

## DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Year 3 Student Handbook (3BA DTP and 3BA PS) 2025-2026



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



*None the Wiser*, Drama and Theatre Studies, Spring 2023

Drama and Theatre Studies,  
School of English, Media and Creative Arts,  
O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance  
University of Galway

This handbook contains an overview of your modules for Third year in Drama and Theatre Studies.

For information on the following general Drama and Theatre Studies policies and guidelines, please refer to the undergraduate student handbook.

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## Who to contact in Drama and Theatre Studies- Third Year

**Head of Undergraduate Studies: Dr Ian R. Walsh**

[ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie)

## Academic Term and Exam Dates 2025 - 2026

<b>First Semester</b>	
Orientation:	Third Years: Monday September 8 Studio 2, 1-2PM ( <i>Following first session of "DT3107: Theatre for Children and Young Audiences"</i> )
Arts in Action	Will typically be Thursday at 1PM during teaching term in semesters one and two  Full programme to be launched in September  All events free and open to students and may be integrated as part of your modules
Teaching – all years:	Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> November (12 weeks of teaching)
Applications for second semester internships due	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September at 5PM ( <i>see details later in handbook, no late applications accepted</i> )
Bank Holiday:	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October (NO CLASSES)

Study Week:	Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> December – Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Semester 1 Exams:	Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December – Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holidays:	Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Second Semester</b>	
Teaching:	Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> January – Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April (12 weeks of teaching)
Arts in Action	Continues Thursdays at 1PM during teaching with some special performances.
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February (NO CLASSES)
Third Year Production	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
St. Patrick's Day:	Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March (NO CLASSES)
Easter Holidays:	Good Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - Easter Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Study Week:	Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May (NO CLASSES)
Semester 2 Exams:	Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April – Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May (13 days of exams)
<b>Autumn Exams 2026</b>	
Autumn Repeat Exams:	Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> August to Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> August (9 days of exams)
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Repeat assignments due for continuous assessment modules	Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> August  <i>This deadline applies to those who have failed drama modules and have to repeat them during summer.</i>

## Course Structure

In the first semester, students take **one** of the following options:

- DT3109 Theatre Internship (30 ECTS) (work experience with a professional theatre company, usually 4-6 weeks, with critical reflection and research essay component, decided by application in spring 2023) **OR**
- TP312 International Theatre Experience (30 ECTS) **OR**
- Two modules (30 ECTS in total) :
  - DT3301 Acting, Directing and Production Practices (15 ECTS)
  - DT3302 Theatre for Children (15 ECTS)

In the second semester, students usually take **one** of the following options:

- TP307 Third Year Production (30 ECTS) with Aideen Wylde (can involve acting, design, backstage work and/or a combination of roles) *OR*
- DT3110 Theatre Internship (30 ECTS) (work experience with a professional theatre company, usually 4-6 weeks, with critical reflection component, applications opened for semester two in September) (*apply in autumn 2023 as below, subject to passing application stage and outcome of negotiations with companies*) *OR*
- TP310 Theatre Experience Abroad (30 ECTS)- International exchange within Europe (Erasmus) or further abroad (North America, Australia) (*arranged during second year*)

#### TIMETABLE SEMESTER 1

CLASS	Day & Time	Venue	Instructor
DT3301 Acting, Directing and Production Practices	Thursday 10 – 1	Studio 1	Ian Walsh
DT3302 Theatre for Children	Monday 9 - 1	Studio 2 & Seminar Room 1 ODT week 7 & 12	Marianne Kennedy

#### TIMETABLE SEMESTER 2

CLASS	Day & Time	Venue	Instructor
TP307 Third Year Production	Times will be confirmed later	O'Donoghue Theatre and Studio 1	Miriam Haughton

## Staff Contacts and Office Hours

Staff in Drama aim to be approachable and responsive to students' needs, insofar as possible in the context of their other professional obligations, and while bearing in mind that we can often assist students best by referring them to other professionals within the university, such as the counselling service or the College of Arts office.

Students can also communicate with staff by email. In general, if your query is complicated or personal, it is better to discuss it with the lecturer during a scheduled meeting slot in their office hours.

Many lecturers will also make time to answer individual queries at the end of classes, but please note that it may not always be possible to do this (for example, a lecturer may have another class to get to).

