

KARAN CASEY & THE EVERYMAN  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CORK FOLK FESTIVAL PRESENT

# THE WOMEN, WE WILL RISE

BY KARAN CASEY

DIRECTED BY  
TOM CREED

WED 27, THU 28  
& SAT 30 SEP

THE  
EVERYMAN



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# THE WOMEN, WE WILL RISE

## CREATIVE TEAM

Karan Casey  
Tom Creed  
Sinéad Wallace  
Niall Vallely  
Jessica Healy-Rettig

Writer & Performer  
Director  
Lighting Designer  
Sound & Video Designer  
Costume Stylist

## MUSICIANS

Karan Casey  
Niamh Dunne  
Seán Óg Graham

Vocals & piano  
Fiddle & vocals  
Guitar

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Aoife Clarke  
Dónal McNinch  
Ilona McCormick  
Patrick Lehane  
Thomas Donoghue  
Seamus Hegarty  
Christine Caldbeck

Line Producer  
Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Chief LX  
Sound Engineer  
Video Technician  
Sound Technician





# THE EVERYMAN TEAM

## **Executive Director / CEO**

Seán Kelly

## **Artistic Director**

Sophie Motley

## **Finance Manager**

Christine O'Callaghan

## **Box Office & Building Manager**

Robbie Cotter

## **Deputy Box Office Manager**

Hilda Goold

## **Development & Partnerships Manager**

Anna Marie Coughlan

## **Development Officer**

Jenny Keane

## **Senior Producer**

Naomi Daly

## **Assistant Producer**

Aoife Clarke

## **Education & Community Manager**

Maev O'Shea

## **Senior Administrator**

Maeve Scannell

## **Marketing & Communications Manager**

Sinéad Murphy

## **Deputy Marketing Manager**

Eimear Kelly

## **Marketing Assistants**

Émilie Péneau, Úna Hennessy

## **Publicists**

Kearney Melia Barker Communications

## **Production Manager**

Ian Brown

## **Technical Manager**

Mark Donovan

## **Deputy Technical Manager**

Freddy Regan

## **Technical Crew**

Seán Spillane, Aoife Byrne,  
Chris Hopcraft, Alison White,  
Patrick Lehane, Louis Ferris

## **Bar Manager**

Nathan Cassidy

## **Assistant Bar Manager**

Rachel Flynn

## **Bar Staff**

Ashling Bruton, Helen Cantwell,  
Cadhla Conway, Cíarán Conway,  
Ross Hennessy

## **Box Office Staff**

Mona Walshe, Sinéad Lane,  
Yvonne O'Sullivan, Orla Crowley,  
Nicola Higgins, Benjamin Rupperecht

## **Front of House Managers**

Pat Fleming, Ruby Moore, Karina Corbett

## **Front of House Assistants**

Catherine Noonan, Aisling Dempsey,  
Blaithin Gallagher

## **Cleaning & Maintenance Staff**

Louise Murray, Caroline O'Donovan,  
Angela Guermi, Paula Lynch,  
Damien Mullally, Gerard Leahy

*Thank you to all our Front of House  
voluntary staff.*

# THE EVERYMAN BOARD

Barney Whelan (Chair), Breda Cashe,  
Jim Corbett, Cian Cotter,  
Cllr Deirdre Forde, David Gaffney,  
Conor Hanratty, David Hayes,  
Dr Marie Kelly, Julia Lynes,  
Carla Manning, Aaron Mansworth,  
Sinéad McKenna, Mollie Molumby,  
Cllr Kenneth O'Flynn, Andrew Power and  
Anna Short.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Arts Council of Ireland,  
Cork Folk Festival, Cork City Council,  
Culture Ireland, Sophie Motley,  
Katrina Foley, Claire Keogh,  
Jack Ryan, Assumpta Crosse-Ryan,  
Ann Twomey, Liz Gillis,  
Sinéad McCoolle, Helen Litton,  
Fin Flynn, Jamie Feehily,  
Cork Arts Theatre, Naomi Daly,  
Yvonne Brady, Úna Clarke,  
Niall, Muireann and Áine Vallely,  
Darragh Kane and  
Antonietta D'Amico.



