Drama at

NUI Galway

POSTGRADUATE COURSES
CONTENTS

WELCOME /01
MA IN PRODUCING AND CURATION - NEW /02 - 03
THE O’DONOGHUE CENTRE FOR DRAMA, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE /04
ARCHIVES /05
THEATRE PARTNERSHIPS /06
MA IN IRISH THEATRE HISTORY & ARCHIVES /07
MA IN DRAMA & THEATRE /08 - 09
MA IN PLAYWRITING & DRAMaturgy /10
MA IN THEATRE PRACTICE & PRODUCTION /11
STRUCTURED PHD /12
WHO WE ARE /13
BA PROGRAMMES /14
HOW TO APPLY /17
NUIGalway istheleadinginternationalcentreforthestudyofIrishdrama, theatre and performance. We offer students and researchers exciting opportunities to learn from excellent lecturers and leading theatre practitioners, in a range of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We have special expertise in Irish theatre, theatre archives, playwriting, and much more. If you are considering an MA or PhD in the area of drama, theatre and performance, there really is no better place to study than at NUI Galway.

We offer a range of MAs and postgraduate diplomas in drama, theatre and performance.

Students choose from a suite that includes:
- MA in Producing and Curation - NEW
- MA in Drama and Theatre (full and part-time)
- MA in Theatre Practice and Production
- MA in Playwriting and Dramaturgy
- MA in Irish Theatre History and Archives

These world-class MAs make the most of NUI Galway’s unique resources, including our extensive collection of Irish theatre archives and our dynamic partnerships with key Irish theatre and arts organisations.

For more advanced postgraduate study, our Structured PhD in Drama and Theatre gives you access to direct mentorship by leading scholars in theatre and performance studies in the Irish and international contexts. You will have the option of pursuing a PhD through academic research and/or practice-based methods (acting, playwriting, direction, devising, etc.). By combining the academic with the practical, your PhD experience at NUI Galway will give you the hands-on skills necessary to succeed.

Since the mid-1970s, NUI Galway has been a breeding ground for successive generations of theatre-makers, writers and artists. Among the most illustrious of our graduates are the three Druid Theatre Company founding members, Tony-Award winning Director Garry Hynes, and the actors Marie Mullen and the late Mick Lally. Our success continues as the last five years alone have seen NUI Galway graduates winning such awards as the PJ O’Connor Prize (RTE), the JMK Trust award for finding Britain’s theatre directors, and more. We hope that you will become part of our shared future and explore all that NUI Galway has to offer.

If you want to know more, or would like to do arrange to visit us in Galway, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Patrick Lonergan
Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies
patrick.Lonergan@nuigalway.ie

Dr Charlotte McIvor
Director of Postgraduate Studies
charlotte.mcivor@nuigalway.ie
The MA in Creative Arts, Producing and Curation is a one-year full time Master’s programme. It defines creative producing as the practice of realising an artistic vision by putting in place the practical steps needed to deliver that vision to an audience – whether the work is in the performing arts, literature, visual arts, or an interdisciplinary area. It sees curation as the assembly and delivery of artistic experiences for audiences, whether those experiences are in the form of visual arts collections, digital objects on a website, or a programme of performances in a festival (among other possibilities).

The programme runs these two strands throughout the academic year, ensuring students have well balanced skills in these two overlapping areas. It also provides an optional module dedicated to writing or business. The programme concludes with a practice-based dissertation, in which students will produce and/or curate an original artistic event for an audience and write a long reflective essay that explores the preparation for and impact of that event.
WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

On successfully completing this programme, students will be able to employ a range of learnt skills in the areas of event management, networking, exhibiting, promotion, leadership, group project management, and applying for funding after working with industry leaders in the field on staff and through the Galway International Arts Festival and other university partners within the creative industries.

CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Graduates will be able to follow employment opportunities in museums, galleries, libraries, arts centres, arts festivals, cultural centres and producing for theatre companies, arts organisations, arts festivals, and state sponsored arts bodies.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE:

Students take core and optional modules, which may include:

- Producing 1
- Curation 1
- Advanced Producing and Curation
- Producing and Curation Ideas Lab
- Producing and Curation Career Development
- Critical Methods in Drama, Theatre and Performance
- Writing for Theatre and Performance
The O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance

The O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance is located beside Áras na Mac Léinn and the Bailey Allen Hall in the heart of the campus of the National University of Ireland, Galway. The Centre houses a 120-seat state-of-the-art theatre space with retractable tiered seating as well as studio spaces, a classroom, and a workshop and rehearsal room. It is the venue for all performance related research and productions by Drama and Theatre Studies at NUI Galway.

