

London Sinfonietta Presents

FIX

by Ailís Ní Ríain



FIX is a deliciously dark multidisciplinary and inclusive music-theatre work performed live by London Sinfonietta combining puppetry & object theatre, contemporary classical music, Foley sound, embedded interpretive sign-language and micro-cinema. A project that pushes boundaries combining live performance, puppetry, projection, BSL, sound and music.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At its heart, FIX offers a playful, quirky, and poetic perspective, a fantastical odyssey which invites us to step into a world on the fringes. FIX plunges the audience into a delicate, intimate interior, where we meet Malleus; 'a mender', who spends his time fixing broken ears. He is a life-size puppet existing between the world of the hearing and the world of the deaf, Malleus goes about his day in search of lost sounds.

FIX searches for a new language, a new way of communicating to all audiences by presenting universal subjects, relevant to all.

Created by a deaf/hard of hearing composer and writer, FIX explores deafness, ableism, invisible disability and auditory hallucination where the puppeteers and live musicians are themselves pushed to question the notion of deafness and difference, the fundamental reasons for their own presence in the work. FIX touches on the still relevant topic of exclusion, social alienation and communicative misunderstandings.



MICRO CINEMA THEATRE

Micro Cinema Theatre is a style of performance that blends new technologies of video with manual skills of object manipulation and visual theatre. Often seen in contemporary puppetry, the technique allows creators to devise narratives and effects through a combination of projected imagery, live feed video and stage craft.

MUSIC

The live musicians will play fully composed notated music/sound while interacting with the theatrical action by providing Foley sound to complement on the on-stage action. The latter will be developed with professional UK Foley artist Louise Brown [BBC, Netflix].

AUDIO-DESCRIPTION

FIX will bring alternative audio description options both for visually different audience members and those of full sight - an alternative way to

enter and interpret the work. This will extend and develop the on-stage work of the sign language interpreter and the ensemble musicians by traversing accessibility - to make the work broadly accessible to audiences.

BSL INTERPRETATION

Intepretive and embedded BSL (British Sign Language) by Claire Edwards [ROH, Eurovision, Birmingham Rep, Glastonbury] provides an unlikely 'foil' to puppet Malleus by bringing BSL directly into the centre of the work.

WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

Touring potential to reach diverse venues and audiences: the work is conceived to have broad appeal and reach a wide demographic. While we consider it to be 'adult' puppet/visual theatre, it will be suitable for most audiences. The themes explored are sometimes adult in nature. Likely audiences include: theatre, mime, deaf/disabled audiences and the culturally curious.

SCALE

Written for two performers operating a life-sized puppet and five musicians, and one lighting/vision/sound engineer. The addition of camera live-feed enables the work to be scaled-up for different sized venues and performative spaces.



REVIEWS

"This album shows a voice that is independent, exploratory and quirky."

– The Irish Times on Ailís Ní Ríain- 4*

"The sounds are bright, fresh and inventive...wide ranging and often provocative."

– The Guardian on Ailís Ní Ríain- 4*

"A fascinating interest in marrying sounds and resonances, unusual yet instructive."

– BBC Classical Music on Ailís Ní Ríain- 4*

"... when Gavin Glover's superlative puppets magically appear, they have such a fearsome, otherworldly demeanour."

– The Guardian on Gavin Glover

"intriguing, disquieting and witty"

– The Observer on Gavin Glover

"...visualised and animated with the distinctive brilliance of master puppet maker Gavin Glover."

– The National on Gavin Glover

"A contemporary music trailblazer"

– The New York Times on London Sinfonietta

"The world's top new-music ensemble"

– The Times on London Sinfonietta - Jan 2018

"...what we heard revealed a beauty and titanic expressive force which makes most contemporary music seem small. Bravo to the Sinfonietta for bringing it to us."

– The Telegraph on London Sinfonietta - Oct 2024



Ailís Ní Ríain

Composer/Writer

Established professional Irish composer whose work has been commissioned and performed worldwide. Awarded the prestigious Paul Hamlyn Award for Composers. Her debut disc portrait album was released by NMC Recordings in 2023 to critical acclaim.

She works broadly in the areas of concert music, music installation and music theatre and has collaborated with writers, dancers, visual artists and theatre artists.

Recent projects include a commission for Dame Evelyn Glennie, BBC Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, RTE Concert Orchestra, ConTempo String Quartet, Royal Academy of Music, Ulster Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ailís is deaf/hard of hearing and some of her work has referenced these themes working with DaDaFest, Unlimited Arts & Disability Ireland, Shape Arts, Drake Music, and Outside In.

<https://www.ailis.info/music>



Gavin Glover

Puppet maker & puppeteer/
director/scenography

With many years experience as a theatre practitioner and as one half of the cult theatre company Faulty Optic, Gavin Glover specialises in contemporary puppetry and micro cinema.

Gavin has always worked in the darker and more intriguing side of puppet theatre. His teaching and directing methods are highly sort after by other professionals and artists around the globe and he is often invited to run masterclasses and coach performers.

Recent collaborations have seen him train ghosts for the National Theatre of Scotland, tame foul-mouthed pterodactyls for the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow and encourage drunken bar fights at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin!

www.potatoroom.co.uk



London Sinfonietta

The London Sinfonietta is one of the world's leading contemporary music ensembles. Formed in 1968, we have since commissioned over 470 works. Our ethos is to experiment constantly with the art form, working with the world's best composers, performers and artists, collaborating with young people, communities and the public to produce music projects often involving film, theatre, dance and art.

Our free-to-view digital Channel reaches audiences around the world.

<https://londonsinfonietta.org.uk>



CREATIVE TEAM

Visual Director
Gavin Glover

Concept
Ailís Ní Ríain & Gavin Glover

Music
Ailís Ní Ríain

Audio Assistant
Sohrab Uduman

Puppeteers
X 2 TBC

Musicians & Foley artists
London Sinfonietta

BSL Signer/Performer
Clare Edwards

Micro-cinema facilitation
Gavin Glover

Movement
Potatoroom

Puppet Making
Potatoroom & Gavin Glover

Audio Description
Vocal Eyes

Foley Adviser
Louise Brown

Lighting
Tony Simpson

Sound
London Sinfonietta

PREMIERES

World Premiere performances:
April - June 2026

LIVE PERFORMERS

5 Musicians
2 Puppeteers
1 Lighting/vision/sound engineer

WRAPAROUND ACTIVITY

Micro-cinema and puppetry and music workshops can be added to the touring project.

TECH RIDER

Orchestration:
Run Time: 50 mins [no interval]

Touring personnel: 5 LS musicians, + 2 performers + stage manager + 1 lighting/vision/sound engineer = 10 personnel

Additional personnel from venue required:

Lighting
Sound
Video projection including live projection technician

Equipment:

Lighting rig; PA and mixing desk
Mixer/switcher - probably a RolandV-1Hd switcher
Projector
Projection screen and possibly smaller screen for projections around the stage
4 cameras with HDMI out to a video projector.
(Detailed spec to be provided on request).

Schedule: morning technical set-up; afternoon rehearsal and evening performance [1 day].

Please feel free to contact us for any other information and enquiries.

London Sinfonietta Contact

Andrew Burke - CEO & Artistic Director
andrew.burke@londonsinfonietta.org.uk
020 3435 5453

London Sinfonietta Contact

Natalie Marchant - Head of Concerts & Touring
natalie.marchant@londonsinfonietta.org.uk
020 3435 5462