

MASTERCCLASS




Sydney
Festival
2024

Photo by Ste Murray

MASTERCLASS

Brokentalkers & Adrienne Truscott

Sydney Opera House, Drama Theatre

12 - 16 January

60 mins (no interval)

CAST AND CREDITS

Writers Feidlim Cannon, Gary Keegan and Adrienne Truscott

Creative Producer Rachel Bergin

Movement Director Eddie Kay

Costume Design Sarah Foley

Lighting Design Dara Hoban

Set Design Ellen Kirk

Sound Design Jennifer O'Malley

Production Manager Veronica Foo

Stage Manager Evie McGuinness

Photography Ste Murray

ABOUT THE SHOW

Dublin-based Brokentalkers and New York's Adrienne Truscott are delighted to be presenting their award-winning collaboration *Masterclass* at Sydney Festival.

Featuring the savagely comedic feminist discourse of Adrienne Truscott with the slippery dramaturgy of Brokentalkers, *Masterclass* parodies the "great male artist" to within an inch of his life in order to uncover some difficult truths about privilege and power.

The show begins in the form of a cockamamie masterclass performed by fed up feminist Adrienne Truscott and all-around good guy Feidlim Cannon. It's fun. It's familiar. There are wigs. But there is something more at play.

Using the arts world as a metaphor, *Masterclass* is a literate and hilarious examination of gender and power.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATORS

Feidlim Cannon: We are delighted to be presenting *Masterclass* at this year's Sydney Festival, it feels like a true full circle moment. Sydney Festival is where this collaboration started, all the way back in 2015 when

Brokentalkers were here presenting *Have I No Mouth*, and Adrienne was here with The Wau Wau Sisters and her solo show *Asking For It*. We instantly connected both artistically and personally. Since then we had been seeking opportunities to collaborate.

Gary Keegan: The inspiration for *Masterclass* came from a question Adrienne had about the power "Great Male Writers" had over how and by whom their scripts were staged. Adrienne, Feidlim and I had been looking for a project to work on together for several years and this theme of power chimed with the kind of thing Feidlim and I like to make shows about. We were also drawn to how certain of these "great" artists talk about themselves and their work.

Adrienne Truscott: *Masterclass* isn't just about these "great" artists, it's also about us. We say things to each other in this play that are so true and so excruciating and funny. Not just about us, about our industry and culture, but also SO about us.

BROKENTALKERS

Brokentalkers are a multi-award-winning Dublin-based theatre company, led by Co-Artistic Directors Feidlim Cannon and Gary Keegan with Creative Producer Rachel Bergin. Brokentalkers make formally ambitious work that defies categorisation, and have built a reputation as one of Ireland's most innovative and original theatre companies. Their working method is founded on a collaborative process that draws on the skills and experiences of a large and diverse group of contributors from different disciplines and backgrounds. brokentalkers.ie/

ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT

Adrienne Truscott's work crosses lines and methodologies from dance, theatre, comedy and performance art; these iterations appear as drag club acts as well as evening-length pieces; dances to

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one-lady plays; group pieces to solos. Her work is sophisticated and accessible and actively works against elitist aesthetics and practices in arts presentation.

adriennetruscott.com/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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