MY SPACE

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN ARTS & SCIENCE TO CREATE A SUITE OF INFORMAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Niamh Shaw, Clair McSweeney, Niall Smith CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory Cork

Stephanie O'Neill, ESERO Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland
Cathy Foley, Discover Programme, Science Foundation Ireland

Joanna Crawley, Ronan Phelan, Dan Colley, Clare Henderson, ToSpace Creative team

Lorraine Conroy, ATG Europe B.V, Communication Support Officer ESA UK & Ireland

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arts council an chomhairle ealaíon funding theatre artscouncil.ie

BLACKROCK CASTLE OBSERVATORY THE SPACE FOR SCIENCE

Ireland esero EUROPEAN SPACE EDUCATION RESOURCE OFFICE A collaboration between ESA & national partners

SFI Discover Science Foundation Ireland

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BACKGROUND

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HOW IT BEGAN

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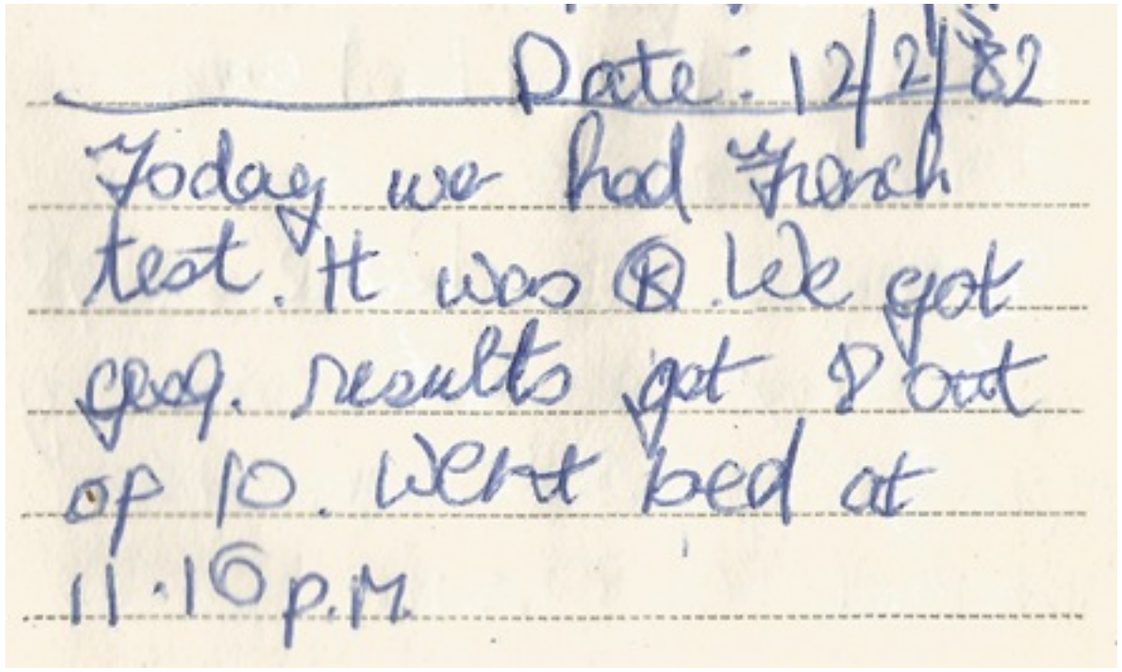

Date: 12/2/82

Today we had French test. It was ⊗. We got geog. results got 8 out of 10. Went bed at 11.16 p.m.

