

PAN PAN

THE FIRST BAD MAN



26 & 27 October 2021, 8pm

Black Box, Galway

**A live performance based on a reading of
The First Bad Man, a novel by Miranda July**

Kitty Blennerhasset, John Benno, Rose McVittie and Freya Golden have recently joined a book club. Their first book is *The First Bad Man* and every week for a year they keep coming back to it.

This performance is a telling of these book club members' encounter with the characters of Miranda July's novel, reviewed by The Observer as: 'Heartbreakingly sad, thoughtful, disgusting and hilarious'. Each person booking tickets for the performance will receive a copy of the novel in the post. This is a five part performance made up of five distinct sixty minute episodes where every night is an opening night.

To Consider

I think one ongoing theme in the book is the dichotomy of satisfaction and harm in interpersonal relationships, especially those involving idealistic fantasies and the entropy of that fantasy, especially in unconventional relationships, especially between eccentric individuals with incongruent perceptions and values.

Every relationship is a complex interaction of expectations and realities, giving and taking, wants and needs. Most relationships are born in simple desires, which will often become perverted and compromised. Ultimately the idealized fantasy is turned on its head.

The child-parent relationship is one of the most fundamental and it embodies these concepts well because the baby is a blank slate with no preconceived notions about relationships. It is easy to create pure beliefs about your newborn child. But everyone knows the parent child relationship is doomed to disharmonious passages and actually the lack of expectations and experiences, the one-sidedness of the relationship, is what makes it ultimately so easily turn to dissonance.

***The First Bad Man* is a recurring archetype in your life. It is the first failure of interpersonal harmony, and then it's every failure after that, especially the failures that are born in optimism. One day, your own child disappoints you, and even if only for a moment, your child is the same first bad man you recognized when you first realized perfection doesn't last and everyone disappoints.**

However, the epilogue shows that in the face of impending disappointment you still have the valid choice to remain optimistic, and that choice itself can change the outcome of two people's interaction.

Credits

Director	Gavin Quinn
Designer	Aedín Cosgrove
Assistant Director	Grace Morgan
Composition	Simon Kenny
Movement Direction	Katherine O'Malley

Created by

Mish Grigor & Gavin Quinn with Luka Costello, Sonya Kelly, Dylan Tighe, Grace Morgan, Simon Kenny, Katherine O'Malley and Aedín Cosgrove.

Cast	Andrew Bennett
	Luka Costello
	Grace Morgan
	Anna Sheils McNamee

Music	Simon Kenny
Producer	Gwen Van Spÿk
Production Management Consultant	Rob Usher
Stage Manager	Clare Howe
Sound Engineer	Leon Henry
Photography	Ros Kavanagh
Graphic Design	Gareth Jones
Marketing	Hillary Dziminski
PR	Kate Bowe

Miranda July

Miranda July is a filmmaker, artist, and writer. Her most recent book is *The First Bad Man*, a novel. July's collection of stories, *No One Belongs Here More Than You*, won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and has been published in twenty-three countries. Her writing has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's*, and *The New Yorker*; *It Chooses You* was her first book of non-fiction. She wrote, directed and starred in *The Future And Me And You And Everyone We Know* — winner of the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and a Special Jury Prize at Sundance. July's participatory art works include the website *Learning to Love You More* (with artist Harrell Fletcher), *Eleven Heavy Things* (a sculpture garden created for the 2009 Venice Biennale), *New Society* (a performance), and *Somebody* (a messaging app created with Miu Miu.) Most recently she made an interfaith charity shop in Selfridges department store in London, presented by Artangel. She is currently working on a new feature film. Raised in Berkeley, California, July lives in Los Angeles.

Pan Pan

Pan Pan was founded in 1993 by Co-Artistic Directors Aedín Cosgrove and Gavin Quinn. The company has created 43 new theatre and performance pieces and toured worldwide, receiving multiple national and international awards. Since its inception, Pan Pan has constantly examined and challenged the nature of its work and has resisted settling into well-trying formulas. Developing new performance ideas is at the centre of the company's mission. All the works created are original, either through the writing (original plays) or through the totally unique expression of established writings. Pan Pan tries to approach theatre as an open form of expression and has developed an individual aesthetic that has grown from making performances in a host of different situations and conditions.

Pan Pan is committed to presenting performances nationally and internationally and developing links for co-productions and collaborations. The company has toured in Ireland, UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and China.



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