



BACKSTAGE THEATRE
presents



LÚMINARIA

Written by FIONNUALA GYGAX
Directed by MAISIE LEE

MARKETING PACK



arts
council
Éilíocht
ealaíon

funding
the arts

backstage
theatre & centre for the arts



ABOUT LÚMINARIA

Company / Credit: Backstage Theatre present Lúminaria written by Fionnuala Gyga, directed by Maisie Lee

Show Title: Lúminaria

Tagline: There is an emergency in the village of Lúminaria and only Lúna can save them.

Long Copy: There is an emergency in Lúminaria and only Lúna can save them.

Lúminaria is a magical village of winding streets and colourful buildings of all shapes and sizes, where everybody is happy and bright. Except when darkness falls. The villagers of Lúminaria are terrified of the dark. Standing tall in the centre of the village is the Tour De Lúmière; a beautiful tower of light, managed by Lady Light, who ensures the villagers are never in darkness. But tonight there is a problem. The moon is about to go dark and Lady Light can't summon the light within herself to keep the Tour shining brightly.

To protect her mother and the villagers from darkness, Lady Light's daughter Lúna must be brave and confront her own fear of darkness by taking an adventure into the unknown to try and find the light. Alone, she takes a journey up into the mysterious sky where she doesn't know what she might find.

On her journey she meets a cacophony of eccentric characters; a pair of mischievous Winds (Speed and Direction), a one-man-jazz band Cloud, Grumpy Uncle Storm, the bright Celestial Sun and the wise Grandmother Moon. Each character expands Lúna's knowledge and teaches her about the importance of light and darkness in life.

This story is a magical hero's journey about a young girl who learns that the things we are afraid of can reveal the most beautiful surprises.

Lúminaria is a theatrical extravaganza that explores fear, bravery and love. Using original musical score and theatrical magic, Lúminaria brings the audience on a whimsical journey into the unknown.

A Backstage Theatre production supported by Arts Council Ireland with development support from Creative Ireland, Longford Arts Office and Roscommon Arts Centre.

Short Copy: There is an emergency in the village of Lúminaria and only Lúna can save them. Join Lúna on an adventure into the sky as she tries to find the light to protect her mother and the villagers from darkness.

With an array of wonderful characters played by three amazing actors, colourful puppets and original music, Lúminaria brings the audience on a whimsical journey into the unknown. As Lúna faces her deepest fears, we learn about courage, love and finding light in the darkest of moments.

A Backstage Theatre production supported by Arts Council Ireland with development support from Creative Ireland, Longford Arts Office and Roscommon Arts Centre.

Age Recommendation: ages 6+

Important info: This performance contains brief moments of strobe lighting & haze machine

Duration: 45 mins

Trailer: <https://bit.ly/luminariatrailer>

Vox Pop: <https://bit.ly/luminaria-vox-pop>

Supporters: A Backstage Theatre production supported by Arts Council Ireland with development support from Creative Ireland, Longford Arts Office and Roscommon Arts Centre.



2025 TOUR SCHEDULE

Backstage Theatre, Longford || Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb || backstage.ie

St John's Hall, Longford Lights Festival || Fri 21st & Sat 22nd Feb || backstage.ie

The Ark, Temple Bar, Dublin || Wed 26th Feb – Sat 1st March || ark.ie

“[Fionnuala & Maisie] involved children in the initial stages of show creation ensuring that the show spoke directly to its target market...”



Maisie Lee workshopping with students from St Bridgets NS, 2019

During the development phase of *Lúminaria*, writer Fionnuala Gyax & director Maisie Lee carried out a series of workshops with a number of primary schools classes over a six week period. Through puppet making workshops and character & plot brainstorming sessions, these workshops involved children in the initial stages of show creation ensuring that the show spoke directly to its target market.

