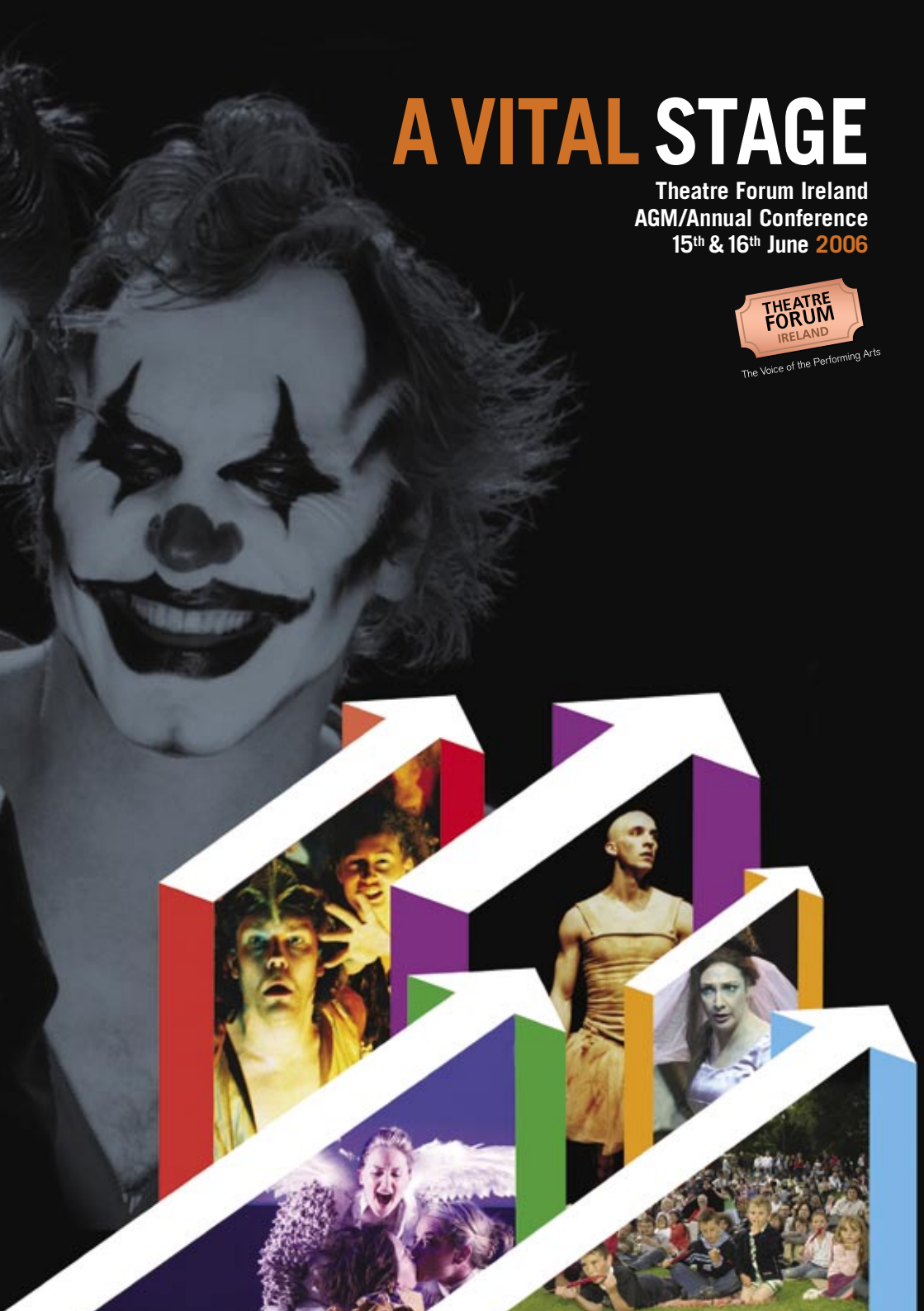


A VITAL STAGE

Theatre Forum Ireland
AGM/Annual Conference
15th & 16th June 2006

THEATRE
FORUM
IRELAND

The Voice of the Performing Arts



01 INTRODUCTION

The annual Theatre Forum conference is the opportunity for everyone within the performing arts sector in Ireland to come together and consider current issues that affect those engaged in the creation, presentation and touring of performance art.

The theme of this year's conference is 'A Vital Stage' and its aim is provide a forum for debate and a springboard for discussion about some of the hotly debated topics in the performing arts world today. Over two days of discussion, interviews and talks, speakers from the world of theatre, dance and opera offer their perspectives on the current state of the arts and the core issues of the day.

From the practical to the inspirational, 'A Vital Stage' looks at the challenges of touring and the role of venues in developing work; examines new directions for new writing; profiles leading contemporary artists and, in a rapidly changing cultural climate, explores the curtailment of free expression on stage and the moral responsibility of artists in the 21st century.

This annual gathering of the community allows practitioners to meet, talk and exchange information while spotlighting the relevance of art in today's society and current trends on the contemporary stage.

Donal Shiels, Chairman Theatre Forum, May 2006





THE SESSIONS

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE

Keynote Session: Art as Moral Action

Speaker: Peter Sellars

Time & location: 15:00 Thursday 15 June in University Concert Hall

One of America's most creative and significant artists, Peter Sellars has dedicated his life to spreading artistic vision, believing that art is not just a medium for beauty or entertainment but that it truly can enact change.

A visionary force consistently challenging the boundaries of creativity, Sellars uses the stage as a platform for moral and social action and is committed to exploring the role of the performing arts in contemporary society.

