

## Press Release

### **Louis Lovett announced as first ever theatre maker in residence at The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children.**

Louis Lovett has a long association with The Ark as a writer, director and actor, having performed over 500 times on The Ark stage. He is also one of Ireland's most experienced performers for young people and his work crosses over both theatre for adults and theatre for young people. The Ark is delighted to announce that during 2010 Louis will spend part of the year working with The Ark as its first ever theatre maker in residence.

Eina McHugh, Director of The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children said *'We believe that our first theatre maker in residence is a really strong initiative that keeps high quality art at the centre of everything we do and allows us to deliver maximum impact for the vital territory that is children and families, schools, communities and artists'*.

More details of elements of the theatre maker in residence initiative will be announced but The Ark has confirmed that it will include a collaboration on a world premiere for 2010 **The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly**, in association with Theatre Lovett. This production, which opens on 28<sup>th</sup> January, is written by Tasmanian writer **Finegan Kruckemeyer** and directed by **Lynne Parker**. (Further details on this production will follow). The residency will also include three other strands, outreach, actor training and teacher training.

**Community Outreach Strand:** Louis will work with a number of children to experience interactive live theatre with a focus on creative expression through the performing arts.

**Actor Training Strand:** Louis will provide a module of training for actors and students of acting. Under Louis' guidance, actors will be given the opportunity to explore the spirit of the child at play - an essential component for any practitioner in providing quality children's theatre. Louis own unique style of physical theatre embraces this spirit of play and this training opportunity will contribute greatly to the pool of Irish based practitioners interested in bringing high quality work to young audiences.

**Teacher Training Strand:** The residency will include the provision of a module to third level teacher training colleges to dynamise and enhance the arts curriculum. This strand will enable teachers to use drama and theatre to create rich learning opportunities in the classroom. There will be a particular emphasis on providing opportunities for teachers to engage with and enjoy their own creativity.

The Ark gratefully acknowledges the support of the Arts Council in making the residency possible, as well being part funded by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and the Irish Youth Foundation. The Ark is also grateful to its other annual supporters: Department of Education and Science; National Development Plan; PPDS; Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council.