

Wednesday 21 June

Theatre Forum and TheatreNI present
Conference 2017
 21–22 June

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11:00–12:30	TheatreNI Members' Meeting	
11:00–12:30	Benchmarking and Strategy Discussion	Speakers Heather Maitland, Val Ballance, Adrian Lear, Paul Fadden
11.30–13.30	Registration	The Everyman
12:30–13:30	Lunch	Sponsored by Ticketsolve
13:30–13:45	Welcome	Theatre Forum & TheatreNI Chairs welcome delegates. Speakers Peter Daly & Louise Rossington
13:45–15:00	Twist or Stick An Artist's Perspective	As the 21st Century progresses, who we call artist and how we call what they do is changing. Many of our leading talents are 'slash artists' moving seamlessly across artforms, through roles on stage and screen, and across borders. With careers straddling Dublin to Broadway, live and film performances, performing and writing, Stephen Jones and Seána Kerslake will talk about their experience of developing their work and artistic practice, the juggling act of moving between different industries and the opportunities this presents in this changing world. Speakers Stephen Jones & Seána Kerslake in conversation with Peter Daly
	Sticking With It	Reflecting on the growth of political interest in a creative and forward-looking economy on both sides of the border, award-winning producer Andrew Eaton will explore how the performing arts intertwine with other industries, drawing on his own perspective from within film and television. Speaker Andrew Eaton
	Playing to Different Rules	The global political landscape is changing. Borders are being breached and closed. Exploring the role of the artist in telling new and more complex stories about personal, national and international identity, internationally renowned choreographer Michael Keegan-Dolan will discuss his work as ignoring borders, concentrating on what makes the connection and what effect working internationally has on his practice. Speaker Michael Keegan-Dolan Followed by Q&A chaired by Sarah Durcan
15:00–15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15–16:15	Artist or Audience? Friend or Foe?	All forms of performing arts are increasingly made collaboratively, bringing together artists from different disciplines and forms and combining artists with non-artists. This muddies questions of ownership and definition but also liberates everyone involved. How do artists navigate the inexactness of this work and does it offer a richer, more diverse picture? Chair Róise Goan Panel Louise Lowe, Judith Dimant, Megan Kennedy, Jessica Kennedy
16:15–17:45	The Buck Stops Here	Questions are often raised about whether the artistic or executive lead is calling the shots. Others challenge the space in our company infrastructure for new and independent voices, arguing for new collaborative approaches in which no one person is responsible for the artistic or strategic direction of companies or venues. What are the different ways in which we can empower and show leadership and how do we nurture a sector fit for future growth? Chair Julie Kelleher Panel Selina Cartmell, Neil Murray, Gary Keegan
18:00–19:00	Drinks Reception	Drinks Reception to announce Tourbook in The Everyman Bar
20:00–late	Dinner in Firkin Crane	
22:30	Bus Transfer	Bus transfer from Firkin Crane to <i>Neon Western</i> venue (Marina Development Park) for delegates attending performance.

09.00–10.00	Networking and Conference Round Tables	Informal conversations with selected conference speakers
10.00–11.00	Turn and Face the Strange	When you are the CEO of the world's oldest and largest arts festival, how do you renew and challenge while remaining sensitive to the broader cultural, social and political context in which your event takes place. Shona McCarthy will draw on experiences in her current and previous roles to reflect on what leadership means and how festivals renew, change and articulate purpose. Speaker Shona McCarthy
	Ch-ch-ch Changes	Festivals are the anchor to our cultural calendar. It is often easy to miss the constant evolution. This discussion throws light on the role and function festivals play in contributing to change – changing communities and social expectations; instigating and responding to changes in the cultural landscape, and dealing with internal change management. Chair Lorraine Maye Panel Shona McCarthy, Richard Wakely, Aislinn Ó hEocha, Ruth McCarthy
11.00–11.15	Coffee Break	
11.15–12.00	Casting a Critical Eye	With traditional theatre and dance criticism in print media under threat and new channels of communication opening up, a panel of experienced critics and commentators will explore the changing position and role of critique. What new modes of dialogue are emerging between public, media and artists? What challenges and opportunities exist for the future of criticism? And what role do both commentators and makers have in protecting or advancing the need for an ongoing public discourse on the work that is put on our stages? Chair Peter Crawley Panel Helen Meany, Duska Radosavljevic, Judy Murphy
12.00–12.15	Twist or Stick Open Call	In response to a callout, speakers each have three minutes on the theme of Twist or Stick.

12.15–12.45	In the Intervening Time...	Richard DeDomenici makes work that's social, joyful, topical and political – although rarely simultaneously – specialising in urban-absurdist interventions. Drawing on some of his most recent experimental projects, such as his non-denominational non-hierarchical confession booth <i>Shed Your Fears</i> at Tate Modern, his attempts to spread revolutionary messages via helium balloons in Newcastle, and his numerous ongoing attempts to degentrify London, DeDomenici will explore how cultural interventions have a role in societal change. Speaker Richard DeDomenici
12.45–13.45	Lunch	Lunch in Cork Opera House
14.00–15.00	Twisting in Another Direction	'The superficial scramble for cultural diversity is not addressing the deep causes of exclusion and the power imbalance in the arts', wrote Tania Cañas earlier this year, asking if, at its heart, there is a flaw in how far the arts infrastructure will remodel or change itself to let other voices be heard. What are the changes in perception needed to enable proper equality and access in artistic expression? Speaker Tania Cañas
	Seats at the Table	Our society is changing but do our companies and our stages reflect that change and do our audiences see themselves in the stories we tell? This session will explore the complex decision-making and considerations of how individual artists, organisations and the sector as a whole involves and engages with communities with different identities and histories. Chair Mary McCarthy Panel Tania Cañas, Petal Pilley, Lynne Parker
15.00–15.30	Conference Closing Session	What will you keep or change? What will you protect or do in a new way? These questions will shape an interaction with delegates throughout the conference. Devised by Hilary O'Shaughnessy with Ali FitzGibbon, prompts and responses will be gathered and reviewed during this final open session. When you leave the conference, what will you do next?
15.30–15.45	Closing Remarks	