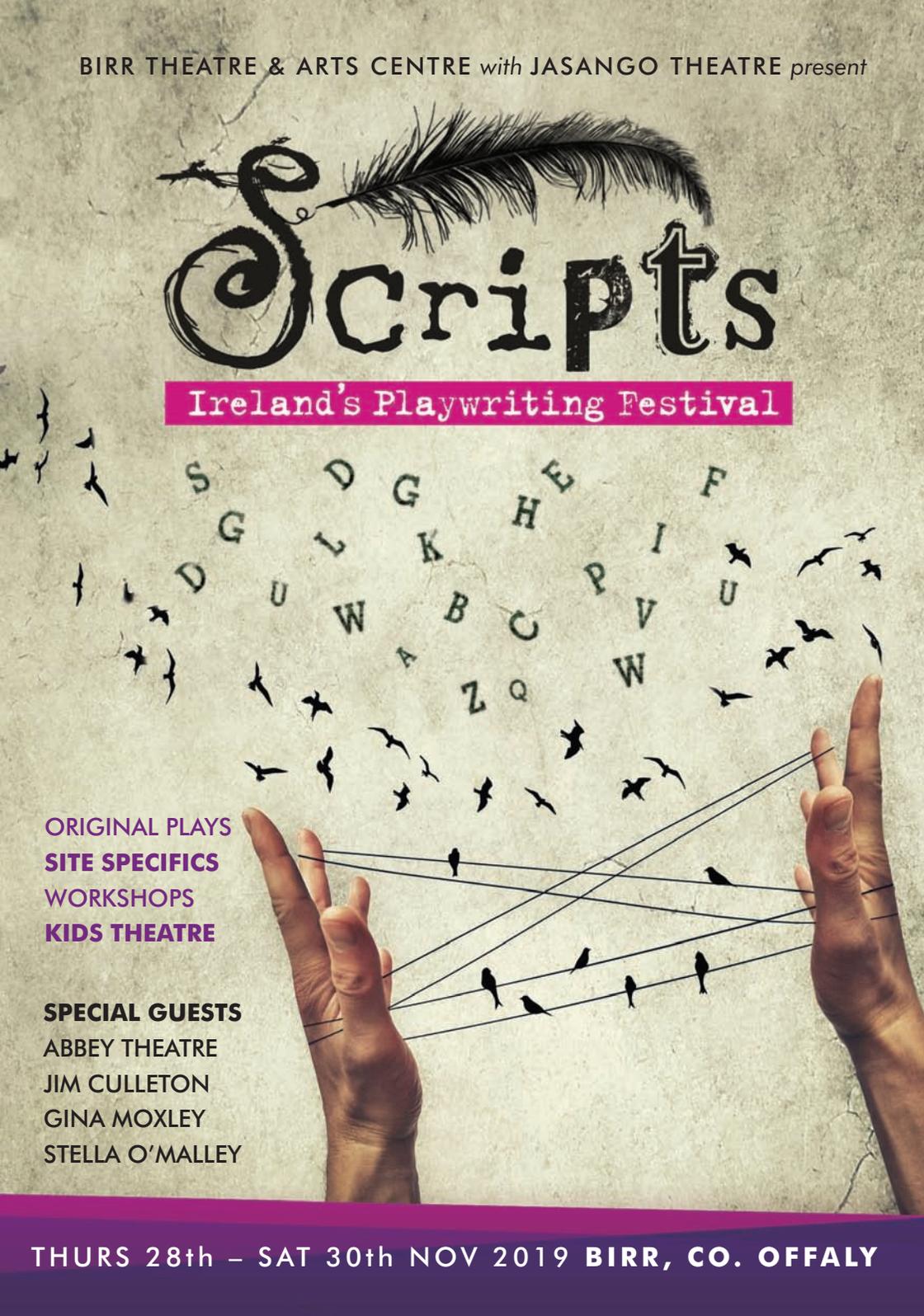


BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE with JASANGO THEATRE present



# Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

ORIGINAL PLAYS  
SITE SPECIFICS  
WORKSHOPS  
KIDS THEATRE

SPECIAL GUESTS  
ABBEY THEATRE  
JIM CULLETON  
GINA MOXLEY  
STELLA O'MALLEY

THURS 28th – SAT 30th NOV 2019 BIRR, CO. OFFALY



# Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival

## WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to **Scripts – Ireland's Playwriting Festival**. Established in 2013, Scripts continues to create 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 discussing, presenting and producing riveting new works for stage. 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 **John Grogan** from Offaly, Leitrim based **Niamh MacCabe** and Dublin's **Kenneth Nolan**. 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 Saturday 30th November, 8pm. The winning play being chosen by our very distinguished panel!

Angela, Lisa, Emma, Eugene, Ciara & Rebecca

**The Scripts Team**



## AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

10am-12pm Page 6

#### WORKSHOP **Writing For You**

Why writing is good for your mental health with Stella O'Malley

8pm Page 3

#### THEATRE **Weekend Warrior**

### FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER

4pm Page 4

#### FAMILY THEATRE **Susie and the Story Shredder**

8pm Page 5

#### SITE SPECIFIC THEATRE **Gone Full Havisham**

9.30pm Page 5

#### SCRIPTS SPOKEN WORD SOAPBOX

#### **Cormac Lally & Eimear O'Regan**

### SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

10.30am-5pm Page 6

#### WORKSHOP **Space Exploration:**

#### **Building Monologues From Scratch**

with Louise Stephens, Abbey Theatre

1-4pm Page 6

#### WORKSHOP **I Am Not a Robot** with Gina Moxley

3.30pm / 4.30pm / 6pm Page 7

#### THEATRE **Car Show**

8pm Page 8

#### THEATRE **Nurtured New Works**

#### **– Festival Finale**

# WEEKEND WARRIOR



65  
MINS

Written & Performed: Tony Doyle  
Director: Aonghus Óg McAnally / Produced by Joe Murphy

Wayne drinks, does drugs and gets into fights but it's grand because he doesn't get arrested or bring trouble to the door. Once he sorts out what he wants to do with his life and learns how to do all the things his Da can, like hang a shelf, change a tyre or screw in a light bulb in under ten minutes, he'll be fine.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / Thursday 28 November / 8pm / €15

Followed by

**TALK BACK SESSION** with Tony Doyle (writer/actor)  
and Aonghus Óg McAnally (director).

**'If I can't remember and I'm not told about it, technically it didn't happen.'**



# THE STATE OF PLAY

*The State of Play* is a four-part radio documentary series interrogating the art of playwriting. Producer **Siobhán Donnellan** (Winner of Scripts 2013) and Ruth Smith (RTÉ Radio One *Simply Folk*) will document the playwriting process through interviews with the three selected playwrights, feedback from mentor **Eugene O'Brien**, insight into the festival from directors **Angela Ryan-Whyte** and **Lisa Daly** and commentary from professional actors as to what they look for in a strong play/script. The series will be recorded in Birr throughout the week of Scripts 2019. The series will be broadcast on Midlands 103 in 2020.



BOMBINATE THEATRE

# SUSIE AND THE STORY SHREDDER



50  
MINS

All stories are banned in the kingdom of Levitas. King Levi says that stories make your brain go fuzzy and your hands turn green. It's Susie and Shredder's job to enforce the King's law, shredding stories from dawn 'til dusk. But today, Susie will read a story for the very first time. Perhaps stories aren't so scary after all. An upbeat adventure from the award-winning creators of *Half Light*. (No actual stories were harmed in the making of this play).