The venue was the public’s choice for best new Irish building in the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Irish Architecture Awards in 2017. The Centre is housed in what started out in the 1850s as a bleach and flax mill. It has been used in the past as a bonded warehouse, a munitions factory and in 1935 it became Irish Metal Industries. The Centre was funded with philanthropic support from Galway businessman Dr Donagh O’Donoghue, a former chairman of the Druid Theatre Company.
NUI Galway is one of the world’s leading Irish theatre archive repositories, featuring the Abbey Theatre Digital Archive, the Gate Theatre Digital Archive, the Druid Theatre Archive, the Taibhdhearc Theatre Archive, the Lyric Players Theatre Archive and many more. These archival materials encompass major Irish and international writers including, Lady Gregory, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, Marina Carr, Oscar Wilde, David Mamet, Neil LaBute and feature major actors such as Michael Gambon, John Hurt, Siobhan McKenna, Stephen Rea, Liam Neeson, Cillian Murphy, Sinead Cusack and others. From leading digital archives to documented records of various formats and types, the archives are accessible in a state-of-the-art reading room with on-site assistance of expert support and archivist staff.

The Abbey Theatre Digital Archive Partnership between the James Hardiman Library, NUI Galway and The Abbey Theatre adds a new and hitherto unprecedented level of digital study and understanding of the Abbey Theatre Archive. Being the largest digital theatre archive in the world - of over one million items - this pioneering project will create a unique multimedia resource for the legacy and tradition of the Abbey Theatre. This resource includes original scripts and promptbooks by Augusta Gregory, W.B. Yeats, Sean O’Casey, Teresa Deevy, Samuel Beckett, Conor McPherson, Frank McGuinness, Marina Carr and many more.

The Gate Theatre Digital Archive encompasses 200,000 pages, 20,000 images, 150 hours of audio and 750 hours of video, representing a comprehensive archive of material since 1983. The Gate has distinguished itself internationally for its work with two Nobel Prize winners, Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter. There is extensive correspondence with both writers, as well as detail about productions of their work. This will be of interest not only to Irish theatre scholars, but to cultural history more widely. There is also extensive archival material relating to other major writers, including Mary Manning, David Mamet, Christine Longford, Maura Laverty, Conor McPherson and Brian Friel.

The Druid Theatre Company archive includes a record of the multi-award winning theatre company. Druid have been recognised as world leaders in touring and staging the best of Irish plays and exploring the work of playwrights such as John M. Synge, John B. Keane, Geraldine Aron, Martin McDonagh, Tom Murphy and Enda Walsh.

The Thomas Kilroy Archive consists of the papers of the celebrated playwright, Thomas Kilroy. Famous especially for his epic history plays such as the O’Neill and for his relationship with the likes of Field Day Theatre Company and also for his time as Literary Editor at the Abbey Theatre.

The Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe Archive is the administrative and creative archive of the national Irish Language Theatre of Ireland. The Taibhdhearc Archive is a comprehensive record of the growth of the Irish language movement within theatre and how the Taibhdhearc has connected and influenced playwrights writing in Irish and also those translating English language works by Irish and international playwrights into Irish.

The Lyric Players Theatre Archive begins with the founding of the theatre by Mary O’Malley in her home. The Lyric Theatre and Lyric Players established itself in Belfast and the North’s cultural heart. Mirroring the Abbey in its founding principles, the Lyric is a theatre of great Yeatsian tradition and the archive offers a detailed account of administrative and creative records for the theatre.

The Arthur Shields Archive Steeped in the Abbey tradition, Shields was a regular and one of the much loved members of the Abbey Company in the 1930s and was part of their many touring productions to the United States at that time.

The Siobhan McKenna Archive contains the personal papers of one of the great actresses of the Irish stage. Remembered so specially for her portrayal of Mommo in Tom Murphy’s seminal play Bailegangaire, McKenna was lauded throughout her life for her work in English and Irish.

The Galway Arts Festival Archive (later renamed Galway International Arts Festival) documents the growth of this festival, from roots in University College Galway to a festival for the community and city of Galway through to its incredible growth in becoming one of the largest annual multi-disciplinary Arts Festivals in Europe. The archive is completed by housing records of associated events and festivals including the Galway Film Fleadh (1989-1997).

