

# MA in Drama and Theatre Studies Orientation

O'Donoghue Centre  
for Drama,  
Theatre and  
Performance

2024-2025



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE

UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

This  
orientation  
will cover:

- Who We Are
- Overview of Programmes and Academic Structure
- Special programme events and features
- General Policies and Procedures

**Who We Are**

In Drama and  
Theatre  
Studies at  
University of  
Galway,  
we hold *four*  
*core values...*



# 1. Theory and practice always inform each other.







**2. Our teaching is inspired by the model of the ensemble.**

### 3. We believe that theatre is important.



Active\* Consent which is now an international consent education programme that uses creative arts began in a Drama classroom.



University of Galway Research Project Wires Crossed in partnership with GCC and GIAF to promote wellbeing and mental health.



Using drama for more than just “acting lessons” for political party Fine Gael in autumn 2018



Druid

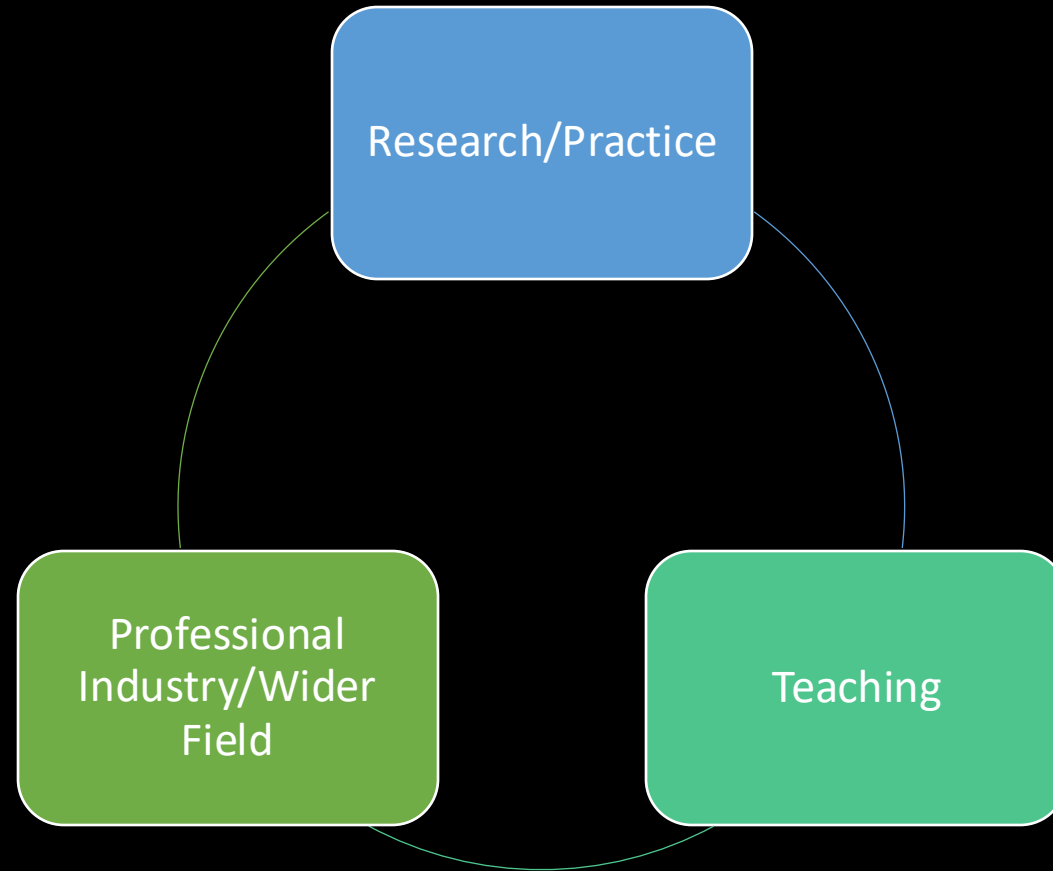


**ABB  
THEATRE  
AMHARCLANN  
NA MAINISTREACH**

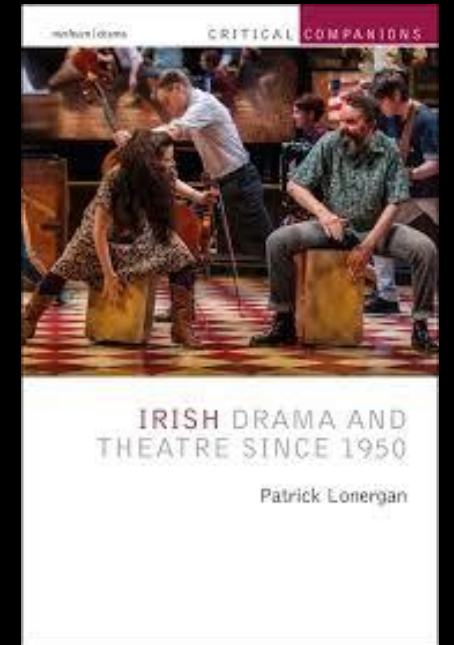
