



**Loco and Reckless Productions, glór
and Galway International Arts Festival**

Oh ...

by **Mikel Murfi**
directed by **Kellie Hughes**

**GALWAY ATLANTAQUARIA,
SALTHILL**

**GALWAY INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL 2025**



Using the underwater environment as a poetic space, *Oh ...* reflects on new journeys, partings and the possibility of moving on, inviting you to dive deeper into the human experience, where that which is extraordinary in all of us, is quietly imaginable.

Performer and Writer	Mikel Murfi
CREATIVE TEAM:	
Director	Kellie Hughes
Set Designer	Sabine Dargent
Lighting Designer	Sinead Wallace
Sound Designer	Sandra O'Mahony
Score	Declan Gibbons
DIVE TEAM:	
Diving Supervisor	Maurice McKiernan
Dive Team Member	Lisa Mahony, Helen Moran
Diving Safety Consultant	Brian Murphy TC Marine
PRODUCTION TEAM:	
Production Manager	Pete Jordan
Deputy Production Manager	Lisa Mahony
Technical Stage Coordinator	Sé Purcell
Costume Supervisor	Amanda Donovan
Chief Technician	Peter Bond
Stage Manager	El Culloo
Rehearsal Sound Technician	Tobias Barry
Producer	Marie O'Byrne
Photography	James Connolly
Music Engineer	Ed Keneghan



Many years ago, 20 maybe, maybe a bit more, I had an idea that I might like to make a show in an underwater environment. My theatre ideas usually come from movement and I figured there might be something interesting about seeing the human body performing in water – that it might have another kind of poetry to it other than the body moving in air.

The show's themes emerged as myself and the brilliant Kellie Hughes, our director, began working in the studio, making movement sequences and bringing that movement into water and back onto land again to rework it and then back to the water ... because nothing in air and water is the same! Little by little we've made Oh ...

The show itself is a journey into the unconscious. Those places within ourselves, that for the most part, remain unknown. As the show evolved, the most prevalent theme became that of loss. A man lost within himself, at a loss as to where to go, a man dealing with the loss that comes with death ... It became a journey to the holding places within ourselves, where our subconscious meets up with grief, sadness and the gorgeous resilience within us that can bring us back to joy.

I'd like to dedicate the show to my Dad, Frank Murphy and to my great pal Sé Purcell.

Mikel Murfi



What do you do if someone asks you to make a show with them in a fish tank? If that someone is Mikel Murfi, no question, you say yes!

I've been a fan of Mikel's work for many years. We've had the opportunity to work together on and off over the past two decades, but this is our first full creative collaboration.

The team Mikel assembled around the project is an incredible group of people and artists. Tapping into that combined knowledge as we've all gone about the job of creating a show in such a unique environment has been a real privilege and while the collective learning has been immense and at times challenging, it's also been a lot of fun.

Oh ... is both deeply personal and universally human. It is about partings, but also new beginnings, allowing yourself to be lost, but having the courage to move forward, and the strange, sometimes beautiful places we find inside ourselves when we do.

With a chorus of occasionally unruly Wreakfish, Gilthead Bream, European Bass and the fabulous Starry Smooth-hound, to name but a few, one thing is certain, no two shows are going to be the same!

Thank you for diving in with us.

Kellie Hughes
Director



Mikel Murfi

Performer | Writer

Mikel is from Sligo and trained at Ecole Jacques Lecoq, Paris.

