



NATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF DRAMATIC ART



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# GRAD FEST 2022

Mon 15 Aug – Thur 01 Sept  
Book online at [www.thelir.ie](http://www.thelir.ie)

— **GRADFEST 2022** is a season of productions directed and designed by this year's MFA students. The four plays being produced are a culmination of an intensive year of hands-on training in theatre directing, 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 final and second-year Stage Management and Technical Theatre students.



Image: Toni Bailey, MFA Stage Design 2022





# RED

by John Logan

Monday 15th August – Thursday 18th August at 7:30pm

Preview: Monday 15th August at 7:30pm

Matinee: Thursday 18th August at 1:00pm

Studio Two – The Lir Academy

## THE PRODUCTION

“No... I will make it a temple.”

After finally breaking out of the shadow of obscurity artist Mark Rothko is given the commission of a lifetime. To create a series of murals for the Four Seasons restaurant in Midtown Manhattan in exchange for thirty-five thousand dollars. And yet he stalls.

A young aspiring painter is hired to assist him and as the two artists grapple with the task, questions surrounding the heavy burden of legacy, the meaning of art and its inevitable costs begin to surface. Threatened by the cynical reality of the art world, could Rothko's masterpiece become his downfall?

A vibrant drama based on true events; RED is a layered portrait of the raw act of creation and the birth of an artist.

## CAST

Rothko  
Ken

Simon Alteen  
Emmet Farrell

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director  
Set Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Sound Design  
Hair and Makeup

Maku Sisáková  
Clara Cohen  
Toni Bailey  
Pedro Pacheco  
Padraig Ryan  
Val Sherlock

## PRODUCTION HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Stage Manager	Maeve Smyth
Assistant Stage Manager	Ross Smith
Assistant Production Manager	Luke Jenkins
Set Construction	Sean Cassidy Tyrell
Costume Supervisor	Maisey Lorimer
Lighting Chief	Iain Synnott
Lighting Programmer	Josh Quigley Power
Scenic Artist	Aimee Crilly
Sound Department	Leo Sheridan
Sound Department	Tom Barry

“RED” premiered at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London (3 December 2009). Michael Grandage, Artistic Director Original Broadway Production Produced by Arielle Tepper Madover, Stephanie P. McClelland, Matthew Byam Shaw, Neal Street Productions, Fox Theatricals, Ruth Hendel/Barbara Whitman, Philip Hagemann/Murray Rosenthal and The Donmar Warehouse.

Image Credit: Dan Collins

*To artists old and new, may you never sign menus for money.*



# THE MAIDS

By Jean Genet in a translation by Martin Crimp

Tuesday 16th August – Friday 19th August at 7:00pm  
Preview: Tuesday 16th August at 7:00pm  
Matinee: Friday 19th August at 1:00pm  
Studio One – The Lir Academy

## THE PRODUCTION

"Their truth is always  
elsewhere..."  
– Jean-Paul Sartre

Two maids spend their  
evenings playacting the ritual  
strangulation of their employer.

But, one day, the game takes a  
turn and they find themselves  
prisoners in their own plot.

Inspired by the real-life crime  
of the Papin sisters, *The Maids*  
is an apocalyptic whirlwind that  
explores the human desire to  
find meaning in life.

## CAST

The Mistress	Cúán Hosty - Blaney
Claire	David Rawle
Solange	Konstantin Stanchev

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Kady Duffy
Set Design	Caroline O'Connor*
Costume Design	Victor Sanchez Manso
Lighting Design	Colin Doran*
Sound Design	Cameron Macaulay
Hair and Makeup	Val Sherlock

## PRODUCTION HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Stage Manager	Rachel Ellen Bollard
Assistant Stage Manager	Dara Gill
Assistant Production Manager	Luke Jenkins
Set Construction	Emmet 'Brady' Dunne
Sound Department	Tom Barry
Sound Department	Leo Sheridan
Costume Supervisor	Aoife Malin
Lighting Chief	Archer Bradshaw
Lighting Programmer	Lucy Varley
Scenic Artist	Thomas O'Shea

\* Welcome back to all The Lir Graduates  
working on these productions

Image Credit: Exercise in Cubism  
by Caroline O'Connor\*



# SCENES WITH GIRLS

By Miriam Battye

Saturday 27th August – Wednesday 31st August at 7:30pm  
Preview: Saturday 27th August at 7:30pm  
Matinee: Wednesday 31st August at 1:00pm  
Studio Two – The Lir Academy



## THE PRODUCTION

"At school, were you one of the girls who talked about snogging, or assessment objectives?"