In his keynote address to open the 2006 Theatre Forum Conference, Peter Sellars discusses *Art as Moral Action*.

Presented in association with Critical Voices 3.



Soapbox: We Are Not Second Class Citizens!

Speaker: Anne Clarke

Time & location: 16:45 Thursday 15 June in University Concert Hall

Session Title: Finding a Stage - The Irish Playwright Abroad

Speakers: Stella Feehily, Wilson Milam & Loughlin Deegan

Time & location: 17:00 Thursday 15 June in University Concert Hall

Ireland has always paid homage to its writers but increasingly new Irish work is being championed away from home.

UK venues such as the Royal Court, the Bush, and production companies such as Paines Plough and Out of Joint have had a pivotal role in nurturing the Irish writer abroad. Do Irish companies have resources too limited to harbour new writing, leaving Irish playwrights little opportunity to develop their work in Ireland?

This session looks at Irish writing from an international perspective and asks if Irish theatre is equipped to cultivate its own writers.



Evening Entertainment

Time & location: 20:00 – late at the Stable Bar

Theatre Forum has organised a special evening of entertainment in the Stable Bar on the University Campus.

The event features a delicious outdoor BBQ, the Cavaliers Theatre Forum Brainteaser Special and music from the Brad Pitt Light Orchestra.

The Theatrical Cavaliers present the Theatre Forum Brainteaser Special!

This year, for the first time, the Cavaliers have developed a Brainteaser Special for Theatre Forum. Lots of questions, prizes and fun brought to you by your host Mark O'Regan.

The Theatrical Cavaliers Cricket Club was founded in 1987 and is the longest established sports and social club within the theatre profession. Membership is open to anyone connected to any branch of the business regardless of age, sex, religion or batting average. The Club organises friendly social cricket matches throughout the summer months as well as sporting tours to such locations as Burgundy, Oxford, Dundee and Liverpool. In the off season the Club hosts various social events including a new year party and the celebrated annual charity quiz, which takes place on the last Sunday in April and is widely considered the highpoint of the social calendar.

Proceeds from this event will go to the Actors Benevolent Fund.

Music: Brad Pitt Light Orchestra

The Brad Pitt Light Orchestra first got together in the mid '90s but started playing again in earnest last year thanks to the Celtic Tiger ensuring that everyone had ended up back on home soil again. Their music features a blend of warm vocal harmonies, classy instrumentation and ear-catching melodies that is desperately hard to categorise yet strangely easy to love. Building an almost disturbingly loyal fan base through gigs in Limerick and Dublin, the bplo were voted 'Rising Artist of the Week' on April 21st by public vote on Tom Dunne's Pet Sounds on Today FM. Their first EP *Fireside Chat* has been flying off the CD burners as fast as they can make it and they are currently mixing their second.



Please note the evening entertainment is a ticketed event.

Remember to include payment on your booking form if you wish to come along!



THE SESSIONS

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE

Session Title: Asking for Trouble? Censorship & Artistic Freedom

Speakers: Stewart Lee, Neal Foster, Peter Sellars, Janet Steel

Chair: Conall Morrison

Time & location: 10:00 Friday 16 June in University Concert Hall

The eruption of a new religious revivalism, where the values of rationalism, tolerance and free speech are not as important as the right not to be offended, raises crucial questions about the principle of artistic freedom.

In the past year, protests by Sikh groups forced the cancellation of the play *Behzti* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and death threats were sent to the play's Sikh writer Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti. The 2005 tour of *Jerry Springer The Opera* was derailed by Christian Voice. The controller of BBC2, who had commissioned the broadcasting of the show, was forced to place security guards outside his home.

In this climate of religious protests and violent intimidation, how can artistic expression be defended against pressure groups? If our societies are becoming less tolerant, are the arts at risk?

A panel of artists and commentators talk about censorship and artistic freedom.

Presented in association with Critical Voices 3 and The British Council.



Soapbox: Multi-annual funding – what's the problem?

Speaker: Fergal McGrath

Time & Location: 11.30 in the University Concert Hall

In Profile: Tom Murphy in Conversation

Time & Location: 12.00 Performing Arts Room, World Music Centre

One of the most important dramatists of his generation, Tom Murphy has had a major impact on Irish theatre in a career spanning three decades. He has been a seminal influence on a generation of Irish theatre makers and his distinctive voice remains a major force in the contemporary repertory. In a special event for the 2006 conference, Tom Murphy talks about his life and work.



FRIDAY 16TH JUNE THE PARALLEL SESSIONS (Pick 1 of the 4)

1. Venues

Speaker: Alan Rivett
Facilitated by: Claudia Woolgar
Time & location: 14:00 Friday 16 June in Irish World Music Centre

The role of venues in producing, commissioning and touring new work.

What are the benefits for audiences, production companies, and venues in collaborative working? When is a co-production more than just vanity 'badging' for a venue? Using case studies from Warwick Arts Centre, Director, Alan Rivett - in conversation with Claudia Woolgar, Artistic Director, The Source Arts Centre - explores positive reasons for collaborative working between venues and production companies.

2. International Touring

Speakers: Andrew Collier & Micheál Ó'Súilleabháin
Facilitated by: Brian Jackson
Time & location: 14:00 Friday 16 June in Irish World Music Centre

Last year the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism established a new agency called Culture Ireland charged with promoting Irish arts abroad (www.cultureireland.gov.ie). Micheál Ó Súilleabháin is the Chairman of the Board and he will introduce the agency's new strategic plan to 2010, particularly as it applies to theatre and dance.

