

Theatre Forum and TheatreNI present
Conference 2019

**Conference
2019**
OnTheEdge

National Opera House, Wexford
12–13 June
[#ontheedge](#)

**Wednesday
12 June**

National Opera House

From 11.00	Registration	Registration and coffee. Screening of short films <i>BORDERLANDS</i> and <i>Unfinished Revolution</i> , directed by Oisín Kearney.
11.30	Welcome Keynote Address, New Frontiers.	On the edge of Europe with our confidence in the soft power of cultural diplomacy dented, how will culture re-connect and connect us across city, county, new country and continental borders to imagine new frontiers? Sir Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive, British Council. Afterwards, in conversation with Ása Richardsdóttir, Secretary General, IETM.
12.45	Lunch	All menus will include vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free choices. Electric car test drives available throughout the afternoon.
14.00	Valuing artists	A three-part conversation about how important it is to value artists as well as the arts. Artists examine the fault lines in their working world Making arts centres work for artists Paying artists accordingly.
15.15	Open Forum	Discussion on how to value artists, what needs to be done to improve employment conditions and increase work opportunities in the performing arts? Panel of speakers joined by Irish Equity, Equity in Northern Ireland and NCFCA guests.
16.00	Break	
16.15	Valuing and developing audiences	We have come to expect personalised marketing communications, more intense experiences and social activism from our chosen brands. Heather Maitland, audience development expert, leads this conversation with marketeers to find out how successes from other sectors could be applied to arts marketing.
17.30	Close	

Evening Programme

18.00	Join Irish National Opera and studio artists for a performance of <i>The Deadly World of Opera</i>, the National Opera House
19.00	Reception hosted by Wexford Arts Office
20.00	Dinner in Clayton Whites Hotel
22.00-late	Jilted Generations DJ/Music/performance event with special guest artists/Live art, Wexford Arts Centre

9.30	Venues and Festivals Forum	Venues, arts centres and festivals get together to talk about topics of particular interest to arts organisations. Climate Action! High Importance With our recently declared Climate Emergency, find out what you and your organisation can do right now. Discussion led by Catriona Fallon, a founder of the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland joined by Claire Murray, Head of Development and Marketing at Belfast's Lyric Theatre.
10.15–11.15	Venues Review	The County and City Management Association (CCMA) and the Arts Council commissioned a joint study of arts centres in Ireland. The review has concluded and its commissioners are considering actions arising from the Review. The Arts Council will itself be responding to findings of the Review through forthcoming applications for funding in 2020. Hear more from the Arts Council about the findings and how local authorities and the Arts Council will respond jointly and separately in the coming years.

National Opera House

10.15–11.15	Backstage tours, coffee and networking	An opportunity for delegates to talk informally with speakers and guests.
11.30	Networks across borders – The role of local and international networks in sustaining artists' careers	Think of the word 'networking' and you might grimace. And yet to prolong the life of a show, develop the widest audience possible while diversifying income, creating a strong local, national and international network is probably the most important action an artist or producer can take outside of the studio or rehearsal room. Led by Róise Goan, this panel discussion looks at the opportunities, challenges and outcomes experienced by artists and organisations in creating and maintaining networks.
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	Blurring boundaries	How boundaries, real or imagined, stage and screen, music and dance, theatre and opera, virtual and real are becoming blurred all to the good for the art, artists and audiences. Session curated by Tom Creed.
14.45	Reframing our borders – What if?	Closing address: Michael Patrick and Oisín Kearney talk about their play for Ireland, <i>THE ALTERNATIVE</i> , and some questions it poses. What if Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom? What if Home Rule had passed? What if there was no War of Independence? No Civil War? No partition? What if the island had only one soccer team?
15.15	Closing remarks	
15.30	Close	

Theatre Forum and TheatreNI look forward to welcoming you to this summer's all-island performing arts conference in Wexford. Come along to the National Opera House and Wexford Arts Centre and meet friends and colleagues, old and new, and think about how to reframe boundaries and move beyond borders.

Conference Tickets

Your ticket gives you access to all conference sessions, lunch on both days as well as Wednesday's evening programme, including dinner.

Standard Member Ticket

€150 / £130* (from Wed 1 May)

Non Member Ticket €220 / £190*

Artist Ticket €80 / £70*

We want the conference to be accessible to everyone in our sector, especially artists. If you're an artist or practitioner who is an individual member of Theatre Forum or TheatreNI, you can avail of the Artist Ticket rate.

* No booking fee applies. Sterling prices are approximate and the exchange rate at the time of purchase will apply.

Accommodation

Avail of great conference rates at Clayton Whites Hotel, minutes from the National Opera House and Wexford Arts Centre.

€99 B&B single occupancy per night

€129 B&B double and twin occupancy per night

Phone +353 (0)53 912 2311 to book, and quote Theatre Forum to secure this rate.

About the conference partners

It's the eight edition of our conference, a Theatre Forum and TheatreNI co-production.

Theatre Forum is the representative association for the performing arts in Ireland with over 280 organisation and individual members including venues and arts centres, professional theatre, dance and opera companies, performing arts festivals as well as individual directors, actors, producers and makers. Through information provision, networking events, training and professional development, research and artist development for the performing arts sector, our aim is to build a stronger performing arts community. www.theatreforum.ie

TheatreNI is the representative body to support and develop theatre and the performing arts in Northern Ireland. With over 90 members including venues and arts centres, theatre and dance companies, festivals, associates and youth drama groups as well as individual artists and practitioners, TheatreNI provides a voice for theatre and the performing arts. Its programme of activities includes training and development opportunities through workshops and professional development bursaries, networking, research, sector-specific information sharing and representing the sector. www.theatreni.org

Contact us with your conference questions.

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