## Drama and Theatre Studies Staff Contacts for 2025-2026

- Ian R Walsh, Lecturer [Full-time], Head of Discipline DTS, [ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie)
- Finian O’Gorman Lecturer [full-time], Head of Undergraduate Studies in DTS  
[finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie)
- Charlotte McIvor, Senior Lecturer [full-time], Head of Postgraduate Studies in DTS  
[charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie)
- Marianne Kennedy, Lecturer [full-time], Artistic Director, O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, DTS, [marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie)
- Patrick Lonergan Professor [full-time], Vice-Dean for Engagement and Student Recruitment, College of Arts, Social Science and Celtic Studies, Head of Third Year Erasmus and Exchanges, DTS and Head of Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Arts Management, [patrick.lonergan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:patrick.lonergan@universityofgalway.ie)
- Miriam Haughton Lecturer [full-time], on research leave IRC Laureate 2023-2025), [miriam.haughton@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:miriam.haughton@universityofgalway.ie)
- Máiréad Ní Chróinín, Druid Lecturer [part-time], Druid Academy Coordinator, [mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie)
- Michael O’Halloran, Technical Officer [part-time], DTS, [Michael.ohalloran@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Michael.ohalloran@universityofgalway.ie)
- Teresa O’Donovan- Administrator [part-time], DTS, [drama@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:drama@universityofgalway.ie)

## Teaching Staff

Please find below contact details of most of your lecturers throughout the year.

MODULE	LECTURER	EMAIL	NOTES
DT3301 Acting, Directing and Production Practices	Ian R. Walsh	<a href="mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie">ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie</a>	
DT3302 Theatre for Children	Marianne Kennedy	<a href="mailto:Marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie">Marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie</a>	

TP307 Third Year Production	Miriam Haughton	Miriam.haughton@universityofgalway.ie	

## MODULE DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026

*NOTE: Full module outlines will be available on Canvas.*

### Semester 1

#### **DT3301 Acting, Directing and Production Practices (15 ECTS)**

Thursday 10-1 Studio 1

**Instructor: Ian R. Walsh**

#### **Module Description**

This module explores the roles of the director and the performer in contemporary mid-late 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century theatre and performance work. This practice-based module engages the learner in practical exploration of directing and acting techniques and methods which move beyond primary reference to stage languages of naturalism/realism deriving from Konstantin Stanislavski/ How has the body of the actor/performer coupled with the vision of the director and/or the body and vision of the actor working in collaboration with the director created new vistas for meaning and artistry in theatre and performance? How has the scope of the actor and director's available languages of meaning-making expanded through experimentation with the physical *and* the digital in the last 100 years? What does it mean that performers/directors recently do not define themselves within one artistic medium? What ultimately becomes possible artistically when the goal is no longer to be "real" but to push the language of theatre and performance as far as possible, often in conversation with other art forms? Figures and approaches covered may include but are not limited to Vsevolod Meyerhold, Jerzy Grotowski, Anne Bogart and Tina Landau, and postdramatic performance approaches.

## **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this module, a learner will be able to:

1. Analyse the interplay between practical acting and directing techniques and key artistic movements within theatre and performance studies in the second half of the twentieth century and first decades of the twenty-first
2. Demonstrate embodied understanding of the practical skills associated with various practical acting and directing techniques through the execution of in-class exercises and solo and group performance projects
3. Trace the expansion of possibilities for the physical and psychological processes of the actor and the role and remit of the director in training and production work within theatre, performance and broader art forms
4. Evaluate individual application of physical and psychological actor processes and/or the successes and limitations of directorial vision to the shaping and presentation of the live theatrical and/or screen based practical performance assessments

## **Assessment**

Practical Performance Assessment 1 -30%

Practical Performance Assessment 2 -40%

Practical Performance Assessment I- Prompt Script Exercise – 10%

Practical Performance Assessment II- Critical Reflection Essay – 20%

## **DT3302 Theatre for Children and Young People (15 ECTS)**

Mondays between 10am-1pm, Studio 2 and Seminar Room 1, O'Donoghue Centre for

Drama, Theatre and Performance

**Module Convenor:** Marianne Kennedy

**Teaching Team:** Marianne Kennedy, Marc MacLochlainn and artists of Branar, TYA theatre

Company (artists to be confirmed)

**E-mail:** [marianne.nichinneide@nuigalway.ie](mailto:marianne.nichinneide@nuigalway.ie)



## **Module Description**

This module provides an in-depth exploration of theatre for children and young people from both embodied practice, engagement with professional theatre and talks and theory. Over the course of 12 weeks the course will examine the development, and contemporary practices of theatre specifically designed for young audiences. Students will engage with theoretical frameworks, practical methodologies, and critical analyses to understand how theatre can educate, inspire, and entertain young people and the importance of Theatre for Young Audiences from an applied theatre perspective.

The module includes guest lectures from the artist practitioners of Branar, one of Ireland's leading theatre companies for children, who will give workshops in various aspects of Theatre for young audiences and provide mentorship for students to develop their own ensemble based creative project for children. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with Irish and International work through attendance at the Babóró International Arts Festival for Children.

