

ON STAGE



TOWN HALL THEATRE

**THEATRE
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME**

INTRODUCTION

Since 1996, Town Hall Theatre has played a major role in helping new and emergent theatre makers to develop their art form and practice. In recent years Galway has seen a large increase in the number of independent professional theatre makers living and working from Galway.

In 2021, Town Hall Theatre is establishing a 'Theatre Development Programme' to offer supports and mentorship to emerging artists. The programme will be facilitated by director Andrew Flynn, who will lead the programme and establish a panel of experienced theatre makers, from various disciplines who have all excelled in their careers. These practitioners will be available to support, share knowledge and experience with emerging artists and companies. The programme will offer practical supports, career guidance and art form mentorship to the next generation of theatre makers.

Andrew and the panel will be available to work with artists and companies to support them in developing their art form and ensuring these artists can enhance their work and observe best practice from established theatre makers.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE THEATRE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- **To provide mentorship and support to emerging theatre makers in Galway.**
- **Develop capacity for Galway-based theatre makers.**
- **Provide professional development for the next generation of theatre artists.**
- **Establish a dialogue between professional artists with a proven track record and emerging artists at an early point in their careers.**
- **To provide supports that can help independent artists to develop and help them to achieve the highest standards of excellence in their art form.**
- **Develop capacity of Town Hall Theatre to become a centre of excellence that can give professional supports Galway based artists.**

ASSESSMENT

- The project will take place over a six-month period in 2021 and there will be an open call for applications from emerging artists. Priority will be given to Galway based artists or artists who have a strong connection with Galway.
- The programme will be advertised by the Town Hall Theatre through local media, a targeted social media campaign and through contact with Galway City and County arts offices.
- An independent panel will assess the applications and 10 artists/companies will be selected for inclusion in the development programme.
- Candidates will be chosen who show talent, ambition and a clear desire to develop their craft and art form.

PROCESS

- Andrew Flynn will lead this process reaching out and creating a dialogue and mentorship with each emerging artist/company.
- Several formal meetings and mentorship sessions will be facilitated between Andrew and the companies/artists. This will provide a safe space to discuss, learn and develop from the experiences and learnings of high quality theatre makers.
- Participating artists will also avail of master-classes/mentorship days from artists/practitioners who are part of the mentorship panel.
- The development programme has created a panel of quality theatre makers and practitioners who will work with practitioners on collaboration days. The collaboration days will be established in conjunction with the participating artists.
- The programme will place an emphasis on process not production and is very much to give theatre makers time to learn/enhance and develop their craft.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are welcome from professional independent theatre makers who consider themselves at an early stage in their career. Applicants don't have to reside in Galway but a priority will be given to theatre artists who are based in Galway or have a strong connection/ relationship with Galway. The process is open to theatre makers and practitioners from all disciplines who feel they will benefit from taking part in the development programme.

Applications are welcome from individual/companies and arts workers, including:

- Actors
- Composers
- Creative Producers
- Curators/Programmers (working in an arts context)
- Dancers
- Designers (e.g., set, costume, lighting)
- Directors
- Dramaturgs
- Facilitators (participatory arts, youth theatre, etc.)
- Playwrights
- Production Managers
- Stage Managers
- Technicians (working in an arts context),
- Writers (with an interest in their work being developed as a theatre piece).

The applicant does not have to earn their living exclusively from their work in the arts, but they must self-identify and be recognised by their peers as a practicing professional artist or arts worker.

Applications and supporting documents can be emailed to
gthtdevelopment@gmail.com

Alongside your application can you include supporting documentation:
CV OR Bio (A maximum of 3 reviews of your work if you have them)

The closing date for applications is **23 May at 5pm.**

PROFESSIONAL MENTOR PANEL

Established theatre artists and practitioners have agreed to be part of the development programme mentorship panel. All of the mentors are artists and practitioners who have a proven track record of working in theatre and their work has achieved the highest standards of excellence. The mentorship panel has been selected to try and create a bank of knowledge and expertise in the majority of art forms within theatre

Owen McCarthaigh Set Design and Construction

Carl Kennedy Music Composition and Sound Design

Ciaran Bagnall Set Design and Lighting Design

Roisin Stack Actor, writer, career guidance

Maria Tivnan Director, Writer, Actor

Emma O'Grady Actor, Writer, Technical skills

Petra Breathnach Mask and Costume Design

Sinead Cuthbert Costume design and construction

Brynn Murphy Producer/ PR and Marketing

Tracey Lindsay Stage Management/ Production management

Tara O Connor Theatre Admin and Financial Management

Conor Geoghegan Movement and Physical Theatre

Fergal Mc Grath Venue Director, Town Hall Theatre

ANDREW FLYNN Director

Andrew Flynn is the director of Theatre at Galway Arts Centre and the Artistic Director of Decadent Theatre Company. He also works as a freelance theatre director. Most recently Andrew directed *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh for Gaiety productions in 2019/2020.