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HOW IT BEGAN

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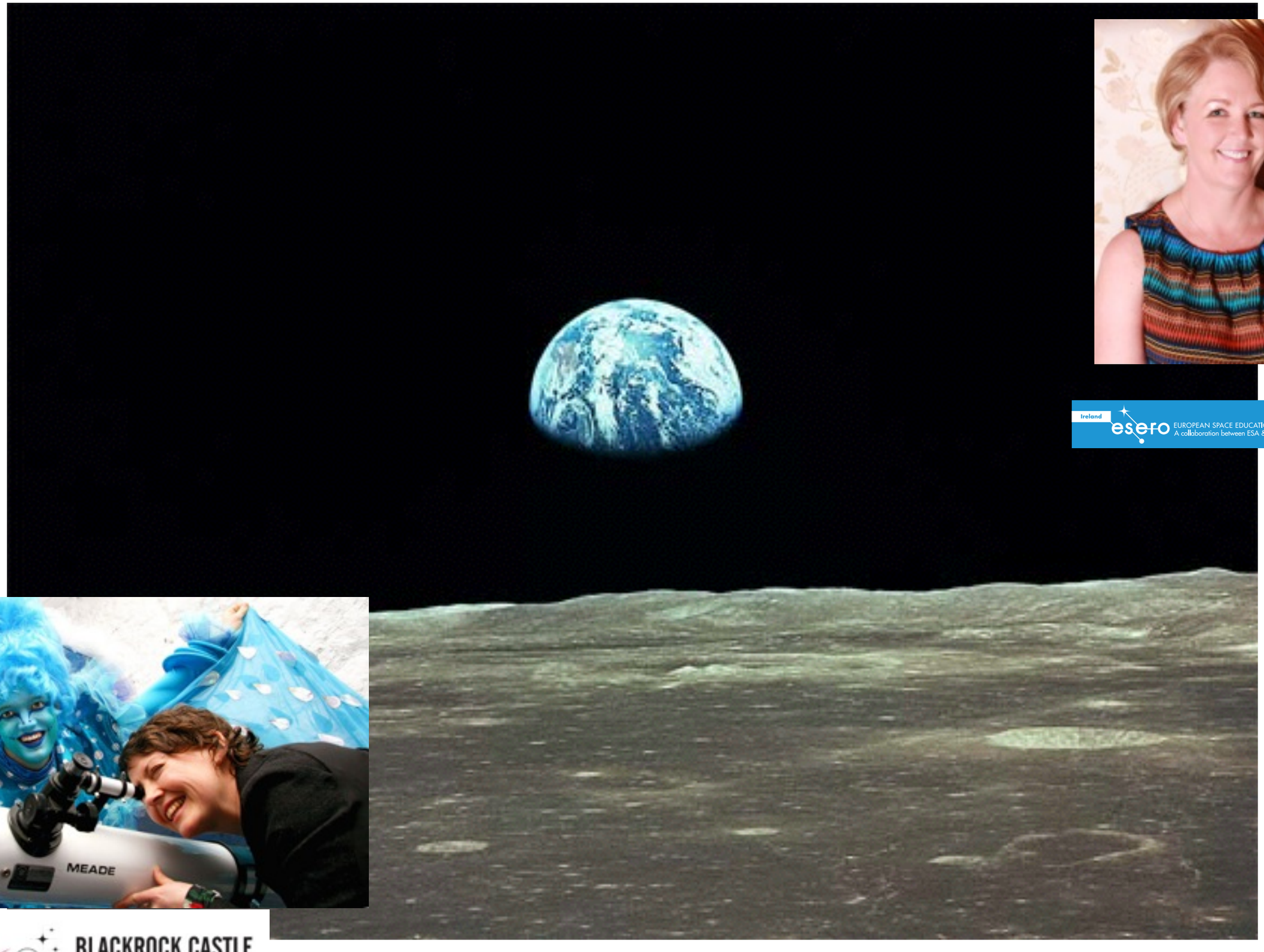

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- To stimulate interest and debate about the importance of Space Exploration.
- To discover new and engaging platforms for science in the Arts & in STEM Education.
- To increase awareness of careers in the Geoscience and Space industries.
- To ignite people's natural curiosity in STEM

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- 'My Place in Space'- A family workshop for all ages to ignite curiosity about the Universe & our place in it.
- Careers in Space- suite of videos aimed at school leavers, interviewing Irish scientists working in the Space/Geosciences industry & to promote role models.

