

BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE WITH JASANGO THEATRE PRESENT



Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

07 - 10 JULY 2022

www.scriptsireland.com

BIRR, CO. OFFALY

FEATURING: FISHAMBLE, CHRISTIAN O'REILLY, DEIRDRE KINAHAN & MUCH MORE

Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival



SPECIAL THANKS

Abbey Theatre; Sally O'Leary Offaly County Council
Arts Officer; Brosna Press; Fishamble; The Stables;
Spinners on Castle Street; Dooly's Hotel;
Anne Coughlan; Mary O'Dwyer; Ger Nolan;
Connor Keaveny; Birr – LOETB; Paul Moore;
Birr Castle Demesne; Birr Festivals Collective;
Colm Croffy

FESTIVAL TEAM

Angela Ryan Whyte, Lisa Daly,
Emma Nee Haslam, Eugene O'Brien,
Gildas Le Pallec, Rebecca Kelly.

Welcome to the ninth **Scripts – Ireland's Playwriting Festival**. Established in 2013, Scripts continues to create unique opportunities for playwrights, aspiring and established, to have their work developed and produced. Our picturesque town of Birr, Co. Offaly, a haven of Georgian elegance and boutique chic, plays host to an ensemble of playwrights, producers, actors and directors, all discussing, presenting and producing riveting new works for stage.

Our innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre – those who want to create, perform and watch live new theatre in beautiful surroundings. We are thrilled to welcome you to another outing of Scripts and trust you will enjoy every Festival moment!

Our selected writers are **Tony Doyle, Sarah McKenna Dunne and Jacqueline Corrigan and Robert Webster**. Their plays will be performed as rehearsed readings with professional actors at Nurtured New Works on Sunday 10 July. The winning play will be chosen by our very distinguished panel!

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

This year the theme of **Escape** prompted playwrights to reflect on the myriad of ways one can feel trapped: characters struggling to be heard, to be seen; situations that characters needed to escape from. This prompted us to think about the situations that one cannot control - the colour of our skin, our unique heritage, our role as parents, our mental and physical challenges. Playwriting offers the unique opportunity to hold a lens up to the world we live in, examine it and see it from different perspectives. This year, we want to consider how we can creatively consider what inclusion can look like, both on and off the stage.



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 7 JULY

PAGE

10am	Family Proofing Your Arts Practice Creative solutions to challenges facing parenting artists	Workshop	7
7pm	George B. Miller Award with Youth Theatre Ireland	Theatre	4
8.30pm	Bloody Yesterday by Deirdre Kinahan	Theatre	4

AFTERSHOW: THE CHESTNUT

FRIDAY 8 JULY

PAGE

4.30pm	Unconscious Bias with David Walsh, Diversity.ie	Workshop	7
8pm	Looking for América by Janet Moran and Federico Julián González	Theatre	5

AFTERSHOW: KELLY'S BAR

SATURDAY 9 JULY

PAGE

11am	Living with a Fairy by Jay Ryan	Family	11
4pm	Promenade Performance Community Theatre	Theatre	11
8pm	Wake by Irene Kelleher	Theatre	6

AFTERSHOW: CRAUGHWELL'S BAR

SUNDAY 10 JULY

PAGE

9.30am	Innovation & Inclusion Gavin Kostick - Fishamble	Workshop	7
12.30pm	Playwriting with Christian O'Reilly	Workshop	7
4pm	Nurtured New Works Festival Finale	Theatre	8

AFTERSHOW: THE CHESTNUT

TICKET OFFERS

All events are individually priced but why not pick a bundle and immerse yourself in Scripts!

ONE-A-DAY €50

Thur: Bloody Yesterday
Fri: Looking for America
Sat: Wake
Sun: Nurtured New Works

SUPER SCRIPTS SUNDAY €40

Two Playwriting Workshops & Nurtured New Works

SCRIPTS SCHOLAR €100

Access to all performances and workshops and observing Scripts mentoring session

To avail of the above discounts, the **FULL** package must be purchased at the one time.

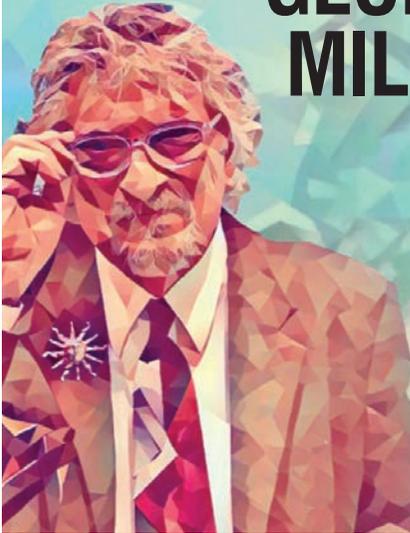
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THEATRE

GEORGE B. MILLER AWARD

In association with

**YOUTH
THEATRE
IRELAND**



Live reading with writer Pete Mullineaux and our three George B. Miller Award recipients - Bridgid Galvin, Carley Magee, Isaac Quinn.

