

# The Illusion

**By Tony Kushner**  
Freely adapted from  
Pierre Corneille's  
*L'illusion Comique*

Saturday 10th – Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm  
Preview: Friday 9th February at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Tuesday 13th February at 1pm  
Studio Two

## \_\_\_\_ THE PRODUCTION

Pridament seeks advice from a weary sorcerer, Alcandre, about the whereabouts of his errant son. So begins a phantasmagoric journey via visions, across centuries and countries. What will be the final truth and is all as it seems?

Tony Kushner's 1988 adaptation retains the wit and wonder of Pierre Corneille's 17th century masterpiece *L'Illusion Comique*.

## \_\_\_\_ CREATIVE TEAM

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Director          | <b>Ronan Phelan</b>   |
| Set Designer      | <b>Sabine Dargent</b> |
| Costume Designer  | <b>Catherine Fay</b>  |
| Lighting Designer | <b>Eoin Winning</b>   |
| Sound Designer    | <b>Denis Clohessy</b> |
| Wigs and Make Up  | <b>Val Sherlock</b>   |

## \_\_\_\_ CAST

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Elicia / Lyse / Clarina        | <b>Allie O'Neill</b>    |
| Pleribo / Adraste / Florilame  | <b>Dan Tracey</b>       |
| Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes  | <b>Gabriel Draper</b>   |
| Alcandre                       | <b>Gemma Allan</b>      |
| Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta | <b>Isabelle Harriet</b> |
| The Amanuensis / Geronte       | <b>Penny Morris</b>     |
| Matamore                       | <b>Niamh Murphy</b>     |
| Geronte / The Plague Doctor    | <b>Sean Landau</b>      |
| Pridamant                      | <b>Shane Mc Cormick</b> |

## \_\_\_\_ CREW

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Company Stage Manager   | <b>Rosie Turpin</b>   |
| Deputy Stage Manager    | <b>Jasper Cahill</b>  |
| Assistant Stage Manager | <b>Sophie Lawlor</b>  |
| Production Manager      | <b>Juliea Nasset</b>  |
| Set Construction        | <b>Reggie Pollock</b> |
| Costume                 | <b>Amelia Hauer</b>   |
| Chief LX                | <b>Ada Price</b>      |
| Lighting Programmer     | <b>Sinead Cullen</b>  |
| Scenic Artist           | <b>Adam Rafter</b>    |
| Sound HOD               | <b>Joan Bernzen</b>   |
| Venue Technician        | <b>Ais Flattery</b>   |

## — ABOUT THE PLAY

Tony Kushner's 1985 "free adaptation" of *The Illusion* is taken from *L'Illusion Comique*, a French baroque comedic play written by Pierre Corneille in 1636. Now considered part of the canon of great European drama, Corneille's play was far ahead of its time in its use of metatheatricality. This is all the more extraordinary when we consider Corneille was only 29 when he wrote it and this was already his seventh play.

Tony Kushner's adaptation, whilst free in its poetic license, remains true to the spirit of theatrical adventure and the remarkable twists and turns of Corneille's plot. Like the original, it is part fantasy, part "smoke and mirrors", part psychological metaphor. The central quest of a dying father seeking help from a wizard to help him find his errant son leaps centuries and theatrical conventions just as Corneille's original, but the underlying questions around the narratives we create to make sense of our "reality" and the chances of us ever really understanding the motives of those around us, are expertly handled by Kushner.

Theatre is the perfect vehicle for a play that questions notions of reality and our relationship to it and both Kushner and Corneille revel in theatricality and its power to enthrall and dazzle.

If the fiction that we watch on stage can make us gasp and weep, how can we ever trust our response to reality and the "magicians" who we turn to for answers?

Perhaps it's all an illusion.

GRADUATING ACTING STUDENTS



Alexandra  
Bierer



Alison  
Kinlan



Allie  
O'Neill



Connor  
Curran



Conor  
Wolfe O'Hara



Dan  
Tracey



Eimhin  
Fitzgerald  
Doherty



Gabriel  
Draper



Gemma  
Allan



Isabelle  
Harriet



Kailey  
Greenberg



Nathan  
Patterson



Niamh  
Murphy



Penny  
Morris



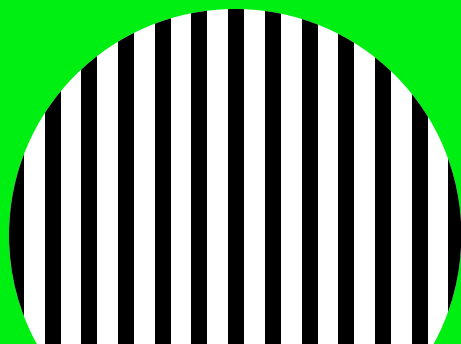
Sean  
Landau



Shane  
Mc Cormick



Siofra  
Ní Éilí Duggan



GRADUATING STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDENTS



Alessandro  
Molina



Alison  
Meehan



Alison  
O'Shea



Arden  
Tierney



Avram  
Rosewood



Bianca  
Baguio



Callum  
Stanley



Cathal  
Brace



Chiara  
Mangold



Christopher  
Nolan



David  
McGee



Dragana  
Stevanic



Elizabeth  
Thomas



Isaac  
McGrath  
Long



Jenna  
Crossan



Josefine "TJ"  
Danielsson



Jovetta "Jovy"  
Tan Ler Sin



Maeve  
Talbot



Niamh  
McGrath



Oliver  
Kampman



Peter  
Bond



Sarah  
Doyle



Thea  
Xia



Thomas  
Wall

## \_\_\_\_ PRODUCTION CREW

|                |                                                                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technical      | <b>Aoife Doyle<br/>Danny Nolan<br/>Ellen Hodggers<br/>Sophia Brocklebank</b>                                |
| Costume        | <b>Alanna Buser Carley<br/>Brad O'Brien<br/>Jen Faherty<br/>Lara Hughes<br/>Nell Synder</b>                 |
| Set & Stage    | <b>Cliodhna Ryan<br/>Elena Cullen<br/>Eoin Bloomer Bonner<br/>Theo Lynch<br/>Zoren Haljaste</b>             |
| Scenic & Stage | <b>Bradley Whelan<br/>Colette Londres<br/>Grainne Clancy<br/>Kaitlin Gaddy<br/>Konstantinos Papagiannis</b> |

## \_\_\_\_ INFO

### **Booking Tickets**

Book tickets and find out more about shows at The Lir Academy in the What's On section of our website [thelir.ie/events](http://thelir.ie/events)

### **Content Warnings**

Please note that this play contains flashing lights, the use of blood, haze and discomfoting sounds. Suitable for ages 16+.

## \_\_\_\_ THANK YOU

Many thanks to our staff and tutors who have supported the realisation of this production.

Many thanks to Djibrilla Sidibe for making the drapes and Elmeare Murphy at the Abbey Theatre.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters who give so generously to our students. As always, we are immensely grateful to our bursary supporters who work with us to ensure that training at The Lir Academy is made possible for more emerging talent.

## \_\_\_\_ SUPPORT US

The Lir Academy is a registered charity. RCN 20076689. For further information on our fundraising activities, please contact [development@thelir.ie](mailto:development@thelir.ie)

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