Tour funded by The Arts Council of Ireland. Developed with support from Pavilion Theatre Patron Donation Award, Dublin Fringe Festival, FRINGE LAB, dlr Arts Office, Dublin City Council's Incubation Award and Dublin City Council's Children's Art in Libraries Programme. Developed at MAKE, an artist development programme and residency initiative of Cork Midsummer Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival, Project Arts Centre and Theatre Forum.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / Friday 29 November / 4pm  
€6 (1 adult / 2 kids €15) / Age 6+

**"All the absurdity a young audience needs."**

The Irish Times ★★★★★

**"Smart, funny, and wonderfully engaging."**

The Arts Review ★★★★★

**"Sparklingly funny...a charming celebration of creativity."**

The Reviews Hub ★★★★★

**"Stirring... choosing not only to captivate but also to empower."**

Exeunt Magazine



# SCRIPTS SPOKEN WORD SOAPBOX

Words can give us a way to comment on the world around us. The Scripts Soapbox sets out to do just that and entertain the masses along the way. Loud n' proud, punchy and provocative... prepare to be entertained by two artists with lyrics that will linger, long after last call.



**Cormac Lally** is one of Ireland's top spoken word artists and performance poets. His work has been featured on RTÉ's Arena and the

Moncrieff Show and he has opened for Liam Ó Maonlaí, Luka Bloom, Mick Flannery, Martin Hayes and Denis Cahill, as well as performing all over Ireland at the country's biggest festivals.

**"There is a depth, humour and hope to Cormac's work that sets him apart from anyone else in the same field. Utterly unique, raw and entertaining."** Liam Ó Maonlaí



**Eimear O'Regan** is in her final year of study at the Rathmines Conservatory of Music and Drama and has performed with Scripts

for many years, being involved with Pop Up Plays, rehearsed readings and youth projects. This year, Eimear presents her own work, which showcases her unique take on the world.

Dooly's Hotel, Coachhouse Bar / 9.30pm  
No charge – all welcome

# GONE FULL HAVISHAM

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY: **Irene Kelleher**

Award-winning performer and writer Irene Kelleher (*Game of Thrones*, *Mary & Me*) invites you to the 'Bridal Suite' to meet Emily. Shrouded in her wedding dress, for the past five months she has been a social media sensation. Some say she's a deranged lunatic, many say she just needs help and to others she's a hero. Taking Dickens' extraordinary Miss Havisham into the era of social media with its artificial gloss and filtered reality, this is one woman who isn't afraid to tell it like it is – the grit, the grime and stench of rotting flowers.

This is acclaimed writer, Irene Kelleher's second play, following the success of *Mary & Me* (Edinburgh Fringe 2017) which enjoyed sell out performances at Edinburgh Fringe, a National tour in Ireland (2017- 2019) and was subsequently published by Oberon and an RTÉ produced Radio Play.

Dooly's Hotel Bridal Suite  
Friday 29 November / 8pm  
€12 (spaces limited –  
booking recommended to  
guarantee your seat)



**60**  
MINS

**'ambitious  
and energetic'**

TheStage.co.uk

**'A writer to watch'**

★★★★ (Stage)



# WRITING FOR YOU

## Why writing is good for your mental health

with Stella O'Malley  
In association with MAM (Mothers, Artist, Makers)

Are you a parent struggling to find that work-life balance? This workshop with psychotherapist Stella O'Malley explores how creativity and writing can play a positive role in navigating the stresses of parenting in modern life. A 2016 MAM survey saw half it's members (with an average of 4.5 years third level training and 16 years paid practice), lose all their income from theatre after having children and 95% of the rest see reduced incomes. As a response, this part-workshop, part-networking event seeks to bring parenting artists or parents who want to explore their creative side, together in a room. A safe, creative, innovative space. Tea, biscuits and a few toys for any smallies that come along will make for a family friendly event.



