

PRESS RELEASE September 29th, 2006

## **NAYD GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A FORUM TO SHARE VIEWS ON THEATRE FESTIVAL PRODUCTIONS**

A group of young people from around Ireland will cast their critical eyes over two leading Irish productions in this year's Dublin Theatre Festival and present their views to the public at the National Association of Youth Drama Young Critics' Forum on 8th October at Project Arts Centre.

The NAYD Young Critics' Forum is part of 2006 Dublin International Theatre Festival. Around twenty young people will work with leading theatre critic Karen Fricker to review and assess Druid's *Empress of India* and *La Tempete* by William Shakespeare.

Theatre critic for The Guardian (UK) and Variety (US), Dr. Fricker will take the young critics under her expert wing and show them how to disentangle a production and critique it constructively. Co-founder and former Editor in Chief (1998-2005) of Irish Theatre Magazine, Karen is highly respected in the theatre world both here and abroad.

The Young Critics' Forum will be followed by scene readings written by five budding playwrights who took part in the NAYD Young Playwrights Programme 'Stage It'. Over the course of this programme, the five youngsters from around the country were mentored and tutored by one of Ireland's top directors Thomas Conway, Literary Manager with Druid Theatre Company. Thomas lists *Beowulf*, *Closer*, *Catastrophe* and *What Where* among his directing credits.

NAYD is the development organization for youth drama and youth theatre in Ireland. Established in 1980, it is the oldest youth arts organisation in Ireland,

with a focus on developing theatre as an art form for young people aged between 12-25 years. With 58 youth theatres throughout the country as well as individuals, youth and arts organizations the NAYD is committed to extending and enhancing people's understanding of theatre and raising the artistic standards of youth theatre across the country.

#### LISTINGS INFORMATION

WHAT: NAYD Young Critics' Forum

WHO: Young people reviewing *Empress of India* and *La Tempete*

WHERE: Project Theatre, Essex St. Dublin 2

WHEN: Sunday October 8th at 12:30pm

FOLLOWED BY: Presentation by 'Stage It'

ADMISSION: Open to the public

The NAYD is principally funded by The Arts Council, the Department of Education (Youth Affairs Section), FÁS and is also affiliated to the National Youth Council of Ireland.

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