He will be followed by Andrew Collier, an experienced international theatre producer who will address some of the perennial questions when it comes to touring internationally: what kind of show works and what doesn't work, the touring circuit (large and small-scale), common pitfalls when it comes to currency, freight etc.

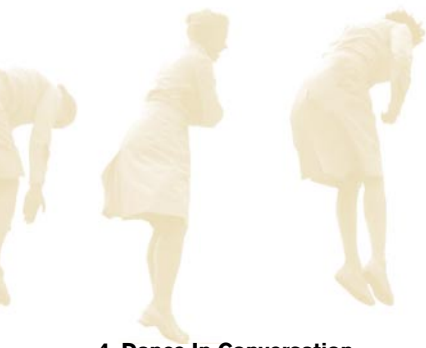
3. A New Direction for New Writing

Speaker: Richard Bean
Facilitated by: Thomas Conway
Time & location: 14:00 Friday 16 June in Irish World Music Centre

The Monsterists are fighting for the right to be able to stage big work, addressing big issues with big casts.

A playwrights' campaign, Monsterism was formed by writers who felt constrained by the conventions of the studio. Frustrated at the tendency of theatres to allocate small spaces and small budgets for new plays, the movement aims to promote the elevation of new theatre writing from the studio to the main stage.

Playwright and founder member of the Monsterists, Richard Bean explains their manifesto.



4. Dance In Conversation

In Conversation: Lloyd Newson with Paul Keogan

Time & location: 14:00 Friday 16 June in Irish World Music Centre

Acclaimed choreographer and director of world-renowned DV8 Physical Theatre, Lloyd Newson discusses his approach to making work and DV8's philosophy of risk taking and innovation with designer and Abbey associate artist Paul Keogan.

Lloyd Newson's work has had a dynamic impact on contemporary dance, challenging our preconceptions of what dance can, and should, address. DV8's work is about taking risks and challenging traditional forms - breaking down the barriers between dance, theatre and personal politics.

A rare opportunity to gain an insight into the methods and motivations of one of today's most inspiring and sought after artists.

Soapbox: What do you have to do to get money in this town?

Speaker: Padraic McIntyre

Time & Location: 15:30 in University Concert Hall



BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



Richard Bean was born in East Hull in 1956. After school, he worked in a bread plant before leaving to study psychology at Loughborough University. Richard has worked as a psychologist, model and stand-up comedian. His play *The God Botherers* was mounted at Synapse Theatre in New York in 2004.

Harvest opened at the Royal Court Theatre in September 2005 and was nominated for the 2005 Evening Standard Award for Best Play as well as Best Play in the 2006 Olivier Awards. It won the 2006 Critics' Circle Award for Best Play.

His most recent play *Up On Roof* premiered this year at the Hull Truck Theatre.



Anne Clarke was for many years Deputy Director of the Gate Theatre. In 2003, she established an independent production and management company, Landmark Productions, to produce work in Ireland and tour Irish work abroad. In the past three years, the company has managed four international tours for two theatres on three continents, and produced two Irish premieres at the Project - David Hare's *Skylight* and Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* - as well as a co-production with the Helix of *The Secret*

Garden, and the world premiere of Fiona Looney's first play, *Dandelions*, at the Olympia Theatre. She is a member of the board of Theatre Forum.



Andrew Collier has worked in theatre production for over ten years, and has toured shows of every size in both the commercial and the subsidised sectors. From 1999 to 2002 he ran his own production company, Fat Bloke Productions, where his credits as a producer included *Resident Alien* (Edinburgh, London, UK tour, US tour, Australian tour) and *Tim Fountain Sex Addict* (Edinburgh, Royal Court London, Schaubühne Berlin) as well as over 100 shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival some of which toured, others of which were never seen again. Currently based in London, he now works

as a freelance producer and is retained both by the Barbican Theatre and by Fiery Angel, a commercial West End and touring production company. Current projects include producing the Barbican's first ever pantomime, a UK tour for the Maly Drama Theatre of St Petersburg and a UK and Ireland tour of *Fimbles Live*.



Thomas Conway includes among his directing credits *Beowulf* translated and performed by Felix Nobis, *Closer* by Patrick Marber, *Catastrophe*, *Rockaby* and *What Where* by Samuel Beckett. He has been script reader for Corcadorca and the Abbey. As co-director of the Everyman Palace Studio, he adjudicated the '05 Commission, administered New Voices and was producer for the NT Shell Connections Festival 2005. He recently worked with Raymond Keane and Judy Hegarty Lovett on *...tanks a lot!* He is New Writing Manager with Druid.



Stella Feehily's first play *Duck* (2003) was a co-production with Out Of Joint and the Royal Court. It opened at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, toured Britain and then played at the Peacock and the Royal Court (Upstairs), London. *Game*, a short play for Fishamble Theatre Company was performed at Project, and *She was wearing...* for Amnesty/Fishamble. Her second full length play *O go my Man* was a co-production with Out of Joint and the Royal Court (Downstairs) in January 2006. Radio work includes *Julia Roberts Teeth* (Radio 3) and *Sweet Bitter* (Lyric FM). She is currently under commission to the Soho Theatre.



Neal Foster is the Actor/Manager of the Birmingham Stage Company (BSC) which he founded in 1992 after leaving the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. The company is a unique success story in British theatre, not least because it is run by an actor and relies for 97% of its income from the box office.

Since 1992 the BSC has staged over fifty productions and currently has four productions on tour throughout the UK and Ireland. Neal was made Fellow of the Birmingham Society for outstanding contribution to the quality of life in the city of Birmingham and shortlisted for a Creative Britons Award for his contribution to the country's cultural and creative wealth.