For more information visit www.library.nuigalway.ie/archives
THEATRE PARTNERSHIPS

NUI Galway has entered into close partnerships with a range of world-leading theatre practitioners. As a student of drama and theatre at NUI Galway you will benefit from these partnerships through practice-led workshops, seminars, residencies, and internship opportunities among other activities.

The Druid Academy
The Druid Academy, within the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance on the NUI Galway campus, teach as part of the postgraduate programme.

The Druid Academy seeks to embed the values associated with Druid Theatre into the teaching curriculum. These values include:

• An awareness that Galway is a location for the creation of world-class theatre
• A focus on ensemble as a mode and ethos of performance
• The rigorous critical analysis of theatre, by practitioners, scholars and audiences
• A recognition of the importance of audience, in a variety of locations: locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Tuition in the Druid Academy programme includes a series of workshops and masterclasses, organised by Adjunct Professor Garry Hynes and the Druid Artist in Residence.

The Abbey Theatre
NUI Galway is the archive partner of the Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theatre. We are working with the Abbey to digitise its entire archive, creating the world’s biggest theatre-related digital resource. As part of this partnership we also offer regular visits to the Abbey, internships and more.

Galway Arts Festival
Each summer, a group of NUI Galway students takes part in a programme called SELECTED, a unique behind-the-scenes encounter with Ireland’s leading multi-disciplinary arts festival.

Other Partners
NUI Galway students also work regularly with Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, Blue Raincoat Theatre, Macnas, Decadent Theatre, and many more.
MA in Irish Theatre History and Archives

COURSE FACTS

This course offers a hands-on approach to the study of Irish theatre history as a living process. We move from the nineteenth-century plays of Oscar Wilde, to the early Abbey plays of Lady Gregory, W.B. Yeats and Sean O'Casey, to the towering genius of Samuel Beckett in mid-century, and on to major contemporary dramatists such as Brian Friel, Marina Carr and Enda Walsh and finally, to the growing role of interdisciplinary arts practice, dance, and collaborative theatre-making approaches in the contemporary Irish theatre today.

Students on this course have unprecedented access to one of the world’s greatest Irish theatre archives – working with the treasures of the Abbey Theatre Digital Archive and Gate Theatre Digital Archive, as well as the papers of Thomas Kilroy, Druid Theatre, Siobhan McKenna, the Lyric Players’ Theatre, and many more. These archives include hundreds of videos of performances and original promptbooks, as well as correspondence between major authors, drafts of plays, set and costume designs, and much more.

With classes taught by world-leading scholars, this course offers students the opportunity to work in the major international centre for research on Irish theatre and performance and gain access to hands-on work experience in either archive maintenance and acquisition and/or literary management for the theatre.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This course blends academic study and research with the opportunity to gain practical work experience through a placement that may include working in the university’s theatre archives or in the area of literary management or dramaturgy.

The course is ideally suited to anyone with an interest in Irish theatre history. It develops skills in research and archiving and will thus be of special value to anyone interested in pursuing PhD research on Irish theatre. Yet it is also well suited to people with a general interest in Irish drama who simply wish to develop their knowledge further.

The course also involves attendance at theatres in Galway and Dublin. Students also benefit from the university’s partnerships with Irish theatre companies, notably the Abbey and Druid.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Students will take core and optional modules, which may include:

• Discovering the Archives
• Practical Work Experience
• Critical Perspectives in Drama, Theatre and Performance
• Theatre and Thought
• Irish Drama from Wilde to O’Casey
• Irish Drama from Beckett to the Present
• Fieldwork and Theatre Business (including internship with Irish theatre company)
• Playwright’s Workshop I
• Playwright’s Workshop II
• Ensemble and Devising
• Performance Lab
• Directing for Stage
• Applied Theatre
• Applied Dramaturgy
• Exploring the Michael Chekhov Technique

At the end of the year, all students will complete a minor dissertation. This original research project will be supervised by our team of world-leading experts in Irish drama, theatre and performance.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students on this course will be well prepared to pursue further research on Irish theatre history, or to seek a career in archiving (or other related library services) and/or literary management and dramaturgy for the theatre. The course also offers all the benefits of an MA degree, providing students with transferable skills in such areas as research, writing, group work, archiving, and so on.

“My experience with the MA in Irish Theatre History and Archives could not have been better. The depth and breadth of the department’s connections and resources allow for each MA student to take a path that suits their unique interests and goals. Whether it was an internship with the Abbey Theatre and the Galway International Arts Festival, or a directing masterclass with Garry Hynes, I was always aware that I was gaining exclusive access to so many of the people and institutions I admire.”

