CULTURE
IRELAND
PROMOTING IRISH ARTS
EDINBURGH 2016
Welcome

Over the past decade Culture Ireland, fulfilling its remit to promote Irish arts worldwide, has had an annual focus on supporting Irish artists and companies to present their new work to a wide international audience at the Edinburgh Festivals in August.

Irish artists have had many successes at Edinburgh in terms of awards, critical acclaim, audience feedback and new global touring contracts. Each year our artists look forward to this important annual event and the opportunities it offers. The long term close relationship Ireland has with Scotland in the area of arts and culture and beyond is truly valued and it is our close contacts which make this time in Edinburgh truly special for Irish artists.

This year Ireland celebrates a special period in our history and through the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, Irish artists have been presented at significant international venues and festivals building on Ireland’s cultural connections as we reflect, engage and commemorate. In Edinburgh this August I am delighted that the programme of Irish work includes theatre, dance and literature. I wish to thank our Scottish presenting partners at Dance Base, Pleasance, Summerhall and the Edinburgh International Book Festival for their support and welcome for our artists.

I wish all involved an enjoyable and successful festival.

Heather Humphreys, T.D.
Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Culture Ireland

Culture Ireland creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present their work at international festivals, venues, showcases and arts markets. These include the Edinburgh Festivals, Celtic Connections (Glasgow), the Venice Art and Architecture Biennales, WOMEX World Music Expo, South by Southwest (in partnership with First Music Contact), Frankfurt Book Fair (in partnership with Literature Ireland) and Tanzmesse (Düsseldorf).

Culture Ireland runs a regular funding scheme to support the international presentation of work by Irish artists and companies. Applications are accepted from both participating artists and from international presenters. Culture Ireland also operates See Here, a scheme to support the inward travel to Ireland of international presenters, curators and promoters to see new Irish work available for touring.

In 2015 Culture Ireland supported Irish artists at over 300 events with over 3m audience members and 6.5m online/radio/television viewers. Many of these artists achieved high profile awards and critical recognition. Investment by Culture Ireland at these events generated the equivalent of 200 fulltime jobs for Irish artists abroad.

Over recent years, Culture Ireland has also curated and presented a number of special initiatives including Imagine Ireland, a year of Irish arts in North America in 2011 and Culture Connects, a culture programme to mark Ireland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2013. Throughout 2016, Culture Ireland continues to present I Am Ireland, a year-long calendar of global culture events as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme.

Christine Sisk Director
Ciarán Walsh Programme Manager, Commemorations and Showcases

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SHOWCASE FRINGE
Dark comedy, family drama and spoken word odyssey, *Dublin Oldschool* snaps, crackles, raps and rhymes. Two brothers living on the edge, with more in common than they think – but how long can this buzz last?

★★★★★ ‘Exceptional acting squared with exceptional writing … unmissable.’ *The Sunday Times*

★★★★★ ‘Kirwan’s late night trip through the city makes for incredible theatre’ *The Evening Herald*

Winner Stewart Parker Trust Award 2014 / Winner Best Performers Award for Emmet Kirwan & Ian Lloyd Anderson, Tiger Dublin Fringe 2014
A blindfolded boy violently swings a stick at a piñata. A choir of ghosts gatecrash a child’s birthday party. The front and back ends of a pantomime horse can’t see eye to eye. In the aftermath of a tragic disappearance where no clear answers can be found, a succession of surreal characters struggle to piece together events and find increasingly disturbed ways of dealing with their loss. *It Folds* is a poignant and humorous portrait of death, grief, beauty and the extremes of the human condition from two of Ireland’s leading performance companies. Fusing the distinctive choreography of Junk Ensemble with the innovative theatricality of Brokentalkers this multi-award winning show is comic, powerful and haunting. Both companies are Project Artists, an initiative of Project Arts Centre. *It Folds* is a co-production with LÓKAL Festival Reykjavík.

