

February, 15-17, 2018

The American Premiere of THISISPOPBABY'S "RIOT"

Company: NYU Skirball and the Irish Arts Center present t
Venue: NYU Skirball
Location: New York, NY

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Fiona Morgan

RIOT, the award-winning Irish theatrical extravaganza that mixes high art and trash culture, will have its American premiere at NYU Skirball, February 15 – 17 at 7:30 pm. A blend of cabaret, dance, circus, comedy and powerful spoken word, Riot is both party and politic, a love letter of hope to the future, a divine celebration – and a blunt criticism – of the world today.

THISISPOPBABY, self-described “theatre makers, club creatives and good time gurls [sic],” lands somewhere between pop culture, counter culture, queer culture and high art. Founded in 2007, the Dublin-based company has played to sell-out crowds and critical acclaim throughout Ireland and around the world, and created Ireland’s Queer Notions Arts Festival. Its productions have played to over 100,000 people around Ireland, the UK, Australia and beyond, winning five major theatre awards, including Best Production at the 2016 Dublin Fringe Festival, with nominations for 14 more.

RIOT is co-presented with Irish Arts Center. The NYC-based arts and cultural center is dedicated to projecting a dynamic image of Ireland and Irish America for the 21st century, building community with artists and audiences of all backgrounds, forging and strengthening cross-cultural partnerships, and preserving the evolving stories and traditions of Irish culture for generations to come.

The all-star cast includes Panti Bliss, Ireland’s Queen of Drag; Up & Over It (former Riverdance leads); and Megan Riordan (Once – The Musical), and is created and directed by Jennifer Jennings and Phillip McMahon.

Panti Bliss has the distinction of being Ireland’s most famous drag queen as well as an international political activist and outspoken supporter of gay rights. Her infamous speech in support of gender equality played a major role in Ireland’s legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015. The speech was called “the most eloquent Irish speech in almost 200 years” and was praised by Dan Savage, Ru Paul, Graham Norton, Madonna and countless others. A video of the speech has received over 800,000 views, and her Tedx Talk “All the Little Things” has been viewed by 400,000 people.

Panti has danced with Cyndi Lauper onstage in Japan, regularly hosts the annual Dublin Pride celebrations, and is the subject of a critically acclaimed documentary The Queen of Ireland. Her stand up show High Heels in Low Places played to stellar reviews and packed houses across Ireland, the UK, Europe, Australia and the U.S. Her memoir, Woman in The Making, written with her alter ego Rory O’Neill, was a bestseller in Ireland.

Emmet Kirwan is a Dublin-based actor, writer and filmmaker. He is a graduate of Trinity College’s Samuel Beckett Centre and has performed at The Gate and The Abbey Theatres. He has written for Irish television and film, and won the IFTA-winning short film “Heartbreak”, originally commissioned and written for RIOT.

Lords of Strut, Street Performance World Champions and unlikely heroes of Britain’s “Got Talent 2017,” are on a mission to change the world with dance. The spandex-wearing duo, Cian Kinsella and Cormac Mohally, mix character comedy with acrobatics and slapstick, resulting in manic and sexy comedy.

Suzanne Cleary and Peter Harding of Up and Over It accumulated championship titles on the competitive Irish dance circuit before joining Riverdance productions on Broadway and around the world. They first performed as Up and Over It at the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, shortly before their short "hand dance" video went viral, leading to appearances on the global "Got Talent" franchise. Their videos have been seen by over 12 million people.

Ronan Brady was a secondary school teacher and soccer star before running away to join the circus and becoming a full-time physical artist specializing in Cyr Wheel and Duo Trapeze. He has performed across the U.K. and with international festivals.

Megan Riordan's credits include Once-the Musical! in Dublin and South Korea. She has performed in plays across the U.K. in film and television, and has a leading role in the award-winning series An Klondike.

Adam Matthews is a Dublin-based singer and songwriter. He has performed at music festivals and venues across Ireland, and is currently recording with a new band Pheno.

Nicola Kavanagh has performed in plays and festivals across the U.K. She has toured and recorded with the Irish choral group, Anúna.

ABOUT NYU SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

NYU Skirball, located in the heart of Greenwich Village, is one of New York City's major presenters of international work, and has been the premier venue for cultural and performing arts events in lower Manhattan since 2003. The 860-seat state-of-the art theater, led by Director Jay Wegman, provides a home for internationally renowned artists, innovators and thinkers. NYU Skirball hosts over 300 events annually, from re-inventions of the classics to cutting-edge premieres, in genres ranging from dance, theater and performance arts to comedy, music and film.

NYU Skirball's unique place as a vibrant cultural center within New York University enables it to draw on the University's intellectual riches and resources to enhance its programming with dialogues, public forums and conversations with artists, philosophers, scientists, Nobel Laureates and journalists. www.nyuskirball.org.

TICKETS

RIOT will run February 15 – 17 at 7:30 pm and is appropriate for audiences 17 and older. Tickets start at \$40; on-stage cabaret seating is \$65. Tickets may be purchased online at www.nyuskirball.org, by phone at 212.998.4941, or in person at the NYU Skirball Box Office, 566 LaGuardia Place at Washington Square: Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00–6:00 P.M. Subways: A, B, C, D, E, F, M to West 4th St.; R & W to 8th Street; 6 to Astor Place.

NYU Skirball and the Irish Arts Center present t
566 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY, 10012
(212) 992-8484
<http://nyuskirball.org>

Schedule
February 15, 2018: 7:30pm
February 16, 2018: 7:30pm
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