

BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE WITH JASANGO THEATRE  
PRESENT



# Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

ORIGINAL PLAYS  
SITE SPECIFICS  
WORKSHOPS  
KIDS THEATRE

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

JIM CULLETON  
DEIRDRE KINAHAN  
REX RYAN  
JESSE WEAVER

"A  
Dream  
itself  
- is but a  
Shadow"

**THURS 14 - SUN 17 JUNE 2018**

**BIRR, CO. OFFALY**

# Welcome Message

Welcome to **Scripts** - Ireland's Playwriting Festival. Established in 2013, Scripts creates unique opportunities for playwrights, aspiring and established, to have their work developed and produced. In the picturesque town of Birr, Co. Offaly, a haven of Georgian elegance and boutique chic, this innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre - those who want to create, perform, and watch live new theatre in beautiful surroundings. We are thrilled to welcome you to our fifth outing of Scripts and trust you will enjoy every Festival moment!

Our selected writers are David Donovan from Dublin and Co. Kildare's Sionnán Ní Nualláin and Brendan Farrell. They will journey to Birr for 7 days of mentorship with Eugene O'Brien. All three plays will then be performed as rehearsed readings with professional actors at our headline event at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on Sunday 17 June, 3pm. The winning play being chosen by our very distinguished panel!

Going from a modest festival in 2013, **Scripts** has grown leaps and bounds over the last 5 years. With the support of *The Arts Council of Ireland*, we have been able to expand programming, and truly create an innovative and inspiring festival. From workshops and panel discussions, to children's theatre and site specific works, we constantly strive to expand the scope of **Scripts**, while keeping the ultimate focus on what we are most passionate about - nurturing new writing. With Eugene O'Brien leading the charge, we have supported playwrights in their creative endeavors for their plays to go from the page to the stage. This year is our biggest undertaking to date, and we are delighted to bring to you such a diverse and dramatic programme. The theme of this year's festival is "**Dreams**," and it is so fitting and meaningful as it has truly been an incredible journey to watch our dream of **Scripts** come to fruition.

*Angela, Lisa, Emma, Eugene, Ciara & Rebecca* - The Scripts Team

## ...SCRIPTS AT A GLANCE...

|          |          |                       |                            |
|----------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday | 11am     | Tom Thumb             | Birr Theatre & Arts Centre |
|          | 7pm      | Barber of Menville    | Tom's Barbers              |
|          | 7-8pm    | Radio Play            | Midlands 103               |
|          | 9pm      | Open Mic              | The Chestnut               |
| Friday   | 1.30pm   | Pop Up Play           | The Loft Café              |
|          | 8pm      | Pilgrim               | Birr Theatre & Arts Centre |
|          | 10pm     | Pop Up Play           | Kelly's Bar                |
| Saturday | 10am-4pm | Deirdre Workshop      | Spinner's on Castle St.    |
|          | 11am     | The Little Prince     | Birr Theatre & Arts Centre |
|          | 12pm     | Paper Screen          | Birr Library               |
|          | 2-5pm    | Rex Ryan Workshop     | Birr Castle                |
|          | 8pm      | Mary & Me             | Birr Theatre & Arts Centre |
| Sunday   | 10am-1pm | Jim Culleton Workshop | Spinner's on Castle St.    |
|          | 3pm      | Festival Finale       | Birr Theatre & Arts Centre |

# THURSDAY 14 JUNE

Lyngo Theatre presents

## Tom Thumb

A show by Marcello Chiarenza  
Adapted and performed by Patrick Lynch

One night tiny Tom overhears Mum and Dad talking - there's nothing left to eat so they are going to leave him and his six brothers in the forest! Outwitting his parents and the ogre Tom shows everybody that even though he is small he is still mighty as he protects his brothers, finds the treasure and makes sure they'll never be

hungry again. Performed entirely on and under a kitchen table this wee wonder of a show is full of Lyngo magic with feathery spinning birds, a flying house and a portable forest. Cbeebies, Patrick Lynch, brings this classic story to life in a playful and fascinating show.

