

Presented by Dublin Dance Festival  
and the Abbey Theatre



# SCORCHED EARTH LUKE MURPHY – ATTIC PROJECTS

World Premiere

Abbey Theatre  
Fri 23 & Sat 24 May, 7:30pm

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

A murder, an interrogation and a world shrouded in fantasy and fear, *Scorched Earth* is part crime-drama, part psychological thriller that pierces into a dark but fundamental element of the Irish psyche. What right do we have to the land beneath our feet? What are we willing to do to keep it? Or to take it?

Inspired by John B Keane's *The Field*, *Scorched Earth* transports the audience into a stark interrogation room as a detective and suspect unearth the ghosts of a long-unsolved murder. Blurring the lines of dance and theatre, Murphy weaves a tapestry of compelling storytelling, striking visuals and visceral movement. The cast of five international performers plunge us into a world of memory, ambition and resentment, culminating in a final chapter that leaves no doubt as to the cost of success.

From DDF Artist in Residence and the creators of the multi-award-winning *Volcano*, *Scorched Earth* is a bold reckoning with the haunting forces that shape our past and define our future.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

**Luke Murphy** is an Irish choreographer, director, and performer. As the founder of Attic Projects, he has created and produced over twelve dance-theatre works spanning stage, film, installation, and immersive/site-specific contexts. His work has been presented across Ireland, the US, the UK, and Germany.

As a performer, Luke was a key collaborator with Punchdrunk from 2009 to 2022, originating roles in *Sleep No More* (New York) and *The Burnt City* (London). He also performed with Wim Vandekeybus/Ultima Vez from 2014 to 2018 and contributed to projects with esteemed artists including Pavel Zustiak/Palissimo, Martha Clarke, Kate Weare Company, Janis Brenner, Sean Curran, John Kelly, Alexandra Waierstall, Jonah Bokaer, Liz Roche, and Ben Duke, among others.

Luke is currently Associate Artist at Dublin Dance Festival and Dance Artist in Residence at Dance Cork Firkin Crane.

**Attic Projects** was founded by choreographer and performer Luke Murphy in 2015 to serve as an incubator, facilitator and producer of his work. Working across the platforms of dance, theatre, film and installation, Attic Projects creates work rooted in a visceral, physical language that finds the universal within the deeply personal.

Productions include *Your Own Man/Mad Notions* (2015) winner of The Little Gem Award at the Dublin Fringe Festival; *On Triumph and Trauma* (2016); *The Dust we Raised* (2017); *The Milky Boy Kid* (2018); and *Villains* (2019), winner Best Ensemble Dublin Fringe Festival. The company's most recent production, *Volcano*, premiered at Galway International Arts Festival 2021 to critical and audience acclaim and went on to win 4 Irish Times Theatre Awards including for Best Production; *Volcano* has since toured nationally and internationally, including to Dublin Theatre Festival; St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn for Under the Radar Festival; and Brisbane Powerhouse for Brisbane Arts Festival.



## CREDITS

### **Cast**

Luke Murphy, Ryan O'Neill, Sarah Dowling, Tyler  
Carney-Faleatua, Will Thompson  
Eavan Gaffney  
Luke Murphy

### **Voiceover Artist**

### **Direction, Writing and Choreography**

### **Rehearsal Direction**

### **Set and Costume Design**

### **Lighting Design**

### **Composition and Sound Design**

### **Audio Visual Design**

### **Costume Design Assistant and**

### **Grass Suit Maker**

### **Set Build**

### **Production Management**

### **Chief LX**

### **Audio Engineer**

### **Stage Management**

### **Prop Coordination**

### **AV Technician**

### **Make-Up**

### **Digital Marketing Associates**

### **PR**

### **Photography**

### **Produced by**

### **Associate Producer**

Stephen Moynihan  
Alyson Cummins  
Stephen Dodd  
Rob Moloney  
Patricio Cassinoni  
Valentina Gambardella

Adam Fitzsimons, Triangle Productions Ltd  
Simon Bird  
Alan Mooney  
Aidah Sama  
Chris Hopcraft, Iain Synnott  
Laura Murphy  
Laura Rainsford  
Maeve O'Sullivan  
Emer Casey, Ineke Lavers  
Conleth Teevan  
Marcin Lewandowski  
Gwen Van Spyk  
Miles Harrigan

### **Soundtrack Recording:**

### **Viola**

### **Violin / Viola**

### **Viola**

### **Cello**

### **Double Bass**

### **Piano**

### **Accordion / Guitar / Percussion /**

### **Electronics**

### **Recording Engineer**

### **Mix Engineer**

### **Mastering**

Ultan O' Brien  
Joanna Mattrey  
Lisa Dowdall  
Caitríona Finnegan  
Malachy Robinson  
Brian Dillon  
Rob Moloney

Elise Mollé  
Elise Mollé  
Jamie Hyland

Recorded at Hellfire

## CREDITS [CONT]

*Scorched Earth* is a Co-Production with Dublin Dance Festival and Galway International Arts Festival. Supported by a 2025 Arts Council of Ireland Arts Grant Award.

Created with additional support from Dance Cork Firkin Crane; Shawbrook Residential; Cork City Council; Town Hall Theatre/Black Box Theatre, Galway; and Bathway Theatre at University of Greenwich.

The development of *Scorched Earth* includes creative contributions from Sarah Dowling, Ryan O'Neill, Will Thompson, Tyler Carney-Faleatua, Gina Moxley, Ray Scannell, Orla McCarthy, Sharol MacKenzie, Conor Thomas Doherty, Ursula Robb, Kath Duggan, Diarmuid Armstrong Mayock, Theo Arran, Knut Vikström Precht, Rosie Stebbing, Ed Mitchell and Seirian Griffiths.

Total running time is 90 minutes (no interval).

## THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Luke Murphy / Attic Projects:** We extend special thanks to Jazmin Chiodi, Carina McGrail and all the team at DDF; Laurie Uprichard and all the team at Dance Cork Firkin Crane; Anica Louw and Philip Dawson at Shawbrook Residential; Paul Fahy; Fergal McGrath; Michelle Carew; Joanna Keane; Ian Brown and The Everyman, Cork; Niall Cleary at Graffiti Theatre Company; Bob Miller, David McCarra and the team who run Kilcrohane Village Hall; Third Source Media; Arran MacGabhann; Cois Ceim Dance Theatre; Emily Terndrup; Clara and John Murphy and John Richard Murphy; Peter Chamberlin; Marie Baker; Hannah Murphy, Patrick Murphy and Maeve Saunders; and Frank O'Mahony.

**Dublin Dance Festival** would like to thank The Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council, Culture Ireland and the Abbey Theatre for their support in bringing *Scorched Earth* to Dublin as part of our 21st Edition. We would also like to thank our funders, sponsors, partners, DDF Friends and Volunteers who are listed on our [website](#).

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