



The Ark

THE
MAKING
OF
MOLLIE

23 FEBRUARY – 16 MARCH 2024

BY ANNA CAREY

THEATRE

8+

AGES

The Ark presents

THE
MAKING
OF
MOLLIE

BY ANNA CAREY

Commissioned and produced by
The Ark

Directed by Sarah Baxter



This dramatisation of *The Making of Mollie* is based on the book by Anna Carey, © Anna Carey 2016, and published by The O'Brien Press Ltd., Dublin.



WELCOME

When I wrote my fifth novel, *The Making of Mollie*, I had no idea that eight years later I would be sitting in the Ark Children's Cultural Centre, watching a team of fantastic actors (and one cuddly toy) bring my characters to hilarious life amid designer Deirdre Dwyer's wonderful set. I was lucky enough to work with director Sarah Baxter, who helped me to craft a script that got to the heart of my heroine Mollie, a young girl in 1912 Dublin who becomes a secret suffragette. Ireland in 1912 was a very different place; most children left school by 14 and women and most working class men were denied the vote. But some things haven't changed – like young people's ability to spot inequality and do something about it. I hope Mollie and her friend Nora's adventures remind the audience that everyone can stand up for what's right – no matter how old they are.

ANNA CAREY, author

I'm so delighted to welcome you to *The Making of Mollie*. This production is built on collaboration; between myself, Anna and with everyone here at The Ark, all those who took part in development workshops, all the children who came to our work in progress, and everyone who works onstage and offstage on the production you are seeing here today. A big thank you to all of them! All of this work happened because we were excited to share the fun smart story of fearless Mollie in 1912 with the young people of 2023. So thank you for coming! Have fun, enjoy our adventure and in the coming days and years I wish you many of your own great adventures. Adventures where you can be brave and have fun, help others and tell your own stories.

SARAH BAXTER, director

“Irish girls and Irish women Hear the song of the suffragettes”

Performed by:

Ashleigh Dorrell: Mollie
Rowan Finken: Frank
Niamh McAllister: Nora
Eyum Pricilla: Phyllis
Ian Toner: Harry

Creative Team:

Deirdre Dwyer: Set and Costume Designer
Suzie Cummins: Lighting Designer
Tom Lane: Composer and Sound Designer
Cathal Quinn: Voice Director
Seán Dennehy: Production Manager
Sara Gannon: Stage Manager
Kelly Phelan: Producer
Eimear Hussey: Costume Support
Mags Mulvey: LX Operator
Stephanie Nwambu and Sarah O'Rourke:
Hair and Makeup

With special thanks to:

Ursula McGinn, Roisin White, Una and
Martin Lyes, teachers and students of St.
Enda's NS and St. Audeon's NS

Photography by Ste Murray

Have Your Say!

Like Mollie, do you think it's important to stand up for what you believe in?

Download our **free activity pack** to help you create your own poster, flag or banner to get your message across, just like the suffragettes did!

Download it from our website at ark.ie **here** now





Anna Carey

Anna Carey is an author, journalist and scriptwriter from Dublin. Her first book, *The Real Rebecca*, won the Senior Children's Book prize at the 2011 Irish Book Awards. Her fifth book, *The Making of Mollie*, was her first historical novel and was shortlisted for the Senior Children's Book prize at the 2016 Irish Book Awards. Anna's latest book, *The Boldness of Betty*, was also shortlisted at the 2020 Irish Book Awards & the 2021 KPMG Children's Book Ireland Awards.



Sarah Baxter

Sarah is a freelance theatre and opera director. In 2023, she was associate director for Druid Theatre's *Druid O'Casey*, stage director for the St Patrick's Day Gala (Kennedy Center, Washington D.C) and directed *Macbeth* (Blackwater Valley Opera Festival). Sarah was revival director for INO's *Carmen* and a recipient of Druid Theatre's Marie Mullen Bursary 2020-2021. In addition to directing, Sarah works as a script reader, dramaturg and is a guest tutor at The Lir Academy, Dublin.



Ashleigh Dorrell

Ashleigh is a Dublin-based actor and a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting. Theatre credits include Theatre Lovett's *The Teddy Bear's Picnic*, Ciara Elizabeth Smyth's award winning *All Honey*, Katie McCann's *The Grimm Tale of Cinderella*, Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals* and Ian Toner's award winning *Animalia*. Film credits include *Nightshift* by Steve Hall and Greenflash Pictures and *Amy on the Balcony* by Keith Jordan.



Éyum-Priscilla

Éyum-Priscilla is thrilled to make her acting debut in *The Making of Mollie*. She recently graduated from Drama Studio London receiving a BA in professional acting. Her recent credits include Frantic Assmby's adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, directed by Jess Williams. Éyum-Priscilla is truly grateful that she gets to portray Phyllis and explore the world of a suffragette in 1912 Dublin.



