



Sky Arts to film

Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera

THE LAST HOTEL

by Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh

(29 September 2015) it was announced today that the critically acclaimed opera from Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera, ***The Last Hotel*** by Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh will be filmed for broadcast by Sky Arts.

Initial filming will take place this week while the production is running as part of Dublin Theatre Festival. Further filming will take place in December on location in the atmospheric Bray Head Hotel, which was the location for the photoshoot by Hugh O'Connor; pictures can be seen [here](#).

Earlier this year Sky encouraged arts organisations and production companies to pitch collaboratively for up to €1.35 million annually on new TV ideas, as part of a broader investment in the UK and Ireland's creative industries under the initiative *Sky Arts Amplify*. This initiative is designed to foster integrated partnerships between creative institutions and TV production companies, bringing the vibrancy and breadth of the arts in the UK and Ireland to life on screen in innovative, new ways.

The producers of ***The Last Hotel*** submitted an application and it was announced today that it was successful and that this ground-breaking opera will be filmed by Sky Arts later this week.

The news was greeted with delight by the creative team.

Donnacha Dennehy said: *'I'm very excited that Sky Arts is going to make a film of The Last Hotel. I loved creating this opera with Enda - it was a completely addictive process that just took me over. The film will cut between an actual theatrical performance of the opera and some specially constructed sequences that will be filmed in a hotel just outside Dublin especially for this. For me it's especially important that The Last Hotel will now reach a wider audience than those able to see it live in the theatre through Sky Arts'*.

Enda Walsh said: *'We're very excited to have the opportunity to capture and re-imagine The Last Hotel for Sky Arts. It's strange suburban 'gothicness' seems very suited to the world of film and it's thrilling to delve deeper into the quiet horror of this story.'*

Phil Edgar-Jones, Director, Sky Arts added : *"Amplify with Sky Arts is all about finding new ways to bring great arts content to the screen and with Enda Walsh's unique adaptation of his hit opera The Last Hotel we have just that. We are thrilled to be working with the cream of Irish talent on this project which builds on last year's Sky Arts Ignition: The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny and our current Sky Academy Arts Scholar for Ireland Kevin Gaffney."*

Fergus Sheil, Artistic Director of Wide Open Opera said: *"The Last Hotel has been one of the most successful operas to emerge from Ireland in recent years. It is unprecedented for a new Irish opera to be showcased at top international venues and festivals in Ireland, UK and USA. Now in collaboration with Sky Arts, the production will reach an even wider audience internationally. With Sky we will capture the energy and intensity of a live performance at the Dublin Theatre Festival, but we add an additional dimension through our plans to film scenes of the opera in the atmospheric Bray Head Hotel. The result will be a fantastically mesmerising and unique experience for television audiences showcasing the formidable talents of a range of Irish artists in the cast, orchestra and creative team"*

Anne Clarke of Landmark Productions said: *'It's an extraordinary opportunity for Irish artists to have their work broadcast to such a significant audience in the UK and Ireland, and Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera are grateful not only to Sky Arts, but also to the Arts Council of Ireland and to Culture Ireland, without whose far-seeing vision and commitment at an early stage the production would not have been possible, let alone reached audiences in four countries on two continents in its first year.'*

The investments by Sky Arts in cultural programming from Ireland are supported by the organisation Business to Arts, who work to develop creative partnerships between business and the arts.

Andrew Hetherington, Chief Executive of Business to Arts said *"We're thrilled that Sky Arts continue to be committed to supporting Irish artists and Irish cultural content, with this, their first Sky Arts Amplify investment in Ireland. 'The Last Hotel' by Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh, produced by Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera will be a very strong addition to their programming. Business to Arts is very proud to work with Sky Arts in Ireland, most recently with Sky Arts Ignition : The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny and Sky Academy Irish Scholar Kevin Gaffney."*

About The Last Hotel

The worlds of theatre and opera collide in an exciting new production from Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera. *The Last Hotel* reunites two of Ireland's leading creative artists, composer Donnacha Dennehy and the writer and director Enda Walsh, in an eagerly-awaited Irish premiere. Dennehy and Walsh first worked together on Walsh's *Misterman*, which was a resounding success in Galway, London and New York. Both artists are at the peak of their careers.