Recent directing credits for Decadent Theatre include:

The World premieres of *A Thing About December* by Donal Ryan and *A Love Like That* by Billy Roche. *Eden* by Eugene O'Brien, *The Mai* by Marina Carr, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness, *Pumpgirl* by Abbie Spallen, *The Weir* by Conor McPherson, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, *The Dead School* by Pat McCabe, *Vernon God Little* by Tanya Rhonder, *Defender Of The Faith* by Stuart Carolan, *A Skull In Connemara* by Martin McDonagh (3 Irish Times Nominations), *Port Authority* by Conor McPhearson (for which he was nominated as Best Director at the Irish Times Theatre Awards), *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley (2 Irish Times Nominations), *Faith Healer* by Brian Friel (Decadent/Town Hall Theatre, Galway), *The Seafarer* by Conor McPhearson, *The Cavelcadars* by Billy Roche (Decadent/Nomad Theatre Network), the world premieres of *Here We Are Again Still* by Christian O'Reilly and *Character* by Mark Dillon, *Country Music* by Simon Stephens, *Blackbird* by David Harrower.

Directing credits for Lyric Theatre Belfast include: *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* by Brian Friel, *Dockers* by Martin Lynch, *Pump Girl* by Abbie Spallen, *The Pillowman* By Martin McDonagh and *The Weir* by Conor McPherson.

Other credits include: *Juno And the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey (A.R.T Northern Ireland/Cork Opera House), *Translations* by Brian Friel (Ouroboros Theatre Company), *Via Dolorosa* by David Hare, (Cuirt Literature Festival), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh (Irish Premiere, Cork Opera House/ Millennium Theatre, Derry/Town Hall Theatre, Galway), *Translations* (Town Hall Theatre, Galway).

As the head of theatre at Galway Arts Centre Andrew has directed over 70 productions for Galway Youth Theatre, some highlights include: *Frank Pig Says Hello* and *The Adventures of Shay Mouse* by Pat McCabe, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Portia Coughlan* by Marina Carr, *Lovely Betty* by Mark O'Halloran, *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The Irish premieres of: *Midsummer*, *Monster in the Hall* and *Yellow Moon* by David Greig, *Autobahn* by Neil La Bute, *Talking to Terrorists* by Robin Soans, *Tejas Verdes* by Fermin Cabal, *Country Music* by Simon Stephens, *Concensual* by Nina Raine. World premieres of *Teacher* by Christian O'Reilly.

THEATRE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MENTOR PANEL

Biographies

OWEN MacCÁRTHAIGH Set Design

Owen MacCárthaigh is a theatre designer and maker based in Galway where he works as a freelance designer. Most recently Owen designed *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh for Gaiety Productions in 2019/2020. Owen has been nominated for best set design at the Irish Times Theatre award on 3 occasions, 2008, 2013 and 2020. Owen won the award for best set design in 2008.

Recent design credits for Decadent Theatre include: *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness, *Pumpgirl* by Abbie Spallen, *The Weir* by Conor McPherson, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, *The Dead School* by Pat McCabe, *Defender Of The Faith* by Stuart Carolan, *A Skull In Connemara* by Martin McDonagh (3 Irish Times Nominations), *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley (2 Irish Times Nominations), *Faith Healer* by Brian Friel (Decadent /Town Hall Theatre Galway), *The Seafarer* by Conor McPhearson, *The Cavalcaders* by Billy Roche (Decadent/Nomad Theatre Network), the world premieres of *Here We Are Again Still* by Christian O'Reilly and *Character* by Mark Dillon, *Blackbird* by David Harrower.

Design credits for Lyric Theatre Belfast include: *Philadelphia Here I Come* by Brian Friel, *Pumpgirl* by Abbie Spallen.

Other credits include: *Juno and the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey (A.R.T Northern Ireland/Cork Opera House), *Translations* by Brian Friel (Town Hall Theatre, Galway), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh (Irish Premiere, Cork Opera House/Millennium Theatre, Derry/Town Hall Theatre, Galway), *Translations* (Town Hall Theatre, Galway). *Jude* and *Kings of Kilburn Highroad* for An Taibhdhearc, *Chicane* for Guna Nua.