Other friends have come, got boyfriends and gone. So what? Tosh and Lou have each other.

They swear they'll never be like the other girls. They refuse to sit in a narrative someone else thought up. They don't need a happily ever after – they're not interested in becoming clichés.

This is love. This is enough...isn't it?

A searing interrogation of female friendship; all its beauty, power, toxicity and contradictions.

## CAST

Lou	Aoife Morgan Jones
Tosh	Hannah Brady
Fran	Rachel Charny

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Ursula McGinn
Set Design	Florentina Burcea*
Costume Design	Toni Bailey
Lighting Design	Israel del Barco*
Sound Design	Lara Gallagher
Hair and Makeup	Val Sherlock

## PRODUCTION HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Stage Manager	Eoin Daly
Assistant Stage Manager	Emily O'Riordan
Assistant Production Manager	Luke Jenkins
Set Construction	Sean Cassidy Tyrrell
Scenic Artist	Thomas O'Shea
Sound Department	Leo Sheridan
Sound Department	Tom Barry
Costume Supervisor	Hanna Novak
Lighting Chief	Oisín McMahon
Lighting Programmer	Josh Quigley Power

Boy	Cúán Hosty-Blaney
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Copyright by Miriam Battye  
Copyright Agent: Alex Rusher  
of Independent Talent Group Ltd.  
40 Whitfield Street, London W1T2RH.

Image Credit: Dan Cretu

\* Welcome back to all The Lir Graduates  
working on these productions



# APPROPRIATE

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Tuesday 30th August – Thursday 1st September at 7:00pm  
Preview: Tuesday 30th August at 7:00pm  
Matinee: Thursday 1st September at 1:00pm  
Studio One – The Lir Academy

## THE PRODUCTION

“Can we sit around being casually dysfunctional later and focus for one second?”

The estranged Lafayette family descend upon their crumbling Arkansas homestead to settle the accounts of their recently deceased Father.

As his three adult children sort through a lifetime of hoarded memories while colliding over the house’s debris and debt, something is lurking just under the surface.

But when disturbing discoveries surface among their father’s possessions, the reunion takes a turn, and the family is forced to confront the sins of their Father.

## CAST

Antoinette ‘Toni’ Lafayette	Kia Gates
Rachael Kramer-Lafayette	Karen Kelly
Cassidy Kramer-Lafayette	Pattie Maguire
River Rayner	Shona Gibson*
Rhys Thurston	Peter Rothwell
Beauregarde ‘Bo’ Lafayette	Oliver Flitcroft
François ‘Franz/Frank’ Lafayette	Daniel Mahon
Ansley Kramer-Lafayette	Gus Holmes

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Joy Nesbitt
Set Design	Fibs Porto
Costume Design	Juliana Schmidt
Lighting Design	Sophie Cassidy
Sound Design	Iain Faulker and Leon Henry
Hair and Makeup	Val Sherlock

## PRODUCTION HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Stage Manager	Alannah O’Leary
Assistant Stage Manager	David Brydone
Assistant Production Manager	Luke Jenkins
Set Construction	Emmet ‘Brady’ Dunne
Scenic Artist	Aimee Crilly
Costume Department	Gráinne Earley
Lighting Chief and Programmer	Melania Sułowska
Sound Department	Tom Barry
Sound Department	Leo Sheridan

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Plays Ltd. This is an amateur production

Image Credit: Copyright Ken Gonzales-Day  
Insta @kengonzalesday  
Twitter @kengonzalesday

\* Welcome back to all The Lir Graduates working on these productions

*We’d like to give eternal gratitude to our families, our friends, our confidants, and our ancestors*

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## MFA GRADUATING STUDENTS

### STAGE DESIGN INCLUDING LIGHTING, COSTUME AND SET DESIGN

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Clara  
Cohen

**Clara Cohen** is a Set and Scenic Designer from France. Upon completing her studies in Literature and Architecture, Clara went on to graduate with a Masters in History of Art. She has since worked as an assistant set designer for the past two years assisting with theatre productions, Ballet and Opera.