He's an actor, writer and director. His theatre performances include his three solo shows *The Man in The Woman's Shoes*, *I Hear You and Rejoice* and *The Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey* [Loco and Reckless Productions]; *Here Comes Trouble* [Loco and Reckless Productions] *Dances Like a Bomb and Dolores* [Junk Ensemble]; *Ballyturk* [GIAF/Landmark]; *The New Electric Ballroom* [Druid]; *Morning After Optimism*, *Playboy of the Western World* [Peacock Theatre]; *The Comedy of Errors* [Abbey Theatre]; *Desire Under The Elms* [Lyric, Hammersmith] and *In MiddleTown*, [The Gate Theatre]

Directing work includes *Waiting for Godot* [Theatre Du Pif, Hong Kong]; *The Far Off Hills* [Nomad Theatre Network]; *Toraiocht* [Fibin]. Other directing work includes *Falling out of Love* [Yew Tree]; *Focal Point* [TEAM]; *B for Baby* [Abbey]; *The Second Coming* [Fidget Feet/Hawk's Well Theatre]; *The Walworth Farce*, *Penelope* [Druid] and *Arrah na Pogue* [Abbey Theatre].

Film and TV includes: *The Ballad of Kid Kanturk*, *Sweetie Barrett*, *The Butcher Boy*, *Love and Rage*, *Guiltrip* and *Jimmy's Hall*. As a director *Druma* and *John Duffy's Brother*.



Loco and Reckless Productions

Loco and Reckless Productions is an Irish theatre, TV and film Production Company. It has produced TV for young audiences for RTÉ, a revival of Lennox Robinson's play *The Far Off Hills* for Nomad Theatre Network and three critically acclaimed one man shows – *The Man In The Woman's Shoes*, *I Hear You and Rejoice* and *The Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey* written and performed by Mikel Murfi.

Galway International Arts Festival

Galway International Arts Festival is a major cultural organisation, which produces one of Europe's leading international arts festivals; develops and produces new work that tours nationally and internationally; and presents a major discussion platform, First Thought Talks. The Festival takes place each July in Galway, Ireland with attendances in excess of 400,000. The Festival tours its own productions and exhibitions nationally and internationally, and with its co-producing partners has toured to London, New York, Edinburgh, Chicago, Washington, Adelaide and Sydney.

The Festival's CEO is John Crumlish and its Artistic Director is Paul Fahy.

glór

glór is a thriving multi-disciplinary arts centre located in the heart of Ennis, Co. Clare. As well as presenting a vibrant programme of touring work and artists, glór also develops and produces new work, and runs an extensive arts participatory programme. Housing a 485 seat auditorium, 60 seat studio space, a gallery and a café – glór provides an exceptional facility for artists, participants & communities to experience the transformative power of the arts, and to connect, reflect, dream & inspire change.

Kellie Hughes

Kellie is an Irish theatre artist, working nationally and internationally, as a director, writer and collaborator. Previous work with Galway International Arts Festival includes; *Unspeakable Conversations*, in collaboration with Liz Carr, Matt Frazer, Olwen Fouéré and Christian O'Reilly; *Death At Intervals*, adapted from José Saramago's novel *As Intermitências da Morte* and created in collaboration with Olwen Fouéré and Raymond Scannell; Samuel Beckett's prose piece *Lessness*, co-created with Olwen Fouéré and Sarah Jane Scaife; and co-direction of *riverrun*, Olwen Fouéré's award winning adaptation of the voice of the river Liffey/Life in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*.

Kellie is Artistic Director of the Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts creative mentorship programme in University College Dublin.

Sabine Dargent

Sabine has won two Irish Times Best Set-Design Awards and being nominated for two others. Sabine worked in Ireland with numerous dance and theatres directors and companies such as Mikel Murfi, Oona Doherty, Michael Keegan Dolan, Oona Doherty, Emma Martin, Junk Ensemble, Conall Morrison, Enda Walsh, Brokentalkers ... and a lot more. She also worked in France with Serge Noyelle, Lucio Fanti, compagnie TGV.

She was artistic director for 11 years, with Muirne Bloomer, on the project produced by Saint Patrick Festival, designing pageants, costumes, props and floats with 250 participants each year. She loves theatre and dance, physical theatre, but has also designed for exhibitions, films, events and street theatre.

