

State of the Art

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



JOHN SCOTT, DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF IRISH MODERN DANCE THEATRE

John Scott is a Dublin born choreographer, performer, founder and Artistic Director of Irish Modern Dance Theatre, Dancer from the Dance Festival and member of Aosdána. He studied and performed at Irish National College of Dance/Dublin City Ballet from 1982 to 1985 in works by Anton Dolin, Anna Sokolow, Pearl Gaden and Babil Gandara.

His choreographic works include Divine Madness, Inventions, Cloud Study, Everything Now, Lear, Fall and Recover, Actions in Ireland at Dublin Dance Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival and internationally at John F Kennedy Center, Washington DC, New York Live Arts, La MaMa, Danspace Project at St Mark's Church, PS 122, New York and Dance Base, Edinburgh, Sounded Bodies Festival and Queer Zagreb, Croatia, Les Hivernales, Avignon, Tanzmesse Dusseldorf, Forum Cultural Mundial, Brazil.

He danced in Oona Doherty's Hard to be Soft, Meredith Monk's Quarry (Spoleto Festival) and for Yoshiko Chuma, Sarah Rudner, Anna Sokolow and Thomas Lehmen. He recently collaborated with Pan Pan on Beckett's QUAD.

John was awarded African Refugee Network's Culture Award for his work with Refugees and Survivors of Torture and is a subject of Sadlers Wells' 52 Portraits by Jonathan Burrows, Matteo Fargion and Hugo Glendinning. He has taught dance and choreography at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick; The Body in Performance, Drama Department, UCD; Drama Department NUIG; Drexel University, Philadelphia; University of Colorado at Boulder, USA and San Jose State University, CA, USA. He was a founding board member of Dublin Dance Festival and Dance Ireland.



HINA KHAN, VISUAL ARTIST

Hina was born in Born in Pakistan in 1980 and completed an MFA, majoring in Miniature Painting from Pakistan.

Hina's work uses a mixture of traditional and innovative techniques in Miniatures. She portrays social issues, immigration, humanitarian crises like prostitution, gender discrimination, gender restrictions, trauma, child abuse and killing etc in her work.

Hina has chosen Miniature because of its intricacy and delicacy of brush work which has a unique identity. Most of Hina's work is a mixture of traditional and contemporary miniature. My work is the constant search for the best way to interpret the ideas expresses my own ideologies through symbolism. Shifting my practice to installation, videos, 3D.

According to Hina 'I am creating a dialogue through my art. My art is a reflection of inner connection, and how immigrants and nomadic artists are a part of this land. Migration is deeply rooted in my blood. I have carried two cultures, one from where I was born and the other is this culture where I am trying to re-root myself. Sometimes a situation is not in our control, but life always takes us on different voyages. This journey has built up a constant transition in my art, personality, experimentation, enabling me to evolve my art practice.'

Hina has participated in number of groups shows in Pakistan from 2002 to 2011. Hina came to Ireland in 2015 and participated in a number of exhibitions in Dublin, Laois, Mayo, and Cork. Hina was awarded several residencies with Fire Station Arts Center, Create Ireland, West Cork Art Center and Cow House Studio and has displayed solo exhibition at Ballina Art Center, Mayo, and Stradbally Art house, Laois.

Hina's next solo exhibition will be exhibited in the coming months. Her art pieces are also in the permanent collection of Arts Council Ireland. She is the recipient of several Awards from Arts Council Ireland, Create Ireland, and different counties. Currently she is preparing a solo show which will be displayed in LHQgallery 2022.

Hina says that, 'as an artist, I am inspired by Sadequain, Michelangelo, Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Shahzia Sikander and Anselm Kiefer.'



AMNA WALAYAT, VISUAL ARTIST

Amna Walayat has an M.A. in Modern and Contemporary Art, History, Theory and Criticism from University College Cork

(2015) and M.A. in Fine Arts from University of the Punjab, Lahore in Pakistan (2002). She has worked as a Program Organizer with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts; Curator with Alhamra Arts Council and PhD studio-based researcher with PURAF, University of the Punjab. Her interest lies in British India, colonialism, orientalism, migration, and gender with the current focus on feminism.

