

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 where FIX invites us to step into a world on the fringes, FIX plunges the audience into an intimate, interior atmosphere 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/mental health 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, misunderstanding and difficult family relationships.



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 musicians will play fully composed notated music/sound, interact physically with Malleus and provide Foley sound for his activities through sensor-pads. Foley will be developed with the professional UK Foley artist Louise Brown.

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. Kinetic Light [New York] will assist with the development of this.

This will extend and develop the communications of a sign language performer/s and the ensemble musicians - traversing accessibility - to make the work broadly accessible to all audiences; the hearing, lessened hearing and the deaf. We will develop a new audio description

through Audiance technology - enabling more people to experience the work in more equitable ways.

BSL INTERPRETATION

Interpretive BSL (British Sign Language) physical performance artist Claire Edwards is part of the performance and provides an unlikely 'foil' to the puppet Malleus.

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, new music, puppetry, object theatre, mime, deaf/disabled audiences and the culturally curious.

SCALE

Written for two performers operating life-sized puppets and six musicians, and one Lighting/vision/sound engineer. The addition of camera live-feed enables the work to be performed in different sized venues.



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*

"... her bold approach combined with ingenious imagining of musical shapes."

– The Wire on Ailís Ní Ríain

"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.

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, RTÉ 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 Faulty Optic, Gavin Glover specialises in puppetry, live feed micro cinema, film making and art installations.

Gavin makes work in the more disturbing side of contemporary puppet theatre, having trained ghosts for the National Theatre of Scotland, tamed foul-mouthed pterodactyls for the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow and encouraged drunken bar fights at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Gavin's recent short films have received critical acclaim from The Guardian, BBC's Front Row and The Stage. Having toured a deliciously dark style of work all over the world with the cult theatre company Faulty Optic, Gavin now enjoys making short films and installations and collaborating with other artists.



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

Direction

Gavin Glover

Concept

Ailís Ní Riain & Gavin Glover

Music

Ailís Ní Riain

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

New Music Dublin, Dublin, April 2026

Spitalfields Festival, London, July 2026

LIVE PERFORMERS

6 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: 6 LS musicians (+ conductor), + 2 performers + stage manager + 1 lighting/vision/sound engineer = 11 personnel

Additional personnel from venue required:

Sound

Lighting

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