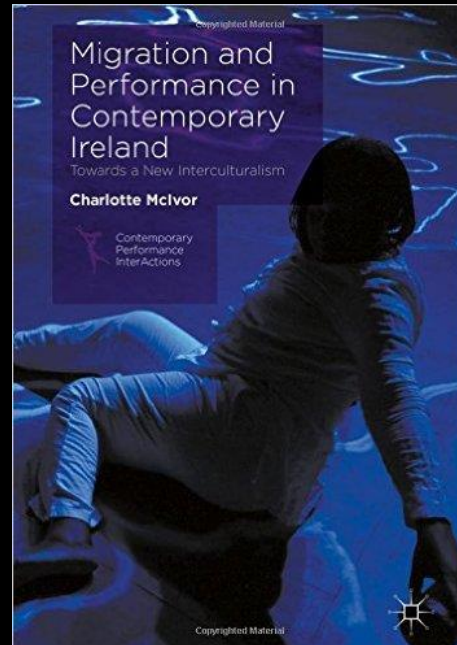
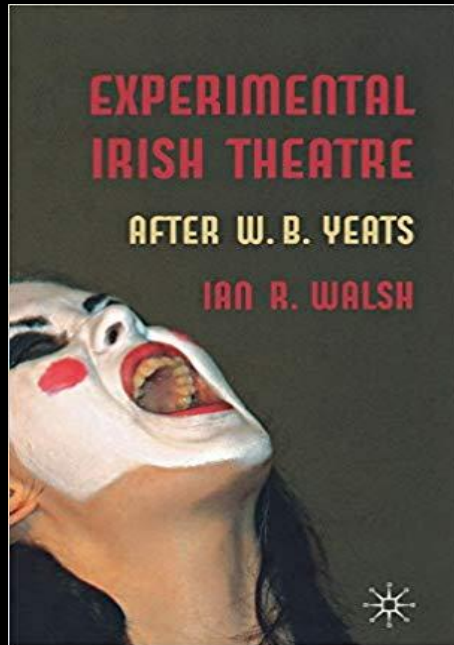




# The Critically Engaged Theatremaker



# International in Research Scope and Impact



A Moonfish Theatre, Abbey Theatre and Galway International Arts Festival co-production in association with Tean Hall Theatre

**REDEMPTION FALLS**  
FREELY ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY JOSEPH O'CONNOR

9 - 19 OCTOBER  
ABBAY THEATRE

28

Síolrú Drámaíocht Caeilge

**Garraí an Ghiorria**

**CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL**

BROKENCROW and The Everyman  
in association with  
Clonmel Junction Arts Festival and  
Cork Midsummer Festival

**FOUND**

AIDEN WYLDE

Graffiti Theatre, Assumption Road  
22 - 25 June



MOONFISH THEATRE PRESENTS:

**THE CROW'S WAY**

2023 - Teaser Trailer

NUI Galway CE Galway

**THE KINDS OF SEX YOU MIGHT HAVE IN COLLEGE**

A PLAY ABOUT  
WHAT YOU WANT, HOW YOU WANT, IF YOU WANT IT AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T

**ACTIVE \* CONSENT**

TRIGGER WARNING: THIS PLAY CONTAINS LANGUAGE OF A SEXUAL NATURE AND THEMES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Lifesgood FOUNDATION  
SOCIAL INCLUSION FUND