Olivia Gacka, Theatre Practitioner, MAITHA 2017-18
MA in Drama and Theatre (FULL-TIME)

COURSE FACTS

The MA in Drama and Theatre Studies is a world-leading course that allows students to build a programme that suits their own interests – whether in theatre practice, Irish drama, playwriting, theatre history and criticism, or a blend of approaches.

This one-year full-time programme connects theoretical and practical approaches to the study of drama, theatre and performance, and is particularly suited to applicants who wish to produce theatre, perform, write or review plays, teach drama, work in creative arts management, or carry out further academic research. Applicants with a general interest in theatre are also very welcome.

As a student on the course, you can benefit from NUI Galway’s unique partnership with Druid Theatre, recently described by The New York Times as “one of the world’s great theatre companies.” Led by Garry Hynes, the Druid Academy involves masterclasses, workshops, and visits to shows.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

NUI Galway places strong emphasis on interacting with working theatre professionals, as shown by our exciting partnerships with Druid Theatre, Galway International Arts Festival, the Abbey Theatre, and others. Students take workshops as part of the Druid Academy, attend workshops with visiting practitioners, have the option of carrying out an internship, and visit the theatre often.

Lecturers and theatre makers teaching on the MA have internationally renowned expertise, especially in Irish drama.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Students take core and optional modules, which may include:

- Fieldwork and Theatre Business (including internship with Irish theatre company)
- Performance Lab
- Ensemble and Devising
- Directing for Stage
- Applied Theatre
- Playwright’s Workshop I
- Playwright’s Workshop II
- Exploring the Michael Chekhov Technique
- Irish Drama and Theatre from Wilde to O’Casey
- Irish Drama and Theatre from Beckett to the Present
- Discovering the Archives
- Applied Dramaturgy
- Critical Perspectives in Drama, Theatre and Performance Theatre and Thought

At the end of the year, all students will complete a minor dissertation. The minor dissertation can consist of original research or a practice-as-research project that may include ‘works in progress’ for performance with an audience.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Recent graduates have gone on to work with many theatre companies including the Abbey Theatre, the Gate Theatre, Rough Magic, the Young Vic (London) and others. They have also started new companies, found employment in education, the heritage and tourist industries, arts organisations, business and the public service. Many have progressed to PhD study, often winning scholarships in support of their studies.

“I have no hesitation in recommending the MA in Theatre & Drama Studies to anyone interested in pursuing a career in theatre or theatre academia. Moving to Galway for the Masters in 2016 was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. The year was incredibly rewarding - introducing me to areas of theatre practice I had not previously been exposed to, as well as giving me a better understanding of my own theatre practice. The drama department is wonderful - the teaching staff are very generous with their expertise and experience and are also very approachable and encouraging. I hadn’t considered continuing my academic career past MA level, however, I enjoyed the Masters so much, I’m now in my first year of a PhD with the Drama Department!”

Sorcha Keane,
Festival Director, Galway Theatre Festival
**MA in Drama and Theatre (PART-TIME)**

**COURSE FACTS**

The MA in Drama and Theatre (part-time) is a two-year programme offering students the opportunity to study from practical, theoretical and historical perspectives, building skills in a range of different areas in drama, theatre and performance.

This programme is particularly suited to applicants wishing to study drama and theatre who require the flexibility of a part-time programme, or who may wish to spread the cost of the programme over two years.

**WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

The part-time MA is specifically designed for students who want to deepen their knowledge of drama, theatre and performance, but who may have professional or family commitments that make full-time study unsuitable. The courses offers all the benefits of the full-time MA, including access to workshops with theatre practitioners (including the Druid Academy), and theatre visits.

**PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

In year one, all students take 3 modules, and another 3 modules in year two. Modules may include:

- Fieldwork and Theatre Business (including internship with Irish theatre company)
- Ensemble and Devising
- Performance Lab
- Directing for Stage
- Applied Theatre
- Playwright’s Workshop I
- Playwright’s Workshop II
- Exploring the Michael Chekhov Technique
- Irish Drama and Theatre from Wilde to O’Casey
- Irish Drama and Theatre from Beckett to the Present
- Discovering the Archives
- Applied Dramaturgy
- Critical Perspectives in Drama, Theatre and Performance
- Theatre and Thought

Students also undertake a minor dissertation which can be an independently completed research project or a practice-as-research project.