Brian Jackson is the Director of the Global Irish Institute at University College Dublin. He was Managing Director of the Abbey Theatre until 2005. Previously he ran an IT company in London, a division of the BUPA group of companies. Before this he worked in the corporate tax division of PWC. He is a member of the board of Theatre Forum.



Paul Keogan studied Drama at the Samuel Beckett Centre, TCD and at Glasgow University. After graduating he worked as Production Manager for Project Arts Centre. On leaving Project, Paul worked on a freelance basis as a lighting designer. His recent designs include; *Titus Andronicus*, *La Musica* and *Shutter* (Siren Productions); *Homeland* (also set design/Abbey Theatre); *Smaller* (West End); *The Sugar Wife* (also set design/for Rough Magic, Project and Soho); *Blue/Orange* (Crucible Theatre Sheffield); *Harvest* (Royal Court Theatre); *Trad* (also set design/for Galway Arts Festival); *Born Bad* and *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings* (Hampstead Theatre); *Too Late for Logic* (Edinburgh International Festival); *Shimmer and Olga* (Traverse Edinburgh); *The Silver Tassie* (Almeida); *The Tempest* (Theatre Royal Plymouth & UK Tour); *Family Stories* and *Tejas Verdes* (also set design for B*Spoke); *Quay West*, *Blasted*, *Far Away* and *Beckett's Ghosts* (Bedrock Productions); *Here Lies*, *Angel Babel* and *Chair* (also set design/ Operating Theatre); *Pénélope* and *Susannah* (Wexford Opera); *Der Fliegende Holländer*, *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *The Makropulos Case* (Opera Zuid, Netherlands); *The Queen of Spades*, *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*, *The Silver Tassie*, and *Jenufa* (Opera Ireland); and *The Lighthouse* (Opera Theatre Company); *Ballads* and *The Rite of Spring* (also set design for Cois Céim); *SAMO* (Block & Steel, Netherlands) and *Catalyst* (a collaboration between Rex Levitates and The National Ballet of China in Beijing).

Paul also designed *The Wishing Well*, a large-scale outdoor projection piece for Kilkenny Arts Festival 1999, and the lighting for the Irish Pavilion at the Architectural Biennale in Venice 2004. Paul is an associate artist of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.



Stewart Lee moved to London to become a stand-up comedian in 1989. Since then he has played festivals in Montreal, Melbourne, Adelaide, Kilkenny and Auckland, as well as a daunting seventeen years at the Edinburgh Fringe. Stewart co-wrote and co-starred in the BBC radio and TV series *Fist Of Fun* and *This Morning With Richard Not Judy* with Richard Herring in the mid-90's, and had his first novel published in 2002.

Since then he has co-written and directed the National Theatre's *Jerry Springer The Opera* and is currently working on a new project there about folk song and the Napoleonic wars. Stewart writes regularly for the Sunday Times, The Wire and various other newspapers and magazines, and has just completed a documentary for Channel 5 about the religious right in Britain.

A VITAL STAGE

Conference Schedule Thursday 15th June

Time	Activity/ Session	Notes/ Description
11:20	Bus transfer from Limerick train station for those on 9:00 train to campus accommodation.	Check-in in Dromroe Village and Thomond Village on campus
12:25 – 13:00	Bus transfer from train station for those on 11:20 train to campus accommodation.	Check-in in Dromroe Village and Thomond Village on campus
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch & conference registration	Buffet lunch for delegates Location: The Atrium, directly outside the University Concert Hall, Foundation Building
14:00 – 15:00	Theatre Forum AGM	Location: University Concert Hall, Foundation Building. This is limited to Theatre Forum members only.
15:00 – 16:15	Keynote session <i>Art as Moral Action</i>	Speaker: Peter Sellars, Introduced by: Fiach Mac Conghail, Director, The Abbey Theatre Location: University Concert Hall
16:15 – 16:45	Break	Tea, coffee and éclairs Location: The Atrium directly outside the University Concert Hall
16.45 – 17.00	Soapbox - We are not second class citizens!	Speaker: Anne Clarke, Producer, Landmark Productions Location: University Concert Hall
17:00 – 18:00	Finding a stage – the Irish playwright abroad	Speakers: Playwright Stella Feehily, Director Wilson Milam & Loughlin Deegan Location: University Concert Hall
18:00 – 19:00	Break for delegates	
19.00 – 19.45	Reception (sponsored by Limerick County Council) Sidebar event Venue Managers are meeting for drinks at 6pm in the Stable Bar	Location: Academic Common Room (See campus map for details)
19:45 – 21:00	BBQ Dinner	Location: The Stables Bar, university campus. (This will be held both indoors and out depending on weather).
21:00	Theatrical Cavalier's Quiz presented by actor Mark O Regan	Location: The Stables Bar, university campus.
22:30	Brad Pitt Light Orchestra and Dancing	Location: The Stables Bar, university campus.