**Stella O'Malley** is a psychotherapist, bestselling author, and public speaker. Much of Stella's counselling and writing focuses on mental health and the importance of well-being and she is a regular contributor to the Irish

*Independent*, the *Sunday Independent*, *RTÉ*, *Newstalk fm* and *Today fm*. Stella released her first bestselling book, *Cotton Wool Kids*, in 2015, followed by *Bully-Proof Kids* in 2017 and *Fragile: Why are we feeling more anxious and overwhelmed than ever before* in April 2019.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / Thursday 28 November  
10am-12pm / €15 including refreshments

### What is MAM?

Mothers Artists Makers (MAM) was founded in 2016 with the intention of addressing the specific issues of isolation, marginalisation and disproportionate economic impact faced by female arts practitioners, as a result of becoming mothers. MAM are committed to highlighting the value and importance of family friendly practices in the development of the creative industries.

# SPACE EXPLORATION

## Building Monologues From Scratch

with Louise Stephens & Jesse Weaver  
of The Abbey Theatre, Literary Department

Using the unique nooks and crannies of Birr, this all-day workshop will explore the intimate relationship between voice, story and space in the monologue form. Be ready to do some writing on the spot, but it wouldn't hurt to wear comfortable walking shoes as well!

The workshop will be run by the Abbey Theatre's Dramaturg (Louise Stephens) and New Work Associate (Jesse Weaver), and is open to anyone who'd like to spend time exploring how space can shape a character's voice and story.



**Louise Stephens** is a dramaturg. She has worked predominantly in the development of new work with companies including the National Theatre of Scotland; Tron Theatre; Tiata Fahodzi; Óran Mór; Curve,

Leicester and Live! Theatre in Newcastle, as well as with maker/performers including Rachel Mars, Jenna Watt and FellSwoop. She was the Literary Officer at the Traverse Theatre and, most recently, Deputy Literary Manager of the Royal Court Theatre. She has a PhD in Creativity Management from the University of St Andrews. She is the Dramaturg for the Abbey Theatre.

See Judging Panel for information about **Jesse Weaver**.

No particular experience is necessary. Places are free and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis

iLOFAR Education Centre, Birr Castle  
Saturday 30 November / 10.30am-5pm  
limited to 12 people

## BOW PRODUCTIONS

## CAR SHOW


  
60
   
MINS
I AM NOT  
A ROBOT

with Gina Moxley

We are now at the point where we have to prove that we are not robots. Apparently, software robots can't recognise traffic lights or awnings. Some days it's very encouraging to complete this process and pass this test. This is just one tiny example of the forced disconnection from what it means to be human. What impact has this had on theatre and playwriting? One of the main functions of writing is to teach us empathy. As Nietzsche said: 'We have art in order not to die of reality.' In this workshop we will look at how we might respond artistically to the increasingly worrying and bizarre reality we find ourselves in. Our job is to find, shape and train a voice strong enough to rise above the idle chatter, the myriad crises and the fake news.

Our job is also to provoke, evoke and entertain. We've got urgent work to do. See Judging Panel for information about **Gina Moxley**.

The Spot Youth Café\*  
Saturday 30 November / 1-4pm / €20

\* Adult Workshop

Fasten your seat belt and come on a car journey that you will never forget. *Car Show* is an immersive theatre experience that will drive you through six different stories where you can bear full witness to all the drama that unfolds from the privacy of the back seat and through the rear view mirror. We all think that no one can really see us when we are in our cars, we are in our private worlds while being on full show. The private meets the public! This theatre experience will thrill and excite and you leave forever wondering what's really going on in that Nissan Micra beside you.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre/Saturday 30 November  
3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm / €12 / Limited capacity per performance.  
Advance booking recommended

BOW Productions are a Theatre Company who explore immersive new work with a particular focus on the magic of the ordinary, the mystery of the everyday, what's hidden beneath is often in plain sight. It interrogates with gentle sensitivity the life of the everyman as Brendan Kenelley said Ordinary Things Have Beautiful Wings and this is the territory that BOW invite you to explore, revel and wonder.





