

Wyeth[®] Kildare Festival of *youth* Drama

sponsored by Kildare County Council Arts Service

Dates: 31st July - 4th August 2007

Venue: Riverbank Arts Centre | Newbridge | County Kildare

Presented by: Crooked House | Kildare Youth Theatre

Tickets: Free to lunchtime shows (1.30pm - 2.00pm); €10/€8 to evening performances (8pm)

Box Office: Telephone 045 448333 | Email boxoffice@riverbank.ie

Information: Telephone 045 448309 | Email crookedhouse@riverbank.ie

It's not often that over 100 young people from Kildare get the opportunity to engage creatively with human rights issues relevant to their lives. And to do so using the medium of theatre makes the Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama a unique event not only in the county but nationwide. Youth groups from all over the county and beyond have been preparing for the annual five-marathon of workshopping, creating and performing.

This is the 5th annual festival of youth drama and as such it's bigger than ever. Kildare Youth Theatre (KYT) are joined by Griese Players (Ballitore), Celbridge Youth Drama, Prosperous Youth Drama Society, and very special guests Tri-boo from Florence and West Lothian Youth Theatre (Edinburgh). West Lothian Youth Theatre took part in last year's festival, and Tri-boo made an exchange with KYT twice last year. Each day there are morning workshops in performance skills (in Voice, Capoeira, Movement, Dance, Improvisation and Stage Combat); in the afternoon groups work on devising a piece of theatre exploring a theme inspired by human rights issues and selected by the groups; at lunchtime and in the evening groups perform a short production prepared over the summer for the festival. The lunchtime and evening shows are open to the public. On the final evening over 100 participants perform showcase pieces devised during the three-day festival.

This is also the 5th year that Wyeth has been the festival's title sponsors. Johnny Lyons, Communications Manager at the Wyeth's plant in Newbridge, says that "Wyeth is very proud to be the main sponsor of this vibrant and innovative youth festival for the past five years. We recognise its importance in developing critical skills, citizenship abilities and providing creative outlets for our young people, and thus strengthening the fabric of local community. We are delighted to see that the popularity and prestige of the Annual Kildare Youth Theatre Festival has grown over the years, developing new local talent and attracting guest actors from across the country and indeed from beyond our shores. Wyeth acknowledges the festival as a role-model for combining creative team activity with social development and wishes all those involved in this year's event every success."

In addition, Kildare County Council, through the Arts Service, has grant-aided the festival in recognition of the fact that it involves youth theatres from all over Kildare County.

Peter Hussey, the festival's director, said that 'Without the continued generosity of Wyeth, and the wonderful new support of Kildare County Council, this festival would simply not be able to take place. It is difficult to interest businesses and local authorities in sponsoring events such as these in general and youth theatre in particular, as it is not an event with national impact and visibility. We are

extremely grateful therefore to Wyeth and to Kildare County Council for their unstinting support of youth development in county Kildare.'

John O'Brien, recently appointed manager of Riverbank, adds that "the Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama is precisely the kind of community based arts initiative that we are pleased to support. It is heartening to see this landmark festival grow in popularity over the years – this surely highlights a definite need for high quality artistic projects for young people all over the county. It is a need that Riverbank is committed to exploring and addressing."

This year sees a new international development for the festival. The WKFYD events are part of a special youth drama exchange project between West Lothian Youth Theatre in Scotland and Kildare Youth Theatre in Newbridge. From Monday 30th July young people from WLYT will work with 23 members of KYT on exploring cultural conditioning in society. The members of WLYT are an integrated group, with half the group having special needs and individual learning and social needs. The work of the two groups will form part of the festival's exploration of socially relevant themes. The exchange project is part funded by Leargas, through the Causeway fund. It is hoped that the Newbridge participants will travel to Edinburgh for a week in October to continue the project.

Booking for all events is through Riverbank Box Office at 045 448333 or boxoffice@riverbank.ie

For further information contact Crooked House at 045 448309 or email crookedhouse@riverbank.ie
The Wyeth (Newbridge) Kildare Festival of Youth Drama 2006 is a Crooked House initiative in conjunction with, and supported by Riverbank Arts Centre.

www.crookedhouse.ie

The logo for Wyeth, featuring the word "Wyeth" in a bold, red, serif font. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the letter 'h'.

Community Support

Wyeth Medica Ireland (WMI) in Newbridge has supported many local charities and initiatives since its inception in 1992. We have established links with local schools and community groups, and employees support these links by carrying out career talks, providing assistance in interviewing techniques and arranging plant visits and tours. We also facilitate work experience and job placements for students and people with special needs. WMI also supports local colleges and schools through its partnership with **Junior Achievement Ireland**, as well as contributing to the upkeep and maintenance of the local surroundings.

WMI has contributed significantly to the '**Barretstown Gang Camp Fund**' in Barretstown Castle, Ballymore Eustace. This excellent organisation, which is part of the 'Hole in the Wall Gang', provides well-earned recreational holidays for seriously ill children and their families. Our own employees have also volunteered their time and efforts to become volunteer workers during the activity sessions.