“We helped them (create) the actual show itself and then we got to see them perform on the stage”
Student from St Michael's NS



Production shot from initial sharing in 2019



BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

- ☾ A really stunning show with the perfect mix of empowerment & adventure. Teaching kids a valuable message: "I learned, don't afraid of the darkness 'cause there is always gonna be someone beside you"
- ☾ Running time: 45 minutes
- ☾ 3 performers
- ☾ Brief use of strobe lighting & haze machine
- ☾ During the development phase of Lúminaria, writer Fionnuala Gygax & director Maisie Lee carried out a series of workshops with a number of primary schools classes over a six week period. Through puppet making workshops and character & plot brainstorming sessions, these workshops involved children in the initial stages of show creation ensuring that the show spoke directly to its target market.
- ☾ Recommended for ages 6+. There is a grumpy cloud character who is a massive hit with audiences, however with the loud noise & strobe lighting within the scene, it could potentially be frightening for very young audience. Junior infants can attend as long as teachers are made aware of this particular scene and can judge themselves based on their own class
- ☾ Teacher resource pack available



CREATIVES

Writer/Performer

Fionnuala Gygax

Director

Maisie Lee

Cast

Honi Cooke
Fionnuala Gygax
Donncha O'Dea

Set & Costume Design

Ellen Kirk

Lighting Design

Stephen Dodd

Sound Design

Denis Clohessy

Producer

Backstage Theatre



CREATIVES SOCIALS:



@fionnuala.gygax

@backstagelongford



@fionnualagygax

@maisielee100

@backstagetheatrelongford



@gygaxfionnuala

@maisielee100

@backstageIRL

#Luminaria

We would appreciate it if you could use #luminaria in each social media post

CREATIVE BIOS



Writer/Performer Fionnuala Gyga

Fionnuala Gyga is a Writer/Actor based in Dublin. She is a co-founder of Two Sparks production company and Chaos Factory theatre company.

For the theatre, Fionnuala has written a number of plays including Hotel Happiness (Project Arts Centre, 2022), Lúminaria (National Tour, 2022), Twenty Fifty (The New Theatre, 2021), Below Below (Smock Alley, 2017) and Hostel 16 (Smokey Alley, 2016).

In 2024, she completed her short film The Island, as part of the Actor as Creator scheme, which premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh. She has also written a feature film, SONC, produced by Paddy Hayes (as part of the Cine4 scheme). This film recently received BAI funding and will be shot in 2025.

In 2017 she was awarded the Next Generation Award from the Arts Council. In 2016 she was nominated for the Stewart Parker writing award.

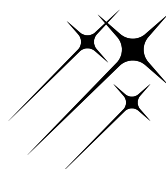


Director Maisie Lee

Maisie is an audio and theatre artist interested in work with a strong storytelling element. Her work spans radio documentary, radio drama, theatre for adults and theatre for young audiences.

Recent work includes the theatrical installation The Shape of Quiet Feelings and audio documentary Don't Forget to Wash Your Hands (both commissioned by Baboró International Arts Festival for Children); Prickly (DLR Mill Theatre); The Dead House (Dublin Theatre Festival); Embargo (Fishamble New Play Company) and In Our Veins (Abbey Theatre and Bitter Like a Lemon).

She is Artist in Residence for Baboró International Arts Festival for Children and set up and facilitates their Children's Panel. She has also previously held positions as Artist in Residence for Backstage Theatre Longford and Resident Assistant Director in the Abbey Theatre.



CREATIVE BIOS



Performer Donncha O'Dea

Donncha was most recently seen in the role of Bunty in Tom Murphy's 'The House' (Druid Theatre). Other recent theatre credits include 'The Haunting of Gusty Nook' (MORB), 'Somewhere Out There You' (The Abbey Theatre) and 'The Blackwater Lightship' (Verdant Productions). Donncha was nominated for Best Performer in the Dublin Fringe Festival awards 2017 for his performance in 'Dummy' (MORB).

TV & Film: RTE's Storyland short 'Wrapped' (Alfonso films). Upcoming: 'Power Ballad' opposite Paul Rudd (Dir John Carney. Treasure Entertainment.) & 'Fran the Man' (Dir Stephen Bradley. Forty Foot Pictures.)