Running time: 50 mins

€10 (school group rate: €8 per child - Teachers Free) Age 4 years +  
11am - Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



Mockingbird Theatre presents

## The Barber of Menville

A site-specific play written by Ronan Carr.  
Cast: Ronan Carr, Anne Gallagher

The Barber of Menville is a one act play which takes a poignant, humorous look at a couple of married barbers who are preparing to head off to Italy for one final holiday. Molly, the wife, is suffering from 'the forgetting thing' and the play explores issues of memory, identity and what it means to love. Mockingbird Theatre Group was formed by Ronan Carr and Anne Gallagher with the intention of bringing original, funny and insightful work to audiences the length and breadth of the country.

Running time: approx 55 mins

€10 (spaces limited - booking recommended)  
7pm - Tom's Barbers, Main Street, Birr



## Two Girls in the Dream Castle

A reading of this provocative new play by Drew Katzman, In partnership with Midlands 103

What makes us who we become? What is the nature of friendship, of innocence, of corruption? Where does compassion live? And is it possible to explore these questions in a meaningful way by observing the after-school play date of two six year-old girls who wish for happy-ever-after? In this cross cultural collaboration, this American play, read by actors in L.A., we look at current day issues through the eyes of two young girls. Tying in with themes of approaching sensitive current events through the art of theatre, there will be a radio discussion with the playwright about the differences in cultural issues in the world.

Drew Katzman is a writer, actor and director based in Los Angeles. Drew is an award winning playwright and a member of the Dramatists Guild, Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity.

7pm - Tune into Encore with Claire O'Brien on Midlands 103



THURSDAY 14 JUNE

## Open Mic...

Meet and mingle with the *Scripts* crew and celebrate the opening of the Festival! Get into the spirit of *Scripts* and take part in our OPEN MIC.

If you have written a song, poem, anecdote, comedy routine or shopping list, we want to hear from you. Audience Choice Prize on the night. Bring all your friends!!

Ideas and registration to [scriptsireland@gmail.com](mailto:scriptsireland@gmail.com)

(Subject line: Open Mic)

9pm - The Chestnut

FRIDAY 15 JUNE

## Pop Up Play: After Ours

### Three Drinks, Two Women and One Secret

Siobhán Donnellan and Eavan Brennan will be "popping up" around Birr, with a short five minute play. Siobhan Donnellan was the winning writer of *Scripts* in 2013, and performed in the Festival in 2017 with her one woman show *Going Spare*. We're delighted to have her creative talents back again this year!

Siobhán Donnellan's awards for acting and writing include the *Outstanding Actor Award New York Fringe* 2007, Best Female Performer CAT 2010 and winner of *Scripts* 2013: Ireland's Playwriting Festival. Siobhán also works as a story writer for RTÉ Televisions *Fair City*.

Eavan Brennan studied at the acclaimed École International de Théâtre Jacques Le Coq in France. With Footsbarn Travelling Theatre she toured with productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *L'Homme Qui Rit* by Victor Hugo and *Sorry!* by Pierre Byland.

1.30pm - The Loft Café • No Charge - just have lunch!

10pm - Kelly's Bar • No Charge - just have a drink!

FRIDAY 15 JUNE

# PILGRIM

By Scripts 2017 Winner Philip Doherty

Starring Rex Ryan

'Simply Stunning... Ryan's delivery is a joy to behold' - The Herald

★★★★ 'A meticulously crafted piece of writing' - Irish Examiner

★★★★ 'Remarkable script... amazing performance... superbly heartfelt' Broadway Baby

'Very funny and very moving' - Meg.ie

An Irishman's wild odyssey across America set ablaze by 9/11. Thousands of refugees from every culture and creed descend upon the doorsteps of Newfoundland. Villages like Gambo become the setting for a positive apocalypse. In this surreal, inverted world, Christopher's life pulls into focus and his rebirth is both arresting and comic. With allusions to classical myth, *PILGRIM* (Fishamble New Writing Award Nomination/ Manchester Theatre Award nomination) is a powerful comedy/drama about a hard-edged youth coming of age on a pilgrimage home for the birth of his son.

