

**THE MAGIC OF THEATRE FROM THE
COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME**



**DIGITAL FESTIVAL
PROGRAMME**

**JUNE 2021
with Dublin Pride**



Welcome to our 18th Festival!

Two years have passed since we last gathered in person to celebrate queer artists and moving expressions of wonderful queer stories.

This year, join us for our digital festival, sponsored by Dublin Pride and the Arts Council. Tune in for world premieres and exciting partnerships. Here's what founder and Artistic Director of the Festival, Brian Merriman, had to say about this year!

2021 is the second year our stages went dark due to Covid. We have had no income and no renewal of the essential volunteer effort that has sustained us to reach our 18th year. Grant support has been lost or cuts maintained. But there is a lot of good news! Pride month in June is our time to celebrate with you what makes Dublin a unique centre for LGBTQ+ theatre worldwide.

Our small team has produced a remarkable programme to celebrate our 'coming of age'.

2500 euros was awarded to 11 Irish and Irish resident playwrights for new Irish LGBTQ+ plays in May.

A new book IDGTF: 18 and Coming of Age the Director's Cut - including 13 new plays will be published in June to celebrate our special birthday, and available on www.gaytheatre.ie or in the Pride shop in Duke Street.

We are really delighted to bring our loyal audiences a free online virtual Festival of 13 plays from Ireland and abroad beginning from June 7th.

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Dublin LGBTQ+ Pride, who funded the recording of new plays and who financially supported our artists, we are delighted to present this free festival of many new dramatic works. It is great to reconnect our artists with our audience online in June as we await our return to live theatre in May 2022. I salute all of the writers of the 65 new plays encouraged by our 2020 and 2021 Bursary opportunities - an unimaginable number of new Irish plays when we began in 2004. I am in admiration of the productions in our online festival who have adapted their plays to fit the digital format. We hope you enjoy being part of our 18th birthday celebrations and here's to returning to live theatre in 2022!

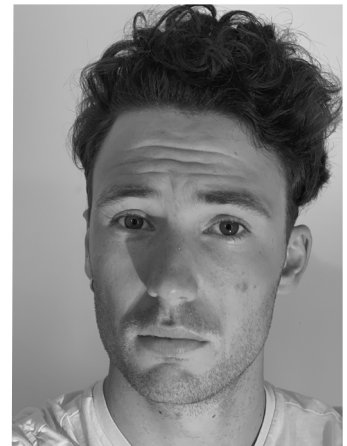
Brian Merriman, June 2021

[Check our website to learn more about supporting the Festival!](#)

Performances Filmed For The Eighteenth Festival

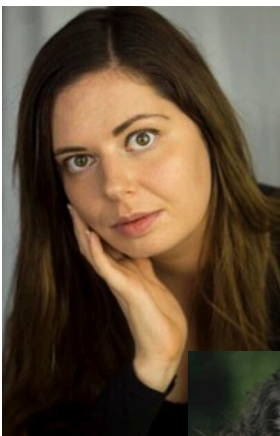
Outlier by Marcus Bateson

Outlier is the story of James; A lonely gay university student from rural Ireland, who is grappling with the blurry events of one dark night on a Dublin sports field where he met a guy, he wishes he hadn't. As he struggles to remember what is real and what is imaginary, this energetic one-man show confronts gay online hook-up culture, rainbow capitalism and issues of consent with humour, honesty and nuance. As James takes us through the murky events of that night, he playfully deflects with stories of his astrology obsessed friend Jane, his performatively woke flatmate Frank, and a new overpriced mindfulness app he's just discovered. Starring Conor Murray.



A Man of No Importance by Marcus Bateson

Conor Murray performs a rehearsed reading of Marcus Bateson's *A Man of No Importance*. Above the local bookshop, in a small, weathered village in County Mayo, Philip sits surrounded by unpacked books and a SuperValu Pain Au Chocolat. Having arrived from Dublin after breaking up with his boyfriend, Philip finds himself lost and searching for meaning in the small coastal community. *A Man of No Importance* is a short monologue which reflects on the nuances of loneliness, moving on and running away from our past. In the quiet conversations with Phoebe the bookshop owner, and the elderly locals, Philip mediates on the rituals of the city, and whether a young gay man can find a new beginning in this quiet rural community.



Dose by Rena Bryson

Rena Bryson's new short drama *Dose* takes place the night before Oisín and Patrick's wedding.

Tensions rise as the couple face the consequences of their families merging, leading Oisín to reveal a dark secret he's been hiding from his fiancé.

Presented by Eva's Echo Theatre and directed by Hazel Doolan.
Starring Connor O'Dwyer and Killian Glynn.

Tess by Saoirse Siné

Tess is a short high-energy rhythmic solo piece about a young woman coming to terms with her sexuality (or lack thereof).
Starring Niamh Murphy.

