

Changemakers: Youth Theatre Practice Symposium

Date: Wed., Nov 23rd 2016

Venue: Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

How does youth theatre practice empower young people to be changemakers in their lives and communities?

Are young people changing? And how are they inspiring change in youth theatre?

How is youth theatre practice itself evolving in response to the changes we experience in theatre and in society?

The Youth Theatre Practice Symposium is an opportunity to share practice, learn and network and will be delivered on an all-Ireland basis in partnership with Theatre NI and the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. The symposium is aimed broadly at those already engaged in youth theatre practice as well as participants with an interest in youth theatre from the theatre, education, youth work and community sectors.

Participants can expect to:

- Explore current youth theatre practice through a series of presentations, discussions and practical workshops
- Discover recent projects, case studies and developments through the lens of the 'Changemakers' theme
- Learn new skills and approaches through participation in specialist drama workshops
- Network with organisations and individuals interested in youth theatre practice
- Discuss key questions and themes with other participants and share practice

Attendance at the symposium is free of charge, however registration is essential. Participants can select a workshop of their choice for the afternoon when registering. Tea/coffee will be provided for participants. Lunch is not provided but is available to purchase from the college restaurant or other local venues.

PROGRAMME

10.30 – 11.00	Registration
11.00 – 11.15	Welcome and Introduction
11.15 – 12.45	'VIEWPOINTS' PRESENTATIONS & PANEL Q&A 1 Growing up in Theatre <i>Speaker: Peter Hussey</i> 2 RISING: from riot to revolution <i>Speaker: Ella Daly</i> 3 Youth drama in Northern Ireland: theatre-making for the future <i>Speaker: Molly Goyer</i> 4 "There'll Be No Locks or Bolts Between Us": rural youth theatre as a means of building social capital <i>Speaker: Fiona Quinn</i> Panel Discussion chaired by Emelie FitzGibbon, Artistic Director, Graffiti Theatre Company
12.45 – 1.45	Lunch
1.45 – 3.45	WORKSHOPS Workshop 1: We're not apathetic, we just don't like you! : Making Verbatim Theatre with & for Young People Facilitated by Dr. Helena Enright Workshop 2: Moving from self-consciousness to self-awareness. Facilitated by Helena Walsh Workshop 3: Physical Theatre for all-abilities Facilitated by David Calvert, Artistic Director, Kids in Control
3.45 – 4.00	Break
4.00 – 5.00	<i>Roundtables: Themed Group Discussions</i>
5.00 – 5.15	Close

REGISTRATION

Please register online by Wednesday, November 16th. [REGISTER ONLINE HERE](#). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] with any registration enquiries. Seminar information can also be downloaded from: www.nayd.ie.

'VIEWPOINTS' PRESENTATIONS

1 Growing up in Theatre

The presentation will look at some of what Kildare Youth Theatre learned about the role of theatre in nurturing young change-makers. The learning is drawn from the youth theatre's policy of fostering four-year ensembles, and of continuous year-round collaboration with the same participants and multiple ensembles. The work is developmental, focusing on collaborative theatre-making to foster a critical understanding of self, culture, and society. In this it aims to be covertly political as well as overtly aesthetic. The experience argues that engagement in this kind of ensemble theatre-making is itself a political process, equipping participants with knowledge, skills and attitudes that can provoke social change as much as it can support personal resilience.

Speaker: Peter Hussey

Peter Hussey is Artistic Director of Crooked House Theatre Company in Newbridge which he founded in 1993. He established Kildare Youth Theatre in 1996. He is a writer, director, lecturer, researcher, and drama facilitator. He lectures in youth theatre, embodied learning, Theatre of the Oppressed, applied theatre, and theatre directing with Maynooth University. Peter is currently researching for a PhD degree on the impact of collaborative theatre-making on young people.

2 RISING from riot to revolution

Developed with a cast of 20 Dublin Youth Theatre members in collaboration with documentary playwright Helena Enright and director Tom Creed, Dublin Youth Theatre's 2016 production *Rising* was a wide-ranging contemporary look at what revolution means to young people in Ireland now. It explored how young people today become radicalised to engage with social and political issues and asked what role they can play in a democratic society, what motivates them to action and what they can learn from the past. This presentation will explore the theme of 'protest' in the making of *Rising*. It will discuss how political activism and personal protest was explored and how the cast was encouraged to seek out examples of protest within their own lives.

Speaker: Ella Daly

Ella Daly is a writer, theatre maker and arts manager. Born in Limerick and based in Dublin, she has experience of a wide variety of art forms, including theatre, dance, film and youth arts, gathered over a 15-year career in Limerick, Kerry and Dublin. She is currently general manager of Dublin Youth Theatre and an Irish Times Theatre Awards Judge. Ella has a postgraduate diploma in Business for Cultural Event Management from the Institute of Art Design and Technology at Dún Laoghaire. She has worked in the field of dance as a project manager with Daghdha Dance; in film and community arts with Samhlaíocht Chiarraí as its assistant artistic director; and most recently in youth theatre as outreach officer of Limerick Youth Theatre, before taking up her current post with Dublin Youth Theatre.

3 Youth drama in Northern Ireland: theatre-making for the future

What is the current 'state of play' of youth theatre in Northern Ireland? Drawing on her recent survey of youth theatres and other youth drama groups, Molly Gorman will provide a broad overview of the youth drama sector in Northern Ireland. She will outline some key ways in which innovations in practice are being created and shared, and will suggest some potential areas for future development.