Her recent shows include Maternal Gaze online, IMMA, 2021. Constellation, a two-person e-show, LHQ Gallery, Cork County Council. Imagine online Christ Church, Dublin, 2020. Transhumance, The Space, Dublin7, 2020.

She recently initiated the Ireland-Pakistan Arts Exchange (IPAE) to bring both art communities together through creating opportunities for networking and exchange. She has curated an e-exhibition, Re-Root with the Pakistani Artists Community in Ireland in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan, Dublin (August 2020) and organised Opportunities in Pakistan, a Visual Artists online Café in collaboration with VAI, December 2020.

Amna Walayat resided in the UK and France before settling in Cork, Ireland. She is a recipient of Arts Council

Ireland Visual Artist Bursary Award, 2020 and Recipient of Glucksman Art Gallery Cork, Curatorial Mentoring Support under a Professional Development Award 2021 and the Dilkusha Award 2021. Currently she is Member of Art Nomads, Smashing Times Dublin, Sample Studios Cork, Angelica Network, Visual Artists Ireland, Lavit Gallery Cork, Cork Print Makers under the Dilkusha Award.



DR SINEAD MCCANN, VISUAL ARTIST

Dr Sinead McCann Dublin based artist working across the mediums of performance, video, installation and

sculpture often in a context, site or community specific way. I often work collaboratively with arts and non-arts professionals to produce innovative and challenging artworks which add an artistic contribution to public debate on important social issues in modern life.

Recent works include; Sound On! (2021), a 3D creative sound project in collaboration with artist Alan James Burns and Saint John of God Liffey Service exploring happiness and human rights. Funded by Artist in Community Realisation Award. Small Talk (2021), a 45-minute radio documentary in collaboration with The Bridge Project Dublin 8 exploring access to employment for people with a criminal record. Funded by a research grant as part of the Engage the City programme with Dublin City Council Culture Company and Artist in Community Project Realisation Award. The Trial (2018), is a four channel synced video and sound installation made in collaboration with the Bridge Project Dublin 8, and University College Dublin medical historians Associate Professor Catherine Cox and Dr Fiachra Byrne. Funded by a Participation Project Award Arts Council, Community Award Dublin City Council, with further funding from University College Dublin and Wellcome Trust UK. National tour in 2019. Living Inside (2019), a photographic exhibition of the work of Irish photo-journalist Derek Speirs, Kilmainham Jail, co-curated with historian Dr Oisín Wall. Funded by the Wellcome Trust UK, and University College Dublin. Health Inside (2018), a public art intervention on large scale billboards and bus shelters in Dublin 7 near Mountjoy prison, in collaboration with UCD historians, Dr Oisín Wall and Associate Professor Catherine Cox. Funded by Open Call Award.

Sinead studied for my degree in Fine Art TU Dublin (00-04), and Masters of Fine Art (05-08) and Practice Based PhD Fine Art Sculpture (2009-2015) at the National College of Art and Design Dublin. She has worked part time (since 2009) in Technological University Dublin coordinating socially engaged curriculum-based projects between community organisations, staff and students across disciplines. She served on the board of directors of Common Ground 2013-2014.



GERALDINE MC ALINDEN, ACTOR, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND WRITER ORIGINALLY FROM ARMAGH IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Geraldine is an actor, director, producer and writer originally from Armagh in Northern Ireland. She started training in acting in the Gaiety School of Acting in 2000 and later in Stanislavski at the Focus Theatre in Dublin. In 2012/13 Geraldine completed the full time Screen Acting Programme at The Factory (now Bow Street Academy)

in Dublin where she trained with Lance Daly, Kirsten Sheridan, Shimmy Marcus, Jim Sheridan, Aisling Walsh, Derbhla Walsh, Frank Berry and Ian Power, among others.

Her film acting credits include Ordinary Love, Black 47, The Secret Scripture, Dark Lies the Island, Procession, and Portrait of a Zombie. Geraldine's performance in Portrait of a Zombie led to her being long listed for an IFTA for Best Actress in a leading role in a feature film in 2013. Geraldine's TV Credits include Miss Scarlet and the Duke, Blood, Striking Out and Red Rock. Her stage performances include The 24 Hour Plays Dublin 2020 (Abbey Theatre), One Day by Dick Walsh as well as Dublin Fringe theatre shows A Remember to Breathe and Spoonfed (a long play improvisation), Philadelphia, Here I come! and Beyond Therapy!