Clara has recently worked as a set designer as part of the "Festival International d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence". As a result of her experience to date, Clara was eager to further develop her own artistic signature and technical skills leading her to begin her studies in stage design at The Lir Academy.



Fibs  
Porto

**Fibs Porto** is an Architect and Designer from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She graduated from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC Rio) in 2017 with a Bachelor's in Architecture and Urbanism. After that, she moved to São Paulo, where she worked as a collaborator at an architectural studio, acting as the architect in charge of projects for events, exhibitions, and concerts. Highlights from this include the Johnnie Walker Women's Month event with Gilberto Gil and the Björk Digital Exhibition in São Paulo, Brasília, and Rio de Janeiro.

Fibs moved to Dublin, Ireland, in 2021 to start her MFA in Stage Design at The Lir Academy, where she is majoring in set design and minoring in dramaturgy. Her focus will be on ecological design, taking into consideration how the decisions made throughout the whole process will affect the environment and society.

Fibs is one of the recipients of the Haddad Fellowship Scholarship 2022.



Juliana  
Schmidt

**Juliana Schmidt** is studying for an MFA in Stage Design at The Lir Academy where she is majoring in Costume Design.

Juliana studied Fashion Design at Anhembi Morumbi University in São Paulo, Brazil. She has worked in multiple areas in the fashion industry including styling, manufacturing, fashion journalism and e-commerce.

In 2017, she founded the Hype Vintage brand to rescue and customise second-hand garments. In 2019, she also became a creative sewing teacher and a volunteer in women's empowerment projects. She has always been fascinated by costumes and started creating small theatre productions and dance performances at the University of Campinas (Unicamp) while writing about her favourite film and TV costumes on Instagram.

Juliana is one of the recipients of the Haddad Fellowship.



Pedro  
Pacheco

**Pedro Pacheco** is a lighting designer and producer from Brazil. He has been working in lighting design since 2017 and graduated from the Scenic Production Technology Programme at the Federal University of Paraná (Brazil) in 2020. Since then, he has worked extensively as a designer across multiple productions in theatre, dance, music, and outdoor events across Brazil. He won two prizes for the best lighting design with the play "Casarão da Rua Malinowa", directed by Jester Furtado. This experience in the industry has allowed Pedro to further develop his working knowledge as a theatre technician, programmer, and designer for events.

Pedro is one of the recipients of the Haddad Fellowship Scholarship. This has created the opportunity for him to pursue his dream of becoming a professional lighting designer by studying for an MFA in Stage Design at The Lir Academy.



Sophie  
Cassidy

**Sophie Cassidy** is a Lighting Designer and Technician from Drogheda, Co. Louth. They graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies, during which they specialised in lighting design and devising. During their time in Trinity, Sophie designed shows in both the Samuel Beckett Theatre and the Dublin University Players Theatre. They served as the inaugural Festival Technician for the Trinity Arts Festival.

Recently Sophie has designed: "Shakers" at Smock Alley Boys School, directed by Claudia Kinahan; "Gaia" at the Samuel Beckett Theatre, directed by Jade Silk Featherstone; and "Nine Weeks" alongside Ciaran O'Melia as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival. As well as designing, they have been working as a lighting technician in various venues throughout Dublin, Drogheda and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Sophie's other pursuits include production management, youth work, and playwriting. Most recently their play "Tech! The Musical" was selected by Youth Theatre Ireland as one of their new plays for Playshare 2021.



Toni  
Bailey

**Toni Bailey** previously studied Costume Design at Inchicore College of Further Education. She has a wealth of experience in film and TV, specifically working in makeup and special effects but has always found herself returning to her passion for costume.