## **A NOTE FROM THE EVERYMAN** SOPHIE MOTLEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Karan Casey is such an exciting artist. She's been fighting for a generation of women who came before us and who will be musicians after us. Her journey is one of singing women into the history and future of Irish traditional music. I was privileged enough to work with Karan on her first Theatre Production, and being in a rehearsal room with her words and her melodies is like sitting in a sumptuous bath of sound every day. I can't wait to see how her collaboration with internationally acclaimed director Tom Creed will help her to shape these songs and stories, and bring the women of the past, present and future to life in this fantastic production. I hope you enjoy the performance as much as we have enjoyed supporting Karan to bring it to life.





## A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

### KARAN CASEY

Agnes Ryan of the hotel was my great grandmother. In 2016 I was invited by my granduncle Jacko to sing at the unveiling of a plaque for her husband, Pakie Ryan of the hotel. He was the head centre of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and ran operations in Doon Co. Limerick. He went on the run and was imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubs, London, where he went on hunger strike. While I have found a lot of information about Pakie, very little was known about Agnes. Whenever I asked a question about her, an apparition would materialise in the room. She was an O'Dwyer from Hibernia House in Doon and her mother was a seamstress from Belmullet in Co. Mayo. Like many Irish people, I became fascinated with the time period, particularly with the women activists who were involved.

There is some familial lore about Agnes and her 12 children, some of which I have substantiated and some not.

All this led me to learn about other women from the period, particularly some artists who were involved in the suffragette movement and came from different backgrounds. Women such as Kathleen Clarke and Countess Markievicz came to the fore. The woman whose head rose up from the past was an Cailleach – the legendary folk figure who has been overseeing all. I ended up writing a lot of songs and poems which I am now delighted to showcase at The Everyman in *The Women, We Will Rise*, produced by Aoife Clarke and directed by Tom Creed. I am thrilled to give voice to these gallant women.



Agnes Ryan with 3 of her children Brídín, Willie and Jimmy.  
Other woman unkown.



# WRITER & PERFORMER



## KARAN CASEY VOCALS & PIANO

Irish singer-songwriter Karan Casey has been blazing a trail in folk music for over 30 years. A lover of ballads, love songs and searing social justice songs – she has toured the world, connecting with audiences via the stories of Ireland’s past, whilst crucially repositioning women and songs in a universal and modern setting.

Always fond of a good yarn, Karan is striking out – exploring new areas in spoken word and theatre, as well as performing on the piano.

She has released eleven albums – and has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe and Japan, performing with her own band as well as collaborating with diverse musicians such as Maura O’Connell, James Taylor, Bela Fleck,

Boston Pops Orchestra, Kate Ellis, Niall Vallely, Pauline Scanlon, The Chieftains, The Dubliners, Peggy Seeger, Karen Matheson, Mick Flannery, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Tim O’Brien and Solas.

In 2018, Karan helped found FairPlé, an organisation aimed at achieving fairness and gender balance for female performers in Irish traditional and folk music.

Karan tours with her band Niamh Dunne, Sean Óg Graham and Niall Vallely.

*Hieroglyphs That Tell the Tale*, produced by Donald Shaw, was released on Vertical Records in 2018. In 2019 she achieved a PhD in music at the University of Limerick, and her song ‘Down in the Glen’ was nominated for Best Original Folk Song at the RTÉ Folk Awards.

Karan’s first theatre show *I Walked into My Head*, directed by Sophie Motley, was premiered at the Kilkenny Arts Festival 2021. 2022 saw Karan collaborate with composer Harry Escott on a version of the Irish ballad ‘Grace’ for the film *Ali & Ava*.

Karan’s new album *Nine Apples of Gold* was released to great critical acclaim in February 2023. It has received extensive radio play on both sides of the Atlantic reaching No 1 on the US Folk radio charts.

# PERFORMERS



## NIAMH DUNNE FIDDLE & VOCALS

Niamh Dunne is an accomplished fiddle player and singer known for her unique traditional fiddle playing, her folk-infused fiddle compositions and smoky warm vocal style. She released her first album of self-penned songs *Tides* in 2022 to critical acclaim.

Her band Beoga's album *How to Tune a Fish* was shortlisted for a Grammy nomination, and their profile was elevated through their writing and performances on Ed Sheeran's ÷ album. They made numerous appearances with Ed, including his headline Glastonbury performance.

Niamh is a long-standing member of The Karan Casey Band and has recorded extensively with Casey. Niamh has vast experience as a composer and has performed her own compositions and songs with the Ulster Orchestra and with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra in the National Concert Hall.