Meet the playwrights selected to write three new plays for 11-14 year olds as part of the George B. Miller Award. Mentor Pete Mullineaux introduces the new works in progress and their playwrights. Audiences will hear extracts from the plays and have the opportunity to take part in a talkback session. Young audiences and readers are welcome for this fun hybrid performance which will also be livestreamed. (Read more about the award on page 10)

Thursday 7 July, 7pm BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE

FREE EVENT - BOOKING RECOMMENDED

This event will be recorded for a podcast.

THEATRE



BLOODY YESTERDAY

Written by Deirdre Kinahan

Performed by Elizabeth Moynihan and Sinead Keegan

Directed by Rex Ryan, Glass Mask Theatre

Bloody Yesterday is a new play by Deirdre Kinahan inspired by a true story. This intimate play delicately depicts a broken mother-daughter relationship and explores loss, estrangement, identity, resilience and motherhood. Haunted by a 'nineties' soundtrack, *Bloody Yesterday* also charts the extraordinary influence that music has on memory and the unshakeable bond of family, love and blood. A memorable piece for both youth and adult audiences alike.

Thursday 7 July, 8.30pm BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE €15

Festival Opening Night - Wine Reception

THEATRE

MERMAID ARTS CENTRE AND ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

LOOKING FOR AMÉRICA

Written and Performed by Federico Julián González • Written and Directed by Janet Moran



Looking for América is the real-life story of writer and performer Federico Julián González. Following his father's arrest by a Military Junta, at the age of five, Fede and his family were forced to flee the Salvadoran Civil War. There followed years of continuous moving throughout Latin America with his mother and brother as they sought sanctuary.

In 2019, Fede and his 74-year-old mother set off on a quest through Havana to look for América. Shared memories, conflicting recollections and offline maps led them through their past. A past peopled with ghosts scattered among grand avenues, dark lanes and unnerving dead ends in the city that had taken them in, more than 30 years before. They spoke to shop-keepers, taxi drivers, old ladies and more importantly to each other. When they were about to give up, they found her.

Looking for América charts two journeys. The journey of that night in Havana looking for a Salvadoran ex-Guerilla fighter called América, and the journey of escaping the catastrophe that had engulfed his country decades before. A catastrophe whose after effects still resonate today. Sometimes the idea of home has to be remade. And remade. And remade.

Friday 8 July, 8pm BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, €15

FUNDED BY THE ARTS COUNCIL. SUPPORTED BY DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN AND PAVILION THEATRE.

THEATRE



WAKE

Written & Performed by Irene Kelleher

"I try to escape the sea of parishioners spitting sympathy and sandwiches at me with trail of egg salad dripping down. The house is like a scene from the Great Gatsby. Only this is West Cork so minus the glamour and good-looking people." At her mother's wake Lily suffers her way through the sea of Auntie Rachel's sandwiches, cousin Aileen's juicing recipes and Aoibheann's woodland theme wedding plans, until an old face from her past arrives. Rapidly changing into her x-rated top and revelling in the disapproving whispers from the neighbours, Lily is not your typical mourner. She will not let the night that's in it thwart her plans.

SATURDAY 9 JULY, 8pm, BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, €15 (including your Wake ham sandwich!!)

Wear your funeral best - prize for best funeral outfit!

Running Time: 60 min - no interval
Age suitability 14+

Directed by Geoff Gould
Sound and Video Design by Cormac O' Connor
Lighting Design by Steve Neale
Set Design by Davy Dummigan

FAMILY PROOFING YOUR ARTS PRACTICE

A workshop on creative solutions to challenges facing parenting artists with Lesley Conroy

Are you a parent, expectant parent, guardian or carer? Have you come across challenges with balancing being a parent and a working artist? Are you interested in being part of a supportive informal community of artist parents in your area? Join theatre maker and Scripts Ireland 2020 winner, Lesley Conroy for an informal gathering of parenting artists, ask questions, learn new things, share experiences, and of course have coffee!

Thursday 7 July, 10am-12.30pm FREE EVENT - BOOKING RECOMMENDED

Please wear comfy clothes. Tea/Coffee will be provided. Children welcome under the supervision of their carer.

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Presented by David Walsh of Open Minds / Diversity.ie

Unconscious bias throws a wrench in the creative process. It is the main obstacle to a diverse and inclusive work. Playwrights need to see their own unconscious bias and understand it. In this workshop, David Walsh will explore the way unconscious bias operates and help participants identify it and understand barriers to truly inclusive creativity. David has wide-ranging expertise and knowledge in diversity management as a researcher, lecturer and facilitator. More info on ScriptsIreland.com.

