

TRAMORE PROMENADE FESTIVAL: She Mentions the War!



Petra Kindler.

“SERIOUSLY Now!” A confessional comedy performance by Petra Kindler – chosen for the Edinburgh 2014 Fringe Festival. Angela’s Ashes meets Angela Merkel – or the challenging concept of laughing with a German.

Let’s kill two elephants with one stone, shall we? Yes, Petra is German. And yes, she is going to mention The War. But beware: her approach might upset some people’s preconceptions!

“Seriously Now!” started as a talk literary translator and writer Petra Kindler was asked to give during last year’s Waterford Writers’ Week. This talk “morphed” into a confessional comedy performance on the joys and perils of crosscultural creative work, on surviving homemade hurricanes and on the challenging concept of “having fun with a Hun”. It received a standing ovation and so many requests for a repeat that Waterford’s Garter Lane Arts Centre suggested the production of an extended stage version for their theatre. This was realised with the assistance of Waterford playwright and director Jim Nolan – again to a standing ovation in a packed theatre.

It then dawned on Petra that she might be on to something special. She submitted her show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and promptly secured one of the coveted free venues for the entire run of the Festival from 31st July-24th August 2014!

In her show Petra also touches on lighter issues such as the Inquisition, polka dots, stylish lesbian graphic designers, the difference between dental braces and therapy, a coerced visit to Ireland leading to romance, emigration and receiving robust nocturnal career advice from disembodied voices.

You will hear about her unlikely journey from being a compulsive reader in a family that valued books only as handy missiles to becoming a literary translator of eminent authors such as Booker Prize laureate Anne Enright and Costa Book Award winner Sebastian Barry.

She muses on a 25-year detour through the evil universe of advertising (Mad Men and Women) interspersed with fits of feral

writing, resulting in stage plays and stand-up material for German comedians (ja, plural!).

On more than one occasion Petra will share her innermost vexation with smug monoglots who keep parroting the yawning cliché that Germans are devoid of humour, conveniently ignoring the fact that humour tends to occur in the shape of language. There and then she will reveal unto you the awesome truth that is forever lost on the culturally complacent: humour exists in languages other than our own - and so does literature!

Ahead of her Edinburgh stint, Waterford people have one more chance to see Petra's show for FREE during the Promenade Festival in Tramore, Mother of Pearl (opposite bus terminus) on Saturday, 5th July at 7.30 p.m. sharp! Seats are limited, so the advice is: arrive early to avoid disappointment!