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RESEARCH PHASE

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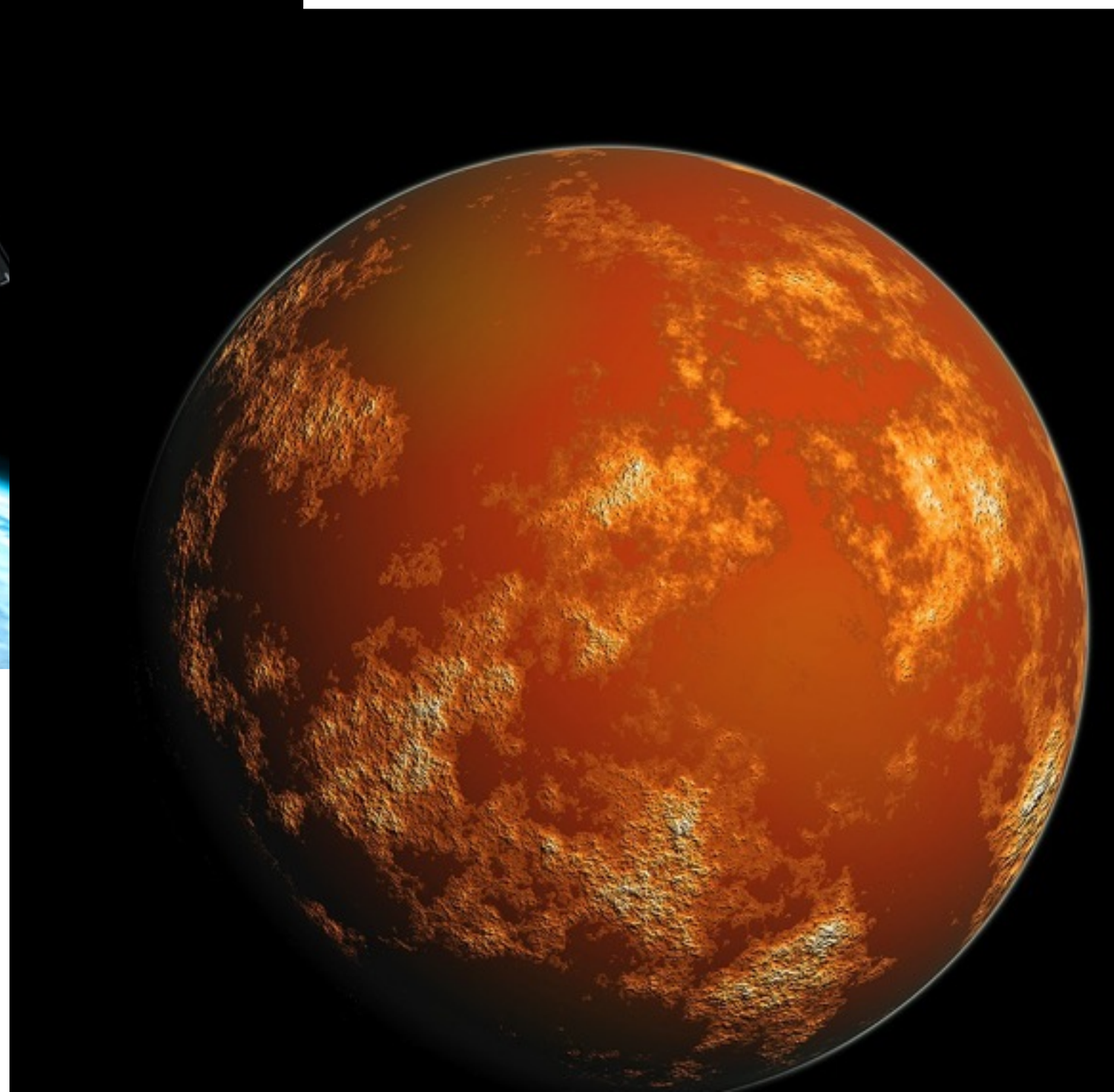

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MY PLACE IN SPACE

FROM ATOMS TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE
WITH DR. NIAMH SHAW