Speaker: Molly Goyer

Molly Goyer Gorman is currently completing a PhD in Drama at Queen's University Belfast. Her research explores the social value of youth drama groups in rural communities, focusing on two in-depth case studies. Molly is passionate about useful evaluation and has recently worked for Brassneck Youth Theatre and the MAC as an external evaluator. Her background is in youth drama facilitation and she continues to run summer projects in her hometown of Ballycastle. Prior to her PhD she was employed as Development Officer for Toonspeak Young People's Theatre, an inclusive youth-led theatre company in Glasgow. Molly sits on the Board of Theatre NI.

4 'There'll Be No Locks or Bolts Between Us': rural youth theatre as a means of building social capital

An exploration of how inclusive rural youth theatre can equip young people with an alternate perspective of the world, develop the conditions for positive attitudinal change, benefit the whole community and allow us all to engage in the process of learning and adapting to change.

Speaker: Fiona Quinn

Fiona Quinn is the Director of the Friars Gate Theatre's Education and Outreach Department, Artistic Director of the County Limerick Youth Theatre, and a freelance theatre practitioner specialising in integration and inclusion projects. She graduated in Drama and English from Trinity College Dublin and worked in England, Kenya and Iran before returning to Limerick to create issue-based theatre with community groups using a variety of drama methodologies. She has been awarded several Artist-in-Residencies and has created arts projects with funding from The Arts Council, The European Commission, The European Integration Fund, Pobal, and Irish Aid among others. Fiona has extensive experience in supporting young people to engage in European Theatre practice.

Panel Discussion

Chaired by Emelie FitzGibbon, Artistic Director, Graffiti Theatre Company

Emelie FitzGibbon is the founder (1984) and Artistic Director of Graffiti Theatre Company in Cork, a company dedicated to work for and by young people. The many productions she has directed have been seen in Ireland, the UK, France, Sweden and the USA. As a lecturer and educator on Educational Drama and Theatre she has worked with post-grads, teachers and youth leaders in Sweden, Malta, the US, UK, Austria, Hong Kong, Korea and the Czech Republic and has published and edited many contributions to the field.

Workshop 1: We're not apathetic, we just don't like you! : Making Verbatim Theatre with & for Young People

Facilitator: Dr. Helena Enright

Young people are often referred to as being apathetic in relation to politics and society. In this workshop we will explore the performance possibilities of making verbatim theatre with young people and its potential to make them more aware and connected to their communities. Verbatim theatre is often credited with giving a voice to the voiceless and also changing people's perspectives on the possibilities on the use of theatre for social and political change. Using the creative process underpinning *Rising* (Dublin Youth Theatre's 2016 production) this session will explore the processes involved in making verbatim theatre including interviewing techniques, ethics and dramatic structures.

Dr Helena Enright is a playwright, director and performer whose verbatim plays include *Less Than a Year* (2006), *Walking Away* (2007), *Under Pressure* (2008), *The Exeter Blitz Project* (2012), *The River* (2014) and most recently *Rising* (2016) with Dublin Youth Theatre. She has also worked as a facilitator on many outreach, school and university theatre projects in both Ireland and the UK. Helena currently lectures in Drama at Bath Spa University.

Workshop 2: Moving from self-consciousness to self-awareness

Facilitator: Helena Walsh

In this workshop we will work through a series of exercises that you can use to encourage young people to become more confident in their bodies and voices. The work will explore what is it to be present and connected? How do we manage this in our everyday lives and how do we teach young people to trust themselves and what they have to say. We will work with connecting to the self and then others. Then we will bridge this to character work and how it can help one understand ones own humanity in a more complex and paradoxical way. Leading to accepting oneself and the other, ones own difference and the others.

Helena Walsh is one of Ireland's leading voice specialists and gives workshops nationally and internationally. She works freelance and on actor training programmes for stage and screen throughout Ireland and Europe. Helena is an Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London. She was also mentored in voice by Andrea Ainsworth (Vocal Director at The Abbey Theatre) and Kevin Crawford (Founding member of the The International Roy Hart Center for Artists in France). Helena has her own Voice and Body Studio. She currently teaches Voice at Bowstreet, The Irish film Academy and on the three year actor training programme at Inchicore V.E.C, Dublin. Internationally Helena has taught at the Accademia dell'Arte, Tuscany Italy, at Eolia, Escola Superior d'Art Dramatique, Barcelona, The Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Workshop 3: Physical Theatre for all-abilities

Facilitator: David Calvert, Kids in Control (KIC)

An introduction to Physical Theatre as an inclusive youth theatre practice. This introductory workshop for beginners will include exercises and skill-sets relevant to practitioners. At its simplest, physical theatre is theatre where the primary means of creation occurs through the body rather than through the mind. Things are understood through the physical engagement of the body. As one of the greatest practitioners of this approach, Jacques Lecoq, put it, 'The body knows things about which the mind is ignorant.' There will be a workshop discussion at the end of the session.

David Calvert is Artistic Director of Kids in Control (KIC), a physical theatre company for youth of all abilities and Blue Chevy, an all ability adult ensemble company. He is a Physical Theatre tutor for the Lyric Theatre Drama Studio and Movement Director for the Lyric Theatre Creative Learning department, most recently *The Patriot Game* and *Blackout*.

PARTNERS

Changemakers: Youth Theatre Practice Symposium is delivered in partnership with NAYD, Theatre NI and the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick.



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An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs