

“

WHAT

IS A

PLAY?”

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

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IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021

10.00am – 10.15am	Introduction from Irish Theatre Institute's Co-Directors Siobhán Bourke and Jane Daly including a presentation about the founding of PLAYOGRAPHYIreland.
10.15am – 10.50am	<i>“A playwright is simply a maker or builder of plays.”</i> VERONICA COBURN Mark Ravenhill delivers a keynote address on the playwright as a builder of plays and maker of worlds, followed by a Q&A.
10.50am – 11.00am	BREAK
11.00am – 11.35am	PANEL #1: <i>“A play is shared finitude.”</i> MARTIN SHARRY A discussion on play endings featuring Lyn Gardner, Sonya Kelly and Professor Chris Morash.
11.35am – 11.45am	BREAK
11.45am – 12.30pm	PANEL #2: <i>“The rest is up to us.”</i> PHILLIP MCMAHON A discussion about the role of the cast and creative team in bringing new writing to the stage featuring Denis Clohessy, John Comiskey, Fiona Keller and Elaine Murphy.
	CLOSING REMARKS

PROGRAMME

DAY 2: FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021

10.00am – 10.10am	Opening remarks and reflection on Day 1 from ITI.
10.10am – 10.45am	<p>PANEL #1:</p> <p><i>“Both literary and oral.”</i></p> <p>ROSEMARY JENKINSON</p> <p>An exploration of reading and publishing plays featuring Jim Culleton, Dr. Tanya Dean, Nick Hern and John O’Donovan.</p>
10.45am – 10.50am	<p>PRESENTATION #1:</p> <p>Overview of PLAYOGRAPHY/Ireland ePlays by Kate Heffernan, Playography Researcher.</p>
10.50am – 11.00am	BREAK
11.00am – 11.40am	<p>PRESENTATION #2:</p> <p><i>“A play is what survives of theatre.”</i></p> <p>MARTIN SHARRY</p> <p>A series of presentations on the contemporary documentation of theatre featuring Pom Boyd, Shanna May Breen/Luke Casserly, Noelle Brown, and MALAPROP (Dylan Coburn Gray and Maeve O’Mahony), including a reflection by Dr. Barry Houlihan.</p>
11.40am – 11.50am	BREAK
11.50am – 12.30pm	<p>PANEL #2:</p> <p><i>“It was a show of no words. A play script exists.”</i></p> <p>VERONICA COBURN</p> <p>A discussion about non-verbal theatre in an historically literary tradition featuring Marc Mac Lochlainn, Emma Martin and Anna Newell.</p>
	CLOSING REMARKS

BIOGRAPHIES



ANNA NEWELL

Anna Newell is one of Ireland's leading theatre makers for young audiences, creating unique theatre adventures

for babies, early years and children with complex needs. Her work has been seen on six continents and her youngest audience member was 4 days old. The shows are informed and inspired by their audiences at every stage of their creation and have human connection at their very heart.



DR. BARRY HOULIHAN

Dr. Barry Houlihan is an Archivist and Lecturer at NUI Galway. Barry teaches Theatre History and Archives and Digital Cultures. His

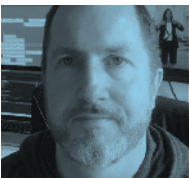
recent book on the social history of the *Irish stage, Irish Drama and Marginalised Histories 1951–1977* is recently published by Palgrave MacMillan.



PROF. CHRIS MORASH

Professor Chris Morash is the inaugural Seamus Heaney Professor of Irish Writing at Trinity College Dublin. His most recent

book is *Yeats on Theatre*, published earlier this year. He has also written *History of Irish Theatre* (winner of the Theatre Book Prize), *A History of the Media in Ireland*, *Mapping Irish Theatre*, and is co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Theatre*. He was also Vice-Provost of TCD from 2016 to 2019.



DENIS CLOHESSY

Denis has worked with numerous dance and theatre companies including The Abbey Theatre, The Gate Theatre, Fishamble,

Rough Magic, Junk Ensemble, Brokentalkers, CoisCéim, Corn Exchange, The Tron Theatre, Glasgow, Northlight Theatre, Chicago and Beijing Children's Theatre. He won the Irish Times theatre award for Best Design Sound in 2019 and 2010 and was a nominee in 2015.



ELAINE MURPHY

Elaine Murphy is an award-winning playwright from Dublin. Previous writing credits include: *Little Gem* (Guna Nua), *Shush* (Abbey

Theatre) and *Ma* (RTÉ Radio 1). She is currently writing her new play *FAB* which she will also direct. Her stage adaptation of the Maeve Binchy novel *Circle of Friends* will open at the Gaiety Theatre in April 2022.



EMMA MARTIN

Emma Martin is a dancer and choreographer, establishing her company United Fall in 2018, under which she collaborates

with artists from dance, music, theatre, photography and design on an artistic path that moves freely between all of these forms. Recent work includes *NIGHT DANCES*, *I AM IRELAND*, *Birdboy* (2019), *Orfeo ed Euridice* (2018). She is an associate artist at Visual Centre for Contemporary Art.



FIONA KELLER

Fiona is a collaborative stage manager and production manager. Previous credits as a Stage Manager include

Night Dances and *Birdboy* (United Fall), *The Patient Gloria* (Gina Moxley and Abbey Theatre) *Medea* (Gate Theatre), *It was easy (in the end)* (THEATREclub and Abbey Theatre), *Chekhov's First Play* and *Lippy* (Dead Centre), *This Beach* (Brokentalkers), *Alive! Awake!* and *The Summoning* (Macnas). She has worked extensively with ANU Productions on shows including *The Lost O'Casey*, *Sunder*, *Vardo*, *Thirteen*, *Boys of Foley Street* and *These Rooms* (CoisCéim and ANU) with Kilkenny Arts Festival as a Venue Production Manger.