Running time: 75 mins followed by Talk Back Session

8pm - Birr Theatre & Arts Centre • €15

**REMINDER** Join us in Kelly's Bar, Green Street after the show for

Pop Up Play





# Workshops

## CREATING CHARACTER

with Deirdre Kinahan

The Award Winning Playwright will give a Masterclass on Creating Character, exploring: *How Character can lead in storytelling... How character can build a world... How character can take an audience to their unexplored corners...*

This will be a hands-on writing workshop so have your pens and your brains at the ready. €50 (incl light lunch) full day workshop (15 participants max) Booking essential SATURDAY 10am - 4pm *Spinners on Castle Street*



**Deirdre Kinahan** is an award winning playwright, actively involved in the Irish Theatre sector. She is an elected member of Aosdána, Ireland's association of outstanding artists, and has served as a board member for the Abbey Theatre, Theatre Forum Ireland and the Stewart Parker Trust. Deirdre's work is translated into many languages and produced regularly in Ireland and on the International stage. In 2018 Deirdre has new work at the Old Vic London *Renewed* with Julie Walters, The Abbey Theatre Dublin *The Unmanageable Sisters* by Michel Tremblay, Fishamble Theatre Company/Abbey Theatre *Rathmines Road*, Solas Nua Washington *Wild Notes*, Penatubus Theatre Company UK *Crossings* and *Draiocht Dublin House*.

## THE CREATION OF A ONE PERSON SHOW

with Rex Ryan

*'Ryan is rapidly becoming one of the most interesting stage actors of his generation'. The Arts Review*

Rex will lead a workshop based around the techniques himself and writer Philip Doherty used to create their one man show; *Pilgrim*. Rex will go through character creation, script analysis and the unconventional routes he took to create *Pilgrim*.

€20 (20 participants max, for all levels) Booking essential SATURDAY 2pm - 5pm *Birr Castle Gallery Space*



**Rex**, graduate of The Gaiety School of Acting is Artistic Director of Glass Mask Theatre Company who will present a world premier from renowned Irish Playwright Jimmy Murphy (*IDLEWILD*) in July 2018. He is the director of The Gaiety School's Youth Theatre Company & also teaches in The Gaiety School at Temple Bar. Rex was recently nominated as Best Actor in The Manchester Theatre Awards for his performance in one man show, *Pilgrim*. His recent theatre credits as an Actor include, The title role of Hamlet in Peter Reid's adaptation, *The Memory Stick* by Donal O'Kelly, *Bug* by Tracy Letts for The Corps Ensemble, *Tonight* with Donny Stixx by Philip Ridley @ Electric Picnic, Mark O'Rowe's *Made In China* with The Corps Ensemble, *Hollow Ground* directed by Karl Shiels for Theatre Upstairs. Rex has also worked in Radio Drama for Radio 1, Newstalk and 2fm.

## GETTING STARTED: BEGINNING YOUR PLAY

with Jim Culleton

A half day course with Fishamble's artistic director, Jim Culleton, about playwriting. The session will focus particularly on starting a play, and openings of plays, with practical exercises, ensuring all participants have written a potential opening for a new play by the end of the morning.

€20 (20 participants max, for intermediate level) Booking essential SUNDAY 10am - 1pm *Spinners on Castle Street*



**Jim Culleton** Artistic Director of Fishamble: The New Play Company for which he recently directed *Tiny Plays for Ireland* and *Tiny Plays for Ireland 2* by 50 writers, *Silent* by Pat Kinevane, the multi award-winning *The Pride of Parnell Street* by Sebastian Barry and *Forgotten* by Pat Kinevane. He has directed for the Abbey Theatre and recently directed *Voices from the Frontline* starring Martin Sheen.

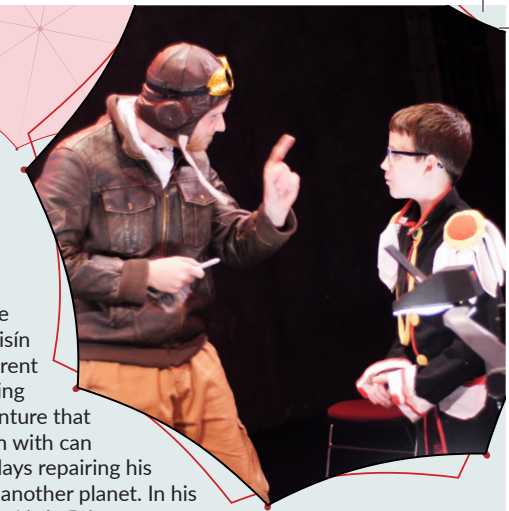
SATURDAY 16 JUNE

## THE LITTLE PRINCE

A Morgan Creative Production

Performed by: Seosamh Duffy (Narrator) & Alex Hughes (Little Prince)