## **Module Overview**

The module is structured over 12 weeks, combining lectures, readings, discussions, attending theatre and practical workshops with theatre artists. Each week focuses on different aspects of theatre for young audiences, from historical perspectives to modern practices, and includes critical engagement with key companies creating work for children and young people. Students will develop skills in both the critical analysis and practical creation of theatre for children and young people.

In week 6 of the module, students will attend prescribed performances and talks during the Babóró International Arts Festival for Children (10 -19 October 2025) in lieu of attending regular classes. A central part of the module is engaging in the making and devising of work for a young audience, which will happen under the mentorship of the artists of Branar, Ireland's leading theatre company making work for Children both nationally and internationally. The resulting pieces will take the form of a 'Tiny Show' and will be performed for a school's audience, receiving feedback from the children themselves. The performance work will be experimental in nature and presented as a work-in-progress (meaning a piece of theatre in development).

## **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module, students will have:

- Developed a knowledge of Children's Theatre and its genealogy.
- Developed a critical understanding and vocabulary around the area of theatre for children and young people.
- Developed an understanding of a range of ensemble and devising theatre techniques and processes and their application in both a children's theatre and classroom context.
- Developed and created work for children and young people.
- Explored working creatively with children as theatre artists and co-creators.
- Critically engaged with the Drama Curriculum in the Irish educational system and Arts education in Ireland.
- Learned how to engage aesthetically with and understand children's theatre through engagement with recorded performances of Children's Theatre.
- Located and contextualised theatre for young audiences within a wider socio-cultural, artistic, and educational context.
- Understood the policies and funding structures relating to Drama and Theatre for Children and young people at a national and international level.

### **Assessment Breakdown:**

As the format of this class is a collaborative one, students will be required to rehearse as well as read and watch digital recordings outside of class times as well as attend events during the Babóró International theatre Festival for Children.

<b>Coursework 1A:</b>	<b>Mid-term Assessment (2,500 words)</b>	<b>30%</b>
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Attend chosen 3 shows and 2 talks during the Babóró International Festival for Children, 11-20 October 2024. Write an essay or create a podcast on your learnings about Theatre for Children and Young Audiences through your engagement with the festival and associated events.

20%

This is made up of Part A and Part B

Part B: Critical Reflection (2500 words) 20%

Performances will be presented to a child audience during class time on 28 November 2024.

Each student will write a 1,500 word critical reflection essay on the process and performance of the 'Tiny Show,' their own role in it and the learnings from this. They must also situate this work in the area of Theatre for Young people in genera

## TP307: Theatre in Practice

## **Dr Miriam Haughton, Spring 2025-26**

This module is designed to provide a professional-level theatre production experience in so far as is possible within a university assessment structure. The first phase of rehearsals will explore contemporary playwrights, artists and creative processes, offering students the opportunity to test out various skills in performance, design and production. Students will also be encouraged to develop their own practice, such as playwriting, performance, movement, live art, installation, and sound, set, audio-visual and costume design. Scene work will develop as the module progresses, following by a collective decision-making process regarding the shape and form of the final performance. This module is 30ECTs, constituting the entire coursework for the semester and the rehearsal process will be run as a professional theatre experience where possible. In the weeks prior to the live performance, some evening and/or weekend rehearsals will be required.

Performance and creative work will be assessed in addition to academic writing and the submission of a final portfolio. Please remember that all assessment is designed to capture the development of student learning, not the perceived 'success' of a final performance to a live and/or online audience.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand and apply knowledge of the main characteristics of professional theatre production and performance
- Produce critical skills for analysing contemporary performance and production practices
- Enhance skills in the areas of performance, textual analysis and playwriting, ensemble practices and creative processes
- Explore opportunities for developing distinct audiences demographics for theatre utilising various medias
- Strengthen knowledge and skills of production management such as internal communications, budget management, stage management and design, marketing and publicity.

### **INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT (STANDARD)**

1. Internships are unpaid. Students are responsible for their own transportation, accommodation and subsistence costs while working.
2. An internship is a professional working experience. Interns are required to attend punctually (normally from 9 to 5 or 10 to 6) each day, Monday to Friday, and at other times as required by the company.

APPROVED WORK DATES AND SCHEDULE (FILL

IN BELOW):

Start Date:

End Date:

Hours per week:

*(including note of any irregular distribution of hours over internship period)*

3. Interns should present themselves in personal attire that is appropriate to the working environment.
4. Persistent lateness or underperformance will result in the early termination of an internship.
5. Requests for periods of leave should be made in advance and, where possible, should be identified during the application process.
6. While on internship, students are still engaged in formal University Galway activity and are thus subject to the University of Galway code of conduct.
7. Interns must be mindful at all times that they represent University of Galway and that their conduct will have an impact on the availability of future internships for subsequent students.
8. Students on internships must respect the confidentiality of the host organisation and the university, and must under no circumstances reveal any sensitive or confidential information about either organisation. In particular, comments or photographs relating to internships on social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram), blogs, or other public fora are strictly prohibited unless approved in advance by the student's immediate supervisor at the company.
9. Where interns experience any difficulties in meeting the responsibilities associated with the internship, these should be brought to the attention of University of Galway personnel as early as possible.