THE FESTIVAL OF CURIOSITY

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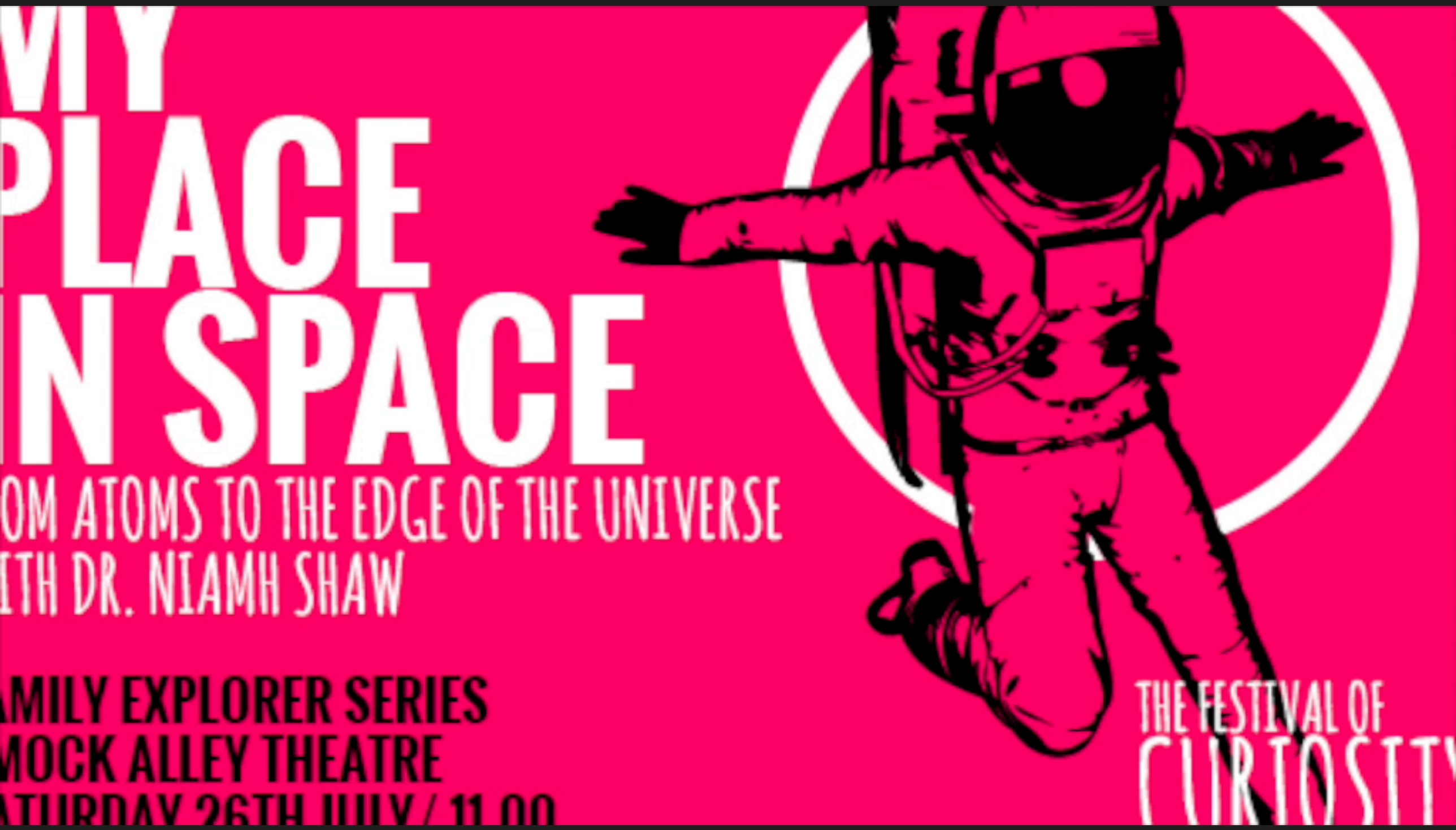
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AMILY EXPLORER SERIES
MOCK ALLEY THEATRE
