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# Dublin Dance Festival 2014 - Swing's the thing

May 27, 2014

4:51 PM MST



Swing by Fishamble: The New Play Company  
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## Swing by Fishamble: The New Play Company

Rating: ★★★★★

Let's just cut to the chase here. *Swing*, by Fishamble: The New Play Company, written by Steve Blount, Gavin Kostick, Janet Moran and Peter Daly, is a simple story, simply told with a simple set. And it is simply marvellous.

In *Swing* we meet dancing partners Joe and May. Joe has returned to college at fifty to study horticulture following a failed marriage and a failed family business that went under during the recession. He lives in a bedsit and plays phone tag with his two sons living abroad. May once dreamed of being an artist but has settled at forty for being a graphic designer and for a comfortable relationship with a project manager working abroad. Both have decided to try swing dance classes, along with a cast of misfits, divas, desperados and the highly stressed. Over the course of a year their relationship deepens as they practice their dance routines. Like its songs and dances, *Swing* is an old story heard many times before. But rarely has it been told with such

warmth, humour and charm.

On a bare stage with two chairs, Steve Blount and Janet Moran bring to life the weird and wonderful characters that inhabit the world of *Swing*. Seamlessly switching between roles, Blount and Moran are masters of their craft. Blount's portrayal of Joe as a battered phoenix hauling himself slowly out of the ashes is a sheer delight. As is Moran's unsure and searching May. Peter Daly's excellent direction keeps the pace moving along nicely and elicits two outstanding performances in the process.

*Swing* perfectly illustrates the diversity on offer at the Dublin Dance Festival, which has wisely included a play loosely based around dance in its programme. It's also a fitting testament to dance itself. In *Swing* dance is about hope, about discovering and rediscovering yourself, about finding a place to belong, a place to dream and remember, about second chances and searching for joy beyond the struggles. It's a reminder that dance is for everyone. As is *Swing*.

If you haven't already seen this charming little gem, drop what you're doing and book your tickets now. If you've already had the pleasure, go see it again. *Swing* is a joyous dance of life, love, hope and humanity with two memorable performances worthy of their standing ovations. You'd be insane to miss it.

*Swing* runs at The Peacock Theatre till Saturday, May 31st as part of the Dublin Dance Festival.

Show begins at 8.00 p.m.

There will be a post-show talk on Wednesday, May 28th.

For more information go to: <http://www.dublindancefestival.ie/>



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