"Studying the MA in Drama and Theatre Part Time programme allowed me the flexibility to continue primary teaching while furthering my studies. There was a large array of modules available and I was given the exact same programme as full-time students. Taking the programme over two years gives you an opportunity to self-evaluate the direction which you would like to see your studies go while giving you even more access to people and artistic opportunities within the course and world of theatre."

Marcus Ó Gaoithín, Primary School Teacher, County Galway
MA in Playwriting and Dramaturgy

COURSE FACTS

The MA in Playwriting and Dramaturgy cultivates the growth of the individual writer through an intensive one-year immersion in an ensemble-based learning environment. All students take modules on playwriting and other forms of theatre practice through which they have the opportunity to specialise further, based on their own skills and interests. They will cultivate their skills as writers of dramatic texts (playwriting) but also increase their knowledge of a wide range of theatrical structures and forms (dramaturgy) to expand their range as artists.

Writers on this programme will hone their craft through intensive mentorship and a rigorous programme of modules, workshops and theatre trips that places their individual work in the context of the contemporary theatre industry and the history of theatre craft.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The course draws on NUI Galway’s long track record of producing award-winning playwrights, theatre critics, academics and practitioners.

The course facilitates the development of the individual’s playwriting craft by exposing them to a range of theatre practices within an ensemble-based learning environment. Because of NUI Galway’s rich tradition of student production, writers will also have ample opportunities to stage work. And with Galway’s vibrant creative scene, students can see world-class work throughout the academic year.

NUI Galway also has one of the world’s great Irish theatre archives. Students on this course will be able learn from the best – consulting manuscripts and promptbooks by such writers as W.B. Yeats, JM Synge, Sean O’Casey, Tom Murphy, Brian Friel, Thomas Kilroy, Marina Carr, Enda Walsh, and many more.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of NUI Galway writing programmes have gone on to doctoral programmes in the humanities to teaching, journalism, magazine editing, travel writing, technical writing, and public relations as well as publishing anthologies and books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. In the field of theatre, our graduates have gone on to write for such theatres as the Abbey (Ireland) and the Traverse (Scotland), while many have also staged their own works at Festivals in Dublin, Galway, Edinburgh and elsewhere.

*“NUI Galway’s playwriting and dramaturgy programme was an engaging and formative year for my work. It allowed me to cultivate my own style of writing and further develop my practice as a playwright. I left with three full length plays, two shorts and countless sketches. I found the drama department to be incredibly encouraging while writing my thesis (a full length play). They paired me with a professional playwright who offered me invaluable advice about shaping a great story, while still respecting what I wanted to do with it. I believe that from my attendance on this programme, I grew as an artist and am better equipped to tackle the world of professional theatre”*

Alice Keane, MAPD, 2016-17

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Students take core and optional modules. These may include:

- Playwright’s Workshop I
- Playwright’s Workshop II
- Critical Perspectives in Drama, Theatre and Performance
- Theatre and Thought
- Irish Drama from Wilde to O’Casey
- Irish Drama from Beckett to the Present
- Fieldwork and Theatre Business (including internship with Irish theatre company)
- Ensemble and Devising
- Performance Lab
- Directing for Stage
- Applied Theatre
- Applied Dramaturgy
- Exploring the Michael Chekhov Technique

Students also undertake a minor dissertation which can be an independently completed research project or a practice-as-research project, such as drafting and testing new writing in a mentored environment.
MA in Theatre Practice and Production

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Recent graduates of have gone on to work with many theatre companies including the Abbey Theatre, the Gate, Rough Magic, the National Theatre London, the Young Vic Theatre, and others. They have also found employment in education, the heritage and tourist industries, arts organisations, business and the public service.

"The diverse range of modules and theatrical practice allowed me to focus on the skills that I needed for a professional career in theatre. Furthermore, the internship programme afforded me the occasion to work in a hands-on capacity with one of Ireland’s leading theatre company’s, Druid Theatre. During my time at NUI Galway I established the theatre group, Catagogo Collective with some of my peers and collaborated on a new work titled Lady Justice for the Galway Theatre Festival 2017. After graduating I went on to co-produce/perform and devise the piece “I”. The one-woman show “I” showcased on the main stage of Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin as part of the Scene + Heard Festival 2018. My latest work as an independent theatre-maker is Transition, Family & Me. The first phase of TFM showcased December 4th 2018 at The Civic Theatre, Dublin.

