

**Global Arts Corps**  
PRESENTS

## **Hold Your Tongue, Hold Your Dead**

A workshop production with talkbacks  
Sept 25 – 28, 2013, 7pm  
Semel Theater, 10 Boylston Place, Boston, MA

A COLLECTIVE CREATION BY  
**Global Arts Corps Artistic Director Michael Lessac**  
**Playwright Stacey Gregg**  
**Composer Jules Maxwell**

**The Ensemble of cast members from the North of Ireland/Northern Ireland**

CAST

**Nick Boraine**  
**Jill Crawford**  
**Julia Dearden**  
**Vincent Higgins**  
**Alan McKee**  
**Ryan McParland**  
**Eileen O'Higgins**  
**Eileen Pollock**

PLAYWRIGHT  
**Stacey Gregg**

LIGHTING  
**Alex Brandt**

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER  
**Michael Lessac**

COMPOSER  
**Jules Maxwell**

PRODUCTION TEAM  
**Nick Boraine, Assoc. Artistic Director**  
**Jacqueline Lessac, Executive Producer**  
**Robert Lear, International Producer**  
**Jill Crawford, Assistant Producer**  
**Robert Koen, Stage Manager/  
Assistant Director**  
**Sarah Case, Program Manager**

**Originally developed in Belfast and at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Annaghmakerrig**

**Further developed at ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage**

Rob Orchard, Executive Director; David Dower, Director of Artistic Programs



**SPECIAL THANKS**

Martin McSharry, Polly Carl, Kevin Becerra, Katie Grindeland, Andrea Gordillo, and everyone at ArtsEmerson for helping to make our residency in Boston so productive and enjoyable

**Global Arts Corps would like to thank the project's generous supporters**

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**Artist Biographies**

MICHAEL LESSAC (director/producer) is an award-winning theatre, television, and film director; a screenwriter; and co-founder of the Global Arts Corps. He is the project creator & director of the international theatre production, *Truth In Translation*, and Artistic Director of Colonnades Theatre Lab, Inc. (CTL) in the U.S. and of the Colonnades Theatre Lab, South Africa. Prior to his work with *Truth in Translation* and the Global Arts Corps, Michael founded and ran CTL in New York City, where he produced and directed over thirty productions with a company of established actors, playwrights, and composers. Following his time in New York, he moved to Los Angeles to work in film and television. There he wrote and directed the feature film *House of Cards*, starring Tommy Lee Jones and Kathleen Turner, and directed over 200 television shows and sixteen pilots including *Taxi*, *Newhart*, *Grace Under Fire*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *The Naked Truth*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *George and Leo*, *Titus*, and *Lucky*, among others. In addition to his work in Los Angeles and at the Colonnades, Michael has directed at the National Theatre of Yugoslavia, the Guthrie Theatre in Minnesota, the Denver Theatre Centre, the Arena Stage, the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C., and the Public Theatre in New York City. Michael is also a singer/songwriter and has recorded an album for Columbia Records called *Sleep Faster, We Need The Pillow*. He holds a doctorate in developmental psychology, and has taught both theatre and psychology at numerous universities in the USA.

STACEY GREGG's (playwright) work includes *Perve* (Abbey Theatre Dublin/ La Licorne Montreal / Galway Youth Theatre Cuirt Festival); *Lagan* (Oval Theatre/ Time Out Critics Choice); *Spoof Or Die* (Channel4/ Touchpaper/ Pick of the week Sun, Guardian, Time Out); *Jackie's Taxi* (The Mac/ Royal Festival Hall); and as a performer: *Moth* (Hightide/The Bush). She is currently working on commissions for the Abbey, Clean Break, and BBC NI. Stacey won a Stewart Parker BBC Radio Drama Award in 2012, and is a MacDowell Colony Fellow.

JULES MAXWELL (composer), originally from Belfast, now lives in northern France and composes music for theatre and dance. His soundtracks have featured in the work of Wayne McGregor, Jane Mason, Laila Diallo, Jasmin Vardimon, Matthew Dunster, Retina Dance, Bern Ballet, Mark Storer, Michael Wicherek and Jeanine Durning. Recent theatre commissions include *Fat Girl Gets A Haircut* and *Dark Side of Love* at the Roundhouse London, *Doctor Faustus* at Shakespeare's Globe, *Love the Sinner* at The Royal National Theatre, *Some Voices* at the Young Vic London, and *Smother* for Artangel. He has recorded 4 albums of his own work; Bolt (1996), Hard Shoulder (1998), Candy Floss (2001), and Santos (2009). As a keyboard player, he has toured with Dead Can Dance, Foy Vance and Duke Special.

NICK BORAINÉ (Paul) graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in 1994 with an honors degree in drama. Since then, he has been involved in countless aspects of performing, writing and directing for stage, television, as well as film. As an actor, Nick has performed in numerous plays, highlights of which include *Popcorn*, *Birdy*, *Faustus*, *Metamorphosis*, *Sic* and *Truth in Translation*. In his film and television work, Nick has been involved in many local South African and international production. Films include, *Promised Land*, *In My Country*, *I Dreamed of Africa*, *District 9*, *Jozi* and *Paradise Stop*. On television, he's been seen in *King Solomon's Mines*, *The Philanthropist*, *Strike Back* and *the Mating Game*, to name a few. Touring the world with *Truth in Translation* was a transforming moment on both a professional and personal level. The relationship between performing and storytelling and their influence on breaking the vengeance cycle fascinated Nick. Through the countless workshops and interactions with other performers, ex-combatants and children, he saw endless possibilities to provoke a perceptual shift that might stop violence and promote dialogue. While Nick continues to act on stage and screen, he also works for the Global Arts Corps in the role of Associate Artistic Director.

