

***EAR TO THE EDGE OF TIME, BY ALANA VALENTINE, WINS PRESTIGIOUS  
5<sup>TH</sup> STAGE INTERNATIONAL SCRIPT COMPETITION  
FOR BEST NEW PLAY ABOUT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY***

**WINNER CHOSEN BY PULITZER & NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING JUDGES**

***STAGE WILL AWARD PLAYWRIGHT AT A CEREMONY IN DUBLIN  
ON OCTOBER 21, 2012***

*Dublin, 10 August 2012 - Ear to the Edge of Time, by Australian playwright Alana Valentine, is the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> STAGE International Script Competition for the best new play about science and technology. STAGE will present the award to Ms. Valentine at a ceremony in Dublin on October 21, 2012.*

Valentine's play was selected by a world-class panel of judges: Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights Tony Kushner, David Lindsay-Abaire and Donald Margulies; Nobel Laureates Robert C. Richardson and Frank Wilczek; and winner of the U.S. National Medal of Science and the Franklin Medal, Dr. David J. Wineland.

The *STAGE* award is coveted among playwrights for the prestige and opportunities it brings, as well as for its sizeable \$10,000 prize.

*STAGE - Scientists, Technologists and Artists Generating Exploration* - housed at the California NanoSystems Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, runs every two years and aims to identify the best new play about science and technology worldwide. *STAGE* comes to Dublin as part of Dublin City of Science 2012, and particularly as a result of the efforts of CRANN, the Science Foundation Ireland funded nanoscience institute at Trinity College Dublin.

In tandem with the award ceremony in October, there will be a staged reading of the winning play performed by professional Irish actors at Trinity College Dublin's Samuel Beckett Theatre.

The BBC World Service *Science in Action* radio programme has been following the *STAGE* Competition through its entire fifth cycle. The latest installments in the BBC series featured interviews with the finalists.

After learning of her win during her BBC interview, Ms. Valentine said, "I think the only salient word to describe my reaction is gob-smacked. I am still a little in shock and trying to absorb the honour and privilege it is to have won this award."

Congratulating Ms. Valentine on her award, Dr. Diarmuid O'Brien, Executive Director of CRANN, said, "*Ear to the Edge of Time* will bring science to life through art, and we congratulate Alana Valentine on winning the *STAGE* competition.

*STAGE* is the perfect fusion of art and science, and the fact that Dublin was chosen to host the winning performance is a real celebration of our successes in these areas and is also the perfect complement to the Dublin City of Science Festival."

The winning script was chosen from nearly 200 entries from a dozen countries. During each submission period, plays are received from all over the world and written by a wide range of authors. Since its inception, the diverse entrants have included established and prominent playwrights and screenwriters, an unknown playwright living in a remote part of Nigeria, highly-regarded scientists, and even a Nobel Laureate.

In Valentine's *Ear to the Edge of Time*, a contemporary radio astronomer faces a desperate crisis about gender politics, attribution, and the role of team work in 21<sup>st</sup> century science. The play deals with the fascinating machinations of astronomical physics, as well as the dilemmas, compromises, and culture that are part of scientific discovery.

Along with the winning play, two other plays were singled out as finalists in this cycle of the competition. *Sequence*, by Arun Lakra, an eye surgeon and writer from Calgary, and *This Rough Magic*, by Richard Manley, a former advertising executive-turned-playwright from New York City.

- ENDS -

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## Notes to Editors:

### **About CRANN** (<http://www.crann.tcd.ie/>)

The Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) is Trinity College Dublin's largest research institute and a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funded Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET), which partners with University College Cork (UCC). CRANN is focused on delivering world leading research and innovation – through extensive proactive collaborations with industry and through commercialisation of intellectual property. Since its foundation, CRANN has obtained €200M of competitive funding from Government, Industry, the European Union and Philanthropy. CRANN is comprised of a team of over 300 researchers, led by 18 Principal Investigators (PI's), each of whom is an internationally recognised expert in their field of research. It is interdisciplinary, working in partnership with the Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Science, Medicine and Engineering based at Trinity College Dublin, as well as the School of Chemistry at University College Cork. CRANN is also co-host to CCAN, the Competence Centre for Applied Nanotechnology, which facilitates industry collaboration to develop nano-enabled solutions for Irish-based companies.

### **About STAGE** ([www.stage.cnsi.ucsb.edu](http://www.stage.cnsi.ucsb.edu))

*STAGE*, a unique collaboration between the arts and sciences, is housed in the California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI), an esteemed science institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara. *STAGE* grew out of efforts to catalyze the development of theatre that depicts the technological age in which we live and to foster new and imaginative voices and methods of storytelling, as well as to promote understanding of the sciences in the public arena.

### **About Ms. Valentine**

Ms. Valentine, who is from Sydney, Australia, writes plays that engage with the real-life stories and voices of Australian communities. She has received numerous awards, including the 2004 Queensland Premier's Award for Best Drama Script, the 2003 New South Wales Writer's Fellowship, the 2002 Rodney Seaborn Playwrights' Award, and an International Writing Fellowship at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. She has also been granted two Australian Writers Guild awards, the ANPC/New Dramatists Award in NYC, a Churchill Fellowship for England and Ireland, and a New South Wales Premier's Award. In 2000, she received a Centenary Medal for her work on the Centenary of Australia's Federation.

### **BBC's *Science in Action* series on *STAGE***

The BBC's *Science in Action* series on *STAGE* is expected to culminate in coverage of the Dublin award ceremony and play reading. The entire series of broadcasts is available at <http://stage.ucsb.edu/competition/broadcast/BBC-World-Service.php>.

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