

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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Immediate release

## **IRISH PREMIERE OF CANCER TALES IN LIMERICK IN MARCH**

**- Hospice staff take to the  
boards in unique  
production -**

Tickets are now on sale for the Irish premiere of the world renowned play Cancer Tales which will be staged over two nights at the Millennium Theatre at the Limerick Institute of Technology in March.

While this play has been staged throughout Europe and North America, it will have a unique feature when it is staged in Ireland as most of the actors who will tread the boards are Hospice staff. The “actors” in the Irish production are drawn from the staff of the Milford Care Centre, the University of Limerick and the Irish Hospice Foundation.

Milford Care Centre in Limerick – one of the oldest and biggest hospices in Ireland – is organising the first full Irish production of Cancer Tales in an effort to raise awareness of the need for healthcare professionals to develop their communication skills.

Cancer Tales is a play of five real lives which was first published in 2002 by playwright Nell Dunn. It has been performed since then to healthcare professionals in the UK, Austria, Canada and Italy. It is billed as a “must see” for every health professional delivering care to patients with cancer or any life limiting illnesses. It is also relevant to members of the public who want to learn more about what people experience when dealing with a life-limiting illness.

The Irish production is directed by established British director and lecturer Trevor Walker. It is being staged in the Millennium Theatre at the Limerick Institute of Technology on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009. A panel discussion will follow the first performance of the play on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Pat Quinlan, CEO of Milford Care Centre, stated: “We are very excited to bring this important play to Ireland. Cancer Tales captures the stories of five women and their journey through cancer. It is based on conversations that the author Nell Dunn had with healthcare staff and patients. It is a thought provoking experience. It explores themes that anyone affected by cancer will

relate to. It is essential viewing for anyone involved in the delivery of healthcare who wants to gain an insight into the experiences of their patients.”

Kathleen McLoughlin, Head of Education, Research and Professional Development at Milford Care Centre, commented: “Good communication skills are crucial in the delivery of palliative care to a patient and their family. But it is relevant to professionals who are caring for all patients. They have to deal with challenging emotions and complex clinical situations. This play is important because it allows us to learn important lessons through the medium of drama.”

Cancer Tales is part of an education programme being rolled out by Milford Care Centre. The hospice is also promoting Ireland’s first three day evidence-based Advanced Communications Skills Education Programme for health professionals. In 2010, the Centre will also organise a Conference on Communications.

The Cancer Tales production has been sponsored by the University of Limerick, The Irish Hospice Foundation, Rain Design Partners and Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals Limited.

- Ends –

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Note to Editor**

Tickets cost €20 (€10 concession) can be purchased in a number of ways:

- Online at [www.litmt.ie](http://www.litmt.ie)
- Phone Limerick Institute of Technology at 061 322 322.
- The UCH Box Office, University Concert Hall, University of Limerick. Telephone: 061-331 549 The City Centre Ticket Desk, Tourist Office, Arthurs Quay, Limerick. Telephone 061-314 314