Morgan Creative presents a dramatic re-imagining of Antoine Saint Exupery's *The Little Prince* translated and adapted by Oisín Robbins. This contemporary performance uses multiple different art forms such as music and audio-visual work in order to bring the magical story to life. *The Little Prince* is a fantastical adventure that explores growing up and how the imagination we are all born with can save us. Antoine, the narrator of the tale, is spending a few days repairing his airplane engine when he is visited by a boy that comes from another planet. In his bid to help Antoine survive the lonely days in the desert, the Little Prince recounts his experiences hopping from one planet to the next, and in doing so, makes some startling revelations on adulthood, and what it means to live in this crazy, wonderful world of ours. The production is family friendly and is most suitable for 6-12 year olds. *Running time: 45 mins*  
11am - *Birr Theatre & Arts Centre* • €8/5 (1 adult/2 kids €15)



## PAPER SCREEN

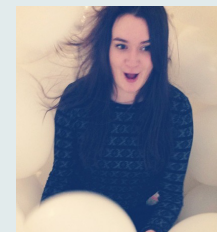
Devised & Performed by the youth workshop participants. Facilitated by Shanna May Breen.

Paper Screen is a site-specific showcase performed in Birr Library created by young local participants. The showcase will be devised around the theme of "books versus technology - what's more important in 2018?" Paper Screen will stem from the groups creative reaction to the site of the library and the thousands of books that surround them. Expect an innovative micro performance stacked with new writing, pop music, stupid dancing, real-life stories, laughter and heartfelt truths. *Running Time: 25 mins*  
12pm - *Birr Library* (age 16+)  
No charge - Booking Strongly Recommended



## PAPER SCREEN: Call for Participants

We are seeking young theatre enthusiasts (age 16-23) to participate in this 4 day theatre project. See full details on page 10



**Shanna May Breen** is an Irish-born Dublin-based theatre maker who is invested in creating devised theatre with groups of exciting people in interesting places. Previous works have seen her track Ireland's obsession with alcohol while drinking a bottle of whiskey live, climbing a glacier in Iceland to develop a show about "journey" and directing her first short film called *Petticoats* which traced the love affair of two Georgian women. She was most recently selected to start composing a site-specific travelling soundscape in Phoenix Park called *The Sound of Phoenix* for Dublin Fringe 2018. [shannamaybreen.com](http://shannamaybreen.com)



SATURDAY 16 JUNE

Patrick Talbot Productions  
by arrangement with  
Wild Productions presents

# Mary and Me

Written and performed by Irene Kelleher

*'Riveting.....you could not pray to find a better show in this Edinburgh Festival'*  
★★★★The Edinburgh Guide 2017

Inspired by the true story of Ann Lovett, a 15 year old girl who died giving birth at a grotto in Ireland in 1984, MARY AND ME is a compelling imagining of a young woman's search for understanding and meaning when at a milestone in her life.

The play follows the life of Hannah, a young woman in the months before she gives birth, the everyday happenings in her life; her maths tests, art projects and relationships with boys and family. She shares these events with the statue of Mary and in the company of Mary Magdalene in the local village grotto. The play is an imagining of a young woman's search for understanding in conversation with a statue of the virgin Mary. It is an original and unique imagining of the girl at the centre of a tragic event that shocked the nation. *Mary and Me* is a rich and funny evocation of the Ireland of the 1980's, while it also has a sharp contemporary resonance.

*'A moving new play with a fantastic performance by Kelleher'* ★★★★★The Stage  
*'Not only is Kelleher a brilliant performer she is also a gifted writer'* ★★★★★Broadway Baby  
*'A superbly crafted piece'* ★★★★★The Brighton Argus

Running time: 75 mins followed by Talk Back Session  
€15 - 8pm - Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



## TALKBACK

chaired by Claire O' Brien of  
Midlands 103 Encore Arts Show.

