



"This is a play of deep humanity as well as intelligence, and poses, very subtly, some of the questions we need to ask ourselves. The characters are well-drawn, and dramatically credible, and the scenario is also depressingly credible. Further, the dialogue is never forced and flows beautifully. This is a morality tale of the highest order, which skilfully tries to force the audience to realise that there are very few moral absolutes, particularly when survival is at stake."

- Emer O'Kelly, Judge, Eamon Keane Play Award Winner 2018

"This is a wonderful play from an emerging playwright with his own unique voice. I was a judge in a competition where another of his plays was the winner. This play deserves to be produced."

- Billy Roche, Playright (*The Wexford Trilogy*)



"The Antarctic setting of this play is perfect for drama; three people locked together, with no sign of relief or interruption. The subject of the play is unusual and something most of the world knows nothing of, which makes it very intriguing. There has clearly been a lot of research done about how a base like Halley Station operates without much technical jargon that might alienate the uninitiated audience member. The characters are all fully rounded as we meet them with well realised voices, and there is a lovely dynamic established between them in the opening scenes. The plot is strong and the tension builds and builds right to the end of the play."

- Abbey Theatre Literary Department

"This is an elegantly written and sculpted drama about four people stranded on a base in Antarctica. Each of the characters is engaging and has an interesting backstory. The dynamics between them are nuanced and often driven by non-verbal cues."

- Papatango Awards Team, 2018 (Long-listed)

"We thought long and hard about this work, because it's a good play, with strong characters, good dialogue and a good sense of dramatic structure. You obviously have considerable talent and ability in this regard."

- Feedback from a leading UK Theatre

EXTREMOPHILES

A new play by Fergal O'Byrne



Synopsis

Extremophiles centres around four members of an International Survey team, stationed at the Halley Base, Antarctica. Most of the researchers have headed back north on the relief ship, the RRS Shackleton. Three are left to face the long, cold, dark winter in total isolation. The rest of the world is also facing possible Armageddon – the snippets of news they received are not encouraging.

How will they deal with the isolation and the realisation that they are possibly humanity's last survivors? When hope is ebbing, the former base commander, Fiskler, miraculously shows up after enduring a solo trek across the ice shelf. Is this god-like figure their saviour, a hero against the odds or a coward intent on self-preservation?

CAST

ANGELA late thirties, PhD, Microbiologist

BERTRAM late fifties, Professor of Glaciology

LARS early thirties, Communications Officer

FISKLER mid-forties, Base Commander and Meteorologist