STROLLERS

MOONFISH THEATRE | AN TAIBHDHEARC  
MEASCAN GAELIGE & BÉARLA | A BILINGUAL PRODUCTION

Gorgeously assembled theatre - Irish Times ★★★★★  
Captures an extraordinary and devastating story - Irish Daily Mail ★★★★★

**STAR of the SEA**  
*Bunaithe ar an n-éireann le / Freely adapted from the novel by JOSEPH O'CONNOR*

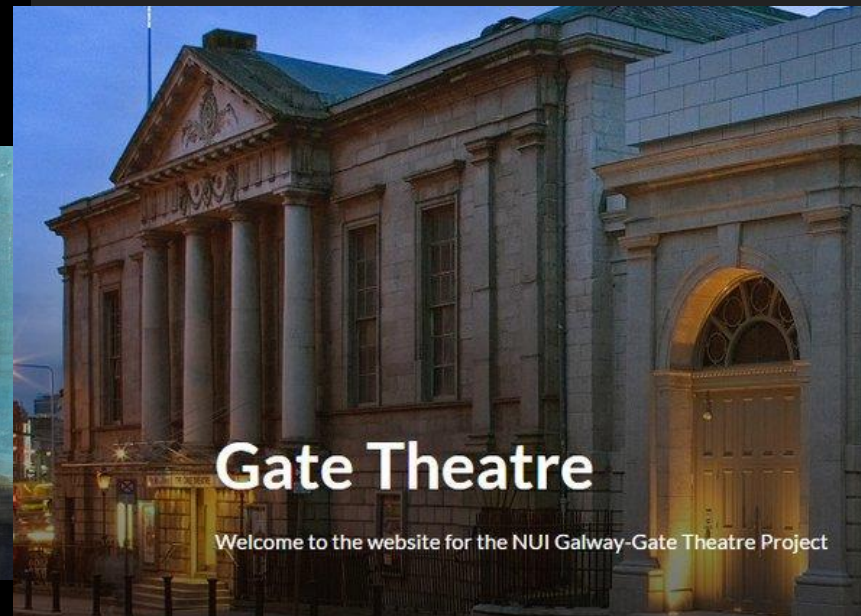
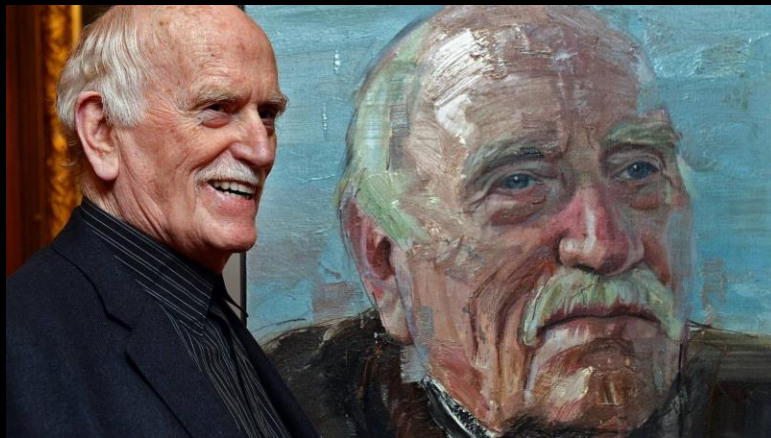
17 OCTOBER | 8:00 PM  
DETRÉADH FOM HAIR  
THE SOURCE ARTS CENTRE  
THURLES

€15 BOOKINGS  
+353 (0)504 90200  
www.thesourceartscentre.ie

#StaroftheSea  
WWW.MOONFISHTHEATRE.COM



# Archival Leaders: Digitisation, Pedagogy, Dissemination



UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

An Leabharlann Library



# Overview of MA Programme and Designated Emphasis

You are coming in as an MA in Drama and Theatre Studies student but can choose a designated emphasis for deeper specialization in the programme.

This designated emphasis will appear on your degree records.



## Available designated emphases include:

*A designated emphasis means that you take a narrower and curated selection of modules in these areas. For the designated emphasis in Playwriting and Dramaturgy, this also means that you do a playwriting dissertation and work with a playwriting mentor in addition to staff supervisor.*

- Theatre Practice and Production
  - *Must take as electives:* Choose 3 of 4- Ensemble Acting and Devising, Performance Lab, Applied Theatre, Drama and Theatre Studies Work Placement
- Playwriting and Dramaturgy
  - *Must take as electives:* Playwrights Workshop I, Performance Lab and do playwriting dissertation
- If you do not declare a designated emphasis, you can curate your selection of modules any way that you like over the two terms.

