

Scripted: A Showcase of Excerpts from New Plays by MFA Playwrights 2025

Saturday, 13th September, 2025, 3:00pm, The Lir Academy, Studio 1

Director: Emily Foran

Lighting Design: Bill Woodland

Stage Manager: Rosie Turpin

Cast: Aidan Moriarty, Clare Barrett, Pattie Maguire, Ruairi Conaghan and Shaun O'Callaghan

Course Director: Graham Whybrow, tutors include Thomas Conway, Gavin Kostick and Karin McCully

Many thanks to the Curley family for their continued support of *Scripted*, the Patricia Leggett Scholarship, and the Playwriting programme at The Lir Academy.

Playwrights and Plays



Ciara Hanley - *Dublin Underground*

Ciara is a Dublin-born writer and actor, and the recipient of this year's Patricia Leggett Scholarship for Playwriting. In 2022, Ciara chaired UCD's Dramatic Society, while also completing the final year of her English and Drama Studies degree, and wrote her first full-length play, *Out Out*, which was performed at that year's Edinburgh Free Fringe festival.

Naturally, Ciara then went on to work in marketing.

Two years later, a Bow Street screen acting course, and a novel-in-progress later, Ciara eventually copped that selling ad space was not her calling, and committed to a career in the arts.

She hopes that you enjoy today's excerpt from her latest work, *Dublin Underground*. This is a city comedy about the cyclical nature of Irish economics and emigration, performing identity, and the age-old question: are we ever getting that bloody metro?



Aoife Cronin - *Stunning / Sticking*

Aoife is a writer and director from County Meath who is interested in the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves. She is the Co-Director of AIMSIR Theatre and wrote and co-directed their debut production *Uncanny Valley* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2024.

Her previous writing/directing credits include *ORBIT* (Scene and Heard Festival of New Work, 2022; Irish Society Drama Awards, 2023) and *SPILLED MILK* (Samuel Beckett Theatre, 2023).

Aoife was part of the inaugural Irish team at BORDERS, a project for young European filmmakers funded by the Cultural Olympiad in Nantes, France. Aoife is a recipient of the Trinity College Foundation Scholarship, in Drama and Theatre Studies.



Paula Rodríguez Caballero – *The Horse on the Mountain*

Paula Rodríguez Caballero is a Spanish writer from Madrid. She graduated in filmmaking with a specialisation in screenwriting. Paula received a first class honours in her final thesis about the Spanish writer, actor and director, Fernando Fernán Gómez, which she is working on to publish as a book. She has collaborated in short films with various directors in their writing process, the last project she participated in was *Maruja*. Paula has also been involved in different audiovisual projects, like videoclips and TV programmes, working in

the art and directing department. Paula also has a full-length film script waiting to be produced.

During the last few years in the film industry, she became passionate about theatre. Hearing that call, she decided to move to Dublin and take the next step in her writing career.

Her debut is *The Horse on the Mountain*, a tale woven with Spanish and Irish influences exploring themes such as identity, rural life and the importance of historical memory under the mysticism of magical realism



Íde Simpson - *We're Still Here*

Íde is a writer, actor, and producer. She most recently wrote and produced *Cailíní*, which premiered at the Samuel Beckett Theatre and thereafter moved to the Lyric Theatre in Belfast. She produced the play with her production company ABLAZE Productions and also acted in the play, playing the role of Úna Mahon. She holds a distinction in her Speech and Drama: Performance Studies diploma in acting from LAMDA, and soon after played the role of Ruth in David Ireland's *Ulster American* in the Samuel Beckett Theatre.

She has just developed a play with the support of the British Council, and the Lyric Theatre in Belfast, as part of the 'Words Without Borders' scheme. Her play, *Listen! The Adults are Talking*, was subsequently performed in Mumbai, with another play of hers, *Childsplay*, running in the Etcetera Theatre in Camden last June. She has just completed a six-week bursary with the Irish Writer's Centre, her poem *You and I: Dancing* was recently published in Fortnight Magazine, and her poem *Night Walk Alone* published in Icarus Magazine.