Other recent screen credits include: 'Lu and the Bally Bunch' (Brown Bag), 'Disenchanted' (Walt Disney Pictures), 'Fair City' (RTÉ) and 'Hubble' (RTÉ).

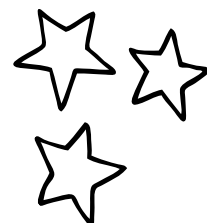
As well as numerous voice over credits, Donncha also wrote and presented the documentary 'Extraordinary Éire' (Newstalk)



Performer Honi Cooke

Honi is from Co. Wicklow. Recent credits include 'Bodkin' (Netflix), 'Mayfair Witches' Season 2 (AMC), 'Taigh Tŷ Teach' (Fishamble: The New Play Company), 'On Such As We' (Decadent Theatre at the Wexford Opera House), Viola in 'Twelfth Night' (Shakespeare Squared) in Waterford's Viking Triangle for which she won the Greenroom award for Best Actress in March '24, and 'Tír Na nÓg' (Macalla Teo and RTÉ Jr.)

She has a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies from Trinity College Dublin, and trained at The Lir Academy, graduating in 2021.



CREATIVE BIOS

Set Designer Ellen Kirk

Ellen is a Dublin based designer whose work spans production design for film, set and costume design for theatre and stage and live visuals for music. Ellen takes a holistic approach to design and likes to work closely with directors/ artists from early in a process to help create an integral design narrative. Some recent design credits include; Summertime (Dublin Fringe Festival, 2018, Drogheda Arts Festival, 2019, Abbey Young Curators Festival, 2019), Nothing But a Toerag (DFF, Smock Alley, 2019), Kiss Kiss Slap Slap (DFF, Smock Alley 2018) Viva Voce (DFF, The New Theatre, 2018). Ellen has worked with Irish company Dead Centre on Chekhov's First Play in a number of capacities, as Costume and Special Effects/Prosthetics Assistant (Samuel Beckett Theatre, Dublin Theatre Festival, 2015) Travelling Costume and Prosthetics (Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane Festival, Australia, 2016) and continues to work as ASM and Costume and Prosthetics on their ongoing international tour. Ellen works closely with Choice Music Prize nominated KOJAQUE designing his touring visual and stage designs and producing and designing music videos.

Lighting Designer Stephen Dodd

Stephen Dodd is a lighting designer for theatre, dance, and opera. Currently based in Dublin, he trained at The Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College. Recent lighting designs include: For Liz Roche Company: I/Thou, Wrongheaded. For Brokentalkers: The Examination, The Circus Animal's Desertion. For Irish National Opera & United Fall: Orfeo ed Euridice. For Dead Centre: Hamnet, Chekhov's First Play, LIPPY. For Project Arts Centre / Kate Stanley Brennan: Walk For Me. For Company SJ: Company. For United Fall / Emma Martin: Girl Song, Dancehall, Dogs, Listowel Syndrome. For The Emergency

Sound Designer Denis Clohessy

Denis has worked with numerous dance and theatre companies including The Abbey Theatre, The Gate Theatre, Rough Magic, Fishamble, Junk Ensemble, Corn Exchange, The Tron Theatre, Glasgow, Northlight Theatre, Chicago and Beijing Children's Art Theatre. He won the Irish Times theatre award for Best Design Sound in 2011 for Rough Magic's 'Sodome, My Love', he was a nominee in 2015 (for Junk Ensemble and Brokentalker's 'It Folds'), was an associate artist with the Abbey in 2008 and was a participant on Rough Magic's ADVANCE programme in 2012. In 2016 Pat Kinevane's play 'Silent' (Fishamble) won an Olivier award for which Denis composed the music. His work in Film and Television includes music for the feature films Under The Clock and Older than Ireland (Snack box Films), The Irish Pub (Atom Films), His and Hers (Venom Film), The Land of the Enlightened (Savage Film), In View (Underground Cinema), The Reluctant Revolutionary (Underground Films) and the television series The Limits of Liberty (South Wind Blows) performed by the RTE Concert Orchestra.