PETRA BREATHNACH Mask Design/Costume Design

Petra's work includes making masks, costumes and sets for theatre, and costumes and props for film. Over the years she has worked with Macnas, Galway Youth Theatre, Theatrecorps and more recently with Decadent. Some of her latest work includes *Blood Wedding* (Theatrecorps), for which she was shortlisted for an Irish Times Theatre award in 2008. Costumes for *Crestfall* (Galway Youth Theatre), *Juno and the Paycock* (ART NI), and *The Lonesome West* (Town Hall Theatre, Galway and Cork Opera House), *At The Black Pig's Dyke* (BA Connect NUI Galway), **The Seafarer** (Nomad and Decadent); *Doubt* (Town Hall Theatre, Galway, Decadent and Everyman Palace), *Port Authority*, *Vernon god little*, *A Skull in Connemara* (Decadent), costumes/masks for *Shay Mouse* (BA Connect and Galway Community Theatre) and more recently, costumes for *Cavalcaders* (Nomad/Decadent), *Defender of the Faith*, *The Pillowman* and *The Weir* (Decadent).

CARL KENNEDY Music/Sound Design

Previous work with Decadent includes *Vernon God Little*, *The Pillowman*, *The Dead School*, *Defender of the Faith*, *A Skull in Connemara*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *Eden*, *The Cavalcaders* and *The Seafarer*. Carl trained at Academy of Sound in Dublin. He has worked on over one hundred productions, working with venues and companies including ANU Productions, Fishamble, The Abbey, The Gaiety, Prime Cut, Theatre Lovett, HotForTheatre, Rough Magic, The Lyric Theatre Belfast, Gúna Nua, Loose Canon, Peer to Peer, Siren, Broken Crow, Randolph SD and Theatre Makers. He has been nominated three times for the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Sound Design. He also composes music and sound design for interactive iPad games; titles include *Curious George*, *Curious about Shapes and Colors*, *Jelly Jumble*, *Too Many Teddies*, *Dino Dog* and *Leonardo and His Cat*. TV credits include sound design for *16 letters* (Independent Pictures/RTÉ) and SFX editing and foley recording for *Centenary* (RTÉ).

CIARAN BAGNALL Set Design and Lighting Designer

Set and Lighting Design credits include: *Macbeth* (Globe, London); *Singin' in the Rain* (Salisbury Playhouse, UK Tour); *Sleeping Beauty* (Hull Truck), *The Train* (Project Arts Centre), *Othello* (RSC), *Scorch*, *Lally the Scut*, *The God of Carnage*, *Villa*, *Discurso*, *Tejas Verdes* (MAC, Belfast), *White Star of the North* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Two 2, Two*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Love Story*, *Twelfth Night*, *Piaf*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Tull*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Secret Thoughts* and *Oleanna* (Octagon Theatre), *Conquest of Happiness* (Olympic Stadium, Sarajevo), *Shoot the Crow* (Opera House, Belfast), *Snookered* (Bush Theatre, London), *The Killing of Sister George* (Arts Theatre, London), *Swampoodle* (Uline Arena, Washington DC), *Treemonisha* (UK Tour), *A Slight Ache* and *Landscape* (National Theatre, London).

Lighting Design credits include: *On Corporation Street* (HOME, Manchester); *Sunder* (ANU Productions, Dublin); *After Miss Julie* (Project, Dublin); *The Pillowman* (Gaiety Theatre, Dublin), *Pentecost* and *Philadelphia, Here I come!* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Perseverance Drive* (The Bush Theatre, London), *Corporation Street* and *Angel Meadow* (HOME, Manchester, ANU Productions, Dublin), *A Taste of Honey* (Hull Truck, National Tour), *Wanted! Robin Hood* (Lowry, Salford), *Arabian Nights* (Lowry, Salford), *The Little Prince* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Robin Hood*, *Peter Pan*, *Macbeth*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *East is East* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton). *Much Ado About Nothing* (RSC, Stratford Upon Avon & London West End). Ciaran was awarded the 2014 Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Lighting Design for *Pentecost* at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast.