A VITAL STAGE

Conference Schedule Friday 16th June

Time	Activity/ Session	Notes/ Description
10:00 – 11:30	Asking for Trouble	Censorship and Artistic Freedom Speakers: Stewart Lee – Writer, <i>Jerry Springer The Opera</i> Janet Steel – Director of <i>Behzti</i> Peter Sellars – Director Neal Foster – Manager, Birmingham Stage Company Chaired by: Director Conall Morrisson Location: University Concert Hall
11.30 – 11.45	Soapbox – Multi annual funding – what's the problem?	Fergal McGrath, Managing Director, Druid Theatre Company Location: University Concert Hall
12:00 – 13:00	In Profile	Tom Murphy in Conversation Location: Performing Arts Centre, Irish World Music Centre. Lower Ground Floor, Foundation Building. (The floor below the University Concert Hall)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Buffet lunch for delegates Location: Atrium
14:00 – 15:15	Parallel Sessions	These run in parallel, pick 1 I Venues – Role of venues in developing, producing and commissioning new work. Alan Rivett, Director, Warwick Arts Centre. Facilitated by Claudia Woolgar II International Touring – Michéal O'Súilleabháin, Chair Culture Ireland & Andrew Collier UK freelance producer. Facilitated by Brian Jackson III A New Direction for New Writing from the ghetto of the studio to the main stage with a representative from the Monsterists Richard Bean. Facilitated by Thomas Conway IV Dance in conversation Lloyd Newson, Artistic Director of DV8 in conversation with Paul Keogan Location: 4 rooms in the Irish World Music Centre, the floor below the University Concert Hall
15.30 – 15.45	Soapbox – What do you have to do to get money in this town?	Padraic McIntyre – Livin' Dred Theatre Company Location: University Concert Hall
15:45 – 16:30	Debrief from the various panel sessions, and a chance for an open discussion.	This is limited to Theatre Forum members only. Location: University Concert Hall
16:45	Bus transfer to train station for delegates taking 17:30 train to Dublin	



Fergal McGrath is Managing Director of Druid. He was General Manager of Galway Arts Festival (1992-2002) and had previously been General Manager of the Irish pot plant division of Fyffes (1985-1992). He is a board member of Galway Arts Centre, Cinemobile, Solas and Theatre Forum.



Padraic McIntyre is a native of Bailieboro, Co. Cavan and trained as an actor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. He has worked as an actor throughout the UK and Ireland and has an MA in Theatre Studies from DCU.

Padraic is Artistic Director of Livin' Dred Theatre Company based in the Ramor Theatre in Virginia. He has directed their first four productions *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Belfry*, (both nominated for Irish Times Theatre Awards), *The Tale of the Blue Eyed Cat*, and *The Snow Child*. He has recently directed *Cobwebs* and *Chandeliers* for RTE Radio.

Padraic was a founder member of NoMad Theatre Network, a recently formed theatre network in the north midlands where the venues and the company in the region work together to tour professional theatre.



Conall Morrison's productions for the Abbey Theatre include *The Bacchae of Baghdad*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hamlet* (a co-production with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast), his own adaptation of Patrick Kavanagh's *Tarry Flynn*, Boucicault's *The Colleen Bawn* (both at Lyttleton theatre, National Theatre, London), *The Freedom of the City*, *The Tempest*, *The House*, *A Whistle in the Dark*, *Ariel*, *In a Little World of Our Own*, *As the Beast Sleeps*, *Twenty Grand*, *Savoy* and a triple bill comprising *The Dandy Dolls*, *Purgatory* and *Riders to the Sea/Chun na Farraige Síos*.

Other productions include *Conquest of the South Pole*, *The Marlboro Man*, *Emma*, *Measure for Measure*, *Macbeth*, *Kvetch* and his own adaptation of *Antigone*. For the Lyric Theatre, Belfast he directed *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *Conservations on a Homecoming* and *Ghosts*. He directed *Martin Guerre* for Cameron Mackintosh, touring England and America. His own plays include *Rough Justice*, *Hard to Believe* and *Green, Orange and Pink*. His production of the musical *Ludwig II* performed at the Festspielhaus Neuschwanstein, Germany. Conall is an Associate Artist of the Abbey Theatre.



Tom Murphy was born in Tuam, County Galway. He lives in Dublin. He has received numerous theatre awards and holds honorary degrees from Trinity College, Dublin and the NUI (Galway). A six-play season celebrating his work – ‘Tom Murphy at the Abbey’ – was presented by the Abbey Theatre in 2001. Plays include *On the Outside* (with Noel O'Donoghue), *A Whistle in the Dark*, *A Crucial Week in the Life of a Grocer's Assistant*, *The Orphans*, *Famine*, *The Morning After Optimism*, *The White House*, *On the Inside*, *The Sanctuary Lamp*, *The J Arthur Maginnis Story*, *Epitaph Under Ether* (a compilation from the works of J.M. Synge), *The Blue Macushla*, *The Informer* (from the novel by Liam O'Flaherty), *Conversations on a Homecoming*, *The Gigli Concert*, *Bailegangaire*, *A Thief of a Christmas*, *Too Late For Logic*, *The Patriot Game*, *She Stoops to Folly* (from *The Vicar of Wakefield* by Oliver Goldsmith), *The Wake*, *The House*, *The Drunkard*, *The Cherry Orchard* (a version) and *Cuppa Coffee* and a novel *The Seduction of Morality*. His most recent play *The Alice Trilogy* was produced by the Royal Court Theatre in 2005.



L Newson by Fiona Cullen

Lloyd Newson's work since 1986 as the Director of London-based DV8 Physical Theatre has had a dynamic impact on contemporary dance by challenging the traditional aesthetics and forms which pervade most modern and classical dance. Newson's work concentrates on connecting meaning to movement and addressing social issues.

Newson has created 15 works for stage, and four films, consistently receiving major British and international awards, including two Prix Italia and an international Emmy. His latest film, *The Cost of Living*, loosely based on the stage production of the same name, has been shown at festivals worldwide.

After studying psychology at university, Newson won a full scholarship to London Contemporary Dance School. He went on to dance with many notable choreographers of the era before founding DV8. His work has included commissions from the Sydney 2000 Olympic Arts Festivals and Tate Modern, and films for the BBC and Channel 4.



