

6th December 2011

Barnstorm Theatre Company's A Murder of Crows goes on national tour in February, 2012. This is a large-scale children's production which has been awarded an Arts Council Touring Grant. Barnstorm is known throughout the country for the high quality of their productions for children. This year marks their 20th year celebrations.

A Murder of Crows is a gothic tale of two children's journey from abandonment and fear to ultimate survival, seen from the quirky perspective of a chorus of raucous and garrulous crows. Based on the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel, this dynamic and exciting piece of theatre will delight and grab the imagination of all theatre-goers, both young and old.

The company's Artistic Director Philip Hardy is at the helm directing and is joined by a wonderful creative team. The production's music composer Pól Brennan is a founder member of Clannad. Pól wrote the BAFTA-nominated *Theme from Harry's Game* and the musical score for the film *Kings*.

Playwright Mike Kenny will be familiar to Barnstorm's regular audiences as author of *Jack and Big Sister*, *Little Brother*. His adaptation of E. Nesbit's *The Railway Children* at Waterloo Station theatre won the *Best Entertainment Olivier* theatre award this year.

Set designer Carol Betera's beautiful set for *A Murder of Crows* illuminates the imaginative world of this play, with a parched earth palette and splashes of intense colour. In the play the six actors morph between crow and human form, and costume designers Harmless Creatures bring flair to the proceedings with their ingenious fusion of industrial and fashion design.

While the play is based on the classic tale which is usually associated with younger children, Barnstorm's exciting development of the story, in both style and content, addresses themes more suited to the older child (aged 8 and up). This is a landmark production for Barnstorm, Ireland's greatest purveyor of quality theatre for children.

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Press shots for *A Murder of Crows* are available at <http://www.barnstorm.ie/a-murder-of-crows-press-shots>

About Barnstorm: Barnstorm Theatre Company is Ireland's leading producer of professional theatre for children and young people. Since 1991, through a proven commitment to touring, Barnstorm offers the widest possible access to professional theatre to children from all communities throughout Ireland.

Based in Kilkenny, Barnstorm is a non-profit organisation. It is principally funded by a grant from the Arts Council with additional support from Kilkenny County Council.