Sinead Wallace

Sinéad works as a lighting designer for Theatre, Opera and Dance throughout Ireland. She has received Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Lighting three times between 2007 and 2010. Sinéad's recent lighting designs include *Audrey or Sorrow*, *Tartuffe & iGirl* [Abbey Theatre], *Bajazet*, *The Lighthouse & Least Like The Other* [Irish National Opera] and *In Middletown* [Gate Theatre] She has worked extensively for The Abbey Theatre, Corn Exchange and Irish National Opera, as well as for Irish National Opera, The Gate Theatre and Liz Roche Company. Sinéad is particularly interested in sustainable theatre making and has been involved in drafting The Lir Academy's Sustainability Policy and Action Plan.

Sandra O'Mahony

Proudly from Cork, Sandra O'Mahony has worked nationally and internationally in Theatre and Rock n' Roll Sound for the last 30 years. Sandra has been GIAP's Heineken® Big Top Stage Manager for many years.

Declan Gibbons

Declan Gibbons has worked in theatre and arts organisations for all his adult life and has served as General Manager of Macnas, Managing Director of Druid, Project Manager on the refurbishment of the Mick Lally Theatre, Manager of Galway Film Centre, Director of Galway City of Film, is now Operations Manager with Galway International Arts Festival, and acts as a Producer for Loco & Reckless Productions.

His passion is music and he was the guitarist with Mary Coughlan when she began her career, played with The

Sleepwalkers who were very famous in Galway in the 1990s and has written music for Macnas and Baboró International Arts Festival for Children. He has the unique kudos of having a character in *Breaking Bad* named after him – Declan, a bad guy from Phoenix in S5E6! This is his first show working under water.

Maurice McKiernan

In 1977 Maurice played alongside Mikel in a school production of the *Wild Rover*. Maurice, realising his acting career, at the tender age of 13, had peaked [with great acclaim], wisely chose a life in Civil Engineering. Mikel on the other hand continued to tread the boards with ever greater success. After more than four decades, the two old school friends reconnected, and while sat on the slopes of Knocknarea, with the wild Atlantic laid out before them, catching up on their lives, Mikel spoke of his lifelong intention to stage an underwater show. Maurice smiled to himself and knew; it was time for his second career change! He is delighted to reunite with Mikel and share with him his knowledge of all things diving. Everything else? Well, Maurice will figure it out as he goes along!

Pete Jordan

Peter graduated from Galway Youth Theatre in 1997 and since then has worked extensively in Theatre, Dance and Opera. So thankfully this is not his first time working with sharks.

Lisa Mahony

Lisa studied Drama and Theatre studies at Trinity College, Dublin and has worked

for more than a decade as a freelance production manager. She also worked for several years as a venue technician at the Project Arts Centre and was the first Head of Lighting at The Lir Academy. Companies she has worked with include Corn Exchange, Teac Damsa, CoisCéim, Cahoots NI, Pan Pan, Liz Roche Company, Mufutau Yusuf, Junk Ensemble, Brokentalkers and Field Day, and she has toured nationally and internationally with many of these.

In recent years she has worked extensively in the theatre for young audiences sector with companies such as Theatre Lovett, Ceol Connected and Paul Curley Theatre Company, which she has greatly enjoyed. She has also worked for Dublin Theatre Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival, Dublin Dance Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, and at far too many Edinburgh Fringe Festivals to remember. In her spare time Lisa loves to swim outdoors and learned to scuba dive in her home county of Clare almost 10 years ago. She has since been lucky enough to dive regularly at home and abroad, including The Canaries, Florida, California and most recently New Zealand.

Se Purcell

Most famous for his award winning role as John Clown.

Amanda Donovan

Amanda Donovan is a Galway-based costume supervisor with extensive experience in theatre and live performance. She has worked with Druid, Macnas, Teac Damsa and many more companies on major productions over the years.



