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Festival Connect - The Boys of Foley Street will leave you reeling

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The Boys of Foley Street
Anu Productions

The Boys of Foley Street by Anu Productions

Rating: ★★★★★

If, in the coming weeks, you draw up a list of Top Five Things To Do Before You Die, prioritize catching Anu Productions exhilarating *The Boys of Foley Street*. Multimedia meets performance meets site specific meets community theatre in this thrilling, terrifying, rollercoaster ride that will leave you reeling.

Set in the 1970's and early 1980's, *The Boys of Foley Street* covers a period of profound cultural, social and political change. The death of De Valera in 1975 and the Pope's visit in 1979 marked the end of an older vision of Ireland. With it went many of Dublin's inner city communities who were removed, often reluctantly, to the suburbs as much of the physical landscape of Dublin was destroyed in the name of progress. Driven by a large, young population who were voting and

unemployed, old ways and values began to give way bringing some positive changes, but often at a horrific cost. Heroin became a major issue, devastating individuals, families and entire communities and giving rise to the Concerned Parents Against Drugs movement.

Without giving anything away, it's fair to say you will encounter all of the above and so much more when you meet *The Boys of Foley Street*. Simply put, *The Boys of Foley Street* is the most powerful, unsettling and moving theatre experience you will have for some considerable time. Director Louise Lowe together with Creative Producer, Hannah Mullan of the award winning *Farm*, have created a staggeringly impressive production that succeeds on all levels. Sterling performances by an outstanding cast, given wonderful support by the community of Foley Street, are utterly compelling making *The Boys of Foley Street* an immersive theatre experience that is mind blowingly brilliant.

Following on from *World's End Lane* and *Laundry*, *The Boys of Foley Street* is the third instalment in a quartet of works by Anu Productions called *The Monto Cycle*. *The Boys of Foley Street* is community theatre in the truest sense of the word. Theatre for the community, by the community and of the community. The result is a profoundly moving and disturbing look at community, its highs and lows, in a production that takes site specific and community theatre to unheard of levels of engagement.

The Boys of Foley Street will take you places you never wanted to go but needed to, show you things you never wanted to see but needed to, and bring you up close and personal to the trials of a community, the death of innocence, the devastation of drugs and face to face with your own personal responses to some harrowing questions frighteningly relevant today. Thrilling, terrifying, transforming, this is a theatrical experience like no other. Book now to avoid disappointment. Tickets are going fast and deservedly so.

The Boys of Foley Street runs at The Lab, Foley Street, till October 13th. Shows are every half hour, from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and again between 4.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. Admission is €18.00 - €13.00.

Be advised: *The Boys of Foley Street* contains scenes of sexual violence and nudity. Make sure to dress for the weather.



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