ATURDAY 26TH JULY / 11.00
THE FESTIVAL OF
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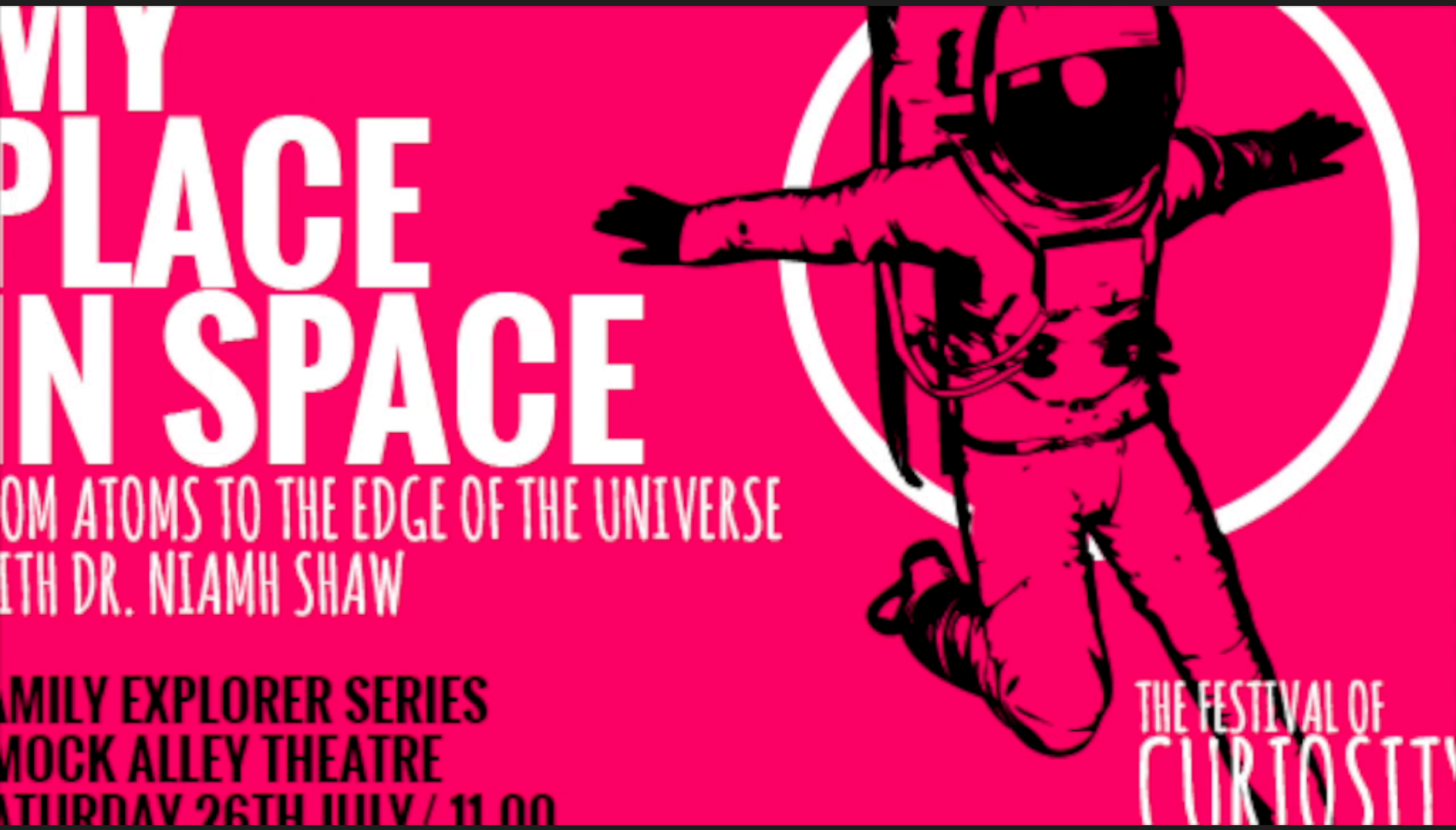
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‘TO SPACE’- CREATIVE TEAM