JILL CRAWFORD's (Emma) screen work includes feature film *Five Minutes of Heaven* and recent BBC 2 drama *The Fall* with Gillian Anderson. Theatre work includes *The Misanthrope*, Pinter's *The Lover*, Mamet's *Oleanna* and *Love's Labour's Lost* at Saitama Arts Theatre, Tokyo. Trained at National Youth Theatre and Oxford University. She will next be performing in *The Vertical Hour* by David Hare in London. Jill is also working on a novel.

JULIA DEARDEN (Nicola) lives in Belfast and trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama, London. Theatre work in London includes -*The Shaughraun*, National Theatre; *Dancing at Lughnasa*, West End; *The Bloody Sunday Inquiry*, Tricycle Theatre; *The Silver Tassie*, Almeida; *The Crucible*, *The Winters Tale* and *Camille* for the RSC. In Ireland - *The Home Place*, *Dockers* and *Pentecost* at The Lyric Belfast; *The Blind Fiddler*, and *Ruby* at The Grand Opera House. TV and Film work includes *The Fall*, *Northanger Abbey*, *The Billy Plays*, *Cal* and *Titanic Town*.

VINCENT HIGGINS (Rory) is an actor and writer based in Belfast, Ireland. He has worked as an actor with practically every major theatre company in Ireland including The Abbey Theatre - The National Theatre of Ireland. Vincent has also performed around the world, including New York, London, Stockholm and Rome. He has many film, tv and radio credits to his name and is a renowned voice over artist. Vincent's writing credits include: *Strike*, *North Nua*, *Pariahs*, *Citizen*, *The Cowardice Machine*, *Milking Money*, and his stage adaptation of Spike Milligan's comic novel *Puckoon* transferred after a sell out Irish tour to London's West End.

ALAN MCKEE (Colin) has worked as an actor and comedian in Ireland and the UK for over twenty years. With his long-time collaborator Conor Grimes, he has written and performed in many plays and sketch shows, including *The Nativity; what the Donkey Saw* and *Bah Humbug* for the Lyric Theatre Belfast, and *Grimes & McKee's Ugly Sisters* at the city's Grand Opera House. In 2002 Grimes & McKee wrote *The History of the Troubles...Accordin' to my Da*, with playwright Martin Lynch. The play has since toured many times and been seen by over 100,000 people.

RYAN MCPARLAND (Nevin) recently appeared in *Drum Belly* by Richard Dormer at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. Other theatre work includes *Doughnuts* (TEAM), *The Civilisation Game* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *One Tribe* (Spanner in the Works) and *Choices* (C21). Radio work includes *The Biggest Issues* and *Loves Worst Day* (BBC Radio 4). Film and television work include *Get Up & Go* (Irish Film Board), *Deadbook* (Zanzibar Films/Irish Film Board), *Fishbowl City* (DBC Productions), *6 Degrees* (BBC), *SLR* (British Film Institute), *Igloo* (MFD Films), *Imbolc* and *Say Nothing* (NI Screen), *Coming Up - Spoof Or Die* (Channel 4) and *Good Vibrations* (Universal Pictures). Ryan will appear in Tinderbox Theatre company's upcoming production *Summertime* by David Ireland at the MAC, Belfast.

EILEEN O'HIGGINS (Kerry) trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Theatre includes: *The 24 Hour Plays* (The Old Vic), Deirde in *A Meditation On Fiction And Reality* (Arcola Theatre), *Lucrezia Borgias* (English National Opera), Fiona in *Assassins* (Old Vic New Voices), Clare in *Sum Zero* (Lyric Hammersmith Studio), Gemma in *A Very Important Thing To Do* (Nilon Theatre Co/Theatre 503), Mary in *Il Mirlcolo* (Elan Theatre Co /Italy). Television include: *Caerdydd* (S4C/Fiction Factory), *Enid* (Carnival Films/BBC) and *Emma* (BBC). Radio credits include: *Under Milk Wood* directed by Gordon House.

EILEEN POLLOCK (Alice) is Belfast born (Ireland, not Maine); got the theatre bug in the dramatic society at University, thereby abandoning a potentially lucrative linguistics career in favour of the nomadic life of an alternative, touring theatre animal. All was not lost, however, and she has worked with some of the best Irish theatre companies, at the National, in London and managed to squeeze in some TV (as Lilo Lill in the BBC's long-running series *Bread*) and film (Ron Howard's *Far and Away*, Alan Parker's *Angela's Ashes* and Sydney McCartney's *A Love Divided*). Two one-woman shows up and running: *Fight Like Tigers* based on the autobiography of the Irish American mine workers leader and labour activist, Mother Jones, and *Kathleen Mother of all the Behans*, based on the life of...well, 'all the Behans', including the infamous Brendan, a woman whose life spanned the years of the making of what Ireland is today and who knew all the big players of the time!