Micheál Ó Súilleabháin is well known internationally for his unique Irish piano style. His very first recording issued by Gael Linn in 1975 boldly experimented with Irish traditional music played on five keyboard instruments (including mini-moog synthesiser!). The piano won out, and several albums later his classic recording *The Dolphin's Way* (Virgin Records 1987) established him and his style as an unmistakeable voice in Irish music. The next stage revealed



itself in 1989 with the release of *Oileán /Island* (Virgin Records) – his first of many collaborations with the Irish Chamber Orchestra. His most recent albums are *Becoming* (Virgin 1998) and *Templum* (Virgin 2001). New work includes a masque entitled *Madison's Descent*, commissioned by Montclair State University, New York, performed in New York and Dublin in May 2006.

He was appointed the first Professor of Music at the University of Limerick in 1994 where he established the Irish World Music Centre. Ten years on, this has now become the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.

In March 2005 he was appointed by Minister John O'Donoghue at the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism as the first Chair of Culture Ireland, a new body set up by the Irish government to promote Irish arts internationally.



Alan Rivett is Director of the award winning Warwick Arts Centre at the University of Warwick, Coventry, England. He leads a multi disciplinary team delivering a programme of contemporary performance, visual arts and film with a strong international dimension, to an audience of over 250,000 annually. Warwick Arts Centre has recently produced successful touring co-productions of *Thatcher The Musical* with Foursight Theatre and *Street Trilogy* with Theatre Absolute and regularly hosts productions by Peter Brook and the Maly Theatre of St. Petersburg among others.



Peter Sellars Renowned theatre, opera and film director Peter Sellars is one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the performing arts and has directed more than one hundred productions across America and abroad. A visionary force, Sellars is known for innovative re-interpretations of classic works. Whether it is Mozart, Shakespeare, Aeschylus, Sophocles, or the 16th-century Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, Sellars is able to strike a universal

chord with audiences, engaging contemporary social and political issues.

A graduate of Harvard College, Peter Sellars studied in Japan, China and India before becoming artistic director of the Boston Shakespeare Company. At age 26, he was selected to lead the American National Theatre at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. Since then he has worked at theatre and opera companies all over the world, and has guided numerous arts festivals including: the 1990 and 1993 Los Angeles Festivals; the 2002 Adelaide Festival in Australia; and the 2003 Venice Biennale International Festival of Theatre in Italy. He is a professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA, a visiting lecturer at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of



Journalism, and a resident curator of the Telluride Film Festival. Among his numerous honours are the MacArthur Prize and the Erasmus Prize.

Sellers has established a reputation for bringing 20th-century operas to the stage, including works by Olivier Messaien, Paul Hindemith, György Ligeti, Kaija Saariaho, and for guiding the creation of new productions that have expanded the repertoire of modern opera. Sellers has been the driving force in the creation of many new works, with long-time collaborator John Adams, such as *Nixon in China*, *The Death of Klinghoffer*, *El Niño*, and most recently *Doctor Atomic*, about Robert Oppenheimer and the birth of the atomic age. Sellers created the *Doctor Atomic* libretto from a variety of historical sources including declassified government and military documents, personal letters, correspondence, and poetry.


Projects in recent years have included a Chicano version of Stravinsky's *The Story of a Soldier*; Antonin Artaud's radio play coupled with the poetry of the late June Jordan, *For an End to the Judgment of God/Kissing God Goodbye*, staged as a press conference on the war in Afghanistan; a new production of the Euripides play *The Children of Herakles*, focusing on contemporary immigration and refugee issues and experience; and with video artist Bill Viola and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*.

Sellers is currently the artistic director of the New Crowned Hope Festival (www.newcrownedhope.org), and has invited to Vienna contemporary international artists, from diverse cultural backgrounds, in the fields of music and opera, architecture, the visual arts and film to create new projects as part of the Vienna Mozart Year celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.



Janet Steel is Artistic Director of Kali Theatre Company. Janet began her career in theatre as an actress appearing in many theatre, television and radio productions. Theatre includes: *Cinders*, *A Colder Climate* (Royal Court), *Blood Wedding* (Half Moon), *Romeo and Juliet* (Sherman Theatre and Albany Empire), *Oedipus Rex* (Tara Arts). Television includes: *An English Christmas*, *The Bride*, *Gems*, *The Refuge* and *Shalom Salaam*.

Janet began her directing career as an assistant to Tessa Schneideman and the Loose Change Theatre Company. They produced UK premiers by renowned Spanish authors at BAC, which was where Janet directed her first full length piece, *White Biting Dog* by Judith Thompson. Directing credits include: *April in Paris*, *Bretevski Street*, *A Hard Rain* and *Top Girls* (the Royal Theatre, Northampton) and *Exodus*, as part of the Millennium Mysteries (Belgrade Coventry).



Since joining Kali Janet has directed *Sock 'em with Honey*, by Bapsi Sidhwa, *Calcutta Kosher*, by Shelley Silas, *Chaos and Paper Thin* by Azma Dar.

In December 2004 Janet directed *Behzti* by Gurpreet Bhatti at the Birmingham Rep. She has an MA with Distinction in Theatre Practices.



Claudia Woolgar is Artistic Director of The Source Arts Centre, a new arts centre in Thurles, County Tipperary with a 250 seater theatre and gallery space. In 2003 and 2004 she was Director of Kilkenny Arts Festival, during which the festival commissioned and produced site specific work and initiated an innovative community outreach programme. Prior to her move to Ireland she worked in the Netherlands as an international theatre producer. She ran two producing companies, Offshore Cultural Projects and (i)tex, presenting the work of such directors as Rimas Tuminas (Lithuania), Silviu Purcarete (Romania), Lev Dodin (Russia) and Declan Donnellan (UK).