Conducted by Alan Pierson, the opera stars Claudia Boyle, Robin Adams, Katherine Manley and Walsh's long-time collaborator, actor Mikel Murfi. The opera is accompanied by the 12-strong Crash Ensemble, founded by Dennehy, which the New York Times called *'the Irish new-music band that plays with the energy and spirit of a rock group.'*

The world premiere took place at Edinburgh International Festival where it garnered huge acclaim. The production is currently running as part of Dublin Theatre Festival at O'Reilly Theatre until 3 Oct.

The Last Hotel will also play the Royal Opera House, Linbury Studio Theatre, London for six performances this October and in January 2016 will be part of St Ann's Warehouse's inaugural season in its new permanent home at the Tobacco Warehouse, on the waterfront in Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York. An international tour is planned for 2016-17.

The Last Hotel

A man silently mops the floor – the water bloody.

The hotel room he's supposed to be preparing is not ready yet.

A woman is meeting a man and his wife in the hotel's car park.

The three of them – nervous.

Tonight there'll be a death.

What the critics said about The Last Hotel:

'searingly powerful ... devastating ... heartbreaking ... thrilling ... mesmerising' – [The Guardian](#)

'darkly absorbing ... a work of wide imagination, unsettling meditation and archly quotidian detail ... an agitated and seductive experience' – [The Irish Times](#)

'this extraordinary new Irish opera ... thrilling' – [The Independent](#)

'Walsh's libretto is unnerving and funny ... Dennehy's score is red-hot ... Crash Ensemble are ... electrifying' – [The Scotsman](#)

'feral force, spineshuddering bass beats, black humour and stonking energy ... stunningly delivered' – The Times

★★★★★ 'Put Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh in the same space and watch the sparks fly ... a remarkable achievement' – [EdinburghGuide.com](#)

'A major piece ... Dennehy's music is powerful stuff, and superbly played by his own Crash Ensemble under André de Ridder ... the band are worth the ticket price on their own.' – [The Herald](#)

'Donnacha Dennehy's and Enda Walsh's dark, intoxicating new chamber opera ... a riot of post minimalism and hooley ... invites you to think with head and heart' The Observer

About Sky Arts Amplify

Amplify furthers Sky's position as an established supporter of the arts in the UK and Ireland, it reiterates Sky's ongoing commitment to investing in original content. Amplify seeks to offer ways for arts organisations to reach new, wider audiences, and to create high quality arts programming for Sky customers. Sky Arts Amplify is the evolution of Sky Arts Ignition; a scheme launched in 2011 which saw partnerships with the V & A Museum and Tate Liverpool to stage groundbreaking new work. It underlines Sky's position as the home of the UK's and Ireland's only dedicated arts channels, as well as one of the biggest corporate supporters of the arts, following the success of long-standing partnerships with the Hay Festival and the English National Ballet.

The producers gratefully acknowledge the support of The Arts Council and Culture Ireland.

Creative team: Composer: Donnacha Dennehy, Writer and Director: Enda Walsh, Conductor: Alan Pierson, Designer: Jamie Vartan, Lighting Designer: Adam Silverman, Sound Designer: David Sheppard, Sound Designer: Helen Atkinson, Associate Director: Sophie Motley.

www.thelasthotel.ie

The Last Hotel is produced by Landmark Productions and Wide Open Opera. Landmark Productions is one of Ireland's leading theatre producers, whose recent productions include the musical *Once*, with a Tony Award-winning book by Enda Walsh, which recently finished a summer run at the Olympia Theatre; and three further Walsh plays: *The Walworth Farce* starring Brendan Gleeson, Brian Gleeson and Domhnall Gleeson, *Ballyturk* and *Misterman* (both co-produced with Galway International Arts Festival), in addition to Mark O'Rowe's *Howie the Rookie*, starring Tom Vaughan-Lawlor and Colm Tóibín's *Testament*, co-produced with Dublin Theatre Festival. www.landmarkproductions.ie

Wide Open Opera is one of Ireland's newest and most dynamic opera producers, which burst on the scene with a hugely acclaimed production of *Tristan und Isolde* in 2012. Subsequent productions include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gerald Barry), *Nixon in China* (John Adams) and *The Oldest Woman in Limerick* (Brian Irvine), the latter as part of Limerick City of Culture 2014. www.wideopenopera.ie/



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