DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Year 4 Student Handbook (4BA DTP) 2024-2025

OLLSCOIL na GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY of GALWAY

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

This handbook contains an overview of your modules for Fourth Year in Drama and Theatre Studies and some key dates. For full information on Drama and Theatre Studies policies and guidelines, please refer to the general undergraduate student handbook.

Who to contact

Head of Undergraduate Studies Finian O'Gorman - finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie

FINAL YEAR DRAMA, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE 2024-2025

Term and Exam Dates 2024-2025

First Semester	
Orientations:	Fourth Years: Monday September 9, Studio 2, 11AM *(in place of first session of "DT4101: Contemporary Irish Theatre")*
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 – 1st Years (UG):	Monday, 16h September – Friday, 29th November (11 weeks of teaching)
Teaching – all other years:	Monday, 9th September – Friday, 29th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Drama Reading & Development Week:	Monday, 14th – Friday, 18th October (Week 6)
Bank Holiday:	Monday 28th October (NO CLASSES)
Study Week:	Monday 2nd December –Friday 6th December
Semester 1 Exams:	Monday, 9th December – Friday 20th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holidays:	Saturday, 21st December

Second Semester	
Teaching:	Monday, 13th January – Friday, 4th April (12 weeks of teaching)
Arts in Action	Continues Thursdays at 1PM during teaching with some special performances.
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 3rd February (NO CLASSES)
Drama Reading & Development Week:	TBD- Either Week Six or Week Seven *THIRD-YEAR PRODUCTION STILL MEETS DURING THIS WEEK*
Third Year Production	Wednesday 6th- Thursday 14th March
St. Patrick's Day:	Monday, 17th March (NO CLASSES)
Easter Holidays:	Good Friday, 18th April - Easter Monday 21st April
Field Trip:	Monday, 7th April to Thursday, 10th April (if applicable)
MA Performance Lab Workshop Showing:	Thursday 4th April, 4PM, ODT
Study Week:	Friday, 11th April – Thursday, 17th April
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 5th May
Semester 2 Exams:	Tuesday, 22nd April – Friday, 9th May (13 days of exams)
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 2nd June
Autumn Exams 2025	
Autumn Repeat Exams:	Tuesday, 5th August to Friday, 19th August (9 days of exams)
Bank Holiday:	Monday, 4th August
Repeat assignments due for continuous assessment modules	Friday, 15th August *This deadline applies to those who have failed drama modules and have to repeat them during summer.*

Course Structure

In the first semester, all students take DT4102 Performance Studies and choose between DT4101 Contemporary Irish Theatre or DT2114 Fail Better: Learning through failure, building resilience and taking risks through circus.

In the second semester all students take DT4107 Practice-Based Research Project and DT4108 Arts Management.

TIMETABLE

CLASS	Semester	Day & Time	Venue	ECTS
DT4101 Contemporary Irish Theatre	1	Monday 11am - 12pm Tuesday, 3-4pm	Studio 1 Studio 1	5
DT4102 Performance Studies	1	Wednesday 4-5pm Thursday 3-5pm	Studio 1 Studio 1	10
DT2114 Fail Better	1	Fridays 12-1 (first 4 weeks) Fridays 2-4pm	Seminar 1 Studio 1	5
DT4108 Arts Management	2	Monday 11am – 12pm Tuesday, 3-4pm	Studio 2 Studio 2	5
DT4107 Practice-Based Research Project	2	Wednesday 4-5pm Thursday 3-5pm	Studio 2 / Sem 1/ Mezzanine Office Studio 2 / Sem 1/ Mezzanine Office	10

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 (see below for information about email contacts). In general, if your query is complicated or personal, it is better to discuss it with the lecturer during a scheduled online slot.

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 2023-2024

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

STAFF OFFICES
Staff offices are in the O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance.

Teaching Staff

Please find below contact details of most of your lecturers throughout the year, this list is not yet complete and is subject to change:

MODULE	LECTURER	EMAIL
DT4101 Contemporary Irish Theatre	Finian O'Gorman	finian.ogorman@universityofgalway.ie
DT2114 Fail Better	Ian Walsh and Galway Community Circus	ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie
DT4102 Performance Studies	Charlotte McIvor	Charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
DT4108 Arts Management	Máiréad Ní Chróinín and Marianne Ní Chinnéide	mairead.nichroinin@universityofgalway.ie
DT4107 Practice-Based Research Project	Ian R. Walsh	ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie

Course Outlines 2024-2025
Full outlines and schedules will be on Canvas.

DT 4102: Performance Studies
Teaching Team: Charlotte McIvor (Module Convenor)

This module is an introduction to performance theory as utilised in the field of Performance Studies and its relationship to practice and practice-as-research as a critical methodology. Performance Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that combines tools and methods from theatre studies, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, literary studies and others. We will investigate the possibilities of 'performance' as a theoretical and methodological lens through the study of key thinkers and case studies and experiment with practice-based research methodologies.