★★★★ ‘Rich theatrical pickings’
*The Irish Times*

★★★★ ‘Perturbingly powerful, this beguiling production is stirringly beautiful’
*Broadway World*
UK PREMIERE
A serious, searing and tender debut from Writer-Director Orla Murphy (nominated Fishamble Best New Play 2015, shortlisted BBC International Playwriting Award).
In a pool in post-earthquake Christchurch, New Zealand, recent emigrant Maeve is learning to swim. ‘Swimaholic’ coach Doreen eggs her on. Maeve must battle the water and an unresolved dilemma with her much loved father back home. Starring Liz Fitzgibbon, David Heap and Julie Sharkey.

★★★★ ‘Learning to swim becomes the metaphor for survival in this fine, understated play.’ Irish Times
★★★★ ‘Intelligent, captivating and deeply moving.’ The Irish Examiner
‘Beautiful. Profound. Uplifting.’ The Red Curtain Review
Choreographed by ex-Riverdance principal Breandán de Galláí, Línger is a contemporary Irish dance work involving two male dancers at opposite ends of their dancing careers. This immersive theatrical experience is a powerfully tender and muscular exploration of Irish gay masculinity, and unfolds through a rich tapestry of photography, film, music, and movement.

‘Línger skilfully manages these contradictory tensions that lie at the heart of human identity. Although a furtive and tentative ritual dance of gay courtship is presented on screen, the work has a universality that resists any one reading.’

Michael Seaver, Irish Times
Fusing storytelling, rich imagery and dynamic movement, Murphy scales down and examines his opinions, his insecurities, ambitions and the tricky nature of keeping a long term relationship with your cultural identity. Both fragile and blunt, this multi-disciplinary work examines the satisfaction of following your own path and the fear of losing that small thread in the labyrinth that will lead you home.

Winner of the Little Gem Award at the 2015 Dublin Fringe Festival.

★★★★ ‘It’s a deeply engaging and expertly controlled performance, sometimes charming and relaxed, sometimes pained and intense’

Irish Times
The story of a classical woman in a modern world. Trying to find her way – in, out and through the darkness – she chases the light. On the threshold, charged with emotion, how does she adapt to her surroundings? Her quest creates a universe where fragments make sense and sense is fragmented. Classical movement and music meet minimal electronic beats.

★★★★ ‘Herriott’s Liminal wallows in theatricality... Her constantly focused performance might have been cheerfully semi-autobiographical, but it is also more seriously universal.’ The Irish Times

★★★★ ‘spellbinding, often mesmerising...an amazing artist..’ The Examiner
Culture Ireland is proud to continue its support of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and its programme. The following is just a selection of the many events featuring Irish writers.

The 2016 Programme of Irish writers appearing the Edinburgh International Book Festival is being managed by Poetry Ireland as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme.
**Gavin McCrea**  
(with Dorothy Alexander)  
Sat 13 Aug 3.30pm  
Writers’ Retreat  
**Women of the Revolution**

First, the 1889 disaster at the Mauricewood pit near Edinburgh. Second, the unlikely love affair between 19th century pit owner Frederick Engels and a young working class Irish woman Lizzie Burns. These are real-life events which inspired two hugely accomplished historical novels. Dorothy Alexander’s *The Mauricewood Devils* and Gavin McCrea’s *Mrs Engels* bring overlooked women of the industrial era compellingly and convincingly to life. Chaired by Rosie Goldsmith.

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**Chris Haughton**  
Sun 14 Aug 3.15pm  
Baillie Gifford Imagination Lab  
**Age 3 - 6**

Little Bear feels wide awake but all around him the animals of the woodland are yawning and stretching, ready for a good night’s sleep. Meet multi award-winning Irish author-illustrator, Chris Haughton, as he introduces you to a host of sleepy animals in his lovely bedtime book, *Goodnight Everyone*.

