

**A PERSONAL PRISM by DAVID JOYCE presented by Declan Gorman
Arts & Events in association with Town Hall Theatre, Galway.**



Photo Anita Murphy: L-R, Matthew Nolan and Gerard Howard

David Joyce, an MA graduate of Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway, is a vital and striking new voice in the Irish theatre. Inspired by his own experiences, the Galway writer has created a moving, funny and deeply affecting story of life in a West of Ireland town from the perspective of a young man in a wheelchair.

Lee Hanley (mid-20s) is a regular guy with a disability living in a fictional West of Ireland town. Just out of college, he is job-hunting; hopes to write poetry; enjoy a social life: ordinary, everyday things; tangible dreams. But in Lee's world, nothing is ever simple. He feels trapped within the town and within himself; and struggles with mental health and the external barriers that are constantly put in his way. Without any say, he is suddenly assigned a Personal Assistant who seems unsuited...

The ensemble includes Galway actors Johanne Webb in the role of Megan (Lee's sister); Gerard Howard who plays Michael, an unemployed older man in the town; and Eimear Finan who plays amateur drama diva Ronni, the comical but committed manager of a local disability services organisation. Lee Hanley is played by Matthew Nolan, an Irish actor with a disability, living in London, whose recent work includes "Doctors" (BBC) and "1797" (History/Riot and Tramshed). The play is directed by highly-regarded writer-director Declan

Gorman whose previous successes include “The Big Fellow”; “The Green Fool” and “The Dubliners Dilemma”.

An unflinching, universal, truthful tale of friendship, laced with heart-warming humour, **A Personal Prism** will have its world premiere at the Black Box Theatre, Galway on Tues 26th November, 8PM. The show, accessible to persons with and without a disability, then tours to local audiences in Portumna on Thurs 28th November before closing in Tuam on Fri 29th November, 8.30 pm. Increased seating for wheelchair users and their companions is provided for all shows.

A Personal Prism will be presented with additional accessibility considerations for the performance on Wed 27th November in the Black Box Theatre Galway including captioning and audio description. A Touch Tour of the stage for blind / partially sighted persons precedes this show at 6.45 - 7.15 pm.

A limited number of pre-visit workshops are available to local community groups. "Exploring the play's themes of access in our local towns continues the work of the play beyond the stage" said Joanna McGlynn, Arts and Community Liaison worker. To avail of a workshop, contact Joanna directly 086 877 4710 / mcglynnjoanna@gmail.com.

Persons with a disability and their companion can avail of a €10 ticket. Contact us directly after booking to ensure full and equal access. Booking links to all shows including Galway, Portumna and Tuam can be found at declangorman.com.

Funded by the Arts Council.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

A Personal Prism by David Joyce is presented by Declan Gorman Arts and Events in association with the Town Hall Theatre, Galway. For more information and booking links check out www.declangorman.com

Key Partners include Arts & Disability Ireland, Galway Centre for Independent Living, Irish Wheelchair Association Galway, Disability Federation of Ireland, Spinal Injuries Ireland, County Roscommon Disability Support Group, Portumna Community Centre, Creative Places Tuam.

Awards: David is a previous winner of the Arts and Disability Ireland Mentoring Award. “A Personal Prism” won a Town Hall Patrons’ Award in 2021, leading to a successful reading and workshop in 2022. This vivid, full professional production is now made possible by an Arts Council Theatre Project Award 2023.

Content and Age Guide: Suitable for 13’s +. References to mental health concerns and self harm. The play touches upon mental health matters but no distressing action is shown. Our team has a community and disability liaison officer who is on standby in the unlikely event of any distress.

Photo Credit Anita Murphy: Cast members Matthew Nolan and Gerard Howard (L - R)