

STUDY IRISH THEATRE IN DUBLIN AT IRELAND'S PREMIER DRAMA SCHOOL



Irish Theatre January Term ■ Irish Theatre Summer School ■ Original Theatre Project
 Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge ■ Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel
 ■ Storytelling: Our great tradition ■ The Writer's Room

The Gaiety School of Acting - the National Theatre School of Ireland is proud to offer your Institution the opportunity to work with us on six short term customised creative opportunities in Dublin, Ireland.

Founded in 1986 by Joe Dowling, currently the Artistic Director of the Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, the Gaiety School of Acting has a long and proud tradition of training actors to the highest professional standards. Our patrons include Oscar winner, Brenda Fricker and Liam Neeson and some of our former students have become household names, including Colin Farrell, Olivia Wilde, Stuart Townsend, Aidan Turner and Colin O'Donoghue. Similarly, our graduates regularly feature on the stages of the primary Irish theatres and work for key theatre companies nationally and internationally as actors, directors, and writers for theatre, film, television and radio.

Read on for more information on how you can immerse yourself in the craft of acting through a range of exciting customised courses designed to challenge, engage, empower and educate you in the rich world of Irish theatre. Enjoy!

PATRICK SUTTON Director of the Gaiety School of Acting - The National Theatre School of Ireland

1. Irish Theatre January Term (Jan: 3 weeks) & Irish Theatre Summer School (July: 4 weeks)

The Gaiety School of Acting - the National Theatre School of Ireland at Smock Alley Theatre 1662 has a proud and successful tradition of training actors who can bring presence, energy and life to the stories we tell about ourselves. The Irish Theatre January Term and Irish Theatre Summer School programs are led by Patrick Sutton, Director of the Gaiety School of Acting alongside a team of acting tutors and directors, our voice coach and our theatre history tutor.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to the ensemble and early work focuses on establishing a strong sense of this as the starting point from which the work is explored. Improvisation is a key method we use in ensuring that the actor is alive in the moment and spontaneous.

The practical acting element of the course is taught by two different teachers, each with their own unique approach covering their section of the syllabus. All academic sessions are designed to provide each participant with the historical and cultural contexts of the works to reinforce core understanding of the playwrights and their work for your practical classes. In addition, you will work with our voice coach on your scripts throughout the program.

As well as classroom sessions, we schedule a range of theatre and cultural visits as an integral part of these programs. You will visit key theatres in Dublin such as the Abbey - Ireland's National Theatre, the Gate Theatre, Project Arts Centre and the Gaiety Theatre

amongst others. Cultural visits will ensure you gain an insight into the Dublin of today and how the texts you are studying relate to the contemporary city, its arts and culture. Typical visits include trips to key exhibitions at the National Gallery, National Library, National Museum, Irish Museum of Modern Art as well as tourist sites such as Jameson Distillery, live Irish music sessions and many other activities. Weekends will offer the opportunity, to explore the city in more detail at your own pace, or to travel to other towns and cities around the country such as Cork, Galway, Belfast and Kilkenny.

2. Original Theatre Project

Join us to create the world premiere of a piece of theatre, made by your actors, for your actors! The Original Theatre Project is a unique tailor-made program which takes place in your theatre department and in Dublin, Ireland at Smock Alley Theatre 1662.

We will first of all come to your premises and lead an intensive devising process in which the project director will gather ideas, images and a wide variety of starting points which are explored, documented, photographed and recorded to compile a creative resource bank. All this creative information is then handed over to the writer of the original theatre project who will craft a one hour original theatre piece sourced from the collected information.

The devising process is only available for those who will ultimately travel to Dublin to rehearse



and present the final performance. This process requires the use of an empty theatre, a technician (participant), a lighting operator (participant) a pianist who can improvise (participant) and the use of a wide range of image potential props and costumes.

The initial group will travel to Dublin and embark on a three-week intensive rehearsal period of "their" play which will be given a world premiere performance in Dublin's historic Smock Alley Theatre 1662. The project culminates with the production returning for a premiere at your theatre department.

As we deliver only one Original Theatre Project each year, timelines will need to be agreed with as much advance notice as possible.

“It was important for me to maintain a connection with my Irish roots...I have always loved Beckett, Friel and O’Casey and I wanted to spend time learning about these people from people who would understand them.”
Olivia Wilde, American Actress and Gaiety School of Acting Alumni

3. *Playboy of the Western World*

by John Millington Synge

This 3-week customised intensive course allows you to rehearse and perform this iconic play from the Irish canon. The program is available to a group of thirteen acting students, one musician and three design/technical students along with your department's faculty. We will plan an itinerary for your group for the three weeks of this program which culminates in a three-night performance of *Playboy of the Western World* in Smock Alley Theatre 1662. This will be directed by the Gaiety School of Acting - The National Theatre of Ireland faculty.

4. *Dancing at Lughnasa*

by Brian Friel

In this three week intensive program, your students will rehearse and perform this Brian Friel classic. The program is open to eight acting students, one musician and three design/technical students along with members of your faculty. Again, we will plan your three-week itinerary which culminates in your presentation of *Dancing at Lughnasa* in Smock Alley Theatre 1662 over three nights. This will be directed by the Gaiety School of Acting - The National Theatre of Ireland faculty.

5. *Storytelling: Our great tradition*

Ireland has long been known for its rich storytelling tradition. This three-week intensive program immerses participants in that tradition by placing them as both gatherers and tellers of some of Ireland's most extraordinary stories. We will plan a 3-week itinerary for a group of 10 participants who will spend two weeks travelling throughout Ireland listening to and gathering stories. Travelling by coach, all participants will visit Wexford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Mayo, Donegal and Belfast as well as Dublin. Participants will stay in quality hostel accommodation. The final week will be spent in Dublin where all the gathered material will be crafted it into an evening of storytelling presented in Smock Alley Theatre 1662.

6. *The Writer's Room*

For a small island, Ireland boasts a rich writing tradition ranging from Oliver Goldsmith to Oscar Wilde and from Sean O'Casey to Samuel Beckett. George Bernard Shaw, WB Yeats and Marina Carr stand alongside the likes of Emma Donoghue, Seamus Heaney and Roddy Doyle. In this customised three week intensive program, ten creative writing students will work for three weeks in The Gaiety School of Acting - The National Theatre School of Ireland with three specialised teachers in the areas of poetry, short story and theatre on the creation and development of ideas, images and starting points. All participants will be given one-to-one tuition on a wide range of assignments. The final week will see all participants selecting a range of material that will be read on the final evening of the program at a Writers Room gathering in Smock Alley Theatre 1662.



DESIGN YOUR OWN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Let us work with you to create a unique program for your students. Areas of intensive study might include Acting, Shakespeare, Contemporary Irish theatre, Voice or devising your own piece of theatre. Dublin city centre accommodation and cultural and theatre visits would be included in any course. Contact us now to discuss your ideas and requirements.

Email: coordinator@gaietyschool.com

Phone: +353-1-679 9277

Essex Street West, Temple Bar, Dublin 8, IRELAND

gaietyschool.com



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