



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Dan Brick

dan@solasnua.org

Tel: 202-595-1915

**Solas Nua presents *Portia Coughlan* by Marina Carr,
March 13th – April 6th at the H Street Playhouse.**

“It has to be seen.” *The Irish Independent*

The Play

Portia Coughlan was first produced by the Abbey Theatre before transferring to the Royal Court and was the 1997 recipient of the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Set in the Irish midlands it follows Portia Coughlan on her 30th birthday as she tries to balance familial obligations with the grief of losing her twin brother 15 years beforehand. With clear Shakespearean overtones and references to Greek tragedy, Carr’s writing draws on Irish mythology to weave a surreal and heartbreaking tale of modern isolation.

The Playwright

Marina Carr was raised in Gortnamona, Co. Offaly, which continues to inspire the location for most of her plays. She received a B.A. in English and Philosophy from UCD in 1987 and at one point began a PhD on Beckett at TCD. She was appointed as writer-in-residence at the Abbey Theatre in 1995-6, was named Trinity College Dublin writer-in-residence in 1999 and is a member of Aosdana. Previous plays include *Low in the Dark*, *The Deer’s Surrender*, *Ullaloo*, *This Love Thing*, *The Mai*, which was the winner of Dublin Theatre Festival Best New Play Award, 1994, *On Rafferty’s Hill*, *By The Bog of Cats*, *Ariel* and most recently, *Woman and Scarecrow* starring Fiona Shaw.

The Director & Cast

Director, **Jessica Burgess**, last worked for Solas Nua on *The Drunkard* by Tom Murphy. The cast includes **Charlotte Akin, Declan Cashman, Bryan Cassidy***, **Jonathan Church, Rusty Clauss****, **Camille Loomis, Frank Mancino, Stephanie Roswell***, **Adam Segaller, Grady Weatherford** and Artistic Director, **Linda Murray***, in the title role of Portia Coughlan. (*denotes company member, **denotes member Actors Equity).

Solas Nua

Solas Nua (New Light) is the only organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to contemporary Irish arts. Solas is a non-profit arts organization that seeks out both feted and obscure work by contemporary artists in Ireland to promote awareness of modern Irish culture in Washington D.C. Now in its third year, Solas Nua’s critically acclaimed theatre productions include *Disco Pigs*, *Misterman*, *Howie The Rookie* and *Scenes From The Big Picture*. In addition the company holds annual film festivals and Irish Book Days (where Solas distributes over 5,000 Irish novels for free on the streets of DC).

**PORTIA COUGHLAN at the H Street Playhouse, 1365 H Street N.W.
March 13th through April 6th, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm.**

Tickets are \$20.00 general admission and can be purchased at www.solasnua.org or 1.800.494.TIXS.

Press Night is Thursday, March 13th at 8pm.
R.S.V.P. to Dan Brick at dan@solasnua.org or at 202-595-1915