



Board of Directors

Irene White (Chair)

Irene White is a lecturer and researcher at Dublin City University. Irene lectures in Initial Teacher Education at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Her teaching is primarily in the areas of Drama Education and English Pedagogy. Her research interests include creativity in education, community-engaged participatory arts and human development, cross-curricular applications of arts-based pedagogies, and the application of drama-based techniques in non-theatre contexts. Irene is a member of the Association for Drama in Education in Ireland (ADEI) and a member of the Centre for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) at Dublin City University. Irene is currently on the Board of Directors for Upstate Theatre Project. She previously worked with the company as assistant director and stage manager for Upstate Live and as a facilitator and director with Upstate Local on a range of cross-border, cross-community projects. Her research on the company "Whose art is it anyway? Devising in Participatory Arts and Professional Theatre Practice: A Critical and Historical Analysis of Upstate Theatre Project", appears in Siobhán O'Gorman and Charlotte McIvor's book *Devised Performance in Irish Theatre: Histories and Contemporary Practice* published by Carysfort Press in 2015.

Date of appointment: 21st May 2008

Tara Jenkins (Secretary)

Tara Jenkins developed her arts practice as part of Belfast Community Theatre and has previously worked with Upstate Theatre Project as a facilitator on both youth and adults projects.

Date of appointment: 13th January 2015

Matthew Stout

Matthew Stout is a lecturer in the Department of History, School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. He holds a BA and PhD from Trinity College. His research interests include Early Medieval Irish history and Irish landscape studies. He was co-editor of the best-selling *Atlas of the Irish Rural landscape* (Cork 1997, 2011) and amongst his other publications are studies of Irish ringforts, and the results of research excavations in the Boyne Valley. Matthew's involvement with Upstate stems from a background in youth employment schemes and a lifelong love of the theatre. He lives in Julianstown, County Meath.

Date of appointment: 1st October 2007

Paddy Goodwin

Paddy Goodwin is a blues and rock musician, performing as Paddy Goodwin and the Holy Ghosts, and The Trouble Pilgrims. He also a practicing solicitor.

Date of appointment: 1st February 2012

John Ruddy

John Ruddy is a group facilitator and youth and community worker, currently working with Outcomers LGBT Support Service in Dundalk. John previously worked with Connect Family Resource Centre, the Irish Traveller Movement and the Farney Youth Support and Development Project. John also has experience in the arts sector, having worked with Calipo Theatre and Picture Company, Upstate Theatre Project and Droichead Youth Theatre in a variety of roles over many years, including actor, technician, stage manager, drama facilitator and project coordinator.

Date of appointment: 12th October 2015

Sinead O'Loughlin

Sinéad O'Loughlin is a Writer and Director from Co. Wicklow. She has an MA in Drama & Theatre and a BA in English, Media & Cultural Studies. Theatre work includes 