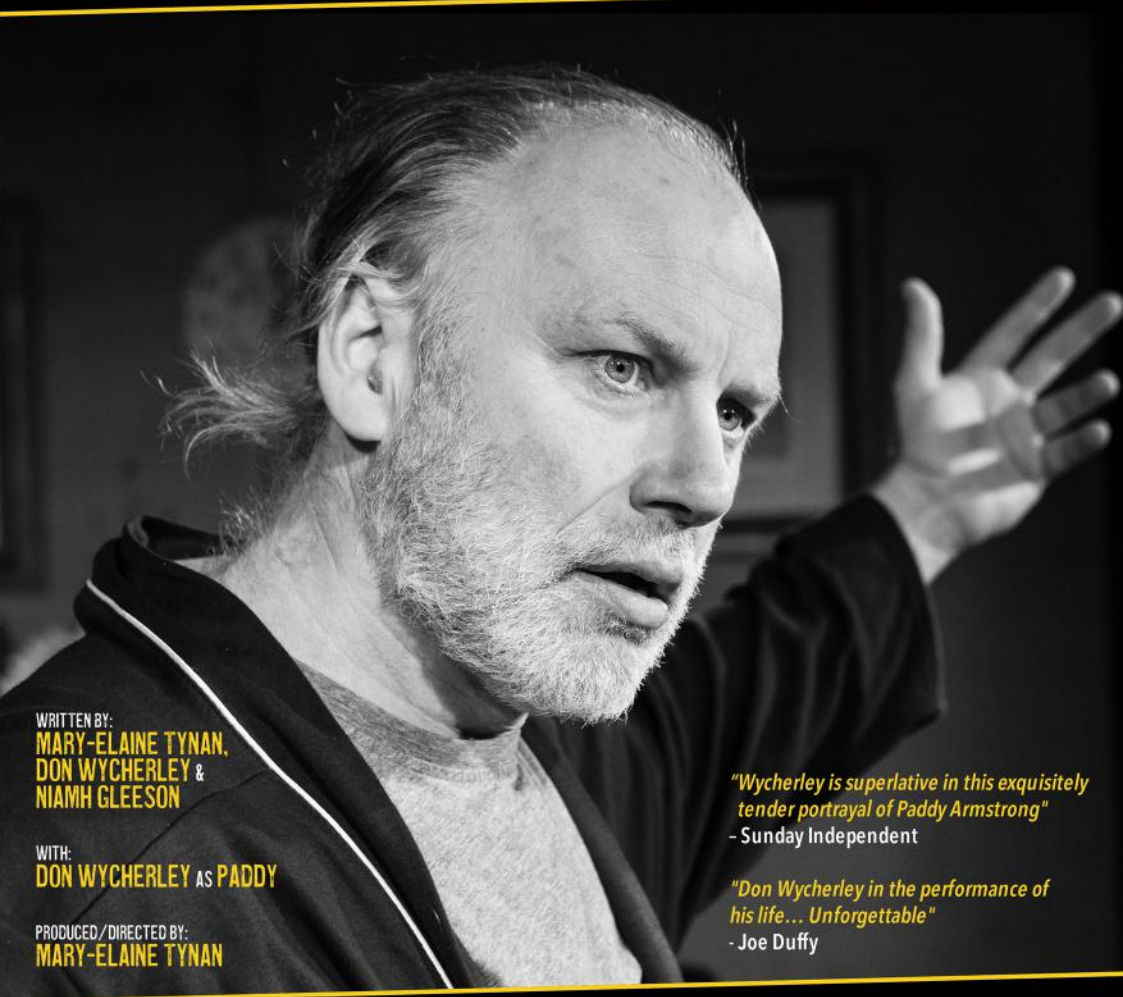
MARY-ELAINE TYNAN & DON WYCHERLEY PRESENT

# PADDY THE LIFE & TIMES OF PADDY ARMSTRONG




# THEATRE PROGRAMME

***Paddy - The Life and Times of Paddy Armstrong***

*Inspired by Paddy's 2017 memoir, Life After Life, a Guildford Four Memoir* (Gill Books, 2017), the play is being staged for the first time in the Viking Theatre @The Sheds, in November 2024, 50 years after the Guildford Four pub bombings - 5 October 1974.