All of my efforts were rewarded by NUI Galway’s excellent Drama department and team of lecturers in the vibrant surroundings of the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance. It was a great privilege to study and research Irish theatre in such a progressive environment."

Michele Ann Kelly, Theatre Artist, MATPP 2016-17.

COURSE FACTS

The MA in Theatre Practice and Production prepares students for professional-level work in the theatre and other creative industries. Students take modules in many different aspects of theatre practice, which may include ensemble performance, direction, performance, and more. An optional internship with an Irish theatre company forms part of the course. During the summer months, students may complete a practice-as-research project focused on areas including acting, playwriting, directing, devising or design.

Central to the programme is the work of the Druid Academy. The course functions as an intensive laboratory that is student-directed and that enables close collaboration between theatre practitioners and academics. It allows students to benefit from NUI Galway’s extraordinary partnerships with Irish theatre companies, notably Druid Theatre - recently described by the New York Times as “one of the world’s great theater companies.” Students work directly with the Druid Artist-in-Residence and participate in master classes and workshops with members of the company including artistic director Garry Hynes, the first woman to win a Tony Award for Directing.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

We offer access not only to award-winning academics but also to world-leading theatre professionals. That blend between the academic and the practical characterises our approach to teaching and learning. We connect students to both the histories and the working practice of theatre today.

Students benefit from our continuing links and partnerships with many Irish theatre companies, including Druid, the Abbey (Ireland’s National Theatre), the Gate, Macnas, the world-renowned Galway International Arts Festival, and many others. Our programme of talks by leading artists and scholars puts you directly into conversations about the state of theatre now.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Students take core and optional modules, which may include:

• Fieldwork and Theatre Business (including internship with Irish theatre company)
• Ensemble and Devising
• Performance Lab
• Directing for Stage
• Applied Theatre
• Applied Dramaturgy
• Exploring the Michael Chekhov Technique
• Playwright’s Workshop I
• Playwright’s Workshop II
• Critical Perspectives in Drama, Theatre and Performance
• Theatre and Thought
• Irish Drama from Wilde to O’Casey
• Irish Drama from Beckett to the Present

Students also complete a minor dissertation which may be a practice-as-research project.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Recent graduates of have gone on to work with many theatre companies including the Abbey Theatre, the Gate, Rough Magic, the National Theatre London, the Young Vic Theatre, and others. They have also found employment in education, the heritage and tourist industries, arts organisations, business and the public service.

"The diverse range of modules and theatrical practice allowed me to focus on the skills that I needed for a professional career in theatre. Furthermore, the internship programme afforded me the occasion to work in a hands-on capacity with one of Ireland’s leading theatre company’s, Druid Theatre. During my time at NUI Galway I established the theatre group, Catagogo Collective with some of my peers and collaborated on a new work titled Lady Justice for the Galway Theatre Festival 2017. After graduating I went on to co-produce/perform and devise the piece “I”. The one-woman show “I” showcased on the main stage of Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin as part of the Scene + Heard Festival 2018. My latest work as an independent theatre-maker is Transition, Family & Me. The first phase of TFM showcased December 4th 2018 at The Civic Theatre, Dublin.

All of my efforts were rewarded by NUI Galway’s excellent Drama department and team of lecturers in the vibrant surroundings of the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance. It was a great privilege to study and research Irish theatre in such a progressive environment."

Michele Ann Kelly, Theatre Artist, MATPP 2016-17.
Structured PhD in Drama and Theatre

COURSE FACTS

This course supports students to undertake doctoral research in areas related to drama, theatre and performance. PhDs may be conducted utilising practice as research methodologies and frameworks.

By pursuing a PhD in Drama and Theatre at NUI Galway, you gain the opportunity to study with major scholars in theatre and performance studies, enjoy direct access to our unparalleled Irish theatre archives (including the Abbey Theatre Digital Archive and the Gate Theatre Digital Archive), and work with leading Irish theatre professionals.

WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

NUI Galway is the world’s leading centre for the study of Irish theatre and performance. The Abbey Theatre Digital Archive contains original material from almost all of Ireland’s leading writers, including Nobel Prize winners W.B. Yeats, G.B. Shaw, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney. It also features work by Lady Gregory, Brian Friel, Tom Murphy, Conor McPherson, Marina Carr and hundreds of others. With access to videos, prompt books, designs, administration records, and more, NUI Galway students have unique opportunities to understand the history and practice of Irish theatre – and to consult material that in some cases has never been seen before. This resource is exclusively available at NUI Galway. It complements our other archival holdings in Irish theatre, including the archive of the Druid Theatre, the playwright Thomas Kilroy, the Lyric Players Theatre, and much more.