Journalist Claire hosts a Talkback on  
the theme THE AGE OF CONSENT  
- WRITING PROVOCATIVE DRAMA.

Taking the themes raised in *Mary & Me* as a starting place, Claire will explore with panelists Irene Kelleher, Rex Ryan & Eugene O'Brien, the place of new drama in addressing timely social issues.

CHECK OUT  
THE  
WEEKEND  
DEALS

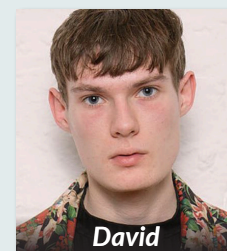
...ON BACK COVER...

SUNDAY 17 JUNE

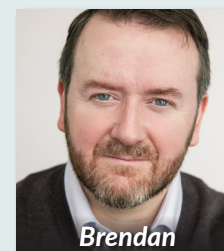
## NURTURED NEW WORKS

After a week of mentoring, editing & directing, the selected Festival Playwrights' plays will be dramatically presented as staged readings by the cream of Ireland's acting talent. Under the guidance of the talented Catherine Walsh, who joins the Scripts Production team as Creative Associate, the plays will take the next step, going from the page to the stage. The winning play will be announced by our esteemed judging panel consisting of Jesse Weaver (Abbey Theatre), Jim Culleton (Fishamble) and Eugene O' Brien (Scripts). Followed by a talkback session on the development process of the new works.

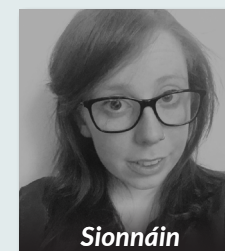
Delving into material inspired by this year's theme, Dreams, these plays span in scope from the post apocalyptic to the sensitive nature of the vulnerability that comes with unsteady relationships. Focussing on the need for human connection, these thought provoking works stretch the imagination and encourage self examination of ourselves and the world we live in.  
3pm - Birr Theatre & Arts Centre • €15 (Booking recommended)



David



Brendan



Sionnán

## Introducing the Playwrights

David Donovan (Dublin) recently completed a BA in English Studies at Trinity College Dublin. Alongside writing plays (*Supporting Characters; Ghosts of Shiftmas Past*) he has worked in journalism as the Theatre Editor for The University Times and plans to pursue script reading in the future.

Brendan Farrell (Kildare) actor, writer and filmmaker, decided to leave his well-paying "proper job" a couple of years ago and follow his passion for acting, filmmaking and writing. He trained in Screen Acting at the Bow Street Academy and has acted in TV and short films, as well as working behind the camera.

Sionnán Ní Nualláin (Kildare) is a playwright, storyteller, and puppeteer. Graduating from the Samuel Beckett Centre at Trinity College Dublin in 2016, she has worked extensively within theatre and arts administration. She is also the recipient of a bursary to take part in the Civic Theatre *Bard Quest* with *Bard Mythologies* over the coming year.

## ...THE PRIZE...

This year's PLAYWRIGHT'S PRIZE is sponsored by The Abbey Theatre & Fishamble: The New Play Company. Abbey Theatre New Work Associate, Jesse Weaver, joins the judging panel & the winning playwright will be invited to The Abbey for a private consultation & script analysis. The winner will also secure a scholarship place on a Fishamble Playwriting Course.

Scripts  
Festival  
Finale

# Judging Panel

**Eugene O'Brien** is an Irish playwright, screenwriter, and actor based in Dublin. Best known for award winning *Eden*, which has performed throughout Europe and the US and IFTA winner TV drama, *Pure Mule*. Eugene's recent projects include writing for TV3 new drama, *Red Rock*, plays for RTÉ and BBC Radio Drama. His awards include Irish Times/ESB Theatre Awards 2001, The Stewart Parker Best New Play 2001 and the Rooney Prize for Literature 2003.

**Jim Culleton** Artistic Director of Fishamble: The New Play Company for which he recently directed *Tiny Plays for Ireland* and *Tiny Plays for Ireland 2* by 50 writers, *Silent* by Pat Kinevane, the multi award-winning *The Pride of Parnell Street* by Sebastian Barry and *Forgotten* by Pat Kinevane. He has directed for the Abbey Theatre and recently directed *Voices from the Frontline* starring Martin Sheen.