Toni is looking forward to exploring dramaturgy this year along with the new experiences that her focus on costume will bring.



Víctor Sánchez  
Manso

**Víctor Sánchez Manso** is a recent graduate in Design at the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain.

Victor has been actively engaged with theatre from a young age. At the age of eight, he became a member of an amateur musical theatre group where he began performing as an actor. Over time, he took an interest in other disciplines such as set construction, prop making, stage management, musical direction and choreography.

While studying Design at University, Víctor began to fully embrace all aspects of designing for the stage. During the final two years of his degree, Víctor was accepted into the CTE (Centre of Technical Theatre), a school in Madrid dedicated to the education and training of theatre technicians. From there he enrolled in set construction, prop making and stage crew disciplines.

Following these studies, Víctor has come to The Lir Academy to finesse his professional ambitions by studying for an MFA Stage Design.



Joy  
Nesbitt

**Joy Nesbitt** is a theatrical director and musician originally from Dallas, Texas. She is a recent graduate of Harvard University with a dual degree in Social Anthropology and Music, as well as a secondary in Theater, Dance and Media. In her art, she is primarily interested in the search to define and explore personal identity in every sense of the word. Joy is a 2021 recipient of the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts for the sum of her artistic activities as a student at Harvard.

Joy's productions have included: "Reflections" by Joy Nesbitt and Pedro Pacheco (2022), "Canonical" by Scout Black (2022), "Reasons to be Pretty" by Neil LaBute (2021); "R+J: An Ultramodern Fantasia" by William Shakespeare (2020); "God of Carnage" by Yasmina Reza (2020); and "Dreamgirls" by Henry Krieger and Tom Eyer (2020). She has also directed musical productions such as "Mamma Mia" (2019) and "A Very Potter Musical" (2018).

She has assisted productions at the American Repertory Theater in Boston, Massachusetts such as "Jack and the Beanstalk" (2021, dir. Rebecca Aparicio) and "We Live in Cairo" (2019, dir. Taibi Magar).

Joy has also worked as an Early BIPOC Theater-Maker at the Williamstown Theater Festival in association with Black Theater United. She is currently a George J. Mitchell Scholar through the US-Ireland Alliance as she studies at The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts in Dublin, Ireland.



Kady  
Duffy

**Kady Duffy** is an actor and director based in Annecy, France. Originally from the United States, she graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts and French from the University of Iowa and holds a certificate of theatre studies from the Regional Conservatory of the Haute-Savoie.

She is the co-founder and artistic director of the theatre company, District 41. Directing credits include the 2020 French premiere of "The Wolves" by Sarah Delaphe, which she translated, and the one-woman short, "(Un)saintly Joan". Kady was assistant director to Danya Taymor for the 2022 Gate Theatre production of Samuel Beckett's Endgame.



Maku  
Sisáková

**Maku Sisáková** is a theatre director from Prague. It was there she discovered her directorial passion at the age of nine by boycotting Nativity plays in her elementary school and replacing them with her unlicensed take on "We Will Rock You, The Musical". Much of her free time was spent around Prague's English-speaking theatre community, which exposed her to an entirely different theatre tradition.

In high school, Maku led the drama club and worked as an actress at the Blood, Love & Rhetoric theatre, where she directed her first original play, "Vienna". Maku proceeded to spend four years in London, where she completed her LLB at King's College London, and also completed a year in LAMDA, studying for a PTASS (Production & Technical Arts: Stage & Screen).

Returning to Prague in 2020, she founded the Sady 10 Apartment Theatre creating site-specific theatre inspired by the history of the building she grew up in. Throughout the various cracks and crevices of lockdown, Sady 10 produced "The Corona Monologues", a collaborative piece of new writing centring around the Covid-19 pandemic. Maku's ambition is to develop Sady 10 into a full theatre company.



Ursula  
McGinn

**Ursula McGinn** is a theatre-maker; working between Kildare and Dublin. She works as a director, facilitator and stage manager, producing theatre for all ages. Ursula is Co-Artistic Director of Bombinate Theatre, an award-winning theatre company, creating plays and workshops for families and young audiences, most notably "Half Light" and "Susie and the Story Shredder".