Geraldine trained in directing with Kristian Marken and she subsequently became an associate director with The Focus theatre. Her stage directing credits include Play/Record - The Granby Transcripts, (Players Theatre, Trinity), My Name is Mary (Project Theatre), The Cripple of Inishmaan, (Smock Alley) The New York Monologues (The International Bar, Smock Alley, The Electric Picnic, the Bulmer's Comedy Festival and The Focus Theatre), One flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (The Factory), Orphans (The New Theatre). Film directing credits include the short films Helmets and Thorny Ireland.

Geraldine has trained in writing with Stephen Walsh (Filmbase) and Pat McCabe (The Factory) among others. Her tiny play Knowing was published and produced by Fishamble's Tiny Plays for Ireland. She has also written several short films.

Geraldine is one of two founding members of Alchemy 8 Productions which produces theatre and film with a particular focus on stories of the human heart in conflict with itself. Its theatre production Orphans by Lyle Kessler which Geraldine also directed was included in a round-up of best theatre performances in Ireland in 2015.

Geraldine is fascinated by investigating themes of the human need for connection and community, the importance of sense of place and roots and the presumptions and prejudices these can bring. This is reflected in much of her work involving large ensemble casts, with a focus on developing well rounded, interesting characters and their physical and emotional juxtaposition in relation to each other.

She is passionate about the arts' ability to positively impact audiences in many far-reaching ways from providing much needed entertainment and escapism, to being a salve for the soul, a cathartic release and a means of encouraging and developing empathy. Geraldine believes in the power of humour to provoke an emotional shift. As a solicitor in her previous life, Geraldine is passionate about justice and promoting Human Rights on an individual and collective basis.



ÁINE O'HARA, VISUAL ARTIST AND THEATRE MAKER

Áine O'Hara is an award winning theatre-maker creating exciting and vulnerable work for and about people who are often left out of traditional art and theatre spaces. Áine's work questions and exposes bureaucracies that oppress those who fall outside certain definitions of 'normal,' 'valuable,' and 'productive.' Áine is interested in intimate one on one

performance and often makes work about being a queer, disabled & chronically ill person.

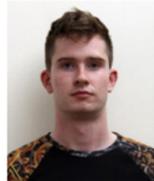
O'Haras long term ambitions include demanding adequate access to theatre and the arts for disabled and marginalised communities through the creation of large scale, ambitious work as well as the continuation of community building projects like Chronic Chats, a creative and social group for chronically ill people run with the support of the A4 Sounds Studios Project award.

O'Haras work has toured nationally and internationally, and she has shown work in the U.K, Sofia, Bulgaria In September 2020 she presented The Owl that lost the Cat, an interactive performance about loneliness and how to connect in a digital society at Survival Kit festival in Latvia.

In 2019 GAA MAAD, an exploration of what it means to be a queer GAA fan and the difficulty in loving a sport and a community that quite often hates and abuses you was selected for the inaugural DUETS programme. DUETS is an initiative developed by Fishamble: The new play company, Dublin Fringe Festival and the Irish Theatre Institute. DUETS is an artist development scheme that supports theatre makers in the creation of their own tourable productions. GAA MAAD was written and performed by Aine O'Hara & Vickey Curtis at Bewleys Cafe Theatre for Dublin Fringe Festival 2019. GAA MAAD was awarded the Outburst Queer Fringe Award 2019.

Áine has also worked in art departments for film and tv including 'Red Rock' currently on Virgin Media One and upcoming Irish feature film 'Broken Law' by Paddy Slattery.

Recent achievements: Group show-A consideration of all bodies at The Lab, 2021, Axis Playground Award 2020, A4 Sounds Studios Project Award 2020, during which she created 'Chronic Chats' a social and creative group for the chronically ill. GAA MAAD (2019) - which was selected for the inaugural DUETS programme for Dublin Fringe Festival and went on to win the Outburst Queer Fringe Award.



