**The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Belfast January 2016 Programme Notes**

This show will be audio-described at the performance on Saturday 22 January at 5.00pm. The audio describers will be Marie Abbott and Ann Maynes. These Programme Notes will be read ten minutes before the start of the show.

**Set and Characters**

*Dirty Dancin’ in le Shebeen* is a one-woman show written by Leesa Harker and performed by Caroline Curran. Caroline sings and dances in the show. Please note this production contains themes of an adult nature, including sexually explicit language.

**The Set**

Black curtains form the side and rear of the stage. In the centre of the stage stands a single, huge high-heeled shoe, with a leopard-skin pattern around the thick rim of the sole. The insole is covered with a pink velvety fabric, that fills the curved inside of the insole. The shoe is supported by a tall stiletto-style wooden heel. This shoe rises to over 18 feet in height and spreads across a width of 10 feet. The shoe is angled slightly sideways towards the audience. This allows us to see the complete insole and the heel and part of the curved underside. The space between the heel and shoe is used by the character Maggie as a passageway, a street or an entrance to a house. The pink insole of the shoe serves as Maggie’s flat, where she can sit or lounge against its curved contours as if on a sofa or bed. It also serves later as part of the Shebeen. The rest of the action takes place on the stage around and in front of, the shoe.

Hanging suspended high above the shoe, to the left, is a large heart-shaped panel, covered in the same leopard-skin fabric ,edged with pink trim.

**The Lighting**

The lighting during the show moves between a range of pinks, blues, reds and purple.A mirror-ball is lowered for the Disco scene, and rotates reflecting lights around the theatre space. In the disco scene a backdrop of tiny twinkling white lights appears across the black screen at the rear of the stage.

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**Characters**

**Caroline Curran** plays the main character of **Maggie Muff**, a Belfast woman in her late twenties. She is about 5ft 5 tall, well-built and energetic, and wears her long blonde hair up in a high pony-tail which swings from side to side as she moves around. Maggie wears a hip-length black sleeveless t-shirt under a sleeveless cropped top. The top is a vivid pink with the word FAME emblazoned across the front. Maggie also wears black animal-print leggings, and over the leggings she wears a pair of close-fitting sparkly gold shorts. Pink and white sports shoes complete her outfit. Throughout the show she dances enthusiastically and sings along when the soundtrack or story requires.

Caroline also plays all the other characters, stepping aside and changing her voice

or movements and gestures to signify these other characters. Her main companion is her friend, **Big Sally-Ann**. Together they are planning a birthday party at the Shebeen, where Big Sally-Ann’s dream is to dance the last dance from the film ‘Dirty Dancing’ but she can’t find her rhythm.

The other characters include Maggie’s friend Sinead and Sinead’s brother Anthony; Jake; Billy; Billy’s brother; Will; Sally-Ann’s mother; the Mayor; and Maggie’s own mother. When playing these other characters Maggie looks at and speaks to an imaginary person, then steps aside and answers in the role of this imaginary character. This stepping between roles continues for the duration of the dialogue between the characters.

**Credits**

The show was written by **Leesa Harker;** the Director was **Andrea Montgomery;** Set and Costume design was by **David Craig;** Lighting Designer was **Paul Hinchcliffe;** the show was produced by **Red Brick Road Productions Ltd.**