva O'Connor** and directed by **Jim Culleton**. An official selection of the 2020 Origin 1st Irish Theatre Festival, ***MAZ AND BRICKS*** begins performances on **Tuesday, January 7** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, February 2**. **Press opening is Sunday, January 12 at 2:15 pm**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7:15 pm; Saturday at 2:15 pm & 7:15 pm; Sunday at 2:15 pm**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison Avenues). Single tickets are **\$25 - \$35** (\$26 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, call the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or visit www.59e59.org. *The running time is 80 minutes, with no intermission.*

Maz is planning to attend a pro-choice demonstration, Bricks is planning to take his daughter to the zoo, but nothing goes according to plan. As the day unfolds, the two become unlikely friends, changing each other in ways they never thought possible.

The play was first produced mere days after Ireland repealed their Eighth Amendment, a landmark referendum that legalized abortion in Ireland. The play was called "particularly timely...excruciatingly funny...powerful" by the *Irish Independent* and "a provocative comedy" by the *Sunday Times* in its Dublin premiere.

"The past few years have seen a huge shift in Ireland, as the country has become more liberal, with the nation voting overwhelmingly for marriage equality, women's rights," says director Jim Culleton. "***MAZ AND BRICKS*** reflects a country going through a seismic shift but through the eyes of these two young people, making it an intimate and human story."

Playwright **Eva O'Connor**, who plays Maz, is proving to be one of Ireland's major young writing talents, known for writing powerfully poetic and lyrical dialogue. The BBC called her one of the top writers to watch in Ireland. Joining Ms. O'Connor in the cast is **Ciaran O'Brien** as Bricks.



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The design team includes **Maree Kearns** (set and costume design); **Sinead McKenna** (lighting design); and **Carl Kennedy** (sound design). The Production Stage Manager is **Miriam Hyfler**.

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The 12th annual Origin 1st Irish, produced by Origin Theatre Company, runs from January 7 to February 3, hosting some 15 events with artists from Belfast, Dublin, Galway, Wexford, Limerick, Queens and Manhattan. A month-long juried festival that presents acclaimed plays from the island of Ireland, as well as new plays developed in New York, Origin 1st Irish is the first and only theater festival in the world exclusively dedicated to showcasing the work of Irish playwrights.

59E59 Theaters is committed to curating innovative and invigorating work never-before-seen by New York audiences. Providing a space for emerging and established not-for-profit theater companies to reach new audiences, 59E59's partnering with these producing theater companies by giving them highly-subsidized rental rates, as well as production, marketing, and press support. Companies also receive 100% of their net box office sales.

The Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation was established by Founding Artistic Director, Elysabeth Kleinhans to create a new, state-of-the-art theater complex to host original and innovative theatrical productions in East Midtown Manhattan.

In 2002, the building at 59 East 59th Street was donated to the Foundation. The building was then gut renovated, creating three brand new theaters, Theater A, Theater B, and Theater C, designed by architect, Leo Modrcin, who collaborated with the Foundation to create an inviting ambiance.

Under the leadership of Founding Artistic Director Elysabeth Kleinhans and Executive Producer Peter Tear, 59E59 Theaters opened its inaugural season in February 2004 with a production of *The Stendhal Syndrome* produced by then resident company, Primary Stages, in the largest of its three spaces, Theater A. Shortly following, in April 2004, the other two spaces, Theater B and Theater C opened their doors with productions of *Sun Is Shining*, by the groundbreaking British-Chinese Mu Lan Theatre Company, and *My Arm*, Tim Crouch's critically-acclaimed hour-long solo show from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, during the Theaters' first annual Brits Off Broadway..

Since 2004, the theaters have been continuously occupied with shows running from three to seven weeks.

In 2017, Elysabeth Kleinhans and Peter Tear stepped down from their roles, and Val Day, a longtime agent with William Morris and ICM, was appointed as Artistic Director. With the addition of a new Artistic Director, 59E59 Theaters moved to the final phase of transitioning from the founding team to a traditional theater management structure, begun in 2012 with the appointment of Brian Beirne as Managing Director.