Paddy Armstrong was arrested at age of 24 and spent 15 years in British prisons, after being falsely convicted of bombing pubs and killing people in Guildford and Woolwich. Now, at the age of 74, Paddy is facing into his twilight years and wrestling with a thousand, turbulent memories. In *Paddy* he relives the turbulent journey that forever altered his destiny. Paddy is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of forgiveness, reminding us that the privilege of freedom and love, family and everyday life can restore us and mend the scars of even the most savage injustice.

**Cast/ Co-writer -** Don Wycherley has been acting for more than thirty years and has worked across film, television, and stage. He has captivated audiences with roles in iconic Irish productions such as *Bachelor's Walk, Ballykissangel, Father Ted* and *Sing Street* and appeared in countless theatre productions, here and abroad such as *The Lieutenant of Inishmore; The Seafarer* and *A Whistle in the Dark*, to mention but a few. At The Viking he has directed *Hooked* by Gillian Grattan as well appearing in the critically acclaimed one-man shows *After Sarah Miles* and *My Real Life*. He is delighted to be back in the Viking, the theatre he calls home.

**Co-writer/ Director/ Producer -** Mary-Elaine Tynan is an author, director and producer. She holds an MA in Drama and has written best-selling books. Her radio documentaries have won awards in Ireland, New York, Italy and Germany. Mary-Elaine has worked closely with Paddy Armstrong and his family for the past ten years, telling Paddy's story in the award-winning RTÉ Documentary on One production *Small Lives and Great Reputations*, before co-authoring his best-selling, critically acclaimed memoir *Life After Life, a Guildford Four Memoir* (Gill Books 2017). She is a passionate storyteller and human rights activist.

**Stage Manager - Operator/Sound & Lighting Design** –Damian Sweeney is a teacher and freelance theatre maker. He has designed and operated sound and lighting for various theatre groups around the country including Teachers' Musical Society, Thurles Drama Group and Studios Perform. He has also worked as a 2nd Assistant Director on film projects. As a performer, Damian appears with Entr'acte Dublin. He will next be seen in their spring production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

**Co-writer** - Niamh Gleeson has worked as a screenwriter and playwright for over twenty years. From Clontarf, Niamh trained as a professional actor in the Gaiety School of Acting before turning her hand to writing. She is a regular episode-writer for *Fair City* and has written, directed and produced a number of plays including *Dear Frankie*, *The Mariettas* and *The Telephone Exchange*. Niamh was writer-in-residence for Marino CDETB for two decades, writing a children's play for graduating classes to perform for North Inner-City schools. She recently authored a children's book *I Remember*.

**Set, costume & make-up design** - Tina Kavanagh is a seasoned designer with a passion for historical costume and set design. With a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of period aesthetics, Tina has collaborated on numerous theatre productions and a short film. Her particular interests lie in the rich tapestry of Irish history, the grandeur of the Tudor era and the elegance of the Victorian period.

**Photo**: Mark Nixon
**Artwork Design**: Gavin Doyle, Symmetry Industry Studios
**Duration: 65 min | No Interval | Contains strong language**

Signed copies of Paddy's best-selling memoir, *Life After Life, A Guildford Four Memoir* will be on sale each night before and after the play for €20. Cash & Revolut accepted.

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**Also with thanks to:**
Paddy, Caroline, John & Sophie Armstrong, Alastair and Pat Logan, Geoff Gould, Michael Finneran, Bryan Burroughs, Jim Culleton, Paul MacCormaic, Ros Franey, the Ryan family, the Wycherley family, Ciarán Mooney, Sighle Toibín, Liz Astin, Tina & Paddy Kavanagh, Danny Simpson, Phil Kieran, The Jiggers, Anne Cassidy, Fionnuala Ní Bhrádaigh, Anne & John O'Reilly, Joan Power, Inchicore College of Further Education, RTÉ Documentary on One, Gill Books and Andy Murray & Laura Dowdall from The Viking Theatre.