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**Eimear McBride**  
Sun 14 Aug 4.00pm  
Garden Theatre

*A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* was one of the most exciting breakthrough debut novels of recent years. Irish novelist Eimear McBride’s second book lives up to expectations and confirms her as a writer of international significance. *The Lesser Bohemians* tells the memorable story of a young woman who arrives in London from Ireland in the 1990s, moving through innocence, discovery, joy and love.
Edna O’Brien
Tue 16 Aug 1.30pm
Baillie Gifford Main Theatre
One of the Greatest Irish Writers

Philip Roth has called it Edna O’Brien’s masterpiece; for John Banville it’s savage, tender and true; Claire Messud describes it as arduous and beautiful. The Little Red Chairs is the work of a truly great Irish writer at the height of her powers. A decade since she wrote her last novel, O’Brien discusses an astonishing story that charts the consequences of a fatal attraction.

Donal Ryan (with Philip Hensher)
Fri 19 Aug 10.15am The Spiegeltent
Tales of Persuasion and Redemption

If these two writers are a barometer for fiction in their respective countries, then British and Irish literature is currently bathed in sunshine. Philip Hensher’s compelling new book of short stories, Tales of Persuasion, shows the Man Booker-shortlisted author at the peak of his powers. One of Ireland’s most talented living authors, Donal Ryan unveils All We Shall Know, his highly anticipated new novel.

Mike McCormack (with Alex Pheby)
Fri 19 Aug 5.00pm Writers’ Retreat
Outstanding Fiction

Solar Bones by Mike McCormack and Playthings by Alex Pheby are examples of the outstanding fiction currently being nurtured by independent publishers in Britain and Ireland. Both books feature a man whose world is falling apart – one a fictional engineer in Ireland as the Celtic Tiger winds down; the other a real-life 19th century German judge. Each is haunted by memories, careless decisions and the abuse of power. Chaired by Daniel Hahn.
Danielle McLaughlin
(with Helen Simpson)
Sat 20 Aug 7.00pm The Spiegeltent
Strange Yet Beautiful Short Stories

Two brilliant exponents of short fiction come together for this event. Helen Simpson’s Cockfosters deals with ageing, ambition and long-term relationships in places as diverse as Dubai and Moscow. Danielle McLaughlin’s debut collection, Dinosaurs on Other Planets, explores a world that is both beautiful and strange, as a woman battles with bluebottles and a mother struggles to come to terms with her son’s eerie obsession.

Rob Doyle (with David Szalay)
Mon 22 Aug 8.30pm
Baillie Gifford Corner Theatre
Revealing Stories about Men

Two fine young authors have produced innovative sets of stories this year for which ‘novel’ or ‘collection’ don’t quite fit. Irish writer Rob Doyle puts himself into This is the Ritual, a book which also finds a home for a vagrant with dangerous ideologies and a man obsessed with his girlfriend’s shoes. David Szalay’s All That Man Is features nine stories about men, all of which interlink yet stand perfectly alone.

Unbound
Thu 25 Aug 9.00pm The Spiegeltent
Imagine Better

Inspired by The Rising Generation, the latest issue of Poetry Ireland Review, the Festival brings together poetry and prose to explore writing, revolutions, and how writers creatively shape our futures. Artists also explore the relationship and conflicts between personal and political identities, the boundaries between art and activism. Participating poets include Tara Bergin, Victoria Kennefick and Stephen Sexton.
Kevin Barry
Fri 26 Aug 7.00pm
Baillie Gifford Corner Theatre

Kevin Barry’s Beatlebone recently won the £10,000 Goldsmiths Prize for ‘fiction at its most novel’. The phrase seems apt: even though this is a story built from familiar elements – an imagined John Lennon, post-Beatles in 1978, trying to pay a visit to an isle off the coast of Ireland that the real-life Lennon bought in the 60s – Barry has produced a tour de force that’s funny, raw and dazzlingly novel.