From 1994-1997, based in London, (with a seven month stint living in Romania), she ran a British-Romanian theatre exchange programme called Noroc. This sought to work bi-laterally between the two countries, and involved touring the work of Romanian directors in the UK, and producing collaborative projects. Woolgar also ran a three year training placement programme with the Caucasus region for young arts managers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Her first professional job was a theatre critic, specialising in Eastern European theatre. She is a member of the board of Theatre Forum.

Late Addition

Wilson Milam (*Director*) most recently directed *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* in New York at the Atlantic Theatre Off-Broadway and the Lyceum Theatre Broadway and *Harvest* at the Royal Court Theatre, London.

Other UK and Ireland credits include the original productions of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at the RSC and the subsequent West End transfer, *Santaland Diaries* (Birmingham Rep), *Chimps* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Fresh Kills* (Royal Court), *Defender of the Faith* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *True West* (Bristol Old Vic), *Flesh Wound* (Royal Court/Galway Arts Festival), *Mr Placebo* (Traverse, Edinburgh), *On Such As We* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin), *A Lie Of The Mind* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Wexford Trilogy* (Tricycle/UK Tour), *Hurlyburly* (Old Vic/West End), *Bug* (Gate Theatre, London), *Killer Joe* (Traverse/Bush/West End). US credits include *Closer* (Berkeley Rep), *Bug* (Woolly Mammoth, Washington, DC), *Killer Joe* (SoHo Playhouse, New York/29th Street Repertory, New York/Next Theatre, Chicago), *Pot Mom* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago). Other: *Doctor Who: Scream of the Shalka* (BBCi).



ACCOMMODATION

Theatre Forum has arranged a special deal in Dromroe Village on the University campus.

Dromroe Village is in a superb location on the south campus of the University, overlooking the River Shannon and only a five minute walk from the University Concert Hall (UCH).

The village was recently awarded an RIAI Regional award for its unique architectural design. The apartments offer the following facilities:-

- Six bedrooms with double beds and ensuite facilities.
- A stylishly designed, comfortable living area with fully fitted kitchen and cable TV.
- Continental breakfast is delivered to the apartment.

Rate: Theatre Forum's special rate is €40 per person per night. Each person has their own double bedroom and bathroom and the price includes breakfast. Remember to include payment for accommodation on your booking form should you wish to stay in Dromroe Village.

Note: Limited availability – in the event of reaching capacity in Dromroe, delegates will be placed in Thomond Village which is also on campus.

Accommodation is also available at the nearby Castletroy Hotel. Theatre Forum has negotiated a special rate of €115 per person for a standard deluxe room. Please note, if you are interested in staying at the Castletroy, please contact the hotel directly.

For more information, contact Ursula Cullen at the following details:

Phone: + 353 61 508760

Email: UCullen@castletroy-park.ie;

Website: www.castletroy-park.ie.



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

By train

Please see schedules below for trains arriving to and departing from Limerick station. For further details on tickets and booking, please contact Iarnród Éireann directly at your local train station or on www.irishrail.ie

Theatre Forum has arranged pick-up from the following trains arriving into Limerick on Thursday 15 June. Remember to tick on your booking form which train you are taking.

Train times for Thursday 15 June

From	Departs	Arrives at	Notes
Dublin	9:00*	11:20	*Change at Limerick Junction
Dublin	9:50	12:25	Direct
Cork	9:30*	11:20	*Change at Limerick Junction and take 10:48 train to Limerick

Theatre Forum has organised a bus to take delegates to the Limerick train station on Friday 16 June. This bus will depart from UCH at 16:45. Remember to tick on the booking form if you require bus transfer to the station.

Train times for Friday 16 June

From	Departs	Arrives at	Notes
Limerick to Dublin	17:30	20:00	Direct
Limerick to Cork	17:55*	19:40	*Change at Limerick Junction

By Car

UCH is situated on the University of Limerick campus, outside Limerick city. Please see the map on page 20 for exact location.

UCH is located in the Foundation Building. Please note that limited parking is available near the building.



By Bus

The following table shows the Bus Éireann schedule arriving into Limerick station in time for the conference start and lunch on Thursday 15 June. For further details on routes and bookings, contact Bus Éireann directly at your local bus station or on www.buseireann.ie.

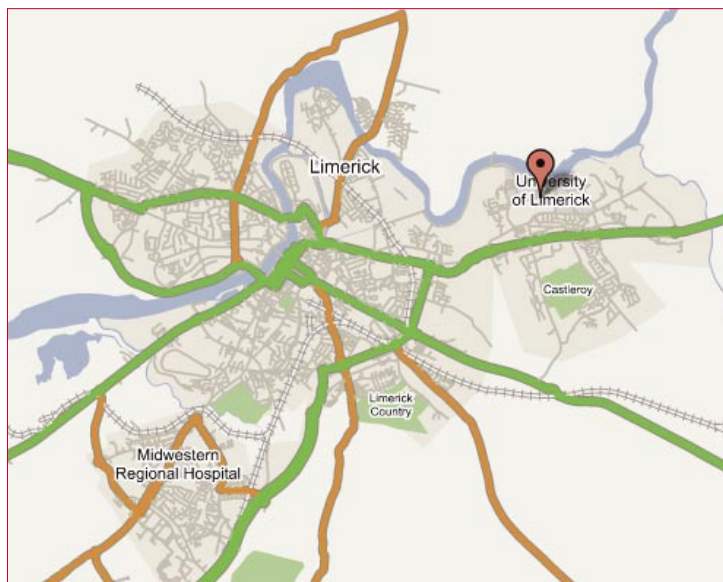
Bus times arriving in Limerick on Thursday 15 June