FÉILIM JAMES, WRITER AND POET

Féilim James is an award-winning writer from Dublin, Ireland. In 2020, the Arts of Council of Ireland awarded Féilim

a Literature Bursary Award to finish his debut novel, Flower of Ash, as well as a Professional Development Award. He received an Arts Bursary from Dublin City Arts Office in 2021 to finish his first poetry collection, I was a river, lost. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous journals, including The Fiction Pool, The Galway Review, and Icarus. His work through Irish, under Féilim Ó Brádaigh, has won seven Oireachtas na Gaeilge literary awards. His short fiction and poetry, through English and Irish, have appeared in a number of journals, including The Fiction Pool, The Galway Review, Icarus, and Comhar. A short film Féilim wrote, titled The Big No, produced by Smashing Times, was shortlisted by the IndieX Film Festival, and his play At Summer's End has toured Ireland.

In The Big No, a young man tells the story of his psychological unravelling and subsequent mental health crisis. Told in the form of a voiceover monologue accompanied by compelling imagery, this poetic short film takes us on a journey of despair, introspection, and

hope. As he battles against panic attacks and suicidal thoughts, he is forced to face the 'why' of his problems head on, learning some essential truths about himself and the world.

Féilim's play At Summer's End has been on tour with Smashing Times as part of The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII. At Summer's End is based on the life-story of Ettie Steinberg, an Irish woman who was murdered, along with her family, at Auschwitz.

Féilim's themes are wide-ranging, and include identity, mental illness, guilt, human animalism, death, and humankind's relationship with nature. He is committed to maintaining an ever evolving and progressive approach to his work, with each book both building on the last and differing in a vital way. In other words, the aforementioned themes will change as time passes, as will their stylistic rendering. 'My inspirations are many and wide-ranging. To the fore are James Joyce, Sylvia Plath, John Banville, Marilynne Robinson, Ted Hughes, TS Eliot, Seán Ó Riordáin, and Radiohead'.



NOELLE MCALINDEN, VISUAL ARTIST, CREATIVE ADVISOR, MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGNER, CURATOR AND CULTURAL BROKER

Noelle Mc Alinden is a practicing artist exhibiting locally, regionally and internationally, with work in public and private collections across UK, Europe, US and Canada. Noelle also works as a creative adviser, curator, arts educator, a former Head of Art and Design in a post-primary school and Senior Lecturer for Arts at Fermanagh College of Further Education. She teaches across a range of sectors including, primary, post primary, university and the prison Sector, and was an international artist in residence in University of Transylvania, Lexington, Kentucky as part of The Governors School of Art. As an arts activist for almost 39 years, Noelle has worked across statutory and voluntary Youth and Community sectors. She is passionate about all artforms promoting visual and performing arts, moving image, film and digital literacy. She was Chair of Creative Youth Partnerships and served as Chair of The Forum for Local Government and the Arts. She is an active advocate for the arts supporting the development of artists and creatives promoting collaborative and strategic partnerships locally, regionally and internationally.

Noelle's work varies in size, scale, subject matter and treatment, from large-scale oil paintings to small mixed media pieces on canvas. The work is vibrant in colour and texture that appeal strongly to the eye with work consisting of an extraordinarily vivid panorama of colour, light and imagery, abstract and semi representational. The work to date has evolved from the figurative/narrative tradition. The choice of subject matter and treatment of it has evolved in a logical development from previous solo exhibitions, Waterways of the mind, Out of the Blue, Evoloution, Precious Cargo and Emotional Landscape.

Abstract works are inspired by experiments with colour, texture, light and semi animated marks, traces of life that somehow continue to be figurative. The paintings in oils and acrylics cover surfaces and canvasses that have been distorted, distressed, layered with texture and colour, with fragments that have been constructed and deconstructed exposing colour beneath the surface.

Inspiration is drawn from who the artist is and where she has come from and where she is now, both the physical world the artist lives in and the private world within her that carries the Precious Cargo of the past and all its diverse, dynamic and evolving happenings, the magic of gained knowledge & personal insight. An Artist who has mined deeper with age, where with a love of emotive colour, scorched canvasses emerge, where blue tones and strong exotic tones collide, where inspiration is sought in everything and every experience, and where the artist paints large-scale as well as small, and welcomes the happy accident.

Inspiration from the work of Hodgkin's and Hoyland have influenced recent work. Noelle says "My work has evolved, it comes from my life, my soul, experiences, memory and imagination. Shaped, nourished by events and accidental happenings, family, friendship and a sense of place."



