



JESSICA COHEN & JIM ENNIS RECEIVE THE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT THE 2016 WALES THEATRE AWARDS

31st January 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Earthfall founders and joint Artistic Directors **Jessica Cohen** and **Jim Ennis** last night received the **Special Achievement Award** at the **Wales Theatre Awards**. The awards celebrate excellence in theatre, opera and dance. There are specific categories for each genre and where relevant in English and Welsh. The awards are chosen by a wide range of arts critics working across the media in Wales

The award recognises a body of work made over 25 years, and upon presenting the Award, **Michael Kelligan** on behalf of the Theatre Critics in Wales said *"There are times when the rug is pulled out from beneath you when you are least expecting it. This year the rug was pulled out from beneath Earthfall, one of Wales' multi-award winning companies, made in Wales, but performing across the world"*

Upon receiving the Award **Jessica Cohen** said *"It is fantastic to win this award at the same time as winning the award for **Best Dance Production for Stories from a Crowded Room**. It has been a difficult few months for the company, especially after being informed by the Arts Council of Wales that we were no longer part of the Revenue portfolio."* **Jim Ennis** added *"Jess and I have been creative partners for over 25 years. Thank you for this award and congratulations to all the nominees and all those performers, directors and creative individuals who just get up and do it despite this climate of adversity."*

Since Earthfall was formed in 1989, the company has produced 28 main stage works, won a BAFTA Cymru award for their film work, along with multiple awards for their live performances, and toured their work to great acclaim across the world. In addition, the company has delivered participatory activity to thousands of people each year and provided mentoring and practical support to a large number of dance artists throughout Wales and the rest of Europe.

In 2015, Earthfall toured their acclaimed and award-winning production **Stories from a Crowded Room** across Wales and England, delivered participatory activity to over 1,000 people and will be premiering a documentary about the company to celebrate its 25th anniversary, shot during the recent tour, on 2nd April in Cardiff.

It ends a highly artistically productive year for the company after the startling news that Earthfall are not to be included in the new Arts Council of Wales (ACW) portfolio of Revenue Funded Companies from 1st April this year. Not being part of the ACW portfolio from April

means that Earthfall are having to scale down the company, move out of their studio and offices, make all staff redundant and will not be able to provide continuing support for individual dance artists in Wales, whom they have mentored for many years. Earthfall has however received incredible support from some venues and is currently negotiating with them for a new main-stage production for 2017. Earthfall will be continuing to strive to produce new performance works and deliver educational projects.

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For further information or to arrange an interview with Jessica Cohen / Jim Ennis, please contact Stephan Stockton, General Manager, Earthfall; Telephone: 02920 221314, or email: generalmanager@earthfall.org.uk

Earthfall is revenue funded by Arts Council of Wales until 31st March this year.

Stories from a Crowded Room was supported by Arts Council of Wales and Chapter, Cardiff.

For press tickets for the documentary screening on 2nd April at The Atrium USW, please contact Helen Di Duca: marketing@earthfall.org.uk