Friday 8 July, 4.30-6.30pm, DOOLY'S HOTEL, €15

INNOVATION & INCLUSION: BREAKING BOUNDARIES IN NEW WRITING

Presented by Gavin Kostick of Fishamble

Fishamble's Literary Manager and awarding-winning playwright, Gavin Kostick will look at practical examples of how playwrights and productions are shifting casting decisions in Ireland. The successful production of *The Treaty* by Colin Murphy will be used as a key example (participants will be provided with the script in advance of the workshop).

Sunday 10 July, 9.30am-12pm DOOLY'S HOTEL, €20

PLAYWRITING WITH CHRISTIAN O'REILLY

This workshop will explore the nuts and bolts of playwriting, giving writers the tools they need to write a play and the opportunity to apply them through writing exercises. Christian's plays *It Just Came Out*, *The Good Father*, *Is This About Sex?*, *Here We Are Again Still*, *Sanctuary* and *Chapatti* have been produced by Druid, Rough Magic and Decadent. He draws on his extensive experience for this practical hands-on workshop suited to emerging playwrights.

Sunday 10 July, 12.30-3pm DOOLY'S HOTEL €20

Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

NURTURED NEW WORKS FESTIVAL FINALE

Directed by Jeda de Bri • Music by Morgan Cooke

After a week of mentoring, editing and directing, our selected *Scripts* Playwrights' plays will go from page to stage, directed by Jeda de Bri and performed in a staged reading by some of Ireland's leading actors. The winner will be chosen by our esteemed judging panel, Jesse Weaver (The Abbey Theatre) and Gavin Kostick (Fishamble). Delving into this year's theme, *Escape*, these three plays follow characters that are getting out and breaking free, changing their lives in the process. They lead us to question what are we each trying to escape from. Followed by a talkback session.

Sunday 10 July, 4pm

BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, €15

Read more about our writers and production team on ScriptsIreland.com



PLAYWRIGHTS



TONY DOYLE

MARBLE MUSHROOMS

Father and son, Karl and Tom are waiting to catch a flight. Karl has made a huge decision. Tom is traveling with him but while they wait he tries to convince his son not to go through with it.



SARAH MCKENNA DUNNE

DA STATE A LUKE KELLY'S HEAD

Escaping from their emergency accommodation for the evening, brothers, Damo and Michael meet with their childhood friend and plot to build a music career inspired by fellow Sherriff Streeter Luke Kelly.



JACQUELINE CORRIGAN & ROBERT WEBSTER

CHANGING ROOM

A young woman is trapped half in and half out of a dress in a boutique changing room. What's worse, her bridezilla sister is on the warpath and there is also the matter of stolen clothes in her bag!



DIRECTOR



JEDA DE BRÍ is an award-winning director and writer for stage and screen. Most recently she directed *Windows 21* for Fighting Words at The Abbey Theatre. She also wrote and directed the Screen Ireland funded short film *Procession* (Best Short, Bellingham Music Film Festival 2019). She is currently developing her acclaimed play *TRYST* as a feature film with Treasure Entertainment.

MENTOR



EUGENE O'BRIEN mentors our selected playwrights throughout the festival. Eugene won the Irish Times Theatre Award, the Stewart Parker Award and the Rooney Prize for Literature for his play *Eden*. He also wrote the award-winning *Pure Mule*, the comedy film *The Flag* and had co-writing credits for numerous radio dramas. Coming this year is a film *Tarrac* premiering at Galway Film Fleadh, a play *Heaven* debuting at the Dublin Theatre Festival and his first novel, *Going Back*, to be published in August.

JUDGING PANEL



CHRISTIAN O'REILLY is a playwright and screenwriter. His plays have been produced in Ireland and internationally by companies such as Druid, Northlight and Rough Magic. He was a recipient of the Stewart Parker Trust New Playwright Bursary for his debut play *The Good Father*. His new play *No Magic Pill* will be staged this Autumn.



GAVIN KOSTICK, is Literary Manager at Fishamble. He works with new writers for theatre through a variety of courses, script development workshops and award-winning schemes. Gavin is also an award-winning playwright. His works have been produced nationally and internationally.

ACTORS



Callan Cummins



Charlie Bonner



Megan McDonnell

THE PRIZE

- Scholarship: Fishamble Playwriting Course
- Private Consultation & Scripts Analysis with The Abbey Theatre
- Tickets to Performance at The Abbey Theatre
- Runners-up: Place on The Wonderland Theatre Bookclub *Mining Mythology* Course





GEORGE B. MILLER AWARD

in collaboration with Youth Theatre Ireland

George B. Miller was a friend, colleague, and mentor to *Scripts*. His passing left a palpable loss in the hearts of theatre makers, on both sides of the Atlantic. To emulate and channel the ideals that characterised George's approach to new works, we created an award in his honour.

