

PRESS RELEASE

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Hip hop meets mythology in new version of The Táin, at The Milk Market, Limerick 20-25 July 2014

A hip hop theatre re-telling of The Táin opens at The Milk Market, Limerick on Sunday 20th July and runs for six nights until Friday 25th July. “The Táin” production combines physical theatre and urban art forms – hip hop dance theatre, rap, graffiti art, film – with performances by a cast of international, national and local hip hop dance theatre artists, to an original soundtrack by hip hop duo Icarus Rising, and is being presented in association with Limerick City of Culture and Dance Limerick. This is the first hip hop theatre production to be produced in Ireland and is being made in Limerick by performance and creative artists from and living in Limerick, in collaboration with leading international guest artists. Further details and ticket information from www.thetain2014.com and The Tain Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thetainlimerick

The story:

The city is the state, two tribes collide, a hero emerges.

The epic Irish tale of Cúchulainn and Queen Maeve is re-set in the present day, in the simmering underworld of urban turf wars. Fired by passion and pride, Cúchulainn seeks to defend his territory at all costs. In this explosive re-imagining of the ancient story, there are scores to be settled, sacrifices to be made and the ultimate prize to be claimed.

Cast:

Barry ‘Bazzy B’ Burke (Limerick)

Michelle ‘Mystique’ Lukmani (US)

Darren ‘Jelly’ O’Kane (Ire/UK)

Sachith ‘Bboy SamRoc’ Premarathna (Sri Lanka/Dublin)

Nora Rodriguez (Mexico/Limerick)

Chris ‘Fluidgirl’ Young-Ginzburg (US)

Shane Davis, aka Dirty Harry (Limerick)

Supporting Cast/Cru:

A talented team of intern dancers from the Limerockers Cru, the well-known Limerick based hip hop group, led by Barry Burke, will play various supporting roles in The Táin.

The production:

An exciting mix of national and international creative and performing artists have been brought together by Limerick **Creative Director Ciarda Tobin** to create this once-off production:

Choreography is by Paul Martin and Conor O’Kane of leading international hip hop theatre company **Bad Taste Cru**, in collaboration with Limerick dancer and teacher **Barry ‘Bazzy B’ Burke**;

Original soundtrack is by hip hop duo **Icarus Rising**: Mexy (Dundalk) and West Knyle Ambers (Detroit/Dublin), featuring vocalist Emma Jane Maher (Dundalk);

Set and Costume Design is by Irish Theatre Award Nominee Emma Fisher (Limerick)

Lighting and AV Design is by Art O’Laoire (Cork);

Film Content is by Shane Serrano (Limerick)

Speaking at the announcement of details for The Táin, **Creative Director Ciarda Tobin** said: “The legend of The Táin is familiar to many people. We have taken the original story and are re-telling it in the present day. It’s still a story about power and greed, but the setting is contemporary and is inspired by city life. We’re really excited to be re-imagining the epic tale through hip hop theatre and are very lucky to be working with

amazing collaborators such as Bad Taste Cru – specialists in hip hop theatre – and Barry Burke, who is well known for his work with hip hop groups in Limerick, as well as Icarus Rising, who have created an original soundtrack especially for The Táin. This is the first hip hop theatre show to be produced in Ireland, so we really hope everyone will come and see what it's all about. We have a great team made up of creative and performing artists from all over the world, together with some of Limerick's finest, and we're very grateful to Limerick City of Culture whose funding has made this exciting project possible".

Sheila Deegan from Limerick City of Culture added: "Limerick City of Culture is delighted to be able to support such an exciting and innovative production as The Táin. Ireland is a country with countless tales of myth and folklore and the re-telling of The Táin in Limerick during this year as City of Culture will be a showcase of the creative talent that exists in Limerick. By bringing together Limerick and international creative and performing artists working collaboratively, this production is a unique opportunity for emerging performers to develop their skills and experience together in Limerick, a City of Culture".

Jenny Traynor, Director of Dance Limerick, added: "It's very exciting to see The Táin production coming together. Hip hop theatre is a new concept to us, pushing the boundaries of dance, music and theatre to create an exciting new art form. Dance Limerick is really pleased to be able to support The Táin production and we wish the whole team well".

The Táin is funded by Limerick City of Culture under the Made in Limerick strand, and is presented in association with Dance Limerick. The Táin will be performed at The Milk Market, Limerick from Sunday 20th to Friday 25th July at 9pm nightly. Tickets €10.00 / €5.00 (+ booking fee), now available from www.thetain2014.com and at The Milk Market from the 5th of July. The Táin is suitable for audiences over 12 years.

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Further info: Maeve Butler, Producer (087) 2356143 / thetain2014@gmail.com