## Semester One Modules

- Critical Methods in Drama, Theatre and Performance (CORE FOR ALL)
- Choose from:
  - Ensemble Acting and Devising
  - Playwright's Workshop I
  - Producing I
  - Creative Arts Ideas Lab
- NOTE: Some sessions for second semester core module "Creative Practices in Drama, Theatre and Performance" will take place in semester one.

## Semester Two Modules

- Creative Practices in Drama Theatre and Performance (CORE FOR ALL)
  - NOTE: Some sessions for this module begin in semester one.
- Choose from:
  - Performance Lab
  - Applied Theatre
  - Drama and Theatre Studies Work Placement

“DT6100: Dissertation” is core for all MA students and runs through the end of August 2025 with work and supervision happening over the summer months.

Students usually remain resident in Galway during this time.



# Staff Contacts 2024/2025

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

# Special Programme Events and Features

# Project Workshop: Performance Poetry

- Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>
- 3-5pm
- Seminar Room 1
- Open to students from minority ethnic backgrounds and heritages

## PERFORMANCE POETRY WORKSHOP

Curious about getting involved in the arts on campus?

Join two Poetry Slam champions for an exciting 2-hour Performance Poetry Workshop!

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned poet, this workshop will help you master the art of live performance. This workshop is aimed at increasing diversity in the arts on campus, and is open to students from minority ethnic backgrounds and heritages.



DAGOGO  
HART



SAMUEL  
YAKURA

**STEP UP TO THE MIC, CONNECT WITH OTHERS, AND SHARE YOUR  
STORY WITH THE WORLD!**



# Drama and Theatre Research Sessions

Mondays, 12-1PM

Talk schedule and events to be released soon



# Druid Academy *and* *Druid50!*

Thursdays, 4-6PM\*

*\*There are not events every Thursday and some special evening events. Check schedule circulated.*



Clockwise from top:  
Druid's *Waiting for Godot*, playwright  
Sonya Kelly with  
Máiréad, exterior Druid  
Theatre

# DRUID THEATRE

Founded in 1975, Druid is a touring theatre company, anchored in the West of Ireland and looking to the world. Druid will be 50 in 2025.

Druid is a writers' theatre, exploring ambitious projects, reimagining classics and premiering new work annually.

The company has toured the length and breadth of Ireland through their 'Unusual Rural Tours' (URTs) as well as touring internationally to the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Hong Kong.

Highlights include:

- *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh (1996), in a co-production with the Royal Court Theatre, which went on to win four Tony Awards, including Best Director for Garry Hynes, the first woman to win an award for directing in the history of the Tony Awards
- *The Leenane Trilogy* by Martin McDonagh, in a co-production with Royal Court Theatre, London (1996-2000)
- *DruidSynge* (2005); *DruidMurphy* (2012); *DruidShakespeare* (2015-18); *DruidGregory* (2020); *Druid O'Casey* (2023)
- *'Waiting for Godot* (2016-2018); *'Endgame'* (2024)