Peter Bond

Peter Bond is a Dublin-based Relighter and Chief Electrician working in Dance and Theatre. Recent Credits include Associate Lighting Designer for the UK Tour of *Wake by This is Pop Baby*, Associate Lighting Designer for the Irish Tour of *MOSH*, Relighter/Chief LX for *Carmen*, *Nutcracker Sweeties* and *Bold Moves* by Ballet Ireland and Relighter for *Night Dances* and *Birdboy* for United Fall.

El Culloo

El Culloo is a sound engineer and stage manager with experience in pyrotechnics and special effects. She has worked in the technical department at glór since 2017. She has also worked and toured nationally and internationally with a range of clients including; Bru Theatre, Matt Purcell Sound, Experience Productions and Star Systems.

Tobias Barry

Tobias Barry is a Dublin-based sound designer, composer, and music producer working across theatre, film, and popular music. His practice blends technical precision with experimental play, specialising in cue-based systems, real-time FX, and immersive sound environments. Recent sound design credits include Operating Theatre Live Show [Musictown 2025, National Concert Hall], *Unspeakable Conversations* [Once Off Productions, Galway International Arts Festival 2024], and *The Pentagonal Dream* [Abbey Theatre Podcast 2021].

His film scores for Juniper and Nothing To Be Done were featured at the Galway Film Fleadh 2023, and he performs and produces with the genre-bending pop act Babylamb.

Marie O'Byrne

Marie O'Byrne has been director of glór since 2023, having worked as tech and production manager there previously from 2004–2011. She was director of Hawk's Well Theatre in Sligo from 2011–2023, where she produced many large-scale productions which toured nationally and internationally including; *The Second Coming* and *The Far Off Hills* – both directed by Mikel Murfi, and *Constance* and *Eva* – both directed by Kellie Hughes.

A Note of Thanks from Mikel Murfi

First up, a thank you to my great friend Sé Purcell – the best person in the world to go to with a mad idea – who, way back when, signed up without blinking to join in this adventure. So many years later, we’ve finally made it to Galway Atlantaquaria.

Making a show underwater is not easy! I’m incredibly grateful to the crew and creative team who have worked on this show. They’re the most understanding and generous collaborators one could ever imagine. Special thanks to Kellie Hughes, Declan Gibbons and Maurice Mc Kiernan, Sabine, Sandra, Sinéad, I can’t thank you enough. Amanda, Pete, Lisa, Peter, Ellie and Tobias, thanks for everything.

To Matt Hawkins and Nóirín Burke and all the staff at Atlantaquaria, thank you for

your openness to this idea. Huge thanks to our coproducers – this show would never have happened without Marie O’Byrne and her team at glór. And to Paul Fahy, John Crumlish and all at Galway International Arts Festival – thanks for the support and for saying Yes.

Thanks also to Kevin Smith and all at PSI Lighting Rigging and Audio and to Brian Murphy TC Marine for their generous support and expertise – their input was key in bringing the show to life. My thanks too, to everyone who ‘dropped in’ on the making of *Oh...* over the years, Gerry Stembridge, Tom McCrory, Antonio Gil Martinez, Niall Henry, Wez Nolan, Ruth Lehane, all at Flagship Scuba Dublin, Donal Beecher, Enda Walsh, Cillian Murphy, Eithne Hand, Una Hand, Philip Lee and many more.

Thank you

The company would also like to thank:
James Connolly, Ed Keneghan, Caroline Menassol, Ad Astra Performing Arts Academy, Aidan McCauley, Andrew McCauley – Procure Sports Medicine., United Fall, Irish National Opera, MACNAS, Conor Baynes – Aquabroker, Barry O’Brien, Siobhan McSharry, Frances Burke, Paul Brennan, Neil Farrell, Saidhbh Mallon, Galway Sub Aqua Club, Sligo Sub Aqua Club, Aoife Mc Kiernan, Flagship Scuba and Dr. Joe Fitzgibbon.