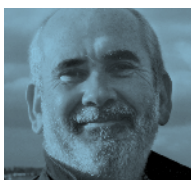
BIOGRAPHIES



JIM CULLETON

Jim Culleton is the artistic director of Fishamble, for which he has directed productions on tour in Ireland and to 19

countries, winning Olivier, The Stage, Scotsman Fringe First, and Irish Times Best Director awards. Jim has also directed for Audible, Abbey, Gaiety, Belgrade, RTÉ, Kennedy Center, Trafalgar Theatre Productions on the West End, and IAC/Symphony Space on Broadway.



JOHN COMISKEY

John Comiskey has worked extensively in theatre, music, film and television. He has won Best Design at the Irish

Theatre awards (for *Copenhagen*) and has been nominated several times for Best Lighting Design. He curated and designed the first ever Irish participation at the Prague Quadrennial exhibition of world theatre design.



JOHN O'DONOVAN

John O'Donovan is a playwright and screenwriter. His plays include *If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could*

Show You How I Love You (Methuen Drama), *Flights* and *Sink* (both Nick Hern Books). He is one of UCD's inaugural Creative Fellows where he is also an occasional lecturer, and is under commission for a number of new theatre and television projects.



LYN GARDNER

Lyn Gardner has written and broadcast about theatre for almost 40 years. She is the recipient of the UK Theatre Award

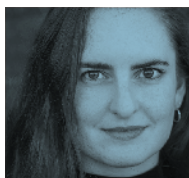
for Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre, a Total Theatre Significant Contribution Award, and a Tonic Award for theatre journalism.



MALAPROP DYLAN COBURN GRAY & MAEVE O'MAHONY

Formed in 2015, MALAPROP Theatre is an award-winning collective of theatre-makers based between London and Dublin. Their work is bold, playful, and genre-spanning. They aim to challenge, delight,

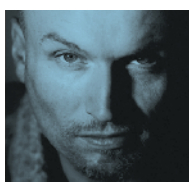
and speak to the world we live in (even when imagining different ones).



MARC MAC LOCHLAINN

Marc is the executive artistic director of Branar Téatar do Pháistí. Marc founded the company in 2001 and over the years

Branar have developed and presented 20 productions & facilitated workshops thousand's children throughout Ireland. Branar is a professional theatre company working through the medium of Irish that tours productions in schools, venues and at festivals nationally throughout Ireland. Branar's work has been presented to internationally on three continents.



MARK RAVENHILL

Mark Ravenhill's plays include *Shopping and Fucking* and *The Cane* (Royal Court Theatre), *Mother Clap's Mollyhouse*

and *Citizenship* (National Theatre), *The Cut* (Donmar) and *Pool No Water* (Frantic Assembly). Recent work includes the musical *Boy In The Dress* (RSC) and lockdown audio drama *Angela* (Pitlochry/Edinburgh Lyceum/Radio 3). He is the incoming Co-Artistic Director of the Kings Head Theatre.

BIOGRAPHIES



NICK HERN

Having read drama at Bristol and taught drama at Hull and Glasgow Universities, Nick became Methuen's Drama Editor in

1974. There he published playwrights such as Pinter, Churchill and Brecht. In 1988 Nick set up Nick Hern Books, which has published some 2,000 titles by several hundred playwrights ranging from Butterworth and McPherson to Kirkwood and Waller-Bridge.



NOELLE BROWN

Noelle has been an actor since 1987 and has worked extensively in Theatre, Film, Television and Radio. She became

a playwright and theatre maker in 2013. Her first play, *Postscript*, co-written with Michéle Forbes, dealt with her experiences as an adoptee tracing her birth family. Her play *Foxy* premiered at Project Arts Centre. She is also an adoption rights activist.



POM BOYD

Pom Boyd is an award-winning writer, actor and comedian who was most recently seen in the TV comedy series *Frank Of*

Ireland (Ch4/Amazon) alongside Domhnall & Brian Gleeson. Currently Pom is working on a commission for the Abbey Theatre and will be seen in the forthcoming RTÉ/Britbox comedy series *The Dry* by Nancy Harris.



SHANNA MAY BREEN & LUKE CASSERLY

As a duet, they are constantly attempting to stretch out new ways of looking at the climate crisis through art and science. Their work to date has brought audiences on a coastal train to explore the material of plastic through sound (*Mould Into Shape*) and sparked

a national network of planters and listeners (*1000 Miniature Meadows*). Most recently the pair devised *Root*, a performative enquiry looking at trees in our ecosystem from the point of view of a tree.



SONYA KELLY

Sonya is a multi-award winning Irish playwright. Her work to date includes, *The Wheelchair on My Face* (Fishamble), *How To Keep*

An Alien (Rough Magic), *Furniture*, and *Once Upon A Bridge* (Druid).



DR. TANYA DEAN

Dr. Tanya Dean is Programme Chair for the B.A. (Hons) in Drama (Performance) in the Conservatoire of the

Technological University Dublin. She received her Doctor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from Yale School of Drama. Tanya is Associate Dramaturg of Then This Theatre Company in Dublin, and has worked extensively as a freelance dramaturg in Ireland, UK, USA, and Iceland.

CREDITS

WHAT IS A PLAY? SYMPOSIUM:

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Playography Editor/Administrator: Katherine Murphy

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