QUOTES:

PRESS QUOTE

"(Lúminaria) channels a deep emotional landscape, taking young viewers on a dark journey in the safe space of the theatre" Sara Keating - *Sunday Business Post*



TEACHER QUOTES

"The show was absolutely fabulous. We enjoyed every bit of it from start to finish. We brought Junior Infants - 6th and we thought it mightn't just suit all...but it absolutely did, fab fab!!!" *2nd Class Teacher*

"It genuinely was fantastic, so well acted and moving. The girls in all the classes were full of chat about it afterwards, they were enthralled! Such a treat, thank you!"
St Paticks Loretto

"We had a ball. My class loved the show and are still talking about the amazing light effects in each scene!!! Thank you"
3rd Class Teacher

AUDIENCE QUOTES

"I loved Lúminaria!!! An excellent show - so fantastic, it brought laughs, smiles and happy tears! What a treat!" *Parent*

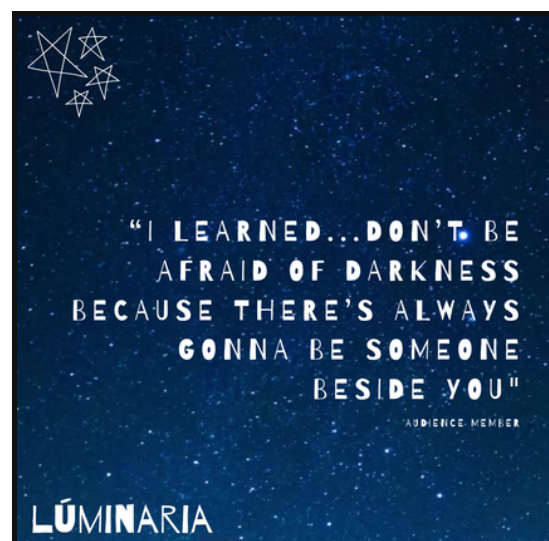
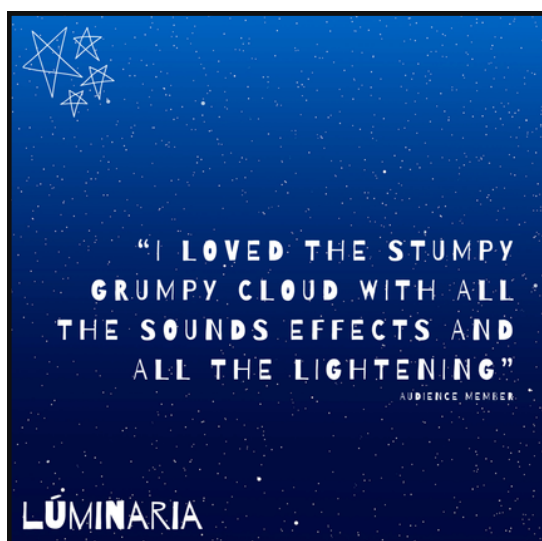
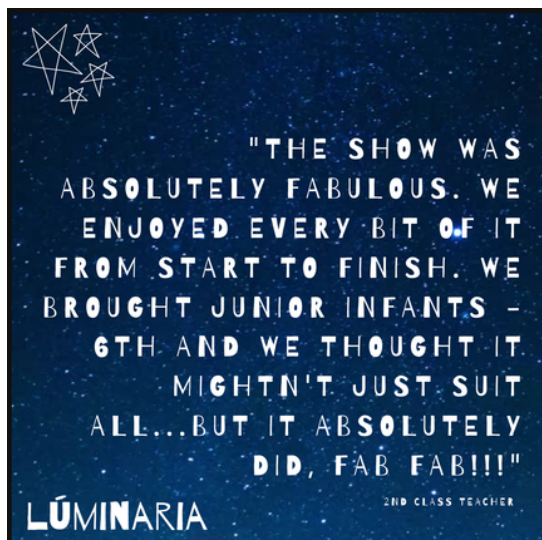
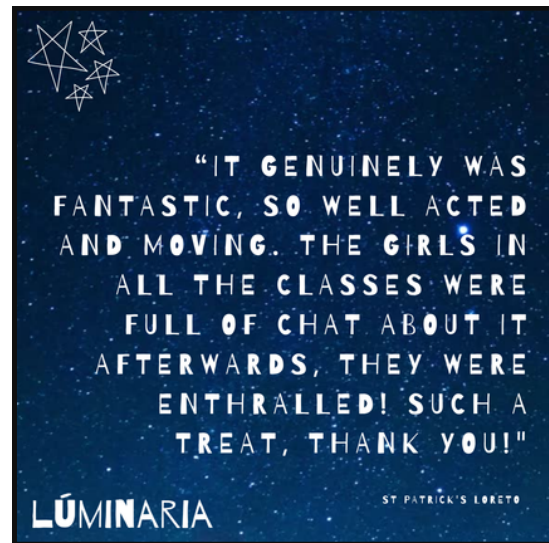
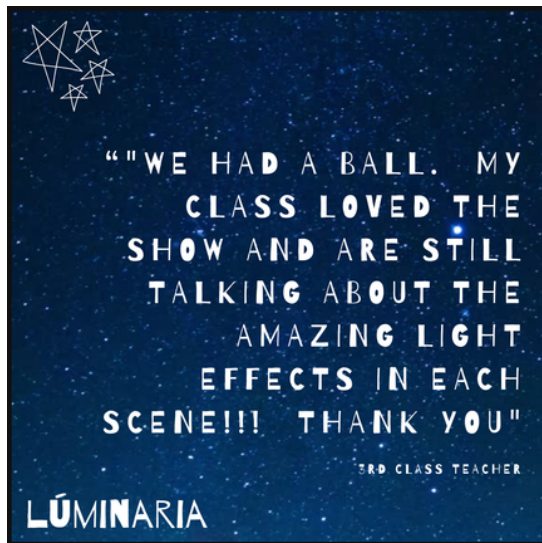
"I learned that don't be afraid of the dark because there's always gonna be someone beside you"