Derek Landy:
Paranormal Page-Turners
Sat 27 Aug 5.00pm
Baillie Gifford Main Theatre
Age 12+

Author of the internationally bestselling Skulduggery Pleasant books, Derek Landy returns to the Book Festival with the latest instalment of his Demon Road series. Bringing his trademark wit and heart-stopping action to this mind-blowing supernatural thriller, Derek reveals what inspires his fast-paced, paranormal page-turners.

John Boyne
Sat 27 Aug 5.45pm
Garden Theatre
Stories from Ireland

This multi award-winning, internationally bestselling Dublin-based novelist is perhaps best known for a book loved equally by adults and children, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. John Boyne’s latest is Beneath the Earth, a book of surprising, beautiful and enthralling stories that add up to some of his finest writing yet. He’s one of Ireland’s most talented writers and he’s on top form.
DELEGATES
Philip Connaughton  
**Choreographer**  
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Philip is a choreographer/performer from Dublin. He trained at the Rambert School, London. He was Associate Artist of Dance Ireland (2013/14) and Artist-in-Residence at Axis Ballymun (2012) where he made *Mortuus Est Philippus* for Dublin Dance Festival. In 2014, he created a large-scale ensemble piece *Tardigrade*, which won best design in the Tiger Dublin Fringe Awards. He created *Whack!* in collaboration with Compagnie Kashyl in Paris in 2015 which just completed a very successful Irish and French tour. This year Philip is a recipient of a 16 x 16: Next Generation Bursary Award from the Irish Arts Council. His next work *Extraterrestrial Events*, will be performed in Paris and Dublin in 2017.

Jen Coppinger  
**Freelance Producer**  
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Jen works as Producer for HotForTheatre, TheEmergencyRoom, United Fall as well as with independent artists such as Kevin Barry, Paul Curley, Kellie Hughes, Seán MacErlaine, Gina Moxley, Jody O’Neill, Shane O’Reilly, Raymond Scannell and Dylan Tighe. She has toured work extensively in Ireland and internationally. She has worked on partnerships, commissions and co-productions with Cusack Projects Limited, Dublin Dance Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, International Literature Festival Dublin, The Irish Traveller Movement and Poetry Ireland. Jen is Project Manager for the Laureate for Irish Fiction (Anne Enright 2015-2018) for the Arts Council of Ireland and sits on the boards of RADE (Recovery through Art, Drama and Education) and NAYD (the National Association of Youth Drama). She is the Manager of Rough Magic SEEDS and an Artist Research Fellow at Queen Mary University of London.
Jim Culleton  
*Artistic Director, Fishamble: The New Play Company*  
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Jim has directed productions for Fishamble, on tour throughout Ireland and internationally, winning Olivier, Fringe First, Herald Angel, Argus Angel, The Stage, 1st Irish, Adelaide Fringe and Irish Times Theatre awards. Recent productions for Fishamble include *Invitation to a Journey* (co-production with CoisCéim, Crash Ensemble, and Galway International Arts Festival) and *Inside the GPO* by Colin Murphy (in Dublin’s General Post Office to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising), as well as Irish and international tours of *Tiny Plays for Ireland and America* (Kennedy Center and Irish Arts Center as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme), *Little Thing, Big Thing* by Donal O’Kelly, and *Forgotten, Silent* and *Underneath* by Pat Kinevane. Jim most recently directed *Bloomsday on Broadway* for Irish Arts Center/Symphony Space in New York and will next direct *Mainstream* by Rosaleen McDonagh for Project/Fishamble.