SINEAD CUTHBERT Costume Designer

Sinead is an award-winning costume designer whose career started back in the 1990s. Sinead has worked for many theatre companies as supervisor and then designer from the Passion Machine to the Abbey Theatre, she's also worked with the Gate theatre, Cois Céim, Landmark, Opera Ireland and Company SJ. Sinead was the Costume Designer for the RTÉ's commemoration concert *Centenary* in 2016 and on the Opening Ceremony of the Ryder Cup 2006.

Her most recent credits are: *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Gaiety, 2019) *Celtic Gold* (Ragus, 2018) *Dublin By Lamplight* (Corn Exchange, Abbey Theatre, Galway Arts Festival 2017, Project 2004), *The Remains of Maisie Duggan* (Peacock Theatre, Sept 2016) *The Bloody Irish* (Greencore Energy Holdings, 2015) *Company*, *Beckett in the city: The Women Speak* (Company SJ, Theatre Festival 2018, 2015, New York 2017), *Borstal Boy* (Gaiety and Verdant, 2014); *Steel Magnolias* (Solar Theatre, 2012) *Homeplace* (Lyric Theatre 2009); *Translations, Making History, Myrmidons, Amadeus*, Friel Festival Glenties (Ouroboros 2004-2010); *The Nose, Lizzie Lavelle* (Performance Corporation 2007-8).

Sinead is currently costume lecturer, in the Drama department of the School of Creative Arts, in the Samuel Beckett Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin, where she has taught costume design since 2004.

TARA O'CONNOR Theatre Administration and Financial Management

Tara O'Connor is currently the General Manager of Galway Arts Centre where she contributes to the financial, administrative, operational and strategic planning and management of the organisation. Previous roles include Manager of Cúirt International Festival of Literature where she worked alongside Dani Gill for four years before working with Maeve Mulrennan and Emily Cullen for a subsequent three, and Administrator for Galway Dance Project in a key phase of its initial development. She has a BA (hons) Arts in English Literature and Legal Science from NUI Galway, an MA in Literature and Publishing from NUI Galway and P.Grad.Dip in Business in Cultural Event Management from IADT Dún Laoghaire.

CONOR GEOGHEGAN Movement/Physical Craft

Conor is an actor, improviser and theatre tutor with training in Galway Youth Theatre, Ecole Philippe Gaulier and Youth Theatre Ireland.

His training and experience have given him a strong foundation in physical theatre and movement.

Working freelance as an independent artist with such companies with Macnas, Druid, Channel Four, Teatro auletta and Theatre Corp.

As a tutor he has worked with companies such as Galway Youth Theatre, Macnas, Ability West, Performance Arts School Galway, Galway Actors Workshop, Stage Craft Ireland, Dublin Actors Ensemble and NUI Galway's Dramsoc.

BRYNN MURPHY Producer/PR and Marketing

Gaiety Productions, Dublin • Sept 2018 - Present • Line Producer/Company Manager

Handle pre-production budgeting for the highly-successful long run productions of Martin McDonagh's *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at the Gaiety Theatre • Facilitate the writing and signing of contracts for all cast and crew hired • Act as company manager and producer liaison for the 30+ employed for the production • Consult on all marketing plans and actions for the shows; budgets of €100K+ • Track all expenses throughout the run of the production in preparation of final settlement • Handle all house seat ticket requests including press night organization and preparation

Live Nation Ireland, Dublin • Sept 2018 - Present • Programming Executive

Programme all theatre shows that go into Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Gaiety Theatre and Olympia Theatre • Co-Produce a number of Irish productions at the Gaiety and Olympia. Recent include – Maeve Binchy's *Light A Penny Candle*, Paul Howard's *Copperface Jacks: The Musical* • Consult on all marketing plans for shows in the Gaiety Theatre's season • Pre-production work for upcoming delayed productions including John B. Keane's *The Field*, Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*, Enda Walsh's *Medicine*, Maeve Binchy's *Circle of Friends* and the upcoming premiere of Bob Kelly/Patrick McCabe *Breakfast on Pluto*.

