



IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE

creating opportunities abroad **strengthening resources at home**

**Join Irish Theatre Institute for
CONTACT POINT: Where Communities Meet
WHEN and WHERE: On Zoom, Monday Evenings**



Image Caption: Headshots of Eileen Gibbons, Thomas Collins, Emilie Conway and Melatu Uche Okorie

CONTACT POINT is a series of online conversations for theatre/multidisciplinary artists and arts workers. You are invited to join the conversation where you will connect with others and challenge stereotypes together. CONTACT POINT is facilitated by Tatiana Santos (Research and Development Officer at [Mother Tongues](#) and Socially Engaged Artist working collaboratively with young people at Tallaght Community Arts).

Each session features an exciting guest speaker who talks about their experience of a stereotype. You will have an opportunity to feedback through group discussions, questions, and a final group sharing.

The speakers, dates and registration links are listed below. If you have any access requirements or further questions, please let us know on info@irishtheatreinstitute.ie. If you would prefer to talk to someone you can call 01 6704906

Monday 30th May, 5.00 - 6.30pm:

Guest speaker - Eileen Gibbons: *"The value, or rather the lack of value, placed on 'women's work' contributes to the marginalisation of women."*

[Register here](#)

Monday 13th June, 5.00 - 6.30pm:

Guest speaker - Thomas Collins: *"The challenges of an Irish traveller trying to break into the acting."*

[Register here](#)

Monday 27th June, 5.00 - 6.30pm:

Guest speaker - Emilie Conway: *"If you want your work to be taken seriously and respected as an artist, you have to hide having albinism."*

[Register here](#)

Monday 11th July, 5.00 - 6.30pm:

Guest speaker - Melatu Uche Okorie: *"You're a black, female, African, so your work is not fiction."*

[Register here](#)

Interested in learning more? Read about Irish Theatre Institute and the guest speakers below.

Irish Theatre Institute (ITI)

ITI is a resource organisation for the professional Irish theatre sector. We nurture, promote and drive the ambition of Irish theatre and Irish theatre artists from grassroots beginnings to presentation on the world stage. ITI supports theatre artists at all stages of their profession to make work and develop sustainable careers. We work with actors, makers, writers, directors, designers, producers and company managers. For more information [visit our website](#).

Eileen Gibbons

Eileen Gibbons is a Galway-based theatre practitioner. She started working in the theatre as an actor but more recently has worked as a dramaturg and playwright. She has worked as a director and arts facilitator. She has played various roles for stage and TV and has also worked as a voice over artist. She has worked as a dramaturg with Branar, Téatar do Pháistí and with Blue Teapot Theatre company. In 2020/2021 she became an associate artist with Axis Ballymun. She is currently working on a new play called *The Common Good* which has been funded in part by the Patron Donation Award 2021 from the Town Hall Theatre, Galway.

Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins is an Actor based In Dublin. He first started acting at the age of 14 when he joined Roundabout Youth Theatre. There he played roles in youth theatre plays and workshopped with some of the best in the Irish Acting Industry. During the Dublin Fringe Festivals, he played many roles in various plays that were also nominated for the spirit of the Fringe award. Thomas has had roles in short films, feature films, and TV, in *'Thank You Come Again'* he played Detective Michael's, it had a cinema release in 2018. In 2014 he played the role of Packy in RTE's *Love/Hate*. His latest project was *'Salo Redubbed'* which was performed at the Abbey Theatre on the Peacock Stage as part of The Dublin Theatre Festival.

Emilie Conway

Emilie is an award winning vocal jazz artist, composer and lyricist. She blends her own compositions, spoken word/poetry, with improvised and composed music. Emilie's arts practice is multi-disciplinary as she creates work through a process of singing, writing, dancing and painting. Her work focuses on 3 areas: jazz and art/literature, jazz and disability and jazz and children. As an accredited art psychotherapist, Emilie also believes in the healing power of art and multi-disciplinary creative expression. A passionate activist for equal and equitable participation of disabled people in arts and culture, Emilie also creates audio and sensory art tours and is an EDI consultant for many arts organisations. She is also founder of DADA, Disabled Artists, Disabled Academics.

Melatu Uche Okorie

Melatu Uche Okorie was born in Enugu, Nigeria and has been living in Ireland since 2006. She has an Mphil in Creative Writing from Trinity College, Dublin. Her work has been published in numerous anthologies including, *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* (Faber & Faber) and *The Art of the Glimpse: 100 Irish short stories* (Head of Zeus). Her debut collection, *This Hostel Life*, was published in May, 2018.

ITI is core funded by The Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon.
CONTACT POINT is funded through the Arts Council's Capacity Building Scheme.