Learning Outcomes
- Situate key ideas and themes within the broader field of Performance Studies

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between different types of performance on the broad spectrum
- Identify major terms and methodologies including performativity, liminality, ritual, play, performance ethnography, and performance art among others
- Apply theoretical concepts to performances or film screenings that you experience and to documenting individual and/or group performance projects
- Experiment with and execute practical performance tasks through the lens of performance studies theories and methodologies
- Document and critically annotate performance-making processes and outcomes of engagement in relationship to module ideas and themes

Module Assessment
- <u>Performance Project I (20%)</u>: Group project in which you stage an event OR design an activity/game to activate and/or test a key concept or theme from weeks 1-3 of the module.
- Event or activity/games must:
- Demonstrate understanding and application of 1-2 key ideas and themes from weeks 1-3 of the module.
- Involve all or part of the class in execution. If the whole class is not involved, the others should be assigned an active watching role with an associated task.
- Last *up to* 15 minutes with 5 minutes for discussion/questions.
- Obey all university codes of student conduct
- Not create considerable mess or involve extensive use of materials that need set-up or break-down time.
- These are presented in week five and receive a group mark except in exceptional circumstances.
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<u>Critical Performance Annotation Essay I (20%)</u>:
- This 1000-word individual critical performance annotation of your Performance Project I will discuss the creation of your work and its outcomes in performance in relationship to module and further secondary readings. Full outline of assignment on Canvas. To be submitted via Turnitin.

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<u>Performance Project II: 30%</u>
- Performance presented in-class Weeks 11 and 12 as individual OR group projects. Full outline to be released on Canvas.

<u>Critical Performance Annotation Essay II: 30%.</u>
- This 1500-word individual critical performance annotation of your Performance Project II will build on skills and feedback from your first annotation essay. You will again discuss the creation of your work and its outcomes in performance in relationship to module and further secondary readings. Full outline of assignment on Canvas. To be submitted via Turnitin.

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<u>DT4101:</u> Contemporary Irish Theatre
<u>Instructor:</u> Finian O'Gorman
Course Description

This module introduces students to some of the major plays, people, and dramaturgical approaches in Irish drama over the past three decades. It places an emphasis on texts, practitioners and practices that ran counter to established traditions, narratives, and methodologies. The module equips students to critically assess the dominant performance conventions of contemporary Irish theatre and to incorporate those conventions into their own practice. By providing a grounding in the Irish theatre of the present and recent past, it prepares students to shape the theatre of the near future.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Draw on a knowledge of contemporary dramaturgy in Ireland to critically assess both their own performances and the work of other Irish theatre makers.
- Conduct archival research to inform creative and novel approaches to writing and performance.
- Devise an original performance that interrogates theatre, society, and culture in Ireland today.

Assessment

- Live Performance Analysis: 875 words (**25%** of overall grade)
- Archival Exercise: 875 words (**25%**)
- End-of-term performance**:** 9 mins (**30%**)
- Critical reflection on end-of-term performance: 700 words (**20%**)

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DT4108: **Arts Management**
Instructors: **Máiréad Ní Chróinín and Marianne Ní Chinnéide**

This module examines the practical aspects of how young artists can build and sustain their careers. It gives a holistic perspective on artist wellbeing, working as a team, financial management and budgeting for the independent artist, funding applications, and engaging and building an audience for your work.

The module will place the practical aspects of making a life as an artist in Ireland in the context of wider Irish and international debates and discussions in the field of arts management, cultural policy and arts activism, including the question of equality and diversity in the arts, arts and the environment, and building safe workplaces in the arts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module the student will:
- Understand how to communicate who they are as an artist, and develop their ability to conceive and describe a concrete production idea.
- Strengthen their understanding of the value of wellbeing practices and skills to artists and arts workers.
- Build their personal budgeting and financial management skills, including the use of Excel.
- Gain an understanding of the funding environment in Ireland (and internationally) and what funds are available to young artists.
- Strengthen their skills at application writing and budgeting for arts events.

- Strengthen their awareness of the audience and how to create events that offer unique audience experiences.

Assessment

Coursework 1: 20%
Self-Care Plan:
In the context of building a wellbeing practice as an independent artist / arts worker, students will reflect on, and develop, a personal self-care plan. (Template provided – Max 500 words).

Coursework 2: 20%
Audience Proposal:
Students will research a specific audience cohort and design an event for their local venue that responds to the interests/needs of that audience.
They will also research and propose ways of reaching and engaging that audience. (Template provided – Max 1,500 words).

Coursework 3: 20%
Funding Application – Arts Council Agility Award:
Students will complete a funding application for the Arts Council of Ireland's 'Agility Award'.
The application will focus on the following areas, which will be explored through in-class exercises during the module:
- Describing your artistic goal and your project idea
- Identifying and connecting with mentors, partners and creative team members
- Creating a detailed budget and timeline
- Creating and gathering the necessary supporting documentation (Letters of Support, etc.)

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DT4107: Practice-based Research Project
Teaching Team: Ian R. Walsh (module convenor) and Jamie Bigley (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

In this module students will draw together the knowledge, skills and experience they have gathered in the previous three years of study to develop and present an independent practice-based research project. Each student will formulate a research question that they will develop through scholarly research and practical tasks. They will present their ideas and process within a series of iterations of practice culminating in a fully realised presentation. After the final presentation students will write up their project as a research case study. The process will also be documented through short assessed written critical reflections on Weeks 5-8.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Develop and complete an independent research project.
2. Test theoretical ideas through practice.
3. Create a new practice piece that can be used as the basis for future activities.
4. Evaluate research and practice through critical reflection.
5. Learn to work independently as a research scholar.
6. Apply acquired analytical and performance skills.

Assessment:
Critical Reflection Worksheets 20% (4 x 5%)

Research Proposal Presentation 20%
Research Project 60% (30% - performance /30% written submission)
     - written submission (3,000 words).