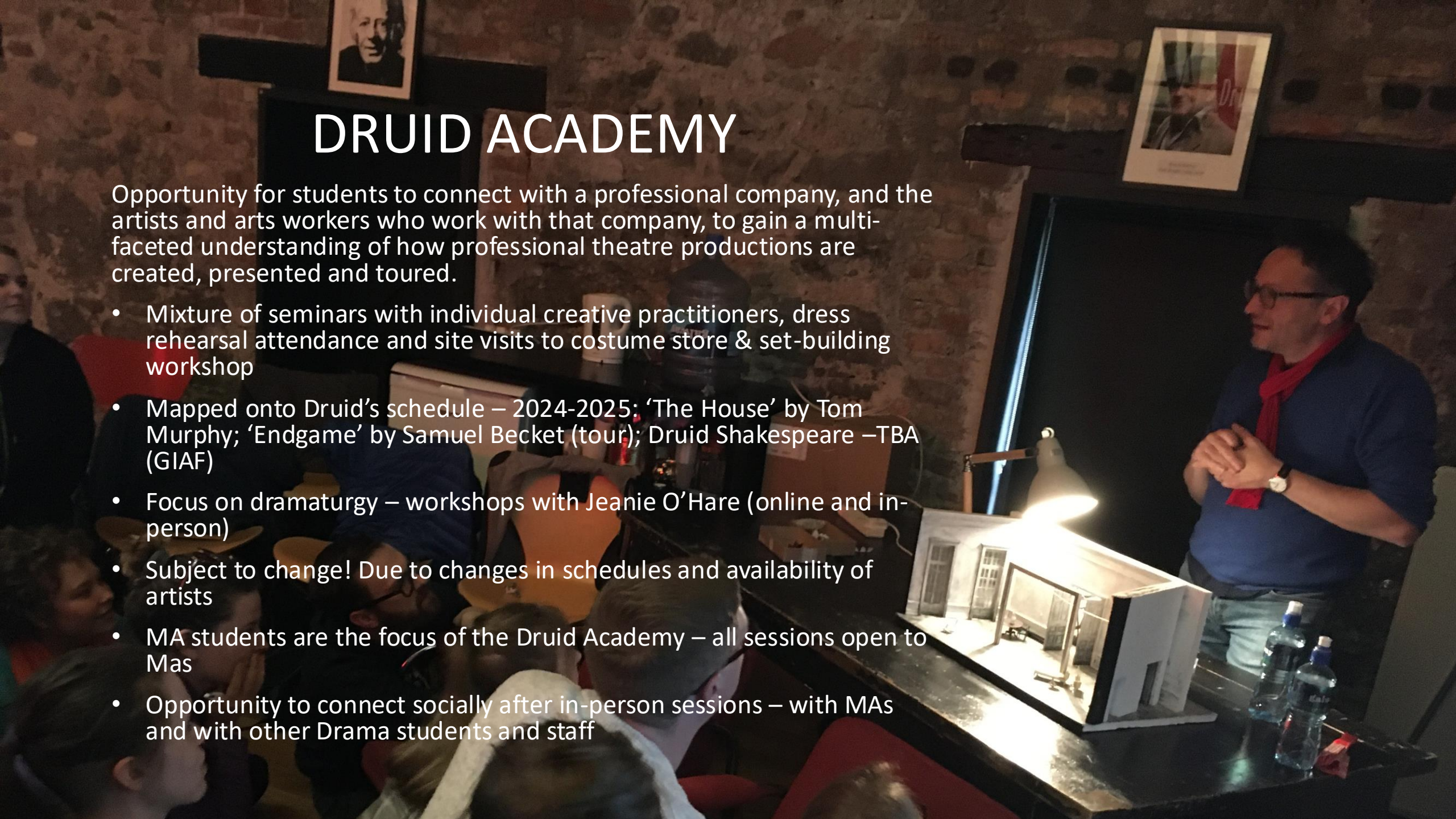




# DRUID ACADEMY

Opportunity for students to connect with a professional company, and the artists and arts workers who work with that company, to gain a multi-faceted understanding of how professional theatre productions are created, presented and toured.

- Mixture of seminars with individual creative practitioners, dress rehearsal attendance and site visits to costume store & set-building workshop
- Mapped onto Druid's schedule – 2024-2025: 'The House' by Tom Murphy; 'Endgame' by Samuel Becket (tour); Druid Shakespeare –TBA (GIAF)
- Focus on dramaturgy – workshops with Jeanie O'Hare (online and in-person)
- Subject to change! Due to changes in schedules and availability of artists
- MA students are the focus of the Druid Academy – all sessions open to Mas
- Opportunity to connect socially after in-person sessions – with MAs and with other Drama students and staff



# Druid Academy Schedule – Semester 1

## Weeks 1-6:

1	13/9/24 – Friday	THT, 8pm	Dress Rehearsal – The House (by Tom Murphy) 8pm; 2.5 hours long, with interval
2	20/9/24 - Friday	THT, 3-4.30pm	The House – backstage & workshop
3	26/9/24	Online & Recorded	Jeanie O’Hare: Intro to Dramaturgy – Place (see description below)
4	3/10/24	Online & Recorded	Jeanie O’Hare: Intro to Dramaturgy – Action (see description below)
5	10/10/24	Online & Recorded	Jeanie O’Hare: Intro to Dramaturgy – Time (see description below)
6	17/10/24		Study Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications for Jeanie O’Hare intensive</li><li>• Writing ‘homework’ for workshop</li></ul>



