

Beat: Entertainment

## Once, The Award Winning Musical

### Dublin Gig

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#### USPA NEWS -

Sam Cieri, Actor, singer, songwriter, troubadour, traveller. From Boca to Brooklyn, from the Vegas Strip to the New York City subway, to Dublin. The gig in Dublin, didn't seem like it was being played in a bar, it felt like it was taking place in someone's home because there was standing room only.

Sam Cieri and Dylan Reid

Sam Cieri, Actor, singer, songwriter, troubadour, traveller. From Boca to Brooklyn, from the Vegas Strip to the New York City subway, Sam has sung his songs and shared his stories.

And by a stroke of luck Sam and Dylan, was about to give a gig in Dublin on the 7th of August in Whelan's Bar on Wexford Street, it was an event that took you back in time, but then the two gives an amazing performance of the songs that were written by themselves and cover songs also.

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Once is about the power of music and following your dreams, wherever they may take you. The stunning music, including the Oscar-winning Falling Slowly, is performed by an extraordinary cast of actor musicians who sing, dance and play their hearts out on stage. Based on the movie sensation of the same name, written and directed by John Carney (Sing Street, Begin Again, Once), the show features music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, and a Tony award-winning book by Enda Walsh.

I also had the pleasure of seeing Emmette Dillon Actor/Model again, Emmette, was there to hear Dylan, sing the song back to you, written by him and Dylan, together for Emmette's Mother a beautiful song that allows you to know somebody that you have never met and therefore realise that you have missed on knowing someone special.

Following the death of his mother, Annemarie, Emmette Dillon launched the #BeBraveBeBodyAwareBeCancerFree campaign to encourage young people to be more health conscious. The #Bebravebodyawarebecancerfree campaign over the last two years. The onus of this campaign is to encourage people of all ages to be aware of their own bodies as a means of preventing a cancer diagnosis or catch the disease at a treatable stage.

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Once is a funny, moving and life-affirming love story with glorious music and the city's only on-stage bar. Where else can you walk onto the set of one of Dublin's most beautiful and historic theatres; it's a "once" in a lifetime experience. In Olympia Theatre Seating Brand new seating has been installed in the ground floor Stalls area of The Olympia Theatre, offering improved comfort & legroom for all patrons, and superior facilities for those with special needs. The four bars have also been beautifully refurbished.

Once premiered in a workshop at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, MA, in April 2011, before its transfer to New York Theatre Workshop where it made its Off-Broadway debut on 6 December 2011, following previews from 15 November, on a run through 15 January 2012. Under the direction of John Tiffany, the original cast was led by Steve Kazee and Cristin Milioti as Guy and

Girl, respectively. The production was nominated for Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Director, Outstanding Choreographer, Outstanding Scenic Design (Bob Crowley), Outstanding Lighting Design (Natasha Katz), Outstanding Sound Design (Clive Goodwin), and Outstanding Lead Actress. The production won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical. Broadway (2012–2015)

The musical then began previews on Broadway at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre from 28 February 2012 and officially opening on 18 March. Kazeem and Milioti repeated their performances from the Off-Broadway cast. The production received eleven Tony Award nominations, winning eight, including Best Musical. It also won the Drama League Award for Distinguished Production of a Musical for 2011–12. On 7 October 2014, it was announced that the musical would close 4 January 2015. The production played 1,167 regular performances and 22 previews by closing time.

Dublin/West End (2013–2015)

Following a limited engagement at Dublin's Gaiety Theatre from 22 February until 9 March 2013, starring Declan Bennett (Guy) and Zrinka Cviteć (Girl), the show made its West End debut at the Phoenix Theatre, London. Previews began 16 March, which was followed by a 9 April opening night. Bennett and Cviteć reprise their roles from the Dublin run. Bennett and Cviteć made an appearance on BBC's The Graham Norton Show for the televised show on 31 May 2013. Prior to an interview, they performed "Falling Slowly". On 15 January 2014, the show was extended to 4 July 2015. Arthur Darvill replaced Bennett as Guy on 17 March 2014 and continued in the role until 10 May 2014. Cviteć also left her role as Girl on 10 May. David Hunter and Jill Winternitz then played Guy and Girl respectively. Ronan Keating took over the lead role from 17 November 2014 to 21 March 2015, when the production closed.

A thirty-something Dublin busker (identified only as "Guy") sings a heartfelt ballad of unrequited love in a local bar, accompanying himself on guitar ("Leave"). He then puts his guitar in its case and turns to leave without it; but a young Czech woman ("Girl"), who has been listening to him sing, approaches. She asks him

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by

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