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Dispatches from the Fringe: all over bar the celebrations

September 20, 2015

10:46 AM MST



Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015

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At a ceremony in The Church, Mary Street, Dublin the Tiger Dublin Fringe Awards were presented today, with 11 categories this year. Tiger Dublin Fringe Awards exist to recognise, reward and celebrate the hard work and talent on display in the festival. They are a small but heartfelt tribute to some of the hundreds of festival makers and doers who bring their intelligence, vision, drive and who seem to be able to draw on a reservoir of bottomless energy and passion to create some of the most exciting and original works. The awards hope to honour their commitment, ingenuity, excellence and old-fashioned hard work and acknowledging some of the stand-outs in this year's festival.

Festival Director Kris Nelson said, "We've had a fantastic 21st edition, with some of Tiger Dublin Fringe's wildest and most memorable moments yet.... Music, dance, theatre and comedy lit up venues across the city...Our 21st Fringe pushed the envelope, broke taboos and gave audiences cause to celebrate."

Everyone has their favourites, but here are the award winners for [Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015](#).

Best Production

Presented to the show or event that displays excellence in every area of production, design, performance, concept and execution.

“Agrippina” by Handel presented by Irish Youth Opera in a co-production with Northern Ireland Opera in association with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Lime Tree Theatre

Best Design

The award presented for outstanding lighting, sound, scenic, projection, costume or overall design.

The company for “Flemish Proverbs” by Moira Brady Averill and Isadora Epstein

Best Performers

Two of the best performers of the festival take home this much sought-after prize from a field of up to eight nominees. Formerly given to best male and female, we’re broadening the category to suit all gender identification.

Ben Sullivan in “It Folds”

Liadain Herriott in “Liminal”

Best Ensemble

Sometimes it’s the entire cast that makes a show. Introduced in 2014, this award recognises the stand out efforts from a group of performers on stage.

“Behind the Dark” by Loosysmokes

Judges Choice Award

Also instituted in 2014, this award recognises a project, contributor, experience of Fringe event that defies the categorisation and is just too good to pass by unheralded.

“Object Piggy” by Dying Breeds

Bewley's Café Theatre 'Little Gem' Award

Bewley's Café Theatre is Ireland's foremost presenter of lunchtime theatre and is delighted and proud to continue to sponsor the Bewley's Café Theatre 'Little Gem' Award for the most exciting show presented at this year's Tiger Dublin Fringe under 60 minutes. The selection is made up by the jury for final approval by Bewley's Café Theatre. The prize is a handsome one; the winning production is earns a two week run at Bewley's Café Theatre with €2000 available to the company for remounting the production.

“Your Own Man/ Mad Notions” by Luke Murphy

First Fortnight Award

Since its inception in 2009, First Fortnight’s key aim has been to challenge stigma and prejudice

about mental health issues through the creative arts.

Camille Ross for “Big Bobby Little Bobby”

Fishamble New Writing Award

Presented to the best play by a new or emerging Irish (or Irish-based) playwright premiered during Tiger Dublin Fringe, this award includes the prize of a scholarship place on one of Fishamble's acclaimed playwriting courses, dramaturgical support and a stipend towards the playwright's next play, generously sponsored by Fishamble: The New Play Company. The idea of new writing is interpreted broadly to include new works in the area of dance, performance art, music, multi-author, post-dramatic works and so on.

“Overshadowed” by Eva O’Connor

The Next Stage Wild Card Award

Tiger Dublin Fringe awards a bursary to an artist who has been part of the festival, enabling them to participate in the Next Stage – an artist development programme run by Dublin Theatre Festival in partnership with Theatre Forum

Alice Malseed

Moscow Irish Fringe Festival Award

This new award offers a tour-ready Fringe highlight which is selected to participate in the Irish Fringe Festival in Moscow during Irish Week next March. The award winners will be part of the biggest Irish arts festivals in Eastern Europe with over 100 [events](#) showcasing Irish music, comedy, theatre and film. Winner to be announced next month following consideration by Moscow Irish Fringe Director, but here are the short listed acts.

"Oh! What A Lovely Rose!" by Tragic Spud

“Contain-A-Rave” by Lords of Strut

“Susannah With Strings” by Susannah De Wrixon

“Beckett in the City: The Women Speak” by Company SJ

“Love+” by Claire O’Reilly

“Folds of the Crane” by Justine Cooper

“The Walls Have Ears” by Bottlenote

“Liminal” by Liadain Herriott

Spirit of the Fringe/Spirit of Project Commissioning Award

A highly prestigious Tiger Dublin Fringe award in association with Project Arts Centre that combines a commission to present work in Project Arts Centre in next year's Tiger Dublin Fringe, along with €5,000 to get the show up and running for a new show to be produced for the Dublin Fringe Festival 2016 in Project Cube. Usually presented to an Irish company.

“LOVE+” by Claire O’Reilly

Judges Choices

“Marky MacSherry Tells It Like It Is” by Martin McSharry

For the intelligence and detail of its form, for Martin Sharry's disarming performance in the role of Marky

“Object Piggy” by Dying Breeds

For its energy, exuberance and detail – a downright dynamism that embraces and underpins everything Fringe

“Gaeilge Tamagotchi” by Manchán Magan

For Manchán Magan as the playful saviour of our national tongue

“Beckett in the City: The Women Speak” by Company SJ

For Company SJ's commitment, consistency, rigour and skill in bringing Beckett to Fringe audiences, taking us deep into the recesses of hidden Dublin. For the careful curation of the production, the brave choice to bring together the women's voices.

“Portraits in Motion” by Volker Gerling

For its heart, the singularity of its vision, the simplicity of its craft, the artist's commitment to the pursuit of a small life. For a production that was more than the sum of its flick book pages

“Sweet Pang!” by Lady Grew

For its unflinching, unique and celebratory portrayal of sex work and its brave exploration of the body as a contested site.

Chairperson of the Fringe judging panel, Kate Heffernan, said about the festival judging this year; “over the fourteen days of the festival, the judges witnessed show after show that flew in the face of genre or playfully defied category, work that took a sideways glance at traditional forms, opening them up to new audiences. Tiger Dublin Fringe 2015 was also the year of the ensemble and the year of dance, of work that asked bold and unflinching questions about who we are and where we are going, whether personally or politically. New voices and artists presenting at Fringe for the first time stood shoulder to shoulder and vied for awards with Fringe stalwarts. The diversity, quality and energy meant it was a 7-hour and hotly-debated deliberation, but it also suggests a bright and brilliant future. We are excited for what comes next.”

Congratulations to all winners and nominees. This year the festival celebrated its twenty-first birthday and sold more tickets than it did since 2009. There were 78 shows who took part in the 14 day festival which ran across Dublin city. It was wild, exuberant and a terrific festival. The city will be a quieter place without it.

For a few days at least.

For more information visit [Tiger Dublin Fringe](http://www.examiner.com/article/dispatches-from-the-fringe-all-over-bar-the-celebrations)



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