# Druid Academy Schedule – Semester 1

## Weeks 7-12

7	24/10/24	TBC	<i>Martha Knight – Sound Design - TBC</i>
8	30/10/24 & 31/10/24	TBC	Jeanie O’Hare: Time - Deep Dive In-person workshop
9	7/11/24	TBC	<i>Susie Cummins – Lighting - TBC</i>
10	12/11/24 - Tuesday	THT, 8pm	David Bolger show – ‘The Piece with the Drums’ (Coiscéim Dance Theatre) NB - Discounted tickets – not part of DA
	13/11/24 - Wednesday	11am – 1pm, Venue TBC	David Bolger – Movement workshop
11	21/11/24	TBC	Brian Fenton – Producing & Druid50
12	28/11/24	Online	Writer’s catch up with Jeanie O’Hare – Dramaturgy Q&A + peer critique

# Upcoming Theatre Trips

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- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 8PM dress rehearsal of Tom Murphy's *The House* with Druid (part of Druid Academy)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2PM performance of Lady Gregory's *Grania* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin
  - We cover the tickets for the Abbey but transport to and from Dublin







# *Au Naturel* for Culture Night in partnership with Arts in Action



- FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER
- 7 - 8 PM | ORBSEN BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY (H91 DK59)

Created and performed by PhD researcher Michelle Palmer for her practice-as-research project on eco-dramaturgy, eco-somatics, performing landscape, and artistic activism.

*Au Naturel* is a creative contemplation of the relationships we have with our bodies and with the earth – Book through Arts in Action Eventbrite to join in a celebration of all natural rhythmic cycles - in women, in men, in the environment - this performance challenges taboos and stigmas, and promotes caring attention and sacred connection to our bodyscapes and landscapes.





# Arts in Action

***EVERY Thursday, 1-2PM,  
O'Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre  
and Performance***

This free programme, sponsored by the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies and based in SEMCA, offers an interdisciplinary programme ranging between traditional and classical music, theatre, film, song and dance as well as other art forms. It is a space of celebration and joy where our shared interests and expertise in practice and research come together in the School.







You can access the schedule and more information about Arts in Action: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/artsinaction/>

If you're interested in getting involved as volunteer for events, email Artistic Director Marianne Kennedy (Drama and Theatre Studies): [marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:marianne.nichinneide@universityofgalway.ie)



Performers and audience at  
*Nine Stories About Love*  
Arts in Action 2023



**“Towards Sensory Ecologies:  
Creating immersive  
performance for neurodiverse  
audiences”**

**Wednesday 16th Oct, 10.00 - 11.30,  
BOI Theatre**

Dalija Acin Thelander introduces her academic practice-as-research on creating immersive performances for children with additional needs. The practice will be introduced from both a theoretical and a practical perspective.

Chaired by Marianne Ní Chinnéide

You can view the full Baboró programme here  
after its launch 3rd September:  
<https://www.baboro.ie/>





Plan ahead to be part of GIAF's SELECTED in summer 2025!

Call to be released in February.

*Learn more here:*

<https://www.giaf.ie/support/interns/nuigalway-selected>





# General Policies



In your handbook, take time to review...



GRADING BANDS



PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

If a student wishes to raise a concern, there are four ways of doing so:



BY APPROACHING THE LECTURER DIRECTLY



BY APPROACHING A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE



BY APPROACHING THE POSTGRADUATE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF DISCIPLINE



BY COMPLETING CLASS FEEDBACK FORMS DURING THE SEMESTER.

