**The Approach
by Mark O’Rowe**

**Audio Described Introduction for
Live Broadcast Performance

Project Arts Centre, Dublin
21, 23 and 24 January 2021**

Welcome to the introductory notes for ***The Approach*** by Mark O’Rowe, produced by Landmark Productions in association with Project Arts Centre and St. Ann’s Warehouse. The production is directed by the author, Mark O’Rowe, with set and lighting design by Sinéad McKenna. Costume design is by Joan O’Clery and sound design is by Philip Stewart.

The performance runs for 60 minutes with no interval.

**ABOUT THE PLAY**

*The Approach* is set in Dublin and concerns three women, once close friends who now see each other far less frequently. Two of them are sisters, Anna and Denise, who are estranged from one another following a betrayal in their past. Their mutual friend Cora is one of the few remaining links between them. Across three conversations, the women share stories and thoughts with one another, and the tragic undercurrents of the lives they’ve lived begin to grow clearer.

The play had its world premiere at Project Arts Centre in Dublin in February 2018.

*The Approach* is structured around a series of dialogues, each including two of the three characters; first Anna and Cora, then Cora and Denise, then Denise and Anna, and finally Anna and Cora again. Each scene features two of the women sitting and conversing on opposite sides of a table. At the end of each scene they stand to say goodbye to one another, the lights dim and ambient music plays while one exits, before another enters and they sit again.

**ABOUT THE SET**

The set is sparse. The characters sit at a large, round, dark-coloured wooden table, on two identical bentwood chairs. The furniture sits on a low, oval platform, made of wooden floorboards. The grey-ish colour of the platform and the high shine of the black floor underneath combine with the lighting to make the platform look as though it is floating. There are two matching grey cups and saucers on the table, but no other props on the stage. Behind and above where the characters sit there is an arc of chairs, much like the ones the characters sit on, suspended at strange angles, seemingly floating in the dark void.

Throughout each scene the furniture and platform are well-lit, ensuring the focus is on the two characters, while everything else remains in shadow. The lighting within each scene is naturalistic. As the main lights dim for each scene transition, the floating chairs are illuminated briefly, with the light shining along their outlines.

**ABOUT THE CAST & COSTUMES**

The characters’ costuming remains consistent throughout the show.

**Cora**, played by **Cathy Belton**, is introduced in the first scene and is the first character to speak.  She’s a petite woman with shoulder-length blonde hair with loose waves towards the bottom. Cora wears a red jumper, light grey jeans and dark-coloured ankle boots.

**Anna**, played by **Aisling O’Sullivan**, also appears in the opening scene. She’s tall, with quite long pale blonde hair. She wears a navy button-up shirt, grey trousers and dark shoes, and has a glittering new bracelet on her wrist.

**Denise**, played by **Derbhle Crotty**, is introduced in the second conversation. She has long, curly and voluminous dark brown hair. She wears a dark green top, light grey culotte-style trousers and grey canvas shoes, and sports earrings and a ring on her right ring finger.

This concludes the introductory notes for this production of ***The Approach*** by Mark O’Rowe.

We hope you enjoy the show.