Many of our employees volunteer to donate part of their salaries each week to a managed fund which is then allocated to specific charities. The charities are nominated and agreed upon by the employees, and include St. Vincent de Paul, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, Rehab and several day care centres.

It has also supported local colleges and schools as well as contributing to the upkeep and maintenance of the local surroundings.

DISTRICT NEWS

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Festival fun at the Riverbank

LORNA NOLAN

THE Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge will hold its fifth annual festival of youth drama this weekend. The festival will take place from today (Tuesday) until Saturday and will include lunchtime and evening performances.

Admission to the lunchtime shows cost €3 and will take place between 1pm and 2pm each day. Evening performances will range from €8-10 and will take place at 8pm each night.

The festival is a unique event throughout County Kildare and also nationwide. 100 young people from the County will get the opportunity to engage creatively with issues relevant to their lives by using the medium of theatre.

Youth groups from all over the county and beyond have been preparing for months for the annual five-day marathon of workshops based on creation and the art of performance.

Kildare Youth Theatre (KYT) will be joined by Griese Players (Ballitore), Celbridge Youth Drama, Prosperous Drama Society, Carlow County Youth Theatre, and very special guests Tri-boo from Florence and West Lothian Youth Theatre (Edinburgh).

The festival will consist of morning workshops in performance skills and afternoon groups which will work on devising a piece of theatre exploring a theme selected by the groups.

The groups have spent all summer preparing for the lunchtime and evening performance shows which will be open to the public.

On the final evening over 100 participants perform showcase pieces devised during the three-day festival.

This is the 5th year that Wyeth (Newbridge)



Acting out: Keith Burke from KYT will be taking part in the Riverbank Youth Drama festival

has been the festival's title sponsors. Johnny Lyons, from Wyeth Newbridge, says that "Wyeth (Newbridge) is proud to support this vibrant and innovative festival. We recognise its importance in developing critical skills, citizenship abilities and providing creative

outlets for our young people, and thus strengthening the fabric of community here."

In addition, Kildare County Council, through the Arts Service, has grant-aided the festival in recognition of the fact that it involves youth theatres from all over Kildare County.

Youth drama festival returns to Newbridge

Festival of Youth Drama allows young people to tackle relevant issues

THE fifth annual Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama is returning to the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge from Tuesday, July 31 to Saturday, August 4. One hundred young people from Kildare and others from Edinburgh and Florence get the opportunity to tackle issues relevant to their lives in a creative, friendly and caring environment.

This year's line-up includes Kildare Youth Theatre (KYT), Griese Players (Ballitore), Celbridge Youth Drama, Prosperous Drama Society, Carlow County Youth Theatre and very special guests Tri-boo from Florence in Italy and West Lothian Youth Theatre from Edinburgh.

Wyeth and Kildare County Council Arts Service sponsor the festival annually.

Johnny Lyons, spokesperson from Wyeth Newbridge says that "Wyeth is proud to

support this vibrant and innovative festival."

"We recognise its importance in developing critical skills, citizenship abilities and providing creative outlets for our young people, and thus strengthening the fabric of community here."

There will be two performances at lunchtime and in the evening the groups will perform a short production prepared over the summer months for the festival, both of which are open to the public. Admission is a mere €3 for the lunchtime shows which run from 1pm-2pm. The evening performances start at 8pm, cost €9/€10 and cannot be missed.

Each day the participants have morning workshops in performance skills. In the afternoons, the groups create a piece of theatre based on a theme of their choice. It could be worth popping in to see what's happening and to support the very worthy Kildare Youth Theatre.



The youth of today: Catherine Mullen, Thomas O Driscoll and Keith Burke in 'Deoxyribonucleic Acid' by Dennis Kelly



Rody Quinlan, Glen McGrath, Kieran Broderick, and Ian Cummins, Celbridge Youth Drama, took part in the 5th Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama 2007 at the Riverbank Arts Centre.

5th Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama explores human rights

By CONOR MCHUGH

ORGANISERS of the 5th Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama have been celebrating the success of the event which finished up earlier this month.

With the theme of this year's festival being human rights, more than 100 young people from Kildare used the opportunity to engage creatively with issues relevant to their lives.

Youth groups from all over the county and beyond performed a five-day marathon of workshopping, creating and performing.

This is the festival's fifth annual festival of youth drama and as such it was bigger than ever.

Kildare Youth Theatre (KYT) were joined by Griese Players (Ballitore), Celbridge Youth Drama, Prosperous Youth Drama Society, and very special guests Tri-boo from Florence and West Lothian Youth Theatre (Edinburgh).

West Lothian Youth Theatre also took part in last year's festival, and Tri-boo

made an exchange with KYT twice last year.

Each day there were morning workshops in performance skills (Voice, Capoeira, Movement, Dance, Improvisation and Stage Combat) and in the afternoon groups worked on devising a piece of theatre exploring a theme they selected.

At lunchtime and in the evening the groups performed a short production prepared over the summer for the festival.

The lunchtime and evening shows were open to the public and were well attended. And on the final evening over 100 participants performed showcase pieces devised during the three-day festival.