MICHELLE COSTELLO, ACTOR, DRAMA TEACHER, PUPPETEER, AND ARTIST

Michelle Costello is an actor, drama teacher, puppeteer and artist and is finishing a collaboration writing a children's book. Trained in conventional acting through The Gaiety School as well as method acting, through Focus Theatre and the late great Deirdre O'Connell, Michelle has over 30 years of experience in television, film and theatre, such as; Game of Thrones, Vikings, Fair City, Killinaskully, Bull Island, The House of Bernarda Alba to name but a few. She also works in corporate events, teambuilding and role play and Master of Ceremonies. Michelle trained as a puppeteer through Conor Lambert of the late Lambert Puppet Theatre, and teaches drama to young children as a self-discovery and development activity.

Michelle holds a certificate in Art and Design (N.C.A.D.) 2012, an honours degree in Fine Art, Sculpture (N.C.A.D.) 2015 and has delved into issues such as: Observations on Unethical Textile Manufacturing, The Obsession and Impact of 'Looking' Through Social Media, including the Oversexualisation of Teenage Girls. She has worked with Dublin City Artsquad, creating art projects for children from the inner city, and also performed in the RTE Junior Panto as well as a residency at Farmleigh.

Michelle was also awarded a Postgraduate in 'Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise' (U.C.D.) in 2016 and went on to secure contracts as manager of a Horror Themed House, Marketing Manager for a Kayaking Company and Sole Performer on a Live Moving Theatre Bus.

Michelle is at present training as a Radio Presenter, has been cast in a radio play, and performs voiceover comedy sketches for DiCtv.



CARLA RYAN, ACTOR, SING, SONG WRITER

Carla Ryan is an actor, singer and songwriter from Meath. She trained in TU Dublin's Conservatory of Music and Drama and Columbia College Chicago studying Drama (Performance). She has been working with Smashing Times as an actor since 2016. Professional

acting credits include Ettie in At Summers End, Nadine in Shadow of My Soul and Grace Gifford in Grace and Joe. Her performance of Grace and Joe for Constance and Her Friends by Mary Moynihan was hand selected by Resident Michael D. Higgins to be shown at Áras an Uachtarain for Culture Night 2016.

Carla is one half of the alt-pop duo ELKIN. Carla and best friend, Ellen were writing and singing together from the age of 15 before taking their music to a new level as ELKIN. Drawing inspiration from the likes of Joni Mitchell the duo began writing and performing folk-pop, but it wasn't until they began working with producer lullahush that ELKIN blended their love of thought-provoking folk lyrics with fierce alt-pop production. ELKIN have played at venues and festivals across Ireland including Longitude and Electric Picnic. Following the release of debut single Paro, ELKIN were named as one of State.ie's Faces of 2018. Their debut EP, Bad Habits, was released in May 2018. In February 2019, ELKIN released a new single Green Eyes, a collaboration with Æ MAK producer lullahush. In 2020 the duo were awarded funding from The First Music Contact Recording Stimulus Grant to record their debut EP Instant Hit, set for release early 2022.

ELKIN draw influence from the R'n'B, pop, indie and folk worlds. With bassist Peter and guitarist Conor of Hatchlings, plus drummer Rob, "the band display an eclectic mix of R&B, pop and hip-hop beats, bolstered by alternating female vocals and smooth guitars." Stephen Porzio, Hot Press.



PAMELA MC QUEEN, DRAMATURG AND WRITER

Pamela is program manager for the diversity playwriting project The Baptiste Project with Black Irish theatre makers in Smock Alley Theatre 2020-2021. She was selected for the Dublin Theatre Festival 2020 research residency Unacknowledged Loss with Barbara Raes. With a Dublin City Council bursary, she is participating in the International Dramaturgy Lab in '21. She is also pursuing a mentorship in disability arts dramaturgy with mentor Jonathan Meth of the Crossing the Lines festival supported by an Arts Council bursary.

She is the dramaturg for 'Bang' by Michelle Read in Dublin Theatre Festival 2021. Recently Pamela was dramaturg on 'Jimmy's Hall' with The Abbey Theatre, (2017 & 2018) and 'Scotties' by Frances Poet & Muireann Kelly, National Theatre Scotland & Theatre GuLeor (2018).