From	Departs	Arrives at	Notes
Dublin	08:30	12:10	From Busaras
Tralee	09:30	11:05	
Cork	10:25	12:10	
Galway	10:05	12:20	via Shannon Airport
Waterford	09:50	14:15	

Bus times departing from Limerick on Friday 16 June

To	Departs	Arrives at	Notes
Dublin	17:30	21:10	Arrives to Busaras
Tralee	21:35	23:40	
Cork	17:35	19:25	
Galway	17:25	19:45	via Shannon Airport
Waterford	17:40	20:05	

Limerick City



Theatre Forum

Theatre Forum is the representative association for the performing arts. Membership includes all the theatres and arts centres around the country; professional theatre, contemporary dance and opera production companies, and the main arts festivals.

Theatre Forum acts as a voice for the community to government, state and semi-state agencies and elected representatives.

The organisation also organises training and professional development courses and seminars. Its website www.theatreforumireland.com is an invaluable resource containing fact sheets and model contracts, an opening night clash diary, an industry employment page, a barter page for stage managers, a members notice board etc.

For further information tel 01-8746582/4, email theatreforum@ireland.com

University of Limerick Campus Map



- 1 Main University Entrance
- 2 East Gate Entrance
- 3 Castlenny Park Hotel & Conference Centre
- 4 Phassey Student Village
- 5 International Science Centre
- 6 Robert Schuman Building
- 7 International Business Centre
- 8 Computer Science Building
- 9 Silver Apples Crèche

- 10 Gloucester Library and Information Services Buildings
- 11 Foundation Building and University Concert Hall
- 12 Engineering Research Building and Midstream Courtyard
- 13 Main University Building
- 14 Phassey House and University Close
- 15 Visitors Information Centre
- 16 Student Centre: Shops, Benches, Bars
- 17 Kathleen Lonsdale Building

- 18 Materials and Surface Science Institute
- 19 Sports Building and National Coaching and Training Centre
- 20 Schrödinger Building
- 21 Grounds Maintenance Compound
- 22 University Arena including 50 metre Pool
- 23 The Sports Club
- 24 Kilnury Student Village
- 25 Horticultural Unit
- 26 Doran Student Village
- 27 Thomond Student Village
- 28 Health Sciences Building
- 29 Cappawilla Student Village (opening 2006)
- 30 Proposed Pedestrian Footbridge

Photo Credits

- Cover **MAIN IMAGE** Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Adrenalin* - Semper Fi
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Exile* - Theater Slava
Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Raw Beef* - Hoax Productions. Pauline McLynn in
Rough Magic's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo: Patrick Redmond.
Earagail Festival 2005: Family Day in the Park. Photo: Garvan Gallagher.
Opera Theatre Company's *The Coronation of Poppea* September 2005. Love
(Rebekah Coffey), Fortune (Shirley Keane), and Virtue (Sinead Campbell).
Photo: Patrick Redmond.
- Page 2 Members of Siamsa Tíre's Performing Company in Rehearsals for *Tarmon*.
Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan.
- Page 3 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Daghdha Dance Company, December 2005. Photo: Joris Jan Bos.
Alan Stanford in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at The Abbey
Theatre (2005). Photo: Ros Kavanagh.
- Page 4 Baboro Festival 2005: *Pisst!* Theatre Refleksion, Denmark.
- Page 5 **LEFT TO RIGHT** St Patrick's Festival 2006. Emma O'Kane and David Bolger in
CoisCéim's *Knots*. Photo: Chris Nash.
- Page 6 Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *The Hospital* - Jo Stromgren Kompani.
- Page 7 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Owen Roe in Rough Magic's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo:
Patrick Redmond. Writer/performer Michelle Read in READCO's *Play About My
Dad*. Photo: Ros Kavanagh.
- Page 8 Bryan Murray as Martin in Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia* - Landmark
Productions. Photo: Paul McCarthy.
- Page 9 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Gemma Reeves in *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. Photo: Keith Pattison of
DruidSynge 2005. National Chamber Choir pictured at the National Gallery of
Ireland. Photo: Alan Roche.
- Page 12 Pauline McLynn in Rough Magic's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Photo: Patrick
Redmond.
- Page 13 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Sun XiaoYan, Cheng Jun Nian & Bai Shao in Pan Pan's *Playboy of
the Western World*. Photo: Li Yan. Aaron Monaghan in *The Tinker's Wedding*. Photo
Keith Pattison of DruidSynge 2005.
- Page 14 Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Raw Beef* - Hoax Productions
- Page 15 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Eamon Morrissey and Marie Mullen in *The Well of the Saints*. Photo
Keith Pattison of DruidSynge 2005. Allison Cooke in Opera Theatre Company's *The
Coronation of Poppea*. Photo Patrick Redmond.
- Page 16 Allison Cooke in Opera Theatre Company's *The Coronation of Poppea*. Photo
Patrick Redmond.
- Page 17 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Pauline McLynn and Owen Roe in Rough Magic's *The Taming of
the Shrew*. Photo: Patrick Redmond. Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Sandwich* - The
Roadshow Theatre Company
- Page 18 Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *Dirty Rotten Cabaret* - Fallen Angels.
- Page 19 **LEFT TO RIGHT** Earagail Festival 2005: *Shakespeare in the Park*. Photo: Garvan
Gallagher. Dublin Fringe Festival 2005: *At Swim Two Boys* - Earthfalls.