"my favourite bit was when the sun started dancing and she didn't like hearing about sadness"

"I loved when Lúna at the start she was up on the tower of light and she was like flying in the air"

"I loved the stumpy grumpy cloud with all the sounds effects and all the lightening"

QUOTES FOR SOCIALS:



TEMPLATE FOR SCHOOL EMAIL:



Dear Teacher,

Every so often a show comes along that nestles itself permanently in your heart, staying with you long after the lights go down and this [month] one of those shows is coming to [venue] and we can't wait for your students to see it.

Lúminaria is an out of this world show that uniquely suits all classes (6-12 yr olds.) It's gorgeous mix of comedy and empowerment, allows each age-group to take their own piece of magic and interpretation of the show.

There is an emergency in the village of Lúminaria and only Lúna can save them. Join Lúna on an adventure into the sky as she tries to find the light to protect her mother and the villagers from darkness.

With original music and an array of wonderful characters including a pair of mischievous Winds, a one-man-jazz band Cloud and Grumpy Uncle Storm, Lúminaria brings the audience on a hilarious and whimsical journey into the unknown.

Book your class today on and join the adventure...

[insert date || time || price]
[phone || website]

Duration 45min

Age 6+



You can watch a trailer on: bit.ly/luminariatrailer

Or hear directly from children who saw the show on bit.ly/luminaria-vox-pop



Production shot from 2022 national tour. Feat Donncha O'Dea, Honi Cooke & Martha Breen



