



BACKSTAGE THEATRE  
presents



# LÚMINARIA

Written by FIONNUALA GYGAX  
Directed by MAISIE LEE

## PROGRAMME





# ABOUT LÚMINARIA

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.

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

Developed with: The Company and Marty Breen, Raymond Keane, Liz Fitzgibbon and Matthew Malone

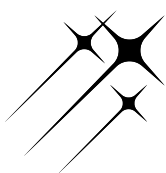
Age Recommendation: ages 5+

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

Duration: 50 mins

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

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



# CREATIVES

Writer:

**Fionnuala Gygax**

Director:

**Maisie Lee**

Cast: **Fionnuala Gygax, Honi Cooke, Donncha O'Dea**

Set & Costume Design:

**Ellen Kirk**

Set & Costume Assist. Designer:

**Saoirse O'Shea**

Lighting Design:

**Stephen Dodd**

Sound Design:

**Denis Clohessy**

Stage Manager:

**Jess Fitzsimons Kane**

Production Manager:

**Simon Bird**

Chief LX:

**Suzie Cummins**

LX Technician:

**Archer Bradshaw**

Set Builder and Model Maker:

**Andrew Clancy**

Costume and Prop Making Assistant:

**Fiona Cradock**

Set and Costume Assistant:

**Masha Khaleeva**

Activity Pack Design:

**Kate Heffernan**

Poster Design & Socials:

**Janice Gibney**

Special thanks to:

St. Michaels Boys School, Longford, St Mel's NS Ardagh, Co Longford Averyl Dooher, Gaelscoil, Roscommon Town & Kiltewan NS, Roscommon NS, Maria Fleming, Eve D'Alton, Ashleigh Dorrell, Anne Cummins, Aine O'Hara, Enda O'Flaherty, Kristina Kostomarova & Gwen Gibney



# CREATIVE BIOS



## Writer/Performer Fionnuala Gyax

Fionnuala Gyax 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 (Smoock 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.

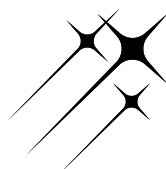


## Director Maisie Lee

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).

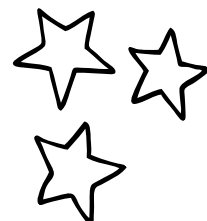
As well as numerous voice over credits, Donncha also wrote and presented the documentary 'Extraordinary Éire' (Newstalk)



## 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 Brokentalkers' '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.



“[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



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



@backstagelongford

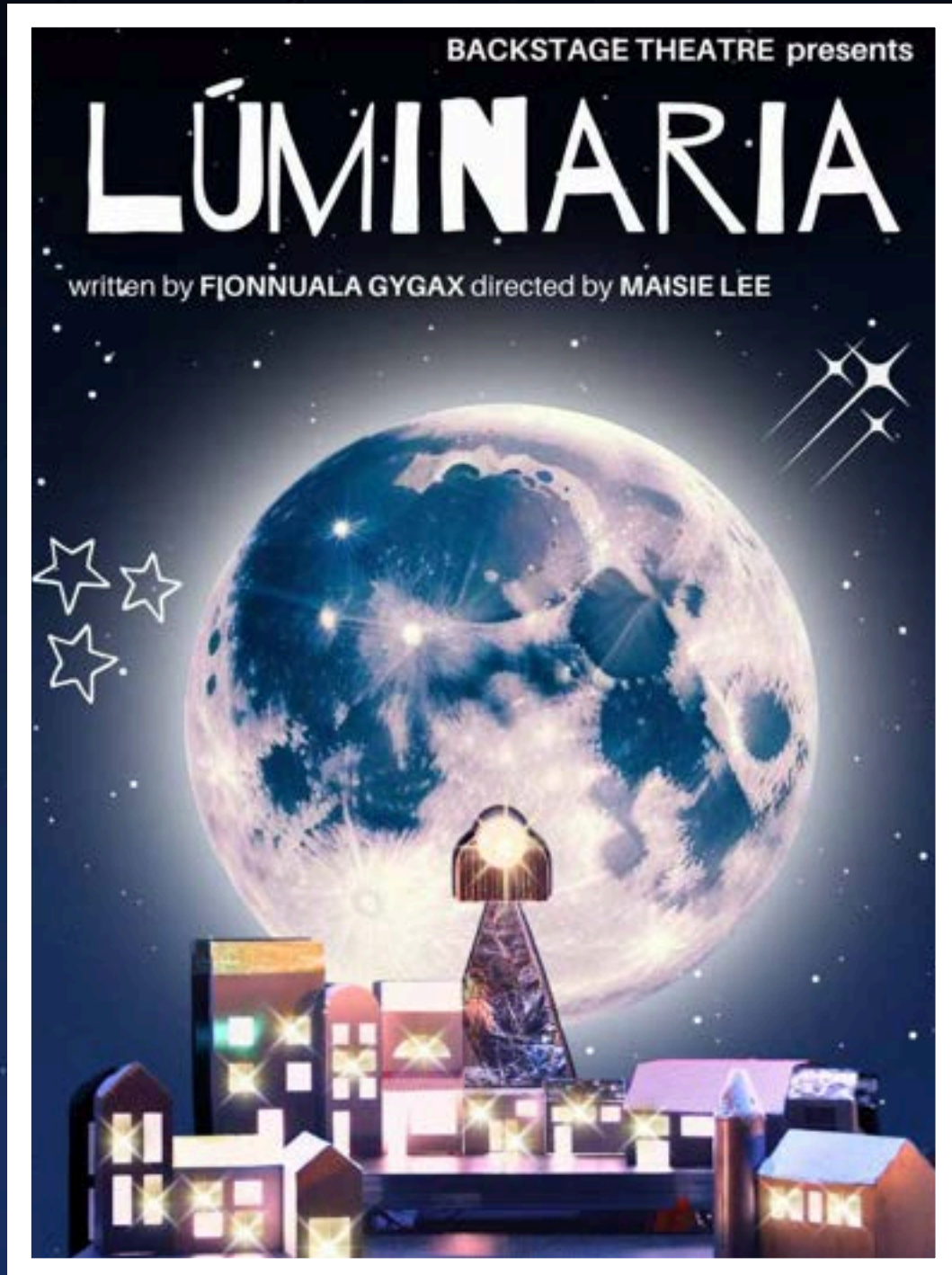


@backstagetheatrelongford

@maisielee100

@fionnualagyax

**Available to tour 2025/2026**



**Contact: [admin@backstage.ie](mailto:admin@backstage.ie)**