It was also the fifth year that Wyeth (Newbridge) has been the festival's title sponsors. In addition, Kildare County Council, through the Arts Service, granted the festival in recognition of the fact that it involves youth theatres from all over Kildare county.

Speaking to the Leinster Leader, Peter Hussey, the festival's director said that the

event went very well.

"We're delighted with how it went and with the response. We had a great time."

This year saw a new international development for the festival.

The WKFYD events are part of a special youth drama exchange project between West Lothian Youth Theatre, Scotland and Kildare Youth Theatre, Newbridge.

Young people from WLYT worked with 23 members of KYT, exploring cultural conditioning in society.

The members of WLYT were an integrated group, with half the group having special needs and individual learning and social needs.

The work of the two groups formed part of the festival's exploration of socially relevant themes.

The exchange project was part funded by Leargas, through the Causeway fund.

It is hoped that the Newbridge participants will travel to Edinburgh for a week in October to continue the project.



Claire Neill, Rory Cullen and Matthew Gorman, Ballitore Griese Youth Theatre. Photos: Jenny Fullam



Darragh Millar, Jonny Talbot and Louise Lonergan, KYT Newbridge.



Robert Wallace, Celbridge Youth Drama, Bonnie Revillie and Michael Gannon, KYT Newbridge.



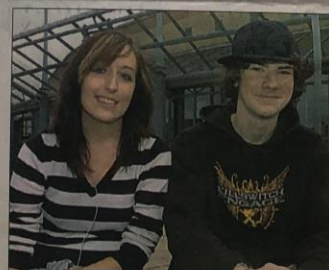
Deirdre Carr and Elaine Connolly, Celbridge Youth Drama.



Yvonne Rouse and Lisa Woods, Ballitore Griese Youth Theatre.



Sean Madigan, Lyndsey Connolly, Jack Tinsley, Stephen Dixon, KYT Newbridge.



Ali Denver and Paul King, KYT Newbridge.



Youth drama festival performers Catherine Mullen, Thomas O'Driscoll and Keith Burke in *Deoxyribonucleic Acid* by Dennis Kelly

International talent on stage at Wyeth youth drama festival

IT'S not often that over 100 young people from Kildare get the opportunity to engage creatively with issues relevant to their lives. And to do so using the medium of theatre makes the Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama a unique event, not only in the county but nationwide.

Youth groups from all over the county and beyond have been preparing for the annual five-day marathon of workshoping, creating and performing which is now underway at Newbridge's Riverbank theatre.

The festival opened yesterday (Tuesday) and will run through to Saturday next, 4 August. This is the fifth annual festival of youth drama and it's bigger than ever. Kildare Youth Theatre (KYT) are joined by Griese Players (Ballitore), Celbridge Youth Drama, Prosperous Youth Drama Society, and very special guests Tri-boo from Florence and West Lothian Youth Theatre (Edinburgh). West Lothian Youth Theatre took part in last year's festival, and Tri-boo made an exchange with KYT twice last year.

Each day there are morning workshops in performance skills, in voice, capoeira, movement, dance, improvisation and stage combat. In the afternoons, groups work on devising a piece of theatre exploring a theme selected by the groups; at lunchtime and in the evening groups perform a short production prepared over the summer for the festival.

On the final evening, over 100 participants perform showcase pieces devised during the three-day festival.

This is also the fifth year that Wyeth (Newbridge) have been the festival's title sponsors. Johnny Lyons of Wyeth Newbridge commented: "Wyeth is proud to support this vibrant and innovative festival. We recognise its importance in developing critical skills, citizenship abilities and providing creative outlets for our young people, and thus strengthening the fabric of

community here."

In addition, Kildare County Council, through the Arts Service, has grant-aided the festival in recognition of the fact that it involves youth theatres from all over Kildare County.

Peter Hussey, the festival's director, said: "Without the continued generosity of Wyeth (Newbridge), and the wonderful new support of Kildare County Council, this festival would simply not be able to take place.

"It is difficult to interest businesses and local authorities in sponsoring events such as these in general and youth theatre in particular, as it is not an event with national impact and visibility. We are extremely grateful therefore to Wyeth (Newbridge) and to Kildare County Council for their unstinting support of youth development in county Kildare."

Riverbank manager John O'Brien added that the Wyeth Kildare Festival of Youth Drama was precisely the kind of community-based arts initiative that the centre was pleased to support.

"It is heartening to see this landmark festival grow in popularity over the years. This surely highlights a definite need for high quality artistic projects for young people all over the county. It is a need that Riverbank is committed to exploring and addressing."

The exchange project with the West Lothian group is part-funded by Leargas, through the Causeway fund. It is hoped that the Newbridge participants will travel to Edinburgh for a week in October to continue the project.

The youth drama festival is presented by the Crooked House Theatre Group and Kildare Youth Theatre. Admission to lunchtime shows (1.30 to 2pm) is free, while tickets to evening performances are priced at €10/€8. For tickets and further information, contact the Riverbank Box Office on 045 448333 or email boxoffice@riverbank.ie

THE KILDARE NATIONALIST
3rd August 2007