

**DUCK** By Stella Feehily  
Downstairs Seymour Centre (B Sharp) June 2006

Director: Kate Gaul  
Designer: Danielle Lindqvist  
LX Design: Verity Hampson  
Composer: Daryl Wallis  
Vocal Coach: Carmen Lysiak  
Fight Director: Olivia Stambouliah  
Stage Manager: Melita Ilich  
ASM: Jeremy Ong  
Prod Assistant: Rick Viede

Cast: Ben Adam, Holly Austin, Candy Bowers, Terry Brady, Lee Jones, Niki Owen

**A play about growing up, grabbing life and getting out ...**

**Duck** is a sparky and moving first play by Irish playwright Stella Feehily; a provocative coming-of-age story about two girls dealing with all that life throws at them in contemporary Dublin. It premiered at the Royal Court in 2003.

Cat has big feet so her boyfriend calls her Duck. She has a best friend with a short temper, a drug-dealing boyfriend with a dodgy nightclub, a middle-aged lover who writes novels, and the dilemma of living with boredom and the rush of letting things spiral out of control...



**What the critics said:**

“Directed with panache and compassion by Kate Gaul, **Duck** is funny, violent, sad, unexpected, contradictory, and engrossing. It is blessed with two cracking central performances from Candy Bowers as Cat ...and Holly Austin as her best friend Sophie. Their sharply contrasting monster mothers are both played by Niki Owen in what is one of the performances of the year: subtle, razor-keen and intelligent.

The various men in their lives – fathers, lovers, brothers -are played to the hilt by Ben Adam, Lee Jones and Terry Brady. Design, Lighting and music all contribute considerably.

And it is impossible not to be drawn in and want to know what happens to them all in 100 minutes of absorbing drama. ...this is a first class production which plays intriguing games with the notion that the black arts of arson and the scold are both archaic and right up to the minute.” Dianna Simmonds TELEGRAPH 2/7/06

“Stella Feehily’s play of young and smashed Dublin is a very dark comedy ... as a portrait of underclass hopelessness, it’s scalpel-accurate...escape might be a fantasy, but it’s a fantasy that trumps the slow, relentless grind of diminishing possibility...Kate Gaul’s production is beautifully cast and paced. The Irish accents are intelligible and avoid caricature, and performances are carefully constructed and intelligent...”

Stephen Dunne SMH 27/6/06