## SEÁN ÓG GRAHAM GUITAR

Seán Óg Graham has recorded 7 albums as a founding member of Beoga and has toured worldwide. *Wall Street Journal* describes Beoga as "... the most exciting band to come out of Ireland this century". Beoga recently performed on Ed Sheeran's latest album ÷ and Seán Óg's own composition 'Minute 5' was instrumental in providing the musical backdrop to the global hit 'Galway Girl', which has been streamed over 800 million times on Spotify. Seán Óg is regarded as one of Ireland's top button accordion players and has composed a vast number of tunes. His wealth of experience in the recording studio has led to an increased demand in recent years for his engineering and production roles.

Seán Óg has also performed with Lúnasa, Liz Carroll, Karan Casey, Maura O'Connell, Flook, Natalie Merchant, Mairtín O'Connor Band, Duke Special and many others.



Agnes and her son Willie. 11

# CREATIVE TEAM



## TOM CREED DIRECTOR

Tom Creed is one of Ireland's leading opera and theatre directors, and his productions have been seen at all the major Irish theatres and festivals and internationally in over 30 cities on 3 continents. He was previously Festival Director of Cork Midsummer Festival, Theatre and Dance Curator of Kilkenny Arts Festival and Associate Director of Rough Magic. He is a member of the Expert Advisory Committee of Culture Ireland, chair of GAZE Film Festival, a board member of Theatre Forum, and was a member of the steering committee of the National Campaign for the Arts 2016-2022. He recently completed an MFA in Art in the Contemporary World at NCAD, and is Curator for Ireland's representation at the 2023 Prague Quadrennial. Upcoming productions include *The Quare Fellow* (Abbey Theatre) and *The President* (Gate Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company).



## SINÉAD WALLACE LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sinéad Wallace is resident Lighting Designer at The Lir Academy leading the Lighting Design module on the Masters in Stage Design. Sinéad works as a lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance throughout Ireland. She has received Irish Times Theatre Awards for 'Best Lighting' three times between 2007 and 2010. Sinéad's recent lighting designs include *Tartuffe* and *iGirl* (Abbey Theatre); *Bajazet*, *The Lighthouse* and *Least Like the Other* (Irish National Opera) and *In Middletown* (Gate Theatre). She has worked extensively for the Abbey Theatre, Corn Exchange and Irish National Opera, as well as for the Gate Theatre, Liz Roche Company and The Emergency Room. Sinéad is particularly interested in sustainable theatre making and has been involved in drafting The Lir's Sustainability Policy and Action Plan.

# CREATIVE TEAM



## **NIALL VALLELY** SOUND & VIDEO DESIGNER

One of Ireland's most significant musicians and composers, Niall Vallely has toured the world and recorded with the likes of Nomos, Buille, Paddy Keenan, Tim O'Brien and Jazz legend Cassandra Wilson. His tune compositions have been recorded on more than 80 albums.

In more recent years, he has been expanding the scope of his compositions to embrace larger scale forms and instrumentation, involving musicians from the worlds of traditional and classical musics.

He has had numerous commissions, including from RTÉ Lyric FM, BBC, TG4, Cork Opera House, Crash Ensemble, Kate Ellis, Boston Pops Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, NI Arts Council. He has collaborated with Lúnasa, Iarla Ó Lionáird, Donal Lunny, Karan Casey, Stevie Appleby and several major orchestras. In 2022, Niall was appointed Artist in Residence at the National Opera House, Wexford.



## **JESSICA HEALY-RETTIG** COSTUME STYLIST

Jessica Healy-Rettig has worked in professional theatre in Cork and around the country for the past 20 years as Costume Designer, Supervisor and Maker. She particularly enjoys the creative process from concept to finish and has worked on every genre of show, from contemporary dance to pantomimes, plays, musicals and opera. Recent theatre credits include Costume Designer for *The Settling* with BrokenCrow as part of Cork Midsummer festival, Costume Supervisor and Stylist for *The Cork Proms* at Cork Opera House, Costume Designer for *Cinderella* at The Everyman and Costume Designer for *Guests of the Nation* with Corcadorca Theatre Company. Jessica studied Theatre Production in Cork, Pattern Cutting at The London College of Fashion and holds a Diploma in Image and Fashion Styling. Alongside her theatre work, Jessica also works as a personal stylist with her own business The Art of Style.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

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**AOIFE CLARKE**  
LINE PRODUCER



**DÓNAL MCNINCH**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER



**ILONA MCCORMICK**  
STAGE MANAGER



**PATRICK LEHANE**  
CHIEF LX

"Thank you for allowing  
myself and my family to  
make beautiful  
memories."

*- Audience member*



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