

International success for **The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly**

Rave reviews were published this morning for the smash hit show **The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly** produced by The Ark in association with Theatre Lovett which this week played to packed houses as part of Imagine. This theatrical gem has just finished a very successful three-day run (9 - 11 May) in Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre as part of The Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival 2011. Critics have called the show "*Best of the bunch...a tremendously entertaining one-man show... It's inspired*" (The Guardian).

The Festival, which presents the finest selection of children's theatre from around the world, runs from Monday 9 to Sunday 15 May 2011 at venues across Edinburgh.

The performances of **The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly** in Edinburgh follow recent critically acclaimed runs at The Abbey Theatre (Peacock stage), on national tour and as part of the Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre in *ReViewed* - a showcase of successful Irish productions restaged in partnership with Culture Ireland and Irish Theatre Institute – in Autumn 2010.

The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly's performances at Imagine were made possible with thanks to support from Culture Ireland.

The Ark also gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council and the support of the Department of Education and Skills, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council.

What the critics said:

"Best of the bunch is The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly, a tremendously entertaining one-man show by the Ark and Theatre Lovett from Dublin" The Guardian, 11 May 2011

"As well as the vividness of the script, Lynne Parker's production has two great strengths. First is actor Louis Lovett, who combines playfulness, agility and the wide-eyed innocence of Ardal O'Hanlon. His self-referential stops and starts make him no less a compelling storyteller. Second is Paul O'Mahony's set, a crate that unfolds to reveal boxes within boxes, allowing Lovett to switch from domestic interior to city silhouette, while mirroring the girl's family business in packing. It's inspired." The Guardian, 11 May 2011

"The Ark of Dublin's riotously inventive monologue The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly, written by Finegan Kruckemeyer, directed by Lynne Parker, and performed by the ferociously engaging Louis Lovett (who also co-produces) on a giant packing-case of a set that unfolds to form cities, cinemas, and a ship on the high seas. The story is a science-fiction yarn about a teenage girl called Peggy O'Hegarty" The Scotsman, 12 May 2011

"told with huge wit" The Scotsman, 12 May 2011

"Lovett's ability to switch characters in mid-sentence, his artlessly elastic physicality and comedic flair all marry brilliantly with the quirky twists in Finegan Kruckemeyer's surreal and scary tale of a deserted town, a malevolent stranger and a lone, heroic child. Add in the clever surprises in Paul O' Mahoney's unfolding and expanding set and this Irish production for the 7-plus age group kickstarts the Imagine festival." Herald Scotland, 12 May 2011

Press information: Sinead O'Doherty Gerry Lundberg Public Relations Tel: + 353 1 679 8476
/ + 353 86 259 1070 pr@gerrylundbergpr.com