



Tuesday, June 24th — Thursday, July 10th Book online at www.thelir.ie ____ **GRADFEST 2025** is a season of productions directed and designed by this year's graduating MFA students. The three plays being produced are a culmination of an intensive year of hands-on training in theatre directing, theatre producing, lighting design, costume design and set design. The cast of each production consists of final year acting students and the backstage roles are undertaken by our Stage Management & Technical Theatre students.

Gundog

By Simon Longman

Wednesday, 25th — Friday, 27th June at 7.30pm Preview: Tuesday, 24th June at 7.30pm Matinee: Friday, 27th June at 1.00pm Book online at thelir.ie "Land beneath our feet. Got all our blood inside it hasn't it? All that time. Belongs to us."

On a farm in the middle of nowhere, sisters Becky and Anna try to hold their family together after the death of their mother. Time is always moving somewhere – but here it's very quiet. When they discover a stranger wandering across their land, the three establish an unlikely partnership in their determination to survive.

Gundog is a rare rural play; an astringent picture of poverty and demographic change that explores the struggle to survive and the depths of loss with brutality, tenderness and a poetic sense of time. ____ CAST

Becky	Ella Tagg
Anna	Marianna Fotopoulou
Guy	Adam Daniel Dolan
Ben	Fintan Kinsella
Mick	Jack Hassett

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Kate Russell
Producer	Jack Shanley
Set Designer	Cecilia Mondadori
Costume Designer	Lisa Della Chiesa
Lighting Designer	Iris Liange*
Sound Designer	Chris Nolan
Additional Composition	Timothy Cleary
Hair & Makeup	Leonard Daly

____ CREW

Company & Deputy	
Stage Manager	Amelia Hauer
Assistant Stage Manage	r Gus Papagiannis
Production Managers	Ellen Hodgers &
U U	Bradley Whelan
Technical Stage Manage	r Gráinne Clancy
Set Construction	Daniel Nolan
Costume	Thea Xia
Chief LX	Sinead Cullen
Lighting Programmer	David Farrelly
Scenic Artists	Nell Snyder &
	Theo Lynch
Sound HODs	Brad O'Brien &
	Eoin Bloomer Bonner

Poster Image Credit: Dinny Dolan by Brigitta Varadi, photograph by Keith Nolan

This is an amateur production, presented by arrangement with Blue Posts Management Limited. *Gundog* was commissioned by and first produced at The Royal Court Theatre, London in 2018

WALDEN

BY AMY BERRYMAN

Monday, 7th — Wednesday, 9th July at 7pm Preview: Saturday, 5th July at 7pm Matinee: Wednesday, 9th July at 1pm Book online at thelir.ie "You went up to see the world from above, I stayed to feel it crumble beneath my feet".

Beneath a dying sky, twin sisters reunite, one returned from the stars, the other rooted in the soil of what remains. In a woodland cabin, time stretches and memory stirs.

Once destined to walk the same path, Stella and Cassie now face a future they never dreamed of, shaped by absence, wonder and the quiet ache of survival.

Walden is a tender reckoning with the bonds of family, the cost of ambition and the flickering light of hope in a world on the brink. ____ CAST

Stella Cassie Bryan Aoife Browne Amy Macken Dominic Raymond

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director Co-Producer Ander Co-Producer Set Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer Sound Designer Hair & Makeup

Una Nolan Anderson de Souza Muirenn Lyons Matteo Scaburri Jodie Doyle Colin Doran* Ultan Stanley Leonard Daly

_____ CREW

Assistant Production Ma	nager Ellen Hodgers
Technical Stage Manager	Gráinne Clancy
Stage Manager	Zoren Haljaste
Assistant Stage Manager	Cliodhna Ryan
Head of Construction	Jasper Cahill
Head of Scenic	Theo Lynch
Costume Supervisor	Maisey Lorimer
Chief LX	Coco Londres
Lighting Programmer	Emma Mulligan
Sound HODs	Brad O'Brien &
	Eoin Bloomer Bonner

New York premiere produced by Second Stage Theater, New York, 2024. Bennett Leak - Interim Artistic Director, Lisa Lawer Post -Executive Director. *Walden* was first presented on stage by Sonia Friedman Productions.

Tuesday, 8th — Thursday, 10th July at 7.30pm Preview: Monday, 7th July at 7.30pm Matinee: Thursday, 10th July at 1pm Book online at thelir.ie

A CLASS BARRON

After losing her job, boyfriend and apartment, Mae returns to Washington State to take care of her dad.

Back in her childhood home, she struggles to adapt and distracts herself with fantasies of a cowboy. In this intimate, vulnerable and hilarious dark comedy, Clare Barron skillfully blends reality with make-believe to explore family, illness and a re-coming of age.

You Got Older is about falling apart as you're failing to launch, and what you might find instead.

____ CAST

Mae
Dad
Cowboy
Mac
Hannah
Matthew
Jenny

Charlotte Cleary James Agnew Shaun O'Callaghan Victor Mills Kailey Greenberg* Jack Morey Hannah Nordberg

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director Co-Producer Set Designer Costume Designer Sound Designer Lighting Designer Hair & Makeup Chloe Naomi Bernie Bourke Pilar Maria Eugenia Genunchi Triin Kolmkant HK Ní Shioradáin Kevin Murphy* Leonard Daly

____ CREW

Assistant Production Manager Bradley Whelan Technical Stage Manager Grainne Clancy Company Stage Manager Jenna Cossan Assistant Stage Manager Kaitlin Gaddy Set Emma Brennan Scenic Nell Snvder Costume Elena Cullen Chief LX Ada Price Programmer LX Aislinn Flattery Sound HODs Brad O'Brien & Foin Bloomer Bonner

This amateur production of *You Got Older* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



Chloe Naomi

Chloe Naomi is an interdisciplinary director and theatre maker. Her work merges academic research with experimental theatricality to create relevant, playful and immersive theatre. She is also the artistic director of Ciaróg Productions which strives to produce, curate and devise new work.

Chloe has worked as an arts manager with Macnas, Druid, Ró Stack and Galway International Arts Festival. She assistant directed the national tour of *How I Learned About Consent* by Active Consent in 2023. She received an Agility Award from Arts Council Ireland and an Elevate Bursary from Galway International Arts Festival to develop her original play *Pupa* which debuted in Galway Theatre Festival in 2024.

chloenaomi.org



Kate Russell

Kate Russell is a director and theatre maker who is inspired by theatre as a collaborative craft to celebrate community, deepen belonging and rediscover place. As Founding Artistic Director of Threadbare Theatre Workshop, she has adapted, directed and devised original, site-responsive plays and reimaginings of the classics in New York City and rural places across Maine. Kate is a Princess Grace Award winner and Emerging Leader of New York Arts fellow. She holds a BFA in Theatre Arts from Rutgers and spent her most formative year at Shakespeare's Globe in London.





Nolan

Úna Nolan is an interdisciplinary director and writer for stage from Dublin, Ireland. As the founder of Teochroí Productions, she wants to illustrate elements of who we are at our core, and promote the universality of human experiences in contemporary and innovative ways.

Úna graduated in 2022 from University College Dublin with a first in Law with History. Selected credits include Assistant Director on *Of A Midnight Meeting* (Bewley's Café, 2023) and an internship with THISISPOPBABY on *WAKE* (National Stadium, 2024). She has written and directed two original works, *CARLINE* (Pearse Centre, 2024) and *Need Help (No Worries if Not)* (Smock Alley Theatre, 2025).



Anderson de Souza, originally from Brazil, has been based in Dublin for 12 years. Anderson is a graduating theatre producer with over 20 years' experience in dance and theatre. His work with national and international directors reflects a deep commitment to collaboration, inclusivity and artistic excellence. A versatile performer, choreographer and movement researcher, he engages people of all ages and abilities, including those with profound needs. With advanced training in Ballet, Contemporary, Musical and Modern Dance, he brings a dynamic, embodied perspective to producing, one rooted in physical storytelling, interdisciplinary practice and a passion for accessible, impactful performance across diverse creative platforms.



Bernie Bourke is the founder of the Donahies School of Drama. Her directing credits include: The Mai; Blood Brothers; Like a Virgin; and Of Mice and Men, which all showcased at The Helix. She is Co-Founder of Mná Caointe, a bilingual project examining JM Synge's seminal works, she has produced an Irish language audio version of *Riders to the Sea/Chun na Farraige Síos* and is planning a tri-lingual stage production of The Shadow of the Glen. As Co-Founder of Teatro Nua. Bernie produced the premiere of Kyron Bourke's *No Citation* at the Lyric Belfast (2022) and again at Smock Alley Theatre (2024).



Jack Shanley

Jack Shanley is a producer and stage manager from Dublin, where he graduated from Theatre Studies: Performance at Inchicore College of Further Education in 2014 and Drama & Theatre Studies at Trinity College Dublin in 2022. Jack is proud to be part of The Lir's inaugural MFA in Theatre Producing during which he has areatly strengthened his passion to work in theatre and live performance. Credits include work with: Four Rivers Theatre Company; Breda Cashe Productions; Pat Moylan; The Gate Theatre; Gift Horse Theatre; LemonSoap Productions; bluehouse theatre; Broad Strokes; Dublin Theatre Festival; and Dublin Fringe Festival.



Muirenn Lyons

Muirenn Lyons is a theatre producer, maker, and performer from Westmeath. Her training includes TUD Conservatoire, Bow Street and Ecole Philippe Gaulier. Muirenn is an advocate for inclusive theatre with a goal of creating impactful, courageous and diverse productions for all ages. Producing credits include: Cock by Mike Bartlett (director Katie O'Halloran, Smock Alley Boys' School); Adelphi '63 by Laura Brady (director Seimi Campbell, Scene&Heard 2025); Should I Stay or Should I Go? by Kevin Leavy; Trolley'd and Who Pays the Bill? by Alix Bailey; The Haunted Host with Melia Theatre; and assistant producer Blister by Siofra O'Meara (Dublin Fringe Festival 2022).



Maria

Pilar Maria is a physical theatre artist from Phoenix, Arizona. While Pilar's practice focuses on clown and commedia dell'arte , she most recently has been choreographing drag and burlesque acts. She has previously studied at the National Theatre Institute and Accademia Dell'Arte and has a degree in Theatre (Acting) from Arizona State University. Pilar writes and performs creative work that has a queer focus and works on ensemble-based productions that come from places of healing. Pilar strives to create theatre that is not only inclusive but impacts people of all ages and demographics.

MFA IN STAGE DESIGN (SET, COSTUME & LIGHTING) STUDENTS



Cecilia Mondadori is a Brazilian set designer and architect, graduating from Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie in São Paulo in 2020. She works across set design, architecture and exhibitions, seeking to integrate these fields to expand the possibilities of scenic space. For her, set design is an experimental process that must engage with the narrative and search for what is essential to the scene. After completing her Master in Stage Design at The Lir Academy, she is interested in continuing to explore projects in unconventional spaces, creating multidisciplinary experiences that challenge traditional stage boundaries and rethink the broader role of space.



Eugenia Genunchi

Eugenia Genunchi is a Stage Designer as well as Model maker based in Dublin. She is a graduate of Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology with an honors degree in Model making, Design and Special Effects. She has worked professionally in theatre and film for the past decade in various roles which includes Set Design/ Set Decorator/ Prop Maker/ Scenic Artist and Stage SFX. Eugenia's love of practical craftsmanship and artistry takes centre-stage across her work, through hands-on exploration and experimentation. With a keen eye for detail and a comprehensive understanding of diverse techniques and material, she brings imaginative visions to life.



Jodie Doyle

Jodie Doyle is a designer and writer from Dublin. She has a BA in English Literature with Creative Writing from UCD, where she was an avid member of Dramasoc, working on over 25 productions during her time there, winning awards for Hair & Makeup and Costume Design at the Irish Student Drama Awards. Jodie is a founding member of Jaxbanded Theatre Company, designing for *Hyper* (Scene&Heard 2023, Dublin Fringe Festival 2023, Edinburgh Fringe 2024), and *HateFuck* which she wrote and designed for (director Ois O'Donoghue, New Theatre, 2024). She's interested in design and theatre that is collaborative, contemporary, women-led, and emphasises queer voices.



Lisa Della Chiesa is a textile artist and costume designer with First Class Honours in Textile Art & Artefact from NCAD. She also studied Textile & Fashion Design at MOME University in Budapest. Her work explores storytelling through textiles, using the body as a canvas. She creates wearable sculptures inspired by themes like body dysmorphia, consumption and climate change. Lisa has worked for designer Lucinda Graham on projects such as *Nothing Compares*. She was the costume designer for Screen Ireland-funded short films *Over The Moon* and *Bump*. Passionate about electronic music, dance and performance art, Lisa loves designing for stage and screen.

lisadellachiesaportfolio.com

MFA IN STAGE DESIGN (SET, COSTUME & LIGHTING) STUDENTS



Matteo Scaburri is an English/Italian designer based in rural West Dorset. He studied Film Practice at the University of the Arts London, beginning as a scriptwriter and sound designer before specialising in production and costume design. He has designed for films that premiered at festivals and ran Morocco Bound, a London bookshop and poetry night. After graduating, he assisted set designer Rufus Martin on a Sky History Channel programme and two operas, *Madame Butterfly* and *Under The Greenwood Tree*, for the Dorset Opera Festival. Alongside assisting roles, he develops personal projects, recently designing sets for the dystopian fashion photo series *Mosquito*.



Triin Kolmkant Triin Kolmkant is a costume designer working in both theatre and film. She holds a BA in Costume Design from South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences. Her studies included an exchange semester at the Academy of Arts & Design in Bratislava, Slovakia, where she focused on scenography, as well as a year at Birmingham City University in the United Kingdom, specialising in costume design and costume making. She has gained international experience in theatre, film, and television, working in a variety of roles including Costume Designer, Costume Standby, Breakdown Artist and Dressmaker. **GRADUATING ACTING STUDENTS**





Adam Daniel Dolan

Amy Macken



Aoife Browne



Charlotte Cleary



Dominic Raymond



Ella Tagg



Fintan Kinsella

Hannah Nordberg

Jack Hassett



Jack Morey



GRADUATING STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDENTS



_____ TECHNICAL CREW

Ally-Ann Traynor Jack Clare Lina Lambert Naoise O'Connor Oisin Dutton Shona McFadyen

_____ SET & STAGE CREW

Aimee Hartigan Aoife Byrne Anna Jirouskova Briana Gawley Lily Conway Madison Tredway

_____ SCENIC & STAGE

Amy Auden Hannah Mcllwaine Kevin Smyth Lovelle Giebe Rebecca Egan

____ COSTUME DEPARTMENT

Aimee Cullen Caoimhe Glynmartin Charlotte Sloan Eduarda Scopel Fialho Emma Hughes Kate Nugent

_____ PROPS

Adam Rafter Alex Thein Em Kelleher Megan Conlan

Welcome back to our Lir graduates working on this production from our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

____ INFO

Booking Tickets

Book tickets and find out more about shows at The Lir Academy in the What's On section of our website thelir.ie/events

Content Warnings

Please note that these productions contain adult themes that may be disturbing to some patrons. Feel free to contact our box office if you would like to discuss this further or discuss it in person with our front of house team. Contact details – boxoffice@thelir.ie or on 01 8962559.

Social Media

Follow GradFest on our social media channels #gradfest2025

_____ THANK YOU

Special thanks from our production teams to Child Vision Garden Centre in Drumcondra, Eimer Murphy from the Abbey Theatre, Amy Berryman, Blátnaid Gallagher and Michelle Legge from the Galway Wool Co-Operative, Brigitta Varadi and Seán Kilkelly.

Many thanks to our staff and tutors who have supported the realisation of this production.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters who give so generously to our students. As always, we are immensely grateful to our bursary supporters who work with us to ensure that training at The Lir Academy is made possible for more emerging talent.

_____ SUPPORT US

The Lir Academy is a registered charity (RCN: 20076689) and financially independent of Trinity College Dublin. As a non-profit, any box office, commercial or fundraised income goes back into the work we do. This includes financial student supports, mental health supports and outreach programmes to widen access and equality of training to our programmes. So, your decision to train with us, see a show, be our Friend or become a donor helps keep the actors, technicians and creatives of the future in education. Please see more at thelir.ie/supportus. Thank you.

_ THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