Ursula's recent directing credits include "Hunt" (Playacting Youth Theatre, The Lyric Belfast as part of NT Connections 2022), "Goodnight Egg" (Bombinate Theatre, DCC Tour 2022, digital release 2021), "The Windstealers" (Dublin Youth Theatre, 2021) and "What You Will" (Carlow Youth Theatre, VISUAL Carlow, 2019).

Her recent assistant directing credits include: "The River" (Cathal Cleary, The Lir Academy), ("Rescue Annie" (Lauren Shannon Jones & Eoghan Carrick, Dublin Fringe Festival 2021), "Before You Say Anything" (MALAPROP, Dublin Fringe Festival 2020) and "BlackCatfishMusketeer" (MALAPROP, Touring Director, Inside-Out, Beijing, The Lyric Belfast 2019), "Susie and the Story Shredder" (Bombinate Theatre, National Tour 2019, Dublin Fringe 2018).

Her associate directing credits include: "Susie and the Story Shredder" (Fringe 2018, National Tour 2019), "Infinity" (Vaults Festival 2019, winner of the First Fortnight Award at Dublin Fringe 2018) and "Summertime" (Murmuration, Dublin Fringe Festival 2018).

Ursula graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2017 with a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies.



## GRADUATING ACTING STUDENTS



Aoife  
Morgan Jones

Cúán  
Hosty-Blaney

Daniel  
Mahon

David  
Rawle

Emmet  
Farrell



Hannah  
Brady

Karen  
Kelly

Kia  
Gates

Konstantin  
Stanchev

Oliver  
Flitcroft



Pattie  
Maguire

Peter  
Rothwell

Rachel  
Charny

Simon  
Alteen

Sophie  
Lenglinger

## GRADUATING STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDENTS



Adam  
Malone

Alannah  
O'Leary Murray



Eoin  
Daly

Lucy  
Varley

## TECHNICAL CREW

Alison O'Shea  
Avram Rosewood  
Chris Nolan  
David McGee (ASM)  
Peter Bond  
Sarah Doyle  
Thomas Wall

## SET & STAGE CREW

Cathal Brace  
Isaac Mc Grath Long  
Jovetta Tan Ler Sin  
Maeve Talbot  
Oliver Kampman

## SCENIC & STAGE

Alison Meehan  
Arden Tierney  
Callum Stanley  
Dragana Stevanic  
Jenna Crossan  
TJ Danielsson

## COSTUME DEPARTMENT

Alessandro Molina  
Bianca Baguio  
Chiara Mangold  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Niamh McGrath  
Thea Dong

## ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Luke Jenkins

## SOUND DEPARTMENT HOD'S

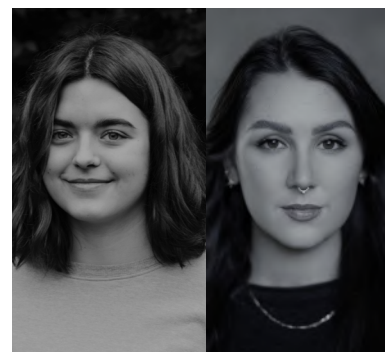
Tom Barry  
Leo Sheridan

## SCENIC DEPARTMENT HOD'S

Aimee Crilly  
Thomas O'Shea

## VENUE TECHNICIAN

Thomas 'Tony' Allen



Mela  
Sułowska

Rachel Ellen  
Bollard

## BOOKING TICKETS

Book tickets and find out more about shows at The Lir in the What's On section of our website [thelir.ie/events](http://thelir.ie/events)

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to our staff and tutors who have supported the realisation of this production. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Dan Cretu and Ken Gonzales-Day for the kind use of their images in these productions.

Special thanks to the Gate Theatre, The Abbey Theatre and Pádraig O'Riordan.

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.

\* Welcome back to all The Lir Graduates working on these productions

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# TRAIN AT THE LIR ACADEMY

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