

A child struggling for her voice to be heard by the adults around her

Zoe's Play

Written by **John McArdle**

Directed by **David Horan**

Opens 7 March

at The Ark, Eustace Street, Temple Bar

Public performances weekends from 9 March and weekdays during the Easter Holidays.

As Ireland currently examines the role of the child in society and how much say they have in their own destiny, The Ark presents an engaging and powerful story of a child struggling to be heard in *Zoe's Play* by John McArdle. Commissioned by The Ark in 1999, *Zoe's Play* toured nationally before playing at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC to great acclaim. Written by John McArdle who is regarded as one of Ireland's leading dramatists for young audiences, this new production for 8-12 year olds will open 7 March in the intimate theatre space at The Ark.

Lively and imaginative, Zoe is an only child with a gift for daydreaming. Her world is her room, her cabin, a forest, and a family of wolves... *Zoe's Play* explores that transitional period between childhood and adulthood when a child struggles to be heard; a time when the consequences of grown-up actions clash fiercely with the desire to retain the idealism of childhood.

The play, which will be presented in celebration of The Ark's 18th birthday, tells the story of a young girl who is concerned for the habitats that surround her. She recognises that short-term actions made by adults can have disastrous consequences for the forest and woodlands that surround her home and, by association, the birds and animals that live there. Written as a prequel to *Little Red Riding Hood*, the wolves are thus driven to find alternative sources of food, which sets up the story for the famous fable to follow.

Raising themes of sustainability and the impact of the endless march of urbanisation on our landscape *Zoe's Play* ultimately asks what will the children of today and tomorrow inherit?

The production will be directed by David Horan (*Can You Catch a Mermaid, Anglo the Musical* at the Olympia, *Halcyon Days*) Artistic Director of Bewley's Café Theatre and produced by Maria Fleming for The Ark.

An autism friendly performance of *Zoe's Play* will take place on Sun 10 March. For more details go to www.ark.ie

The Ark gratefully acknowledges the support of its principal funder the Arts Council and also its other annual supporters: the Department of Education and Skills, Temple Bar Cultural Trust, and Dublin City Council.

Tickets now on sale: €10/€8 concessions (Schools €6.50/€4.50 concessions)
www.ark.ie t: 01 670 7788

Details:

Dates & times (family performances)

Sat 9 Mar: 2pm, 4pm; Sun 10 Mar: 4pm; Sat 16 & Bank Holiday Mon 18 Mar: 2pm, 4pm;

Easter Holidays: Sat 23 & Sun 24 Mar: 2pm, 4pm; Tue 26-Thu 28 Mar: 2pm, 4pm; Sat 30 & Sun 31 Mar: 4pm, 7pm

Autism Friendly Performance: Sun 10 Mar: 12pm

Duration 65 minutes

Ages 8+

Press information: Sinead O'Doherty / Gerry Lundberg

T: + 353 1 679 8476 / + 353 86 259 1070 e: pr@gerrylundbergpr.com