Pamela was dramaturg for Clare Monnelly's play 'Minefield' in Dublin Fringe Festival 2019 under a Stewart Parker Trust mentorship. She was also a Creative Ireland/DLRArts playwriting mentor 2019-2020, Cavan Arts 2020. Mentoring with Arts Disability Ireland 2018-2021 includes 'The Spiders House' by Roderick Ford produced in 2020 at Project Arts Centre.

Pamela was New Play Dramaturg at The New Theatre, Temple Bar 2017-2020. Previously Pamela McQueen was Associate Dramaturg of the Tron Theatre, Glasgow from 2008-2011. Freelance Scottish work included the Olivier award winning Roadkill by Cora Bissett & Stef Smith (2011). She has an M.Litt in Dramaturgy & Playwriting from the University of Glasgow.



MICHAEL MC CABE, DIRECTOR, FACILITATOR, ACTOR, PERFORMER

Michael McCabe is a performer, theatre director, movement choreographer, facilitator and arts therapist. He is a graduate of the prestigious Ecole Internationale de Theatre Jacques Lecoq, Paris, France, and The Gaiety School of Acting, Dublin, Ireland.

His theatre appearances include The Drowning Room (Project Arts Centre), Borstal Boy, The Risen People (The Gaiety Theatre), A Christmas Carol, The Ginger Ale Boy (Corcadorca Theatre Company), Lives Worth Living (Graffiti Theatre Company), Good Evening Mr Joyce (Samuel Beckett Centre), Diarmuid agus Grainne, An Bradan Feasa, The Libertine, New World Order (Iomha Illdanach Theatre Company), Promises, Promises (Project Arts Centre), A Day With Daghdha (Daghdha Dance Company), Macbeth, Six Characters in Search for an Author, St. Joan, Ariel (all at the Abbey Theatre), Wheel, Jeckyll and Hyde (Dublin and Prague Fringe Festivals), Resist /Surrender (Dublin Dance Festival), and Where The Shoe Pinches (The Pavilion Theatre). He was clown co-ordinator for 35 clowns and appeared in Barabbas Theatre Company's production, City of Clowns, at the Dunamais, Junction and Eargail Arts Festivals, and The Complex, Smithfield and appeared in Pagliacci at The Everyman Place Theatre, as part of Cork Midsummer Festival.

His television and film appearances include Aristocrats (BBC), Ireland:1848, (RTE), Window (IFI), All God's Children (RTE/IFI), Nationwide (RTE). In 2021, Michael will appear in Bean Sidhe, Sweetcake, and Sodium Party, a new feature film directed by Michael McCudden.

Directing credits include: The Dead Woman's Son (Smock Alley Theatre), A Wonderful Life, Peter Pan's Cirque D'Imaginaire (TU Dublin Theatre), Showcases 2017-2019 (The New Theatre) and in 2020, The Grimm Tales (Smock Alley Theatre). Recent appearances include Footfalls, The Journey Home, and in Mermaid Arts Centre for Culture night on a work-in-progress, His Left, Her Right, supported by Mermaid and Wicklow Arts Office.

Michael has an M.A. (Honours) in Dramatherapy from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, an M.A. in Modern Drama Studies from University College Dublin, and a B.A. (Honours) in Communication Studies from Dublin City University. He has directed theatre work in the HSE, the Dyspraxia Association of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, St. Michael's house, and with other special needs organisations and schools with a focus on developing the potential of theatre for working with diverse groups.

Michael has been working as a Movement Director, teaching extensive movement classes for actors at the Conservatory of Music and Drama, TU Dublin, the National Association of Youth Drama, Ringsend Institute, the Department of Performing Arts, Bray Institute of Further Education, and The Gaiety School of Acting (full time course).

Michael is a resident artist with Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality and works with Smashing Times as a performer, director and arts facilitator on a range of projects from Acting for the Future to Legends of the Great Birth to State of the Art. His theatre company, Ruaille Buaille, is building a physical theatre ensemble style based on the techniques

of Jacques Lecoq, Anne Bogart, and Arianne Mouchkine. Michael was movement director on The Merchant of Venice, at Mermaid Arts Centre, and on the world premiere of Guerilla Days in Ireland World premier in Cork last year, due to open in The Olympia Theatre, Dublin on September 3rd.