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‘TO SPACE’- CREATIVE TEAM

Niamh Shaw-
Creator, Writer, Performer

Clare Henderson-Visual Artist

Ronan Phelan- Director

Dan Colley- Dramaturg

Joanna Crawley Derkaczew- Producer

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8TH – 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

SCIENCE GALLERY DUBLIN

TO SPACE

by NIAMH SHAW

MADE IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CIT BLACKROCK CASTLE OBSERVATORY
AND **ESERO IRELAND**

DIRECTOR *Ronan Phelan*

VISUAL ARTIST *Clare Henderson*

PRODUCER *Joanna Crawley*

A/V ARCHITECT *Conor Lonergan*

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon
SCIENCE GALLERY
Tiger DUBLIN FRINGE
Ireland esero
sfi Science Foundation Ireland
BLACKROCK CASTLE OBSERVATORY THE SPACE FOR SCIENCE
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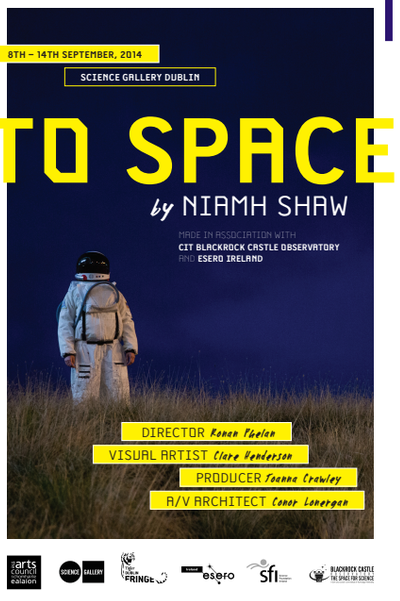
TO SPACE
TIGER DUBLIN FRINGE 2014 REVIEWS



Funny, honest, moving & uplifting.

Edel Coffey, The Sunday Times

To Space has much to recommend it, not least the stargazers perspective on the world, a gently humour, and more illuminating facts, figures and insights that you could shake a Hubble Space Telescope at. Shaw's blend of performance, presentation and nostalgia is engaging.

Emma Somers, The Irish Times

To Space is a mixture of stand-up, pop science talk and personal memoir and a reminder to ask ourselves the two most important questions: 'Who am I?" and "Why am I here?"

Edel Coffey, The Sunday Times

Its greater gravitational pull is to have us consider the pursuit of our own dreams, which are often faced with a cosmic scale of improbabilities, and the brutal thought of their un-fulfilment. However, in the eye of Shaw's stargazer there's a twinkle suggesting that anything's possible.

Chris McCormack, Musings in Intermission

opposite direction. The trio, led by choreographer Jessica Kennedy, are dressed like 1950s American teenagers with summer jobs at the local country club. Were there words, you'd expect a request to "go steady". Instead, there is a handsome score by Denis Clohessy coming through the car stereo. Yet for all the trappings of setup and setting, the performance is underwhelming. Some haunting interplay gets lost in the repetition of less emotive movements. Even when a marching band parades across, this stage feels a little empty. ★★

To Space ★★★★

A doctor in a theatre is not unusual in and of itself but when the doctor is not a medical one and the theatre is not an operating one things get a little more interesting. Dr Niamh Shaw's one-woman show To Space charts how she reconnected in her forties with her childhood dream to become an astronaut. The performance is just 60 minutes long and you're engaged for the duration. There is something almost Beckettian about Shaw's scenes depicting her despair at the loss of her dream to get to space, and she has a light touch when mixing scientific detail with devastating personal

stories. Her restrained use of multimedia is moving in its simplicity — a picture of her father sitting in the back garden provides the backdrop to a story about her marriage break-up and her efforts to find herself. To Space is a mixture of stand-up, pop-science talk and personal memoir and a reminder to ask ourselves the two most important questions: "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" Funny, honest, moving and uplifting. ★★

The Centre of the Universe ★★★

Writer-performer John Doran appears with no fanfare. He points out the fire exits and reminds us to turn off all noise-making devices. There is a meandering gag about exiting through the wrong door, before the actor explains this is a show about a good kind of cult. It's a fairly aimless preamble but once the drama gets under way, there's little deviation. Doran is dynamic. Mostly, he's playing a down-and-out version of himself: unemployed, living with a stranger and alienated from his friends. He takes us through a comically depressing Friday in which he botches a job interview and gets drunk with people he finds insufferable. Except this is only wh would have happened — were it not that

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TO SPACE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

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TO SPACE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

DECIDE IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS WHAT REALLY EXCITES AND CHALLENGES YOU...

