

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre and Jasango Theatre
present



Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

THROUGHOUT BIRR, CO. OFFALY

Sun 3rd - Sat 9th July 2016 www.scriptsireland.com

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Sunday 3rd July

FESTIVAL OPENING - Meet & Mingle

Get the flavour for Festival Fever with the opening BBQ where the menu includes not just **burgers** but also **music, spoken word** and much more! Performance by **Fergus Costello** - Complimentary BBQ. Surprise Cocktail on Special Offer for **Scripts** patrons! 8pm - Announcement of **Write A Play In A Day Challenge** 6 - 8pm • The Chestnut

Monday 4th - Friday 8th July

The Incubator - Mentoring, Editing, Directing

Heads down - work to be done! The selected writers will work under the guidance of mentor, **Eugene O'Brien**, putting the finishing touches to their work. Actors are directed in preparation for the closing night performance.

Monday 4th July

Literary Loft - First Reading of Mollie Mollumby's "In Goodness Grow"

Following the reading by Offaly Youth Theatre actors, audience are invited to partake in a development session where feedback & analysis will form a pathway to the play's further development 4.30pm • The Loft • no charge - just buy Afternoon Tea!

Thursday 7th July

CHANGING THE INK

Waking The Feminists Movement: Implications For The Writer

#WAKING
THE
FEMINISTS

A public discussion chaired by journalist **Mary Kenny**. Panel includes WTF committee members, artists **Pom Boyd** & **Sonya Kelly** as well as theatre professionals **Mary Elizabeth Burke Kennedy**, **Clare Barrett** and more.

What is the WTF Movement? A group of theatre professionals speaking out for equality for women in theatre in Ireland following an historic meeting at The Abbey Theatre in November 2015.

A lively & thought provoking evenings entertainment.
7pm • Birr Theatre & Arts Centre €10 - Includes Wine

Friday 8th July

Pop Up Play 1

Lunchtime Drama!! The first of the two 5-minute plays selected from the **Write a Play in a Day Challenge** will be performed.

See **Pop Up Plays** above for details

12.30 pm • The Stables Tea Rooms • no charge - just buy lunch!

Come Dine & Discuss!

Catch up with the gang as they take a break from rehearsals and see a Pop Up Play or two! For those who can't 'do lunch' during the day this is your chance to see the fruits of the **Play in a Day Challenge**.

7.00pm • Cast and Crew dinner | 9.00pm • Pop Up Play - Double Bill
Kelly's Bar & Restaurant - no charge - just buy dinner/drinks!

Saturday 9th July

Playdate - Playwriting For Children

This fun workshop will give children an introduction to playwriting. It will focus on the key dramatic tools needed to write a play, such as dialogue, plot & structure.

9.45am-12.45 pm • Birr Library • €10 • Booking essential • Age 8-12

Playtime - Children's Play

Join our young Playwrights as they showcase their brand new work, fresh off the press! 12.15pm • Birr Library • Free!

Pop Up Play 2

Ellevenses Drama!! The second of the two 5-minute plays selected from the **Write a Play in a Day Challenge** will be performed.

See **Pop Up Plays** above for details

11.15 pm • Emma's Café • no charge - just buy Morning Coffee!



Scripts

FESTIVAL FINALE Nurtured New Works

After a week of mentoring, editing and directing the selected plays will be performed as a rehearsed reading followed by the announcement of the overall Festival Winner, adjudicated by **Eugene O'Brien** & **Jessica Traynor**. Hear about the development process during our talkback session chaired by Eugene O'Brien. A night of theatre, music and conversation.

8pm • Birr Theatre • €15 • Booking recommended

The Classic Cure We'll be easy like Sunday Mornin' on July 10th. Share your Festival highlights over a leisurely brunch. Chilled out tunes & not a bit of gloom! Prize for the best #ScriptsSundaySelfie !!!
Noonish • The Stables Courtyard • no charge - just buy brunch!

WELCOME

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. The picturesque town of Birr, Co. Offaly, a haven of Georgian elegance and boutique chic, plays host to an ensemble of playwrights, producers, actors and directors, all working towards one goal – to produce 7 new plays in 7 fun filled days, at varying stages of development. This innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre – those who want to create, perform, engage and watch live new theatre in beautiful surroundings. We are thrilled to welcome you to our third outing of **Scripts** and trust you will enjoy every Festival moment!

Angela & Lisa – Angela Ryan Whyte & Lisa Daly **Jasango Theatre**
Emma & Rebecca – Emma Nee Haslam & Rebecca Kelly **Birr Theatre**

POP UP PLAYS

THE WRITE A PLAY IN A DAY CHALLENGE

Playwrights have the opportunity to push their abilities to the limit with this fun challenge. Can you write a play in a day? Playwrights who register for the challenge, will be given a set of “artistic parameters” around which to base a 5-minute script. Details will be shared at the **Meet & Mingle** event on Sunday 3 July at 8pm. Those who register from out of town will be e-mailed at that time also. Playwrights then have 24 hours to write and submit their play to be selected for performance as **Pop Up Plays** during the Festival.

Are you ready for the challenge?

Can you write a play in a day?

Further info on www.scriptsireland.com

Register your interest by emailing us at scriptsireland@gmail.com

Special Thanks to The Abbey Theatre; Sinead O'Reilly, Offaly Arts Officer; George Dempsey Flanagan for programme and poster design; Listowel Writers Weeks; Irish Writers' Centre; Offaly Youth Theatre; Lian Bell & Staff at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.



Eugene O'Brien is an Irish playwright, screenwriter, and actor based in Dublin. Best known for award winning play *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 RTE and BBC Radio Drama. His awards include Irish Times/ESB Theatre Awards 2001, The Steward Parker Best New Play 2001 and the Rooney Prize for Literature 2003. Eugene plays an integral role in the establishment and development of **Scripts** – heading the selection panel of submitted plays, mentoring playwrights throughout the week and judging plays on the final night. Eugene's latest project, *The Flag*, starring Pat Shortt will be out in cinemas later this year



Jessica Traynor is Literary Manager of The Abbey Theatre. She has held a number of roles within the Abbey Literary Department, and has worked as a freelance dramaturg and creative writing teacher with the

Irish Writers' Centre and Big Smoke Writing Factory. Her debut poetry collection, *Liffey Swim*, was nominated for the 2015 Strong/Shine Award. She was commissioned by the Irish Writers' Centre and the Arts Council as part of Ireland 2016 to write a poem on Dr Kathleen Lynn for the Easter Rising commemorations. She was the recipient of the 2014 Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary and was named Hennessy New Irish Writer of the Year in 2013. Her writing has been translated into Czech, Irish, Italian and Polish.

THE PRIZE

This year's PLAYWRIGHT'S PRIZE is sponsored by The Abbey Theatre with the Literary Manager, Jessica Traynor, co-judging the plays. The winning playwright will be invited to The Abbey for a private consultation & script analysis. Not only that, they will also secure a space on The Abbey's *Playwriting Pop Up Masterclass* this July in Galway, and a space on the Introduction to *Playwriting with Michelle Read*, to work with experienced professionals from the world of script development & artistic programming. The winning play will represent **SCRIPTS** at Offaly Culture Night.

Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

FESTIVAL VENUES



Since inception in 2013, **Scripts** has established collaborative links with key organisations including The Abbey Theatre, Listowel Writers Week, Irish Writers' Centre, RTE 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.

Bookings & information
057 91 22911
www.scriptsireland.com



Birr Theatre
&
Arts Centre