Our staff also excels in the study of contemporary theatre and performance in an Irish context and beyond, with recent staff research addressing the relationship between topics as diverse as:

- Performance and social media
- Race, migration, performance and social policy
- Gender, trauma and memory studies
- Commemoration and national histories
- Popular performance and mass culture

For students interested in practice-as-research approaches, you will also interact with leading Irish theatre and arts professionals. Recent guests or residencies have included UK theatre artist Tim Crouch, US feminist performance company Split Britches, ANU Production’s Louise Lowe, Blue Raincoat Theatre Company, Mark O’Rowe (author of Howie the Rookie, Intermission, Terminus), Aine Phillips

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of NUI Galway PhD programmes with a research specialisation in drama and theatre have gone on to academic employment at institutions including University of Lincoln, National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Edge Hill University. They have also won prestigious postdoctoral fellowships from organisations including the Irish Research Council.

“I feel quite fortunate to be a PhD student at the Centre: myself and my cohort always feel supported by a department that actively practices collegiality, solidarity, respect, and academic kindness. We are presented with so many resources to broaden our skill sets and to help us along the way towards completion: whether it’s special professionalisation seminars, conference volunteering, or tutoring students on different aspects of performance. I’d encourage anyone to join such a thriving, vibrant, close-knit, and friendly department!”


“As a postgraduate researcher in DTP I have benefitted immensely from the discipline’s collaborative environment and structural supports. The programme is dedicated to furthering my professional development and both my peers and the staff are incredibly generous and encouraging.”


AREAS OF INTEREST

We provide supervision in areas of drama and theatre studies as well as the wider discipline of performance studies including:

- Contemporary Performance, Place, and Politics
- Theatre Archives and Theatre History
- The Abbey Theatre Digital Archive
- Irish Drama and Theatre
- Theatre Practice and Production
- Playwriting
- Gender, Sexuality and Performance
- Immersive Theatre and Performance
- Site-responsive Theatre and Performance
- Theatre and Trauma Studies
- Ensemble and Devising
- Intercultural Theatre
- Theatre and Social Change
- Theatre and Digital Humanities
Who We Are

Mairead Ni Chróinín

Dr Máiread Ni Chróinín is the Druid Artist in Residence. A Galway native, Máiread Ní Chróinín, established Moonfish Theatre, with her sister Iona, in 2006. Moonfish have also created numerous works for young people, including Moonfish Pop-Up Worlds: Memory Paths, a project commissioned by Riverbank Arts Centre and Kildare Library Services, Tróilse Filíochta/Pinocchio – a Nightmare, winner of the Stewart Parker New Irish Language Writing Award, and The Secret Garden. Dr Ni Ó Cróinín is also an artist and researcher in the area of theatre and digital technology.

Dr Catherine Morris

Dr Catherine Morris is Fellow in Theatre and Performance & Lecturer in Culture, Community and the University, teaches modules that draw extensively from the theatre archives. Her book Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival uncovered the feminist theatre practice of one of the most significant founders of modern Ireland. As a curator, she collaborates internationally devising exhibition interventions that include the Irish Museum of Modern Art’s El Lissitzky: the Artists and the State. Current research includes curation as performance, autobiography & the city, staging Europe in Ireland.

Max Hafler

Max Hafler began his professional life as an actor, training at LAMDA. He is a theatre tutor, director and writer who specialises primarily in Michael Chekhov Technique and Voice. He trained in Chekhov Technique at MICHA and Michael Chekhhov Europe. His book, Teaching Voice, was published by Nick Hern Books in 2016 and his next, on Chekhov Technique, Shakespeare and young actors is due out in late 2019. Of his many productions, his most recent professional production was for The Sacrificial Wind, a poem-play by Lorna Shaughnessy which played in Curt and at the Heaney Centre NI.

Miriam Haughton

Dr Miriam Haughton is Director of Postgraduate Studies in Drama, Theatre and Performance. Author of Staging Trauma: Bodies in Shadow, she has also co-edited Radical Contemporary Theatre Practices by Women in Ireland, and published in Contemporary Theatre Review, Modern Drama, New Theatre Quarterly, Irish Studies Review, Mortality, Irish Theatre International and Ilha Do Desterro as well as multiple collections. Miriam established the Feminist Storytelling Network at NUI Galway, and previously worked in theatre, television and film production in Ireland and the UK.

