**FIRE BELOW - A War of Words**

**Lyric Theatre Belfast**

**Programme Notes**

The audio described performance is brought to you by NI Sightlines, in conjunction with the Lyric Theatre. The performance will take place on Thursday 26th October at 7.45 pm. If you would like to hear these notes read out before the performance please take you seats ten minutes before the show commences. Th audio describers are Sara Duncan and Marie Abbott.

The play is set in Belfast on a hot summer’s evening, the 11th July, twenty years on from the Belfast Peace Agreement. It is written by Owen Mc Cafferty. It is a co-production with the Abbey Theatre. The play lasts one hour and 15 minutes and there is no interval.

**SET**

The story takes place in Belfast, and the set is a garden deck.

Two rows of three huge glass panels fill the rear wall of the stage.

Through the panels, a silhouette of trees, green leaves and a twilight blue sky appear behind the top windows.

Hanging baskets and lanterns with candles are hung at intervals along the windows.

Nine round brightly coloured paper lanterns are suspended in a row in front of the windows.

Wooden decking takes up the centre of the stage.

At the back left, on the decking, there is a barbecue with a faded red lid, in front of which is small glass top folding table.

Left at the front of the deck sits a circular brazier with coals.

To the right, on the decking, is a circular wrought iron table, over which is a large grey open parasol. Round the table four grey metal chairs with mesh seats, are arranged. A ladies wrap hangs over the back of the chair on the left.

The round table is crowded with a large birthday cake, plates, four wine glasses, two bottles of white wine, to which two bottles of red are added, a small radio, a bowl of nuts, a glass container of bread sticks, and a bowl of small change.

Black curtains are to each side of the stage.

**THE CAST**

There are four characters, two couples who are old neighbours. They are all aged around early to mid fifties.

**Cara Kelly** plays the role of **Rosemary**, wife of Gerry. Slim and of medium height and build, she wears an elegant plain short-sleeved brick red blouse, over slim brown cotton trousers cut off at the ankle, with red strappy summer sandals. Her straight silky brown hair is styled with a centre parting and sits at jaw length. A pair of dangling earrings completes her outfit.

**Gerry** is played by **Frankie McCafferty.** Gerry is thin and of medium height, with short greying hair and a small white goatee beard. He wears a pale blue and white short sleeve shirt over knee length cotton shorts, with bare legs and sandals. He wears sunglasses and a cream straw hat with a small brim.

**Tom** is played by **Ruairi Conaghan.** Tom is the husband of Maggie. He is tall and muscular, with short neat wavy blond hair and a small goatee beard. He wears sunglasses. Tom wears a navy polo shirt and dark pink knee length shorts, and navy soft casual leather boating shoes.

**Ali White** plays the role of **Maggie.** She is slim with thick shoulder-length wavy auburn hair, and a slight sun tan. Her sunglasses are pushed up on to her head. She wears slim fitting denim jeans with a cuff turned -up above her ankles, with a navy and white patterned V-neck sleeveless top. Maggie wears a glittery bracelet on one arm, and gold pendant earrings.

The play was directed by **Jimmy Fay**

Set was designed by **Paula McCafferty**

Costume design was **by Una Hickey**

Lighting designer was **Sinead McKenna**

Music director was **Conor Mitchell**

Assistant Director was **Emily Foran**