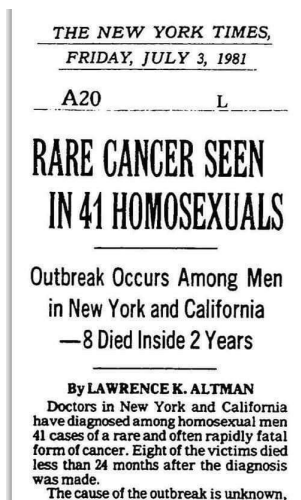
Calamity Jane sends a Message to her Daughter by Carolyn Cage

This rowdy, fifteen-minute monologue is a tribute to masculine women living in times when lesbian or transgendered identities were not understood. Accustomed to ridicule and contempt, Calamity survives through a combination of self-deprecating humor, myth-making, and alcohol—shrewdly propagating the myths about herself that will ensure her a place in history. Starring Maria Blaney.



No One Cares by Sarah McKenna Dunne

Inspired from real events and real conversations. Someone has written No One Cares across the side of a building in a small rural town. There is outrage mixed with concern for who the culprit might be. Various voices demand attention, and we learn the prejudices, ignorance, and anxiety that follows those who challenge the status quo by simply existing. Growing up in rural Ireland as a non gender conformative queer person is a voice that is not allowed to be heard.



A Reminder by Brian Merriman

A Reminder is a twenty minute monologue for an older actor, that considers the messages of the current pandemic as a reminder to the response to AIDS, largely ignored in the 1980s and the ongoing legacy of Irish criminalisation and grief. Performed by Stephen Gorman.

The Off Switch by Brian Merriman

The Off Switch is inspired by LGBT rights campaigner Mark Ashton and 'Pride The Movie'. The story of his Irish contemporary - a young man who grew up with criminalisation and is now ageing in what should be a more welcoming society. Are we living in a more equal society, which Mark Ashton and his courageous generation delivered for our community today? Starring Dane O'Sullivan.



Productions Coming to The Festival

Beyond the Barricades by Michael Kerrigan

The world is in turmoil.

We join Machus and Cal on a youthful odyssey of self-discovery in Derry.

With student riots in Paris, the Black Civil Rights Movement in the USA, the Women's Liberation movement kicking off and Queers revolting in New York, how will this impact on them? As they try to make sense of the surreal world of The Battle of The Bogside, 1969, will they partake or will fate intervene and change everything forever?

Presented by the Derry Playhouse. Directed by Anne Crilly and starring Francis Harkin, Andy Doherty, Anne Gallagher, Daniel McClafferty and Conan Hamilton.



Proud to Be / Beyond the Labels of Me by Mel Bradley

Isolation has exposed humanity. Not just to a virus, but to the unavoidable, self-reflection.

Just how much does our cultural identity colour our experiences with each other? What would the landscape of connection look like if we were honest enough to speak about these experiences? Or if we refused to carry any labels?

Created in lockdown through Zoom with participants from the LGBTQ+ community by the poet and performer Mel Bradley and director Kieran Smyth, this stirring new play for @FoylePride is the first of a new programme of theatre to be both performed live and streamed around the world from our theatre stage.

Presented by the Derry Playhouse. Directed and produced by Kieran Smyth. Performed by Rory McSwiggan, Faye Deering, Glen Dagda, Emmett Friel, Jak Rose, Ezra Orr, Caolan McGinley, Jennifer Clifford.



Conversations by Rob Ward

Whilst we locked ourselves down in 2020 and watched the world burn, we turned to Zoom to keep alive conversations and a sense of community. *Conversations* sees seven people do exactly that. From awkward zoom dates to exasperating online rehearsals, Harry Potter fanatics to middle-aged keyboard warriors, this new digital production from award winning writer Rob Ward (*Away From Home*; *Gypsy Queen*) tells four different stories that play out over our new favourite platform.

As we move out of lockdown *Conversations* takes a fresh look at the challenges the world presented to us in 2020 and explores the battle lines that have been drawn anew in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality.

Presented by Emerson & Ward Productions, *Conversations* was commissioned by Curve, Leicester as part of De Montfort University Pride in February 2021. Starring Ryan Anderson, Darren Bennett, Rosie Fleeshman, Reece Lyons, Londiwe Mthembu, Corinna Powlesland, and Esme Sears.

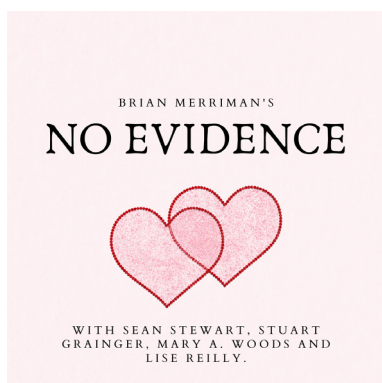


No Evidence by Brian Merriman

No Evidence is a love story set in 1980s Dublin, when the definition of 'safe sex' meant not getting a girl pregnant! Our double dating guys always seem to land in bed together after a weekend party. They can't afford to leave any 'evidence' of their secret relationship ... will they be caught out in an unforgiving Ireland? Remember guys: No evidence!

Written and directed by Brian Merriman with director of photography Karl Hayden.

Starring Sean Stewart as Ben, Stuart Grainger as Sam, Mary A. Woods as Dee and Lise Reilly as Kim.

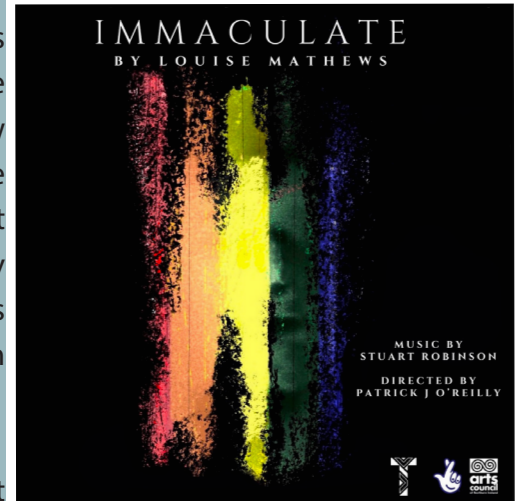


***Immaculate* by Louise Matthews**

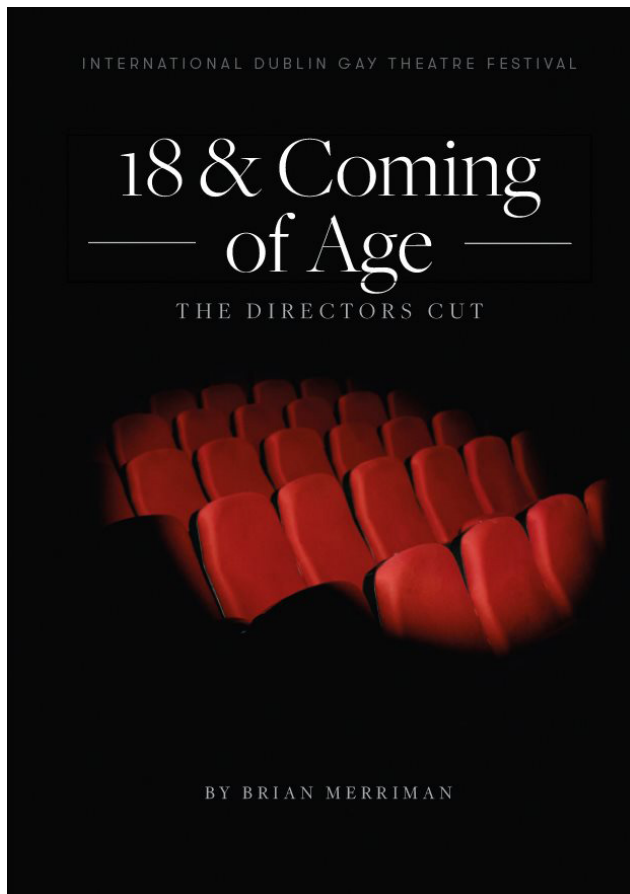
Immaculate is based on a true story about Louise Mathews who struggled to piece together the life of her uncle Anthony, who tragically died in the early 90s and whose cause of death has left many unanswered questions.

Anthony was born in Belfast and later left for London to live his life as a gay man. As Louise began to find out about his life, the research took her on an immense journey of joy, elation and sorrow as revelations about his past highlighted deeply conservative attitudes and daily threats to gay men living in London at that time (especially during the HIV and Aids Epidemic). Her journey to find his truth only led her further into mystery and shame as so many gay men were forced to live in complete isolation or in many cases, vanish into the periphery of society.

Through her lyrics and incredible music composition by Stuart Robinson and brought together through a digital online performance, Louise is determined to reclaim his life, get the justice he deserves and celebrate those who were forced to hide in the shadows of our society. Presented by Tinderbox Theatre. Starring Louise Mathews and Rhodri Lewis.



18 & Coming of Age: An IDGTF Publication



Buy our new book!

Featuring 13 new plays:

Masc by David O'Brien

Maxine by David O'Brien

Half of Nothing by Ella Skolimowski

Suicide Pact by Jason Goodwin-Tully

The Changing Room by Eveanna O'Meara and Aoife O'Beirne

The Death of Me by Sean Denyer

Stripes by Marcus Bateson

The Dwyer Scandal by Robert Downes

The Talk by Jonathan Hughes

Biding My Time by Tighearnan Noonan

Long Distance by Katherine O'Donnell

The Last Night by Benjamin Resande

Label Lad by Brian Merriman

Available at gaytheatre.ie and Dublin Pride Community Centre, Duke Street.

You can stream all of these plays on [The International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival](#) and [Dublin Pride](#) websites.

Check out our website and social media to find out how to support the **IDGTF!**

*Proudly sponsored by Dublin LGBTQ+ Pride
and The Arts Council of Ireland*