### Erasmus and Exchange Protocols

This section covers:

1. What do I register for at University of Galway during my time abroad?
2. What do I do when I arrive?
3. Do I have to stay in contact while I'm away?
4. What do I do if I experience issues abroad?
5. How do my marks from Erasmus/Exchange get recorded by University of Galway?
6. University of Galway Contact Information for Erasmus/Exchange Students

#### **1. What do I register for at University of Galway during my time abroad?**

**Semester One:** TP312: International Theatre Experience

**Semester Two:** TP310: Theatre Experience Abroad.

#### **2. How do I prepare for going abroad?**

Review the International Travel Toolkit for undergraduate students:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/outbounduniversityofgalway/outbound-study-abroad/undergraduatetoolkit/>

### 3. What do I do when I arrive?

If you are going abroad, **you MUST within one week of arrival**, send [finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie) a list of the courses you are taking, outlining:

- Credits available
- Contact hours per week
- Forms of assessment.

**Assessment for Erasmus:** Students are obliged to complete the equivalent of 20 ECTS of work per semester while abroad. At least 9 ECTS per semester must be in Drama, Theatre and Performance or related subjects (e.g. Literature, Film, Music, Dance, Cultural Studies, etc.). Students should also take classes in the language of their host institution.

You must complete a learning agreement between University of Galway and your host institution

**NOTE:** If you are on Erasmus for one semester, you must complete 20 ECTS. If you are on Erasmus for both semesters, you must complete 40 ECTS.

**Assessment for Exchange:** Students on exchange to institutions in the US, Australia and Canada are required to complete the minimum credits demanded by the university and/or state to meet visa requirements and academic requirements. In the US, different states request a different minimum. So, please confer with the host institution and ensure your selection of courses meets the visa requirements of the state, and the academic requirements of the host institution. Please send these in writing to [ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie) in the first week of study.

### 3. Do I have stay in contact while I'm away?

- You **MUST** send a monthly report of your activities by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to Drama and Theatre Studies at University of Galway [ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie) throughout your time abroad. This can be short (a few bullet points), but it is your opportunity to bring to our attention any issues that you are facing in a timely manner.
- You must provide Dr Walsh with an email address which you will be checking regularly and through which you will be immediately contactable **BEFORE** departing.
- Express concerns or worries you have immediately and follow the steps below to resolution, keeping Dr Walsh informed as below.
- Feel free to send images of your time abroad and/or trailers from any performance projects you take part in abroad. Let me know if you'd be willing for me to share these with other prospective students considering time abroad or on our discipline's social media. As we've continually emphasised, you are ambassadors for our programme, and we want to celebrate your accomplishments and experiences abroad!

### 4. What should I do if I experience issues abroad?

- Identify who you need to liaise with at your host institution (within department or university offices including International Office, Registration, Accommodation)

- If you don't know, contact a lecturer or peer within your host department
  - You can CC Dr Walsh on this and other exchanges below.
- Make contact with Dr Walsh and advise him of your situation
  - Dr Walsh will link you with Erasmus or International Office at University of Galway if needed who can also help identify on-site links at your host institution
  - Follow up with your contact(s) at your host institution
  - Inform Dr Walsh of the resolution of the issue(s)

## **5. How do my marks from my Erasmus/Exchange get recorded by University of Galway?**

It is YOUR responsibility to immediately send your results to Dr Walsh on receipt. This can be sent as a downloaded file, an image that you take with your phone of hard copy results or on your screen, but these must be official and not provisional results (i.e. your calculation of all marks received, etc.).

Speak to student registration at your host institution if you have questions about how/when results will be communicated.

If you anticipate a serious delay (post-early-mid January or post-June/July), please communicate with Dr Walsh IMMEDIATELY, as this might result in delays to your registration in Fourth Year.

## **6. University of Galway Contact Information for Erasmus/Exchange Students**

*Erasmus/Exchange Office for Outbound Students*

Staff Contacts: Mary Lyons, International Affairs Officer, and Jodi Blumenfeld, International Exchange Coordinator

**Tel. 353 91 493749/493491**

**E-mail: [outgoingerasmus@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:outgoingerasmus@universityofgalway.ie)  
[www.universityofgalway.ie/erasmus-programme/outgoingstudents/](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/erasmus-programme/outgoingstudents/)**

Dr Ian Walsh, Internships and Placements Coordinator,  
Email: [ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie)