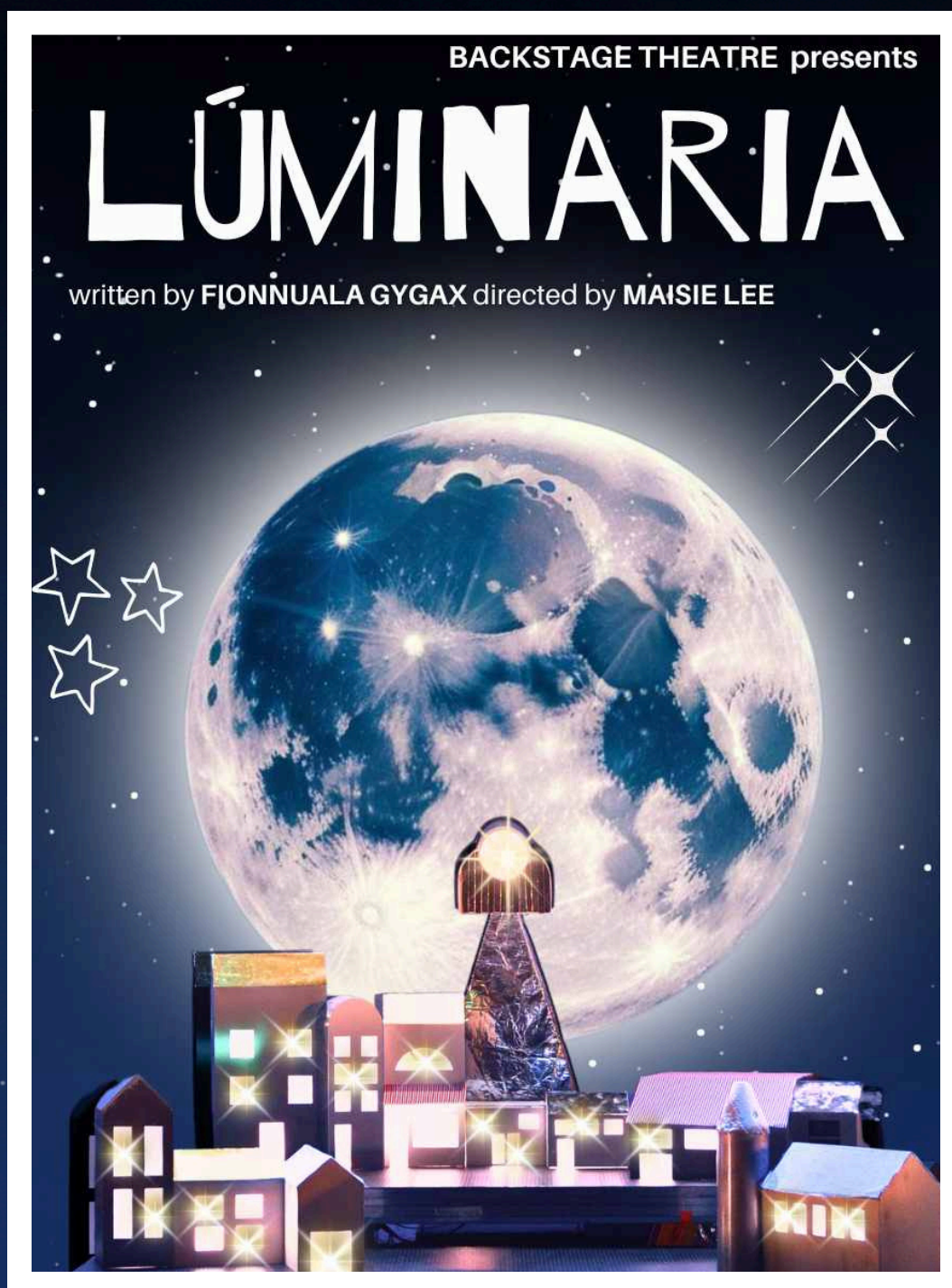
Production shot from 2022 national tour. Feat Donncha O'Dea, Honi Cooke & Martha Breen



Production shot from 2022 national tour. Feat Donncha O'Dea, Honi Cooke & Martha Breen

A young girl with light brown hair, wearing a red and white striped long-sleeved shirt under blue denim overalls, stands looking up at a large, glowing, textured moon in a dark night sky filled with stars. The moon has a blue and white mottled appearance. The girl's expression is one of wonder and awe.

**'SOMETIMES
WE NEED
TO FACE THE DARK
TO FIND THE LIGHT...'**



Available to tour 2027

Contact: admin@backstage.ie