...AND START MOVING YOUR LIFE IN THAT DIRECTION.

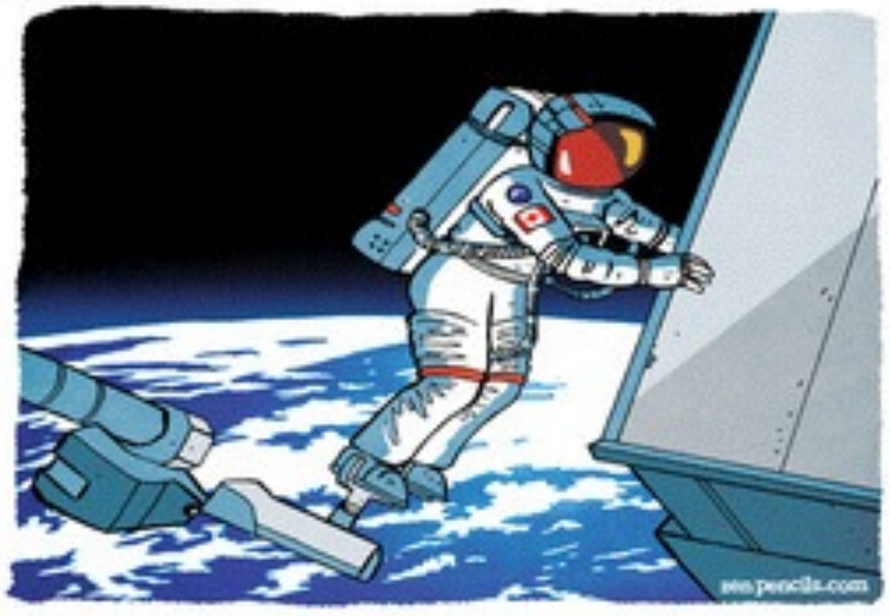
EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE, FROM WHAT YOU EAT TO WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR TIME TONIGHT...

...TURNS YOU INTO WHO YOU ARE TOMORROW, AND THE DAY AFTER THAT.

LOOK AT WHO YOU WANT TO BE, AND START SCULPTING YOURSELF INTO THAT PERSON.

YOU MAY NOT GET EXACTLY WHERE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BE...

...BUT YOU WILL BE DOING THINGS THAT SUIT YOU IN A PROFESSION YOU BELIEVE IN.



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IMPACT & REACH

‘ToSpace’ Theatre event

- Tiger Dublin Fringe
  Science Gallery, Dublin

- Festival of Curiosity
  Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin
  CIT Blackrock Castle, Cork

- NEST Festival
  Triskel Arts Centre, Cork

- An Táin Theatre, Dundalk

Total reach = 680+

‘ToSpace’ for school leavers

- World Space Week 2014
  Dunsink Observatory, Dublin,
  CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory
  Armagh Planetarium

- Science Week 2014
  Dunsink Observatory, Dublin,
  CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory
  Armagh Planetarium

- An Táin Theatre, Dundalk

Total reach= 570+

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IMPACT & REACH

My Place in Space

- Festival of Curiosity
  Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin
- Science Week 2014
  Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin
- Mallow Science Fair, Cork
- VISUAL Gallery, Carlow

Total reach = 520+

Other related content

- Career Video Series
  CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory
  School visits
  ESTEC- in-house
  ESERO Ireland online content
- Cosmic Careers Day- Nov 12th
  As part of Rosetta mission-Philae landing nationwide events
- 'Space Tourist' event
  NASA Astronaut Greg Johnson & psychologist, Prof. Ian Robertson
  Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin
  Family event

Total reach= 2500+

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- Tell science within story and place the human at the centre of the narrative
- Artists collaborating in this cross-disciplinary form requires further nurturing and support.
- The Space industry and research centres are keen to participate in novel initiatives to promote careers in STEM.

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GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT!

Photos Credit: Naoise Culhane

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Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT!

THE FESTIVAL OF CURIOSITY

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM

SCIENCE GALLERY

Photos Credit: Naoise Culhane