



School: School of Music and Performing Arts

Researcher: Dr. Helena Enright

Project Title: 100 Years Later: RISING

UOA: 33 - Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
July 2015	<p>Initial conversation with Ella Daly and Dave Kelly of Dublin Youth Theatre to explore the possibility of creating a piece of verbatim theatre with youth theatre members in response to the 100 year anniversary of the 1916 Rising.</p> <p>Meeting with Tom Creed, director in Dublin. Tom suggested reading <i>Vivid Faces</i> by Roy Foster as a starting point to look at the role young people and the arts played in the lead up to the 1916 Rising.</p>
August – September 2015	<p>Reading of <i>Vivid Faces</i> by Roy Foster looking for relevant material.</p> <p>Accessing online archival material on witness statements from the Bureau of Military History (1913-1921)</p> <p>http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921/about/guide-to-the-collection/</p>
October 2015	<p>R & D week with small group of DYT members to introduce them to verbatim and theatre of testimony methodology. Workshop outline in collection.</p> <p>Young people taking part in the workshop interview three theatre makers – Dylan Coburn, Grace Dyas and Philip McMahon.</p> <p>With the young people created a short script for a scratch sharing called <i>Whitewash</i> at Smock Alley, in Dublin. (Video of this is included in the Eportfolio)</p> <p>This enabled me to get a sense of the young people's knowledge of verbatim theatre. Through workshopping and being in the space with</p>

	<p>them I was able to build a relationship with them and gauge their interest in pursuing this work while also getting a sense of their interest in politics and issues affecting Irish society.</p>
<p>November 2015 - February 2016</p>	<p>Research into potential interviewees, current political activists and artists in Ireland. Continued research into the archival material.</p> <p>Reflection on the workshop in October and further exploration of the themes in Foster's book as well as research in to the archives.</p> <p>Transcription of interviews conducted in Dublin during the R & D week.</p> <p>9th Feb – Skype meeting with Tom Creed to explore findings to date and consider plans for the next few months. Decision not to enter the rehearsal space with a fixed script but rather to use the time to explore the material with the young people and see what emerged from their response to it.</p>
<p>21-29 March 2016</p>	<p>R & D week in Dublin. Interviews with journalists, politicians, activists.</p> <p>22nd March meeting with Tom Creed to further explore material already gathered and work through further areas of potential interest.</p>
<p>April 2016</p>	<p>Meeting with Tom in London followed by interview with Roy Foster at his home in London. Roy spoke to us about his research when writing the book and also some of the themes in further detail. This allowed Tom and I to consider more carefully the role the arts played and in the lead up to the Rising and also some of the characters who were central in that movement.</p>
<p>June 2016</p>	<p>Email conversation with Tom exploring some of the potential ideas for the performance that are emerging from the research and the interviews conducted to date.</p> <p><i>Street Protest - members of DYT took part in a recent protest on the 8th Amendment and I would like to interview them on the first day or two of rehearsals (good opp here also to include placards and give the piece a Brechtian feel - can be used for changing time periods)</i></p> <p><i>Newspaper Office - Una Mullaly talks about how working for the Sunday Tribune was a turning point for her</i></p> <p><i>Band Rehearsal Room - Both Una & Fintan talk about the influence of songs</i></p> <p><i>Theatre Space - Panti Bliss speech/ Abbey / Wakingthefeminists etc</i></p> <p><i>University Lecture Hall - Lian Bell talks about being invited to talk to students about Wakingthefeminists.</i></p>
<p>July 2016</p>	<p>Practical rehearsals commence with 20 members of DYT. The initial three weeks involve building a sense of ensemble, workshopping archival and contemporary interview material.</p> <p>6th July – Lian Bell from Wakingthefeminists and the newly appointed artistic directors of The Abbey Theatre come and meet with the young people.</p>

Throughout the rehearsal period I was conducting further interviews with young journalists, artists, politicians and activists. Exploring ideas with them such as what motivated them to get involved in politics, what was important to them, what did the idea of democracy mean to them?

The first hour of everyday included a series of embodiment exercises designed to release tension in the body and increase a more heightened sense of awareness and presence.

This was followed by different exercises and activities where the young people would read some of the testimony from the interviews in combination with material from the archive and also newspaper articles and philosophical ideas about democracy. They were then encouraged to embody these words and respond to them through movement. This was generally improvised and some of the movements were developed and included in the final performance.

Cast members also held a protest at the end of each rehearsal day. They decided what they wanted to protest about and how they wanted to protest. Topics include: the timing of lunch; Black Lives Matter; Puppy Farms; 8th Amendment; Education system; the introduction of new busking legislation in Dublin city centre

This led to the idea of using a protest as the central dramaturgical framework. Cast members also interviewed their friends and family asking three questions:
What do you believe in?
Have you ever been moved to protest about something?
Can you tell me about a song that marked a particular time in your life?

August 2016

Public Performance of RISING at The Peacock in The Abbey Theatre Dublin. 17-21st August 2016.

Sat 20th August – post show discussion following matinee performance

November 2018

Workshop led by Dr Enright at the Changemakers Symposium. This workshop was aimed at youth theatre facilitators to encourage to consider the potential of verbatim theatre and theatre of testimony as not only a performance genre but also one that can encourage and motivate young people to become more active citizens.