Hazel Hodgins  
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Hazel Hodgins is the Programme Manager with Dance Ireland. Dance Ireland is a member-led national resource organisation supporting the work of Irish and resident dance artists and companies by providing residency, showcase, research, commissioning and networking opportunities at local, national and international levels. Operating on an all-Ireland basis, Dance Ireland also manages Dancehouse, located in central Dublin – a working base for a range of dance practitioners and a hub for the wider dance community. Dance Ireland is an active member of EDN, has participated in key EU-funded network projects, including modul-dance, E-Motional Bodies and Cities, Communicating Dance and LÉIM.
Breffni Holahan
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Breffni Holahan represents MALAPROP Theatre, a collective of emerging Dublin-based theatre-makers. The company was awarded the Spirit of Fringe and Project Commission Award 2015 for their debut production, LOVE+. They are currently developing two new productions for Dublin Fringe 2016 and 2017 with support from Dublin Fringe and Project Arts Centre. A multi-disciplinary theatre-maker, Breffni has worked extensively with leading Irish theatre companies including Brokentalkers, Rough Magic, Dead Centre, ANU Productions, and Collapsing Horse. In 2016, she co-founded MALAPROP Theatre with director Claire O’Reilly (Swipe TV), writer Dylan Coburn Gray (Boys and Girls), producer Carla Rogers, and designers Molly O’Cathain (Rough Magic SEED) and John Gunning.

Laura Murphy
Choreographer
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Laura Murphy works as a Choreographer, Performer and Teacher. Her work spans from large-scale community dance to site-specific, video installations and live staged works. Her latest work Abacus for nine female dancers premiered in June 2016 at the National Sculpture Factory, Ireland. She is currently co-choreographing You and Me, and You, a collaboration with Rob Heaslip, following their successful duet Wunderbar which was performed in Ireland, China, Scotland and at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016. Laura’s choreographic work has been performed internationally including New York, Canada, Sweden, Romania, Iceland, China, U.K. & Latvia; and at festivals such as the Biennale de Lyon, Reykjavik Dance Festival, Edinburgh Fringe, Dublin Dance Festival and Cork Midsummer Festival.
Lynne Parker  
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Lynne Parker is Artistic Director of Rough Magic. Founded in 1984, this award-winning company has produced over 50 premieres, the debuts of many theatre-makers, and the pioneering SEEDS programme. Rough Magic tours internationally, many times to Edinburgh; most recently with Sonya Kelly’s *How To Keep an Alien* in 2015, which played throughout Ireland, Brisbane, the Traverse and Soho Theatres, and opens at the Irish Arts Centre, New York next month. For the Dublin Theatre Festival in 2015 the company premiered *The Train*, a new musical about the 1970s feminist movement by Arthur Riordan (*Improbable Frequency*) and Bill Whelan (*Riverdance*), which will tour nationally in 2017. We will showcase a new play by Fergal McElherron at the 2016 Dublin Theatre Festival in October.

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John Scott  
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Choreographer John Scott founded Irish Modern Dance Theatre in 1991, later renamed as John Scott Dance. Recent tours include New York Live Arts, 2016, La MaMa, New York, Philadelphia Dance Project, Dublin Dance Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Les Hivernales, Avignon, Schwankhalle, Bremen, Tanzmesse, Germany, La MaMa ETC, PS122 New York, Queer Zagreb, Croatia, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, Kanuti Guildi SAAL, Estonia, Galway Arts Festival, Dance Base, Edinburgh and Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival. Scott has pioneered dance in Ireland, a country known more for its literary traditions and text based drama. Scott’s work is playful, quirky and virtuosic – performers are a unique, rich ensemble, ranging from virtuosic Irish and international dancers to African torture survivors.
Aoife White
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Pan Pan is the longest-established contemporary theatre company in Ireland, founded in 1991 by co-artistic directors Aedín Cosgrove and Gavin Quinn. Since its inception, Pan Pan has constantly examined and challenged the nature of its work and has resisted settling into well-tried formulas. Developing new performance ideas is at the centre of the company’s *raison d’être* which is born from a desire to be individual and provide innovation in the development of theatre art. Throughout its career Pan Pan have created 29 theatre and performance pieces, toured their work worldwide, and received multiple national and international awards, including the Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival 2013.