**Walking with Ghosts**

**by Gabriel Byrne**

**Audio Described Introduction for On-Demand Broadcast Performances, The Gaiety Theatre, 26 February - 4 March 2022**

Welcome to the introductory notes for ***Walking with Ghosts*** by Gabriel Byrne, produced by Landmark Productions and Lovano. The production is directed by Lonny Price, with set and lighting design by Sinéad McKenna, costume design by Joan O’Clery and sound design and music composition by Sinéad Diskin.

The total duration of the play is 2 hours and 15 minutes including a 5-minute interval.

**About the Play**

***Walking with Ghosts*** is a homecoming for Gabriel Byrne. Adapted from his best-selling novel of the same name, the play reflects on a young boy growing up on the outskirts of Dublin, seeking refuge in a world of imagination among the fields and hills near his home, at the edge of a rapidly encroaching city.

Moving between sensual recollection of childhood in a now almost vanished Ireland and a commentary on stardom in Hollywood and on Broadway, Gabriel Byrne returns to his home town to reflect on a life’s journey.

By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, ***Walking with Ghosts*** is a lyrical homage to the people and landscapes that ultimately shape our destinies.

**About the Set and Lighting**

The set has three frames, echoing the proscenium arch of a theatre. Each successive frame decreases in scale in descending order. The frames are painted a metallic gold, but look as though they have been distressed over time.

The backdrop resembles a cracked, black mirror. At the end of the first act, and during the Theatre Royal scene in the second act, the mirror lifts to reveal a row of footlights. During the Bicentennial scene, a row of festoon lights descends in front of the mirror.

The furniture is sparse, consisting of a bar stool on the left of the stage from the audience’s point of view; a wooden bench centre stage; and a wooden desk chair with a small wooden desk on the right. All the pieces of furniture are a deep mahogany colour. Both the bar stool and wooden desk chair have red velvet upholstery.

The floor is a reflective black surface.

For the second act, there are three small steps, descending from centre stage, to allow the actor to sit on the lip of the stage.

**About the Cast and Costume**

**Gabriel Byrne** is the only actor on stage throughout the production. He is clean shaven, and has a full head of salt-and-pepper hair. He is wearing dark grey trousers and black soft-leather shoes. He is wearing a speckled, dark blue woollen coat, and he has a black waist coat underneath. He is wearing an open-necked shirt with a small white, yellow and navy pattern.

This concludes the introductory notes for this production ***Walking with Ghosts*** by Gabriel Byrne.

We hope you enjoy the show.