Landmark Productions, Dublin • April - June 2018 • Production Assistant

Assisted with a multitude of production needs for the world-premiere of the stage adaptation of Louise O'Neill's *Asking for It* • Facilitated company management needs via accommodation bookings throughout Ireland and the UK • Organised tour housing for cast and crew in Cork and Galway • Researched, wrote and coded Landmark's official Wikipedia page

Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin • May - August 2018 • Audience Development

Assistant Creatively design and implementing a major Audience Development Project consisting of 5 individual survey designs going out to 100,000+ Ticketmaster contacts in addition to patrons inhouse • Authored an 80-page report on the findings from the original surveys, Ticketmaster data, census data and relevant literature from the Arts Council of Ireland • Utilised marketing and PR expertise to efficiently assist the department with ad-hoc timely projects

Allied Touring, Chicago, IL • Sept 2015 - Sept 2015 • Tour Marketing & Press

Assistant Promoted the North American tours of productions including *The Book of Mormon*, *Kinky Boots*, *Once*, *MAMMA MIA!*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* • Updated localized Playbill and website information for various client productions in different markets • Drafted detailed press memos to request talent for appearances • Staffed and accompanied talent to press appearances and media interviews • Also worked in Digital Media Planning for sister organization 87AM: Drafted media plans for upcoming theatrical performances for 20+ clients, launched campaigns on digital media platforms including AdRoll, Google AdWords and Facebook

MARIA TIVNAN Director, Actor, Writer

Maria is the artistic director of Fregoli since its founding in 2007, she has performed, directed and written with the company.

Acting credits include: *Disco Pigs* (2010), *Home* (2012), *Let Me Be* (2013).

Directing Credits include: *Bedbound* (2007), *Breathing Water* (2011), *Dorset Street Toys* (2013), *Pleasure Ground* (2015), *You Could Be Us* (2017), *The Streets are Ours* (2018), *The Fregoli Heart Project* (2019), *Inside You Stay* (2020).

Writing Credits include: *The Sweet Shop* (2012), *Shur Ill be Alright Here on Me Own* (2014), *Mary Mary Mary* (2015) and *I want you to know me* (2020).

Maria is also co-chair of Galway Theatre Collective Theatre57 and is currently pursuing a practice based PhD with the drama department at NUI, Galway on how theatre creates the meaning of home.

ROISIN STACK Actor, Writer, Career Advice

Róisín Stack is a Galway-based theatre maker. She writes, performs and directs, creating disjointed and disruptive post-dramatic performances.

Recent work includes: *No Woman is an Island* (work in progress) for Dublin Theatre Festival Futures 2021 and *Also for Roaring* (live stream) at Nun's Island Theatre 2020.

She is current Artist in Residence at Nun's Island Theatre and recipient of an Arts Council Theatre Bursary to explore language in contemporary process. She is co-founder of artist collective Theatre57 and a Clore Fellow (Jerome Hynes Fellowship 2019/20).

In addition to her creative practice, she has worked in arts management and artist development for over a decade with companies such as Druid, Macnas, Clod Ensemble and Galway Theatre Festival. She sits on the Arts Council Peer Panel and is a Culture Ireland Expert Advisor.

EMMA O'GRADY Actor, Writer, Technician

Emma O'Grady is a Galway-based theatre artist, actor, writer and production manager. She collaborates with people to create theatre, film and art inspired by true events, real lives and shared histories. She was co-director of Mephisto Theatre with Caroline Lynch 2006-2014, and a production manager with Macnas until 2020. Her first play *What Good is Looking Well When You're Rotten on the Inside?* - based on tapes recorded by her grandfather during the last month of his life - was produced to critical acclaim in 2017 and continues to tour. In 2020 Emma created and directed documentary film series *Mad, Bad and Dangerous: A Celebration of 'difficult' women*. In 2021 she received a bursary from Galway County Council and Baboró to develop a new piece of theatre for young audiences, and received support from the Abbey theatre to continue development on a play about women in Kilmainham gaol during the Irish Civil War. Emma is a participant on Druid FUEL 2021 and recipient of an Arts Council Theatre Bursary 2020.

FERGAL Mc GRATH Venue Director, Town Hall Theatre

Fergal Mc Grath has worked in the cultural sector for the past 29 years. He is closely associated with the growth and development of a number of leading Irish companies and organisations including Druid Theatre Company (2002 - 2007), Galway Arts Festival (1992-2002) and previously the Irish houseplant division of Fyffes Plc (1985-1992). Fergal was Director of Town Hall Theatre 2007 - 2010 and from June 2013 to date. From 2010 to 2013, Fergal was MD of FMG Management and provided a range of consultancy, project management and business development supports to the cultural, tourism and services sectors. He is former Chairman of the Advisory Panel to and former member of the Steering group of Galway City Council's successful European Capital of Culture 2020 bid, a former Chairman of Theatre Forum, a founding member of the National Campaign for the Arts and a former board member of Cinemobile & Galway Arts Centre.

CONTACT INFORMATION

gthtdevelopment@gmail.com
www.tht.ie

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