# Scripts

Ireland's Playwriting Festival



90  
MINS

## NURTURED NEW WORKS FESTIVAL FINALE

DIRECTED BY: **Jim Culleton** / MUSIC BY: **Morgan Cooke**

After a week of mentoring, editing and directing, the selected Scripts Playwrights' plays will go from page to stage, directed by Fishamble's Jim Culleton and performed in a stage reading by some of Ireland's leading actors. The winner will be announced by our esteemed judging panel, Jesse Weaver, Gina Moxley and Eugene O'Brien. Delving into this year's theme, *Gratitude*,

these plays will make us question our role in the world. We will see how unexpected confrontation, quiet observation, and extreme isolation can have far-reaching and devastating outcomes.

Followed by a talkback session.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / Saturday 30 November / 8pm  
€15 / Booking recommended

### THE PLAYWRIGHTS

#### JOHN GROGAN THE ADJUSTMENT



Offaly's **John Grogan** is a volunteer creative writing tutor and playwriting mentor at Fighting Words Dublin. He studied theatre at City, University of London and worked in Media before returning to Ireland. His work has been plays produced in Dublin, Edinburgh and London.

#### KENNETH NOLAN ANTO IS A BOLLIX



Dublin's, **Kenneth Nolan**, is the founder of *The Merg Sessions*: a poetry/prose showcase event for writers from non-privileged backgrounds. His first radio play: *The Twang Man* was broadcast on Dublin South fm in 2015. Winner of the CDVEC Award for Poetry (2012), he has also been shortlisted for the Jonathan Swift Poetry Award twice and the Baillieborough Poetry Award. His work has been published in *The Irish Times* and *Live Encounters*. He is currently studying for a degree in Philosophy.



# JUDGING PANEL



## Eugene O'Brien

is the award-winning writer of the play *Eden*, which went on to great acclaim including winning the *Irish Times* Theatre Award, the Stewart Parker Award and the Rooney Prize for Literature. Eugene also wrote *Pure Mule*, a six part series for RTÉ and a two-part follow up *Pure Mule – The Last Weekend*. Other work includes the *The Nest*, *Sloth* and *Numb* for RTÉ Radio Drama and an adaptation of Roddy Doyle's *Barrytown Trilogy* for BBC Radio Drama. Other theatre work includes *Savoy*, *The Good House of Happiness* and *Eliza's Adventure in the Uncanny Valley* both in collaboration with PAN PAN theatre company. Other work includes comedy film *The Flag* and co-writing credits on, *Black 47*.



## Gina Moxley

is a Dublin based writer, actor and director. Her most recent play *The Patient Gloria* was co-produced by The Abbey Theatre and premiered as part of Dublin Theatre Festival in 2018. The show then played at the Traverse Theatre as part of Edinburgh Fringe in 2019 where it won a Fringe First and a Herald Angel. Her recent performances include *The Patient Gloria* in Dublin and Edinburgh; *Futureproof* at Cork Midsummer; *Adler & Gibb* in Edinburgh, London and L.A.; *Playing The Dane* in Wuzhen, China; *LIPPY* in New York, Berlin, Thessaloniki and Prague. Directing credits include *Spliced* by Timmy Creed, *My Magnetic North* by Gary Coyle, *How to Keep an Alien* by Sonya Kelly and *Solpadeine is My Boyfriend* by Stefanie Preissner.



## Jesse Weaver

is the New Work Associate at the Abbey Theatre. He has worked in theatre in Ireland and the US as an actor, director, playwright and critic, and has taught performance, text analysis, and playwriting at University College Cork, Trinity College and the University of Minnesota's Study Abroad programme. 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.

PERFORMED BY:



**Diarmuid Noyse**



**Tony Doyle**



**Cathy Belton**

## THE PRIZE

- Fishamble Writing Course
- Private Consultation & Script Analysis with The Abbey Theatre
- Tickets to a premiere at The Abbey Theatre

## NIAMH MACCABE HEDGE



Dublin-born, **Niamh MacCabe** grew up in Paris, the north-west of Ireland and Washington D.C. where she graduated from the Corcoran School of Art. She lives in Leitrim and is currently completing a BA in Writing and Literature. An award-winning writer, she has published in many literary journals and anthologies in Ireland, the UK, and the US.



## WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

### 2013 Siobhán Donnellan

With just two one-act plays written before coming to Scripts Siobhán found the process invaluable. Siobhán is currently a Story Writer with RTÉ's *Fair City*; her short film *Deflated* was one of three shortlisted for the RTÉ/GFC Short Film Commission 2017; She has written five one-act stage plays for radio, the most recent, *Going Spare*, which will be broadcast on Midlands 103 in Christmas 2019. Siobhán is leading *The Stage of Play* (see page 3 for info).

### 2015 Miriam Smyth

After writing the winning radio play, *The Elephant* Miriam has been heavily involved in film production, most notably *Faithful Rising* one of the flagship projects with Offaly 2016. Miriam produced Ireland's *Gogglebox* TV show in 2017, 2018

### 2016 Imelda Carroll

Since winning Scripts 2016 with her play *Tiger*, Wexford's Imelda Carroll has been busy: writing and directing *Lisa Go Home*, a performance piece for Wexford Women's Refuge to highlight the 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence; winner of the short story competition for the very first Write By the Sea Festival in Kilmore Quay with *The Vigil* which was subsequently broadcast on RTÉ

Since participating in Scripts our winning writers have continued to develop their writing and we asked them to tell us what they've been doing since they were in Birr.

Radio 1 *Seascapes*; *Then and Now* performed at the Octagon Theatre, Bolton UK; *Forlorn Point* shortlisted for the PapaTango Prize; took part in Wexford Screen Writers Professional Development Workshop developing *Chicken Out*; wrote *Green in the Green Room* performed in Wexford Opera House 2018.

### 2017 Philip Doherty

Philip was Scripts winner in 2017 with *The Experience Room*. He returned to Scripts in 2018 with *Pilgrim* and is currently in post-production with his first feature film *Redemption of Rogue*. He is the new artistic director of Fíbin, an Irish language theatre company based in Connemara.

### 2018 Sionnán Ní Nualláin

Winning Scripts 2018 has had a huge effect on Sionnán's career and restored her confidence in her own writing. Since last year, she has begun an MA in Creative Writing in Queen's University Belfast, developed her winning play *Caoimhe, Carl and the Great Tapir in the Sky* with Druid Theatre as a Druid Debut at the Galway Arts Festival, and continued to pursue oral storytelling with *Tales From The Shadows* and at the National Leprechaun Museum.





## SPECIAL THANKS

Abbey Theatre; Sally O'Leary *Offaly County Council Arts Officer*; Brosna Press; Charlie Alexander; Fishamble; MAM; The Stables; Spinners on Castle Street; Betty Hogan; The Spot Youth Café; Anne Coughlan, Mary O'Dwyer, Ger Nolan and Mick Egan.

## FESTIVAL TEAM

Angela Ryan Whyte, Lisa Daly, Emma Nee Haslam, Eugene O'Brien, Ciara Kelly, Rebecca Kelly.



# 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 and lots more. As well as winning a PPI Radio Award for Drama with Midland 103, Scripts has created incomparable opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors and producers to continually strive for excellence in the craft of Playwriting and Drama. We look forward to continuing these relationships and exploring further friendships with like-minded lovers of new work.

# MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT!

**ONE-A-DAY €35**

**Thur:** Weekend Warrior, 8pm  
**Fri:** Gone Full Havisham, 8pm  
**Sat:** Festival Finale  
Nurtured New Works, 8pm

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

**SUPER SCRIPTS SATURDAY €40**

Gina Moxley Workshop, 1-4pm  
Car Show, 6pm  
Festival Finale  
Nurtured New Works, 8pm

## BOOK NOW

057 9122911

[www.scriptsireland.com](http://www.scriptsireland.com)



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council



ABBAY THEATRE  
AMHARCLANN NA MAINISTREACH



Offaly Local Development Company



Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development

