

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Irish Heritage Theatre



presents...  
*By the Bog of Cats*



Contact: Kirsten Quinn  
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It is with great excitement that the Irish Heritage Theatre announces our Fall 2017 production of *By the Bog of Cats* by Marina Carr. After a highly successful and critically acclaimed season last year featuring *Molly Sweeney* (several critics' awards including Best Actor (Female) Phindie Critics' Awards and D.C. Metro's Best Ensemble) and *Making History*, we turn to a season dedicated to the women of Ireland. This Fall and next Spring, we will be producing plays including Carr's masterpiece, *By the Bog of Cats*, as well as dramas by John Millington Synge (*Riders to the Sea*) and Yeats and Lady Gregory (*Cathleen Ni Houliban*) all of which center around strong Irish female characters, richly drawn by some of the world's greatest Irish playwrights.

The Irish Heritage Theatre is Philadelphia's only professional company dedicated to preserving and acquainting new audiences with the poetry and power of classical and contemporary Irish and Irish American theatre. We are also happy to return to the Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5, where we produced *Molly Sweeney* as well as *Philadelphia Here I Come!*

Set in the harsh landscape of Midland Ireland, *By the Bog of Cats* follows Hester Swane, an Irish traveler who is on the verge of losing everything she holds dear: her lover, her home, and even her daughter. Carr's daring and contemporary Irish take on the *Medea* story features an array of eccentric, at times comic, and often, menacing characters, all of whom threaten Hester's very existence. Heartbreaking and brutal, *By the Bog of Cats* is a story

about the human need for belonging, the cruelty of exclusion and the spiral of betrayal leading to terrible, murderous revenge.

The Irish Heritage Theatre is taking a risky move this year with Carr's brutal and beautiful *By the Bog of Cats*. This show will be unlike any other we have done up to this point because of its contemporary edge, dark subject matter and controversial content. Characters range in age from 7-80, and each and every one of them has an integral and oftentimes terrible secret to tell. Whether it is the prophetic Catwoman, the enigmatic Ghost Fancier, the mercenary farmer Xavier Cassidy, his naive daughter Caroline, Hester's ill-fated lover, Carthage Kilbride, her feisty daughter Josie, Carthage's controlling mother, Elsie, or any of the other characters that inhabit Carr's world, they are all compelling, all striking, and all part of Hester's inevitable unraveling.

Directed by Peggy Mecham, and featuring an original score by the multi-award winning Zachary McKenna, lighting design by Rachel Krupnick, fight choreography by Barrymore nominee Arlen Hancock, costuming by Peggy Mecham and the cast, and set design by Lee Lewis of Delaware Theatre Company, this Barrymore eligible production will feature some of the finest acting talent in Philadelphia, and will be our most daring production to date. Some returning favorites of IHT such as Kirsten Quinn, Ethan Lipkin, John Cannon, Jim Guckin, Mark Knight and Mary Pat Walsh will be joined by newcomers Arlen Hancock, Jenna Kuerzi, Tina Brock, Keri Doheny, and Susan Giddings.

The show will run November 2-18th. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$25 for general admission; \$20 for seniors; and \$15 for students, theatre industry members, and groups of ten or more. Also check for us on Funsavers for certain performances. For production information and to purchase tickets go to: [www.irishheritagetheatre.org](http://www.irishheritagetheatre.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Quinn

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(Note: See next page for the fact sheet. Thanks!)

## FACT SHEET

The Irish Heritage Theatre's presents...

### ***By the Bog of Cats* by Marina Carr**

directed by Peggy Mechem

Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5, 825 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107

Thursday, November 2nd- 7:30pm, \$15 Preview

Friday, November 3rd- 7:30pm, Opening (Press Opening)

Saturday, November 4th- 7:30pm, Performance

Sunday, November 5th- 2:30pm, Performance

Wednesday, November 8th- 7:30pm, Performance

Thursday, November 9th- 7:30pm, Performance

Friday, November 10th- 7:30pm, Performance

Saturday, November 11th- 7:30pm, Performance

Sunday, November 12th- 2:30pm, Performance

Wednesday, November 15th- 7:30pm, Performance

Thursday, November 16th- 7:30pm, Performance

Friday, November 17th-7:30pm, Performance

Saturday, November 18th- 7:30pm, Performance

(Doors open one half hour prior to curtain)

Tickets are \$15-\$25 Some discounts on certain performances may be made available through the Philadelphia Fun Guide. Advanced reservations are strongly recommended as seating is very limited.

To find out more and to purchase tickets go to:

**<http://www.irishheritagetheatre.org>**