Michael is a graduate of National University of Ireland, Maynooth, (M.A. Dramatherapy, 2.1 Honours), and was awarded a scholarship to train with internationally renowned theatre director Anne Bogart in New York. Bursary awards include South Dublin County Council, Irish Actors Equity, and The Arts Council.



ELLEN O'MAHONY, SINGER, SONGWRITER

Ellen O'Mahony is a 24-year-old musician from Dunboyne, Co. Meath, best known as one half of the alt-pop duo ELKIN.

She graduated from Maynooth University in 2019 with a BA degree in English and Music. Ellen is an experienced songwriter and performer, having performed her original songs with ELKIN since she was 15. She also received an Honourable Mention at the 2018 ISDA Awards for her original soundtrack to the play Abby, written and directed by James Browne. Ellen has extensive experience in acting. She completed her Grade 10 in Speech and Drama in and has performed in many productions with Maynooth University Drama Society, Southampton University Theatre Group and Southampton University Comedy Society.

Ellen is one half of the alt-pop duo ELKIN. Ellen and best friend, Carla, were writing and singing together from the age of 15 before taking their music to a new level as ELKIN. Drawing inspiration from the likes of Joni Mitchell the duo began writing and performing folk-pop, but it wasn't until they began working with producer lullahush that ELKIN blended their love of thought-provoking folk lyrics with fierce alt-pop production. ELKIN have played at venues and festivals across Ireland including Longitude and Electric Picnic. Following the release of debut single Paro, ELKIN were named as one of State.ie's Faces of 2018. Their debut EP, Bad Habits, was released in May 2018. In February 2019, ELKIN released a new single Green Eyes, a collaboration with Æ MAK producer lullahush. In 2020 the duo were awarded funding from The First Music Contact Recording Stimulus Grant to record their debut EP Instant Hit, set for release early 2022.



MARY MOYNIHAN, WRITER, DIRECTOR, THEATRE AND FILM MAKER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SMASHING TIMES INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS AND EQUALITY

Mary Moynihan, MA, is a writer, theatre and film-maker, and Artistic Director of Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality incorporating Smashing Times Theatre and Film Company and Smashing Times Youth Arts Ensemble. Mary is a Theatre Lecturer at TU Dublin Conservatoire. As Artistic Director of Smashing Times, Mary specialises in professional theatre and film practice and in using the arts to promote human rights, peace, gender equality and positive mental health, developing cutting edge, arts-based programmes with a

range of organisations at local, national and international levels. The work of Smashing Times is underpinned by a rights-based approach and a commitment to artistic excellence and social engagement. Company patrons are First Lady Sabina Coyne Higgins, Senator Joan Freeman, founder of Pieta House, Ger Ryan, actor and Tim Pat Coogan, writer and historian.

Mary has worked as lead artist on a range of award winning projects including Acting for the Future which uses theatre to promote positive mental health and well-being, run in partnership with the Samaritans and supported by the HSE National Office for Social Inclusion, and the highly successful European projects Women War and Peace, Women in an Equal Europe and the Comet Lines: Freedom Trails of Europe run in partnership with organisations from Spain, Germany, Poland, Croatia, Belgium and Serbia, with repeat funding from Europe for Citizens. Mary has worked on a range of projects in Northern Ireland using the arts to promote peace building and reconciliation. Key work includes The Memory Project which uses theatre and film to promote peace and non-violence, run in partnership with CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) and the University of Ulster INCORE International Conflict Research Institute. Mary has designed a series of drama workshop models to promote anti-racism, anti-sectarianism, human rights, gender equality, positive mental health and suicide prevention. Mary has been invited to present in Ireland and across Europe in relation to the numerous award-winning projects she has created and worked on.