The George B. Miller Award offers playwrights the opportunity to have the experience that George created for countless playwrights in his lifetime; dramaturgical advice, a reading by actors, and a talkback session to explore the complexities of the themes and how they relate to the world around us. In recognition of George's ability to inspire, motivate and encourage young voices to find themselves through the process of bringing a script to life, we are delighted to be working closely with Youth Theatre Ireland on this project.

Following a call for submission for plays for youth ensembles (age 11-14yrs), **Bridgid Galvin, Carley Magee** and **Isaac Quinn**, are the selected playwrights. They are working with acclaimed writer Peter Mullineaux to further refine and develop their scripts over a six-month mentorship process. The completed plays will be workshopped and rehearsed by affiliated youth theatres and staged extracts will be performed as part of *Playshare* at Youth Theatre Ireland's Youth Theatre Practice Symposium at University College Cork in November.

Excerpts of their work will be presented at *Scripts* on Thursday 7 July in an intimate hybrid performance, where audiences can view online or in-person early drafts of these exciting new works of theatre. The playwrights will introduce the works-in-progress and young actors are invited to attend and read parts on the night.

For more info and details, go to www.scriptsireland.com/georgebmilleraward

**YOUTH
THEATRE**
IRELAND



OUTDOOR THEATRE

PROMENADE PERFORMANCE

Inspired by the Famous & Notables FAN Trail of Birr, the Blue Plaques FAN Trail will be the setting of an exciting community-theatre project where a selection of short plays will be performed at locations along the FAN Trail commemorating the remarkable people and places from Birr's fascinating history.

Devised and directed by Eddie Alford
Performed by members of Birr Stage Guild
Collaborating Artists Rosalind Fanning and Jackie Lynch
Produced by Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Saturday 9 July, 4pm, STARTS AT EMMET SQUARE



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



FAMILY THEATRE

LIVING WITH A FAIRY

Written & performed by Jay Ryan
with live music by Rossa Ó Snodaigh of Kíla

It turns out you never know where you might find fairies or what kind of mischief they might get up to! *Living with A Fairy* is a wonderful, family show about Jay's adventures with a fairy who comes to live with him. Jay Ryan is well known to many as the star of the RTÉ Junior *Living with a Fairy* Series.

Saturday 9 July, 11am BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE
€8 (1 adult/2 kids €20)



THANK YOU TO OUR PRIZE SPONSORS



ABBEY
THEATRE
AMHARCLANN
NA MAINSTREACH



THE NEW PLAY COMPANY



Special Thanks to The Wonderland Book Club for awarding two places at their next Bookclub *Mining Mythology* (Tuesdays September 13th – December 20th, 2022 online via Google Meet at 5pm-7.30pm) to the two playwrights who receive the Scripts Runner Up Award.
www.alicecoghlan.com

Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival



SCRIPTS AT A GLANCE

THU 7	10am	Family Proofing Your Arts Practice
	7pm	George B. Miller Award
	8.30pm	Bloody Yesterday
FRI 8	4.30pm	Unconscious Bias
	8pm	Looking for America
SAT 9	11am	Living with a Fairy
	4pm	Promenade Performance
	8pm	Wake
SUN 10	9.30am	Innovation & Inclusion
	12.30pm	Playwriting with Christian O'Reilly
	4pm	Nurtured New Works

Since inception in 2013, **Scripts** has established collaborative links with key organisations including The Abbey Theatre, Fishamble Theatre, Listowel Writers Week, Irish Writers Centre, RTÉ Drama on One, Culture Night, #Waking The Feminists and lots more. As well as winning a PPI Radio Award for Drama with Midland 103, Scripts has created incomparable opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors and producers to continually strive for excellence in the craft of Playwriting and Drama. We look forward to continuing these relationships and exploring further friendships with like-minded lovers of new work.

TICKET OFFERS

Pick a bundle and immerse yourself in Scripts!

ONE-A-DAY €50

Thur: Bloody Yesterday
 Fri: Looking for America
 Sat: Wake
 Sun: Nurtured New Works

SUPER SCRIPTS SUNDAY €40

Two Playwriting Workshops & Nurtured New Works

SCRIPTS SCHOLAR €100

Access to all performances and workshops and observing Scripts mentoring session

To avail of the above discounts, the FULL package must be purchased at the one time.

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www.scriptsireland.com



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 Creative Ireland
 Programme
 2017-2022

