

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### They come bearing gin and ink

When Australians visit Ireland, drinking is unavoidable. But this time, it's only for pretend.

A company of young actors is coming from down-under to perform a play about the booze-fuelled romps of the roaring twenties.

*The Swell Party* is the tumultuous story of the most prolific artists of the Jazz Age, including James Joyce, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Pablo Picasso.

It focuses on the damage they inflicted on their loved ones, and unveils the truth behind the glamour of the era.

The cast are the graduating acting students of the internationally-recognised Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), whose alumni include Hugh Jackman, Frances O'Connor and Jai Courtney.

WAAPA also has strong ties to Dublin's own Gaiety School of Acting, after Director Patrick Sutton visited Perth in April 2013 to put on Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* with half the graduating students.

Arriving for the Dublin Fringe Festival in early October, the group will play at the Smock Alley Theatre for one week.

This will be the Academy students' inaugural trip to Ireland, and the first international tour for any class in the last five years.

One compelling element of the production is the investigation of the troubled relationship between Dublin's own James Joyce and his daughter Lucia. And with Baz Luhrmann's recent film adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, there is also hope people will be inspired to find out about the writer.

"In the film you get to see the extravagance Fitzgerald writes about, but the stimulus for it all came from his own life, and that's the story we want to tell people about," says Chris Edmund, director of the production and Head of Acting at WAAPA.

The self-devised production enjoyed a very successful season in 2012, and has undergone further development in preparation for the trip.

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