As a playwright, Mary's work includes the highly acclaimed The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII by Mary Moynihan, Deirdre Kinahan, Paul Kennedy and Fiona Bawn Thompson; In One Breath from the award-winning Testimonies (co-written with Paul Kennedy); Constance and Her Friends and Grace and Joe - selected by President Michael D. Higgins for performance at Áras an Uachtaráin for Culture Night - and May Our Faces Haunt You and Silent Screams. Mary is the author of 'Loving the art in yourself' and 'Interview with Margaret Toomey' in Stanislavski in Ireland - Focus at 50 edited by Steve Burch and Brian McAvera, published by Carysfort Press, 2013. She wrote a chapter titled 'Death of a Mother' for Motherhood in Ireland, edited by Dr Patricia Kennedy, Department of Social Policy, UCED, Mercier Press, 2003. She co-authored a chapter titled 'Laughing Together: Community-based theatre's vital sense of humour' for Comedy in Contemporary Irish Theatre, edited by Dr Eric Weitz, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Carysfort Press, 2004.

As a theatre director, professional directing credits include the The Woman is Present: Women's Stories of WWII on Irish and international tour (co-director Bairbre Ni Chaoimh); scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare for the Abbey Theatre, Dublin; Uprising scripted by Tara McKeivitt and devised by Smashing Times at Project Arts Centre Dublin and on national tour; Thou Shalt Not Kill by Paul Kennedy at Project Arts Centre Dublin and Lyric Theatre Belfast; Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Samuel Beckett Theatre; Macbeth by William Shakespeare, Conservatory of Music and Drama Theatre; Orphans by Dennis Kelly, Focus Theatre; The Crucible by Arthur Miller, St. Dymphna's Oratory, Grangegorman; Shattering Glass and In One Breath (Testimonies) for Smashing Times at Project Arts Centre and Helix Theatre, Dublin; Olga from Picasso's Women by Brian McAvera for Focus Theatre; Orpheus Descending by Tennessee Williams, Mill Theatre Dundrum; Two Rooms by Lee Blessing for Focus Theatre; Talk To Me Like The Rain and Let Me Listen by Tennessee

Williams, Focus Theatre; May Our Faces Haunt You (nationwide tour); A Chain of Hands (Royal Hibernian Academy, National Museum of Ireland and the Mansion House, Dublin); Medea (Smashing Times on nationwide tour); Yerma by Federico Garcia Lorca and Riders to the Sea by JM Synge, Samuel Beckett Theatre, Dublin. As an actor Mary has worked in theatre, television and film including RTE's Fair City, Federico Garcia Lorca's The House of Bernarda Alba at Focus Theatre and End of Term by Maeve Binchy on nationwide tour.

Film work includes the television documentary Stories from the Shadows, the short film Tell Them Our Names, selected for the London Eye International Film Festival and Kerry Film Festival, the creative documentary Women in an Equal Europe and the short film Courageous Women based on powerful women's stories from the decade of commemorations period 1916 to 1923 in Irish history.



KWASIOY BOYCE, ACTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF M.A.D. YOUTH THEATRE

Kwasioy Boyce lives in Dundalk, County Louth. He was born and raised in Trinidad

and later grew up in New York from his early teens. He found his calling as an actor and trained and performed with IMPACT Repertory Theatre Performance Company, Negro Ensemble Company and Theatre For the New City. He was drawn to theatre companies where Activism is at the core to the work they create and stories they tell.

He took part in many film projects including features in Vikings, Red Rock and Bloods. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Dundalk's M.A.D. Youth Theatre and proud to say they are heading into their 10th Year. They have devised and produced award-winning plays and have a reputation for taking risk and not shying away from issues that young people want to talk about. He works as a freelance drama facilitator in schools and various youth organisations and currently serves as Dundalk Youth Centre's programme coordinator for PEACE IV Anticlockwise programme, where they use art as a tool to explore conflict, peace and reconciliation.



KATE CANNING, ACTOR, SINGER, MANAGER OF DLR MILL THEATRE

Kate was appointed Manager of the DLR Mill Theatre in June 2016. Previously she

worked at the Gaiety School of Acting as the Shakespeare Schools Programmer. Kate directs at the Mill for Sunflower productions, most recent productions include The Importance of Being Earnest and The Playboy of The Western World. Previously she directed King Lear, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Macbeth and The Importance of Being Earnest at Smock Alley Theatre. Kate has a particular interest in Arts Education and thoroughly enjoys her work with the Mill Youth Theatre. She is so proud of what the venue has to offer and of the wonderful companies, local groups, staff & volunteers which keep the flame burning.