Garry Hynes

Garry Hynes (Adjunct Professor in Drama) is the artistic director of Druid Theatre. Outside of her work with Druid, she has worked with The Abbey and Gate Theatres (Ireland) and internationally with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court in the UK, and with Second Stage, Signature Theatre, and Manhattan Theater Club in New York, and with The Kennedy Centre in Washington. The recipient of multiple awards, she was the first female director to win a Tony Award in 1998.

Patrick Lonergan

Patrick Lonergan is Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies, and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. He has edited or written eleven books on Irish theatre, the most recent of which is Irish Drama and Theatre Since 1950 (Bloomsbury, 2019). He is on the board of Galway International Arts Festival, and is co-editor of Methuen Drama ‘Critical Companions’ series.

Charlotte McIvor

Dr Charlotte McIvor is the author of Migration and Performance in Contemporary Irish Theatre: Towards a New Interculturalism, co-editor of volumes including Interculturalism and Performance Now, Devised Performance in Irish Theatre and Staging Intercultural Ireland: Plays and Practitioner Perspectives, and currently involved in a large-scale multidisciplinary practice-as-research project which uses creative arts methods as tools of education regarding sexual consent.

Marianne Ni Chinneide

Marianne Ni Chinenide is a lecturer in Drama, Theatre and Performance and Head of Production and Curation at The O’Donoghue Centre. Her interests include Theatre for Young Audiences, Irish-language theatre, Ensemble Acting and Devising, Dance, and Theatre Business. She has 20 years professional experience as an administrator and director in the Performing, Irish language and Traditional Arts.

Mike O’Halloran

Mike O’Halloran is Technical Manager of the O’Donoghue Centre. Mike has been working professionally in theatre since 2005, focusing primarily on Lighting Design and Production Management. Over the years he has worked for every major theatre company in the country, touring nationally and internationally; Mike sits on the board of the Associate Irish Stage Technicians and has been teaching Stage Craft at National University of Ireland, Galway since 2017.

Lionel Pilkington


Ian R. Walsh

Dr Ian R. Walsh has worked as a freelance director of both theatre and opera. He has published widely on Irish theatre and has been invited to give talks in Germany, Brazil and the United States. Author of Experimental Irish Theatre, After W.B Yeats (Palgrave, 2012), he has co-edited the collection The Theatre of Enda Walsh (2015) and co-written Contemporary Irish Theatre and Performance, with Dr Charlotte McIvor, forthcoming with Palgrave in 2019.
RESEARCH AND ARTS ENVIRONMENT
As a postgraduate student at NUI Galway, you will have the opportunity to participate in theatre productions, research symposiums, conferences and colloquia and engage with talks and hands-on workshops and residencies with leading Irish and international arts professionals.

Here's just a little of what we've been up to in recent years.
Join us at/in the centre of the past, present and future of Irish theatre and performance.

RECENT SPEAKERS AND ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE INCLUDE:
Louise Lowe, ANU Productions
Paula McFetridge, Kabosh Productions
Lynne Parker, Rough Magic
Gary Keegan and Feidlim Cannon, Brokentalkers
Anne Clarke, Landmark Productions
Megan and Jessica Kennedy, Junk Ensemble
Mark O’Rowe, playwright
Mark O’Halloran, actor and playwright
Grace Dyas, THEATREclub
Niall Henry, Blue Raincoat Theatre
Stephen Rea, film and theatre actor, Field Day Theatre Company

UNDERGRADUATE DRAMA COURSES

BA IN DRAMA, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

If you are interested in learning more about Undergraduate Drama programmes at NUI Galway visit www.nuigalway.ie/drama/undergraduate

‘Just as I - informally - took my first steps in the theatre at NUI Galway, I am now through the programme looking forward to helping the emergence of the next generation of theatre makers from my alma matter.’

Garry Hynes, Tony-Award winning Director of Druid Theatre, Adjunct Professor in Theatre, NUI Galway
HOW TO APPLY

ONLINE APPLICATION

NUI Galway postgraduate applications are made online, see www.nuigalway.ie/postgraduateapplications apply.

Research applicants: you are recommended, in the first instance prior to making an online application, to consult with the academic Discipline, or the Research Centre at NUI Galway in which you intend to do your research. At this stage, you should have prepared an outline proposal for the Discipline or Centre to consider and support.