Ian Toner

Ian trained at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin. Stage credits include *Describe The Night*, *Staging The Treaty* (Anu), *The Treaty* by Colin Murphy, *Gym Swim Party*, Hugh Travers' new play *These Stupid Things*, *Double Cross* at the Peacock Theatre, the Gate Theatre's production of *Look Back in Anger* and *Wild Sky* directed by Jo Mangan. Upcoming screen credits include *The Commoner*, *The Spin* and *Clean Up Crew*.



Niamh Mc Allister

A recent graduate of The Lir Academy, Niamh is from Bangor, Co. Down. Theatre credits include *The Hen Do* (GBL Prod), *Romeo and Juliet* (The Mill Theatre), *New Fish* (Smock Alley Theatre) & *Blackout* (Lyric Theatre). Niamh wrote and directed the short comedy film, *Dead on Arrival* (2024), and is a member of improv troupe 'Broad Strokes'. Niamh appeared in the TV series *Three Families* (BBC 1) and feature film *Nocebo*.



Rowan Finken

Rowan is originally from west Cork and is a graduate of The Lir, Academy. He most recently appeared on stage in *Eastland*, directed by the acclaimed Anne Bogart, produced by The Collective at the Samuel Beckett Theatre. Other recent theatre credits include Rough Magic's *The Tempest*, as part of the Kilkenny Arts Festival in the role of Ferdinand, and *Staging the Treaty* for Anú.



Deirdre Dwyer

Deirdre is a theatre maker from Waterford who designs sets and costume and directs theatre. She is one of six artistic directors of BrokenCrow, for whom she directed *The Settling* by Gavin McEntee. She is a founder of Shakespeare Squared, for whom she co-directed *Twelfth Night*. She was Artist-in-Residence in Garter Lane (2020-2022) and Mary Immaculate College (2017 - 2020), focusing on work for young audiences.



Suzie Cummins

Suzie is a Dublin-based lighting designer for theatre, dance and events. Suzie was the 2023 recipient of Druid's Marie Mullen Bursary, an award for female theatre artists working in the fields of design, directing and dramaturgy. Suzie was the associate lighting designer on the *Druid O'Casey* trilogy in 2023. Lighting design credits include: *Super Bogger*, *Lost Lear*, *The Wrens* (Dan Colley & Riverbank) and *The Race* at The Ark in 2023.



Tom Lane

Tom is a Dublin-based composer and sound designer. He studied composition at Balliol College Oxford, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Berlin University of the Arts. He received his PhD in composition from University College Cork. Recent stage work includes composition for *The Tragedy of Macbeth* at London's Almeida Theatre and *The Loved Ones* by Erica Murray at Dublin's Gate Theatre. Tom has composed music for The Ark's productions, *The Haircut!* and *The Race*.



Seán Dennehy

Seán is a production manager, technician and live art practitioner across a range of disciplines including theatre, visual arts and music. He has worked for and collaborated with such companies as Dead Centre, CoisCeim and Anu. As well as production management for live theatre, he regularly acts as a venue manager and technician for Dublin Dance Festival, Dublin Fringe, Kilkenny Arts Festival and Dublin Theatre Festival.



Sara Gannon

Sara is a freelance stage manager working in the arts. She has worked with Druid, Fishamble, MALAPROP, Rough Magic, Pan Pan, and the Abbey Theatre. She is passionate about universal arts access and creates familiarisation packs for theatre performances. Recent credits include: *The Bell Ringer* (Dunmore Productions); *The Race* (The Ark, ADI, and DDF); and *Like We Were Born To Move* (NYT).



Kelly Phelan

Kelly is a freelance producer and casting director. Her work for The Ark includes *The Giggler Treatment*, *Peat*, *The Haircut!* and *The Race*. Kelly has cast over 60 productions for the Abbey Theatre, including *Our Few and Evil Days* by Mark O'Rowe, *Cyprus Avenue* by David Ireland, *By the Bog of Cats* by Marina Carr and *Lie Low* by Ciara Elizabeth Smyth, and produced the world premiere of Roddy Doyle's *Two Pints*. She began her career as programme manager for The Performance Corporation.

ABOUT THE ARK

Founded in 1995, The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. We create opportunities for children, along with their families and friends or with their school, to discover and love art. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists, children can enjoy performances in our unique child-sized theatre, view engaging exhibitions or participate in creative workshops.

THE ARK TEAM

Director: Aideen Howard

General Manager: Al Russell

Creative Arts Manager: Aisling O’Gorman

Production Manager: Mark Rooney

Assistant Production Manager: Franco Bistoni

Marketing Manager: Jenny Mulligan

Digital & Audience Development Coordinator:
Kate Brady

Engagement & Participation Manager: Aisling Clancy

Engagement & Participation Coordinator:
Estibaliz Errazquin

Finance Officer: Mary Reade

Administrator: Hannah Creevey

Housekeeper: Ashley Walsh

Visitor Services Coordinators: Erin Laidlaw
& Laura Whelan

Visitor Services Assistants: Wren Dennehy, Paul
Derham, Shauna Harris, Daniella Hensman, Nessa
Matthews, Aoife McCloughlin, Sophie McCormick,
Mika Moret & Marissa Wyll

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