# Commonly Accessed University of Galway Student Support Services

Disability Support Services

Student Counselling Service

Academic Writing Centre

- *See handbook for further access information.*

# Students should register with our Disability Support Services if they have a diagnosis of...

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder including Asperger's Syndrome
- Blind/Visual Impairment
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Dyspraxia/Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)
- Mental Health Condition
- Neurological Condition
- Physical Disability
- Significant On-going Illness
- Specific Learning Difficulty (including dyslexia or dyscalculia)

From <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/faqs/>





# Disclosure Form

- If you have need of additional supports or have other relevant information you need us to know, we will send out a disclosure form link that you can fill in.
- This information will remain private and only be disclosed to relevant teaching staff.
- We are doing this to try to avoid having to repeatedly disclose information and because support services can sometime be delayed in their communications.

# Students provide/receive feedback through:

Class reps

Meeting with  
instructors during  
office hours

Final Class  
Evaluations

Feedback from  
assessments by  
instructors



# When can students submit work late?

- Students should **ONLY** seek to submit work late in the event of serious extenuating circumstances which is defined by university policy QA209 as “serious unavoidable, unpredictable and exceptional circumstances outside the control of the student, which may negatively impact the student’s performance in assessment.”
- A full list of what **DOES** and **DOES** not count as extenuating circumstances is available here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/registry/exams/policiesprocedures/QA209-Extenuating-Circumstances.pdf>.





Students with approved extenuating circumstance can ask for and receive extensions **ONLY** from Head of Year/Programme (less than seven days, with documentation) OR CASSCS.





If students have met the grounds for extenuating circumstances

- **1. An extension:** This is when the College of Arts Office and/or Programme allows you to submit work late without penalty following a process of application with documentation (i.e. medical or other certificates).
- 2. A deferral:** This is when you get College of Arts Office permission to submit outstanding work following the end of a module without penalty in the autumn exam



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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

FYI: Any student who needs to submit work more than seven days late can **ONLY** have this decision cleared by the College of Arts unless they have an accommodation from Disability Support Services.

# Other housekeeping...

- Classes start ON the hour, end TEN TO the hour.
- Your modules will require that you use Canvas to access course content
- For many modules, you will need to come dressed to MOVE.
- **ALL** communication will be done through your [universityofgalway.ie](mailto:universityofgalway.ie) email from next week.



# Preparing for classes

- There are lots of readings to prepare in advance of classes and sometimes recordings or videos to view.
- Check Canvas to access readings and viewings
- If you have problem accessing readings, contact your lecturer
- Lecturers will not always engage directly with readings in class but post them so you understand where ideas are coming from and to deepen learning.
- If a reading/viewing is essential for class a lecturer should tell you this in advance or it will be obvious from the content. For example, the class is on Teresa Deevy and so you need to read her play *Katie Roche* in advance.



# FOOD AND DRINK

Except in exceptional cases,  
only WATER is permitted  
in class.



**School of English and Creative Arts Postgraduate Orientation**  
**(MAs and PhDs new and continuing)**  
***Friday 13th September 2024, 3-5PM,***  
***O'Donoghue Theatre***

- This orientation and mixer is an introduction (or re-introduction) to the School of English and Creative Arts hosted by the new Head of School, Dr Charlotte McIvor.
- We will explore:
  - What is the School of English and Creative Arts (SECA) and why does it matter to you as a unit in your postgraduate journey?
  - What are the disciplines, programmes and research and practice specialisms in the School?
  - What common SECA policies and procedures will you need to know how to navigate?
  - What special SECA events and opportunities can you take part in throughout the year as part of the wider community?
- You will also get the chance to mix with postgraduate students from across programmes in the School!



# Weekly Updates

- An email is sent on Monday morning during the semester alerting you to relevant upcoming events , news items and general deadlines.
- This email goes out to **All** students and staff in Drama and Theatre Studies
- Make sure to check this email and read through all of it on a weekly basis – sometimes information that is very relevant to you might be at the end of the email as so many cohorts are being addressed in the email.
- If you have a particular event or news item that you wish to highlight email [ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ian.walsh@universityofgalway.ie) before 3pm on Fridays.





# Facilities

- Ireland's first and only 100% LED equipped theatre
- Best in class equipment providing the highest possible standard of student facilities
- Fully accessible public and backstage areas
- Extremely flexible & adaptable spaces offer almost limitless scope to event organisers
- An overnight success as a theatre creation centre
- Onsite AV creation and set construction facilities
- Safety conscious ethos taught from day one
- In house Technical and Facility Management to ensure compliance with EU legislation regarding performance venues and to support student activity



# Questions?