**Jesse Weaver** is the New Work Associate at the Abbey Theatre. He has worked in theatre in both Ireland and the US as an actor, director, playwright and critic, and has taught at University College Cork and Trinity College. He received his PhD in Irish Theatre from University College Cork in 2011, where his research focus was on the role of the playwright in contemporary Irish theatre production.



Eugene O'Brien



Jim Culleton



Jesse Weaver



## Call For Participants:

Devising for Contemporary Performance with Shanna May Breen.

This four-day workshop will introduce young theatre enthusiasts to different ways of thinking about how to make their own performance for stage. The world is moving fast and it's becoming more and more important that our individual voices are heard through the work that we make to provoke change. This workshop is an open invitation to any young emerging theatre visionaries to partake and learn about: individuality, concept, style, creating new material, engaging with your audience and dreaming big! The workshop will end with a fizzy and expeditious showcase called Paper Screen that will be performed to the public and other Scripts participants. Shanna has recently facilitated similar workshops in The Royal School of Speech and Drama and Cork School of Music.

Wed 13 - Sat 16 June • 10am to 4pm - *Birr Library* (age 16-23) • Registration Fee €15  
Booking Essential Contact: [scriptsireland@gmail.com](mailto:scriptsireland@gmail.com) Ciara @ 0579122911 to reserve a space



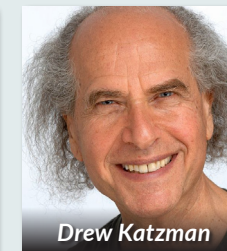
Catherine Walsh



Siobhán Donnellan



Eavan Brennan



Drew Katzman



## FESTIVAL TEAM

Angela Ryan Whyte  
Lisa Daly  
Emma Nee Haslam  
Eugene O'Brien  
Ciara Kelly  
Rebecca Kelly  
Catherine Walsh

**Special Thanks to:** Abbey Theatre; Fishamble: The New Play Company; Mary Brady, Offaly Arts Office; George Dempsey Flanagan (Design); Bewley's Cafe Theatre; Michelle de Forge; The Stables Guesthouse and the staff at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.



## FESTIVAL VENUES







# Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

Since inception in 2013, Scripts has established collaborative links with key organisations including The Abbey Theatre, Fishamble Theatre, Listowel Writers Week, Irish Writers Centre, RTÉ Drama On One, Culture Night, #Waking The Feminists & more. As well as winning a PPI Radio Award for Drama with Midlands 103, Scripts has created incomparable opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors & producers to continually strive for excellence in the craft of Playwriting & Drama. We look forward to continuing these relationships & exploring further friendships with like-minded lovers of new work.

## MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT!!

### ONE - A - DAY! - €45

1 ticket for each of the following events:

- The Barber of Moville Tom's Barbers, 7pm
- Pilgrim Birr Theatre, 8pm
- Mary & Me Birr Theatre, 8pm
- Festival Finale Birr Theatre, 3pm

### SUPER SCRIPTS SUNDAY - €30

(1 day pass) incl: 1 ticket for each of the following events:

- Workshop: Jim Culleton - Getting Started: Beginning Your Play 10am-1pm
- Scripts Festival Finale Birr Theatre, 3pm

To avail of any of the above discounts,  
the FULL package must be purchased at the one time.

### DOUBLE DAY

### DELIGHTS - €60\*

(2 day pass) incl: 1 ticket for each  
of the following events:

#### SATURDAY

- Workshop: Rex Ryan -  
The Creation of a  
One Person Show 2-5pm
- Mary & Me Birr Theatre, 8pm

#### SUNDAY

- Workshop: Jim Culleton -  
Getting Started: Beginning  
Your Play 10am-1pm
- Scripts Festival Finale  
Birr Theatre, 3pm

\*€25 supplement to attend  
Deirdre Kinahan full day  
workshop 10am-4pm

Bookings: 057 91 22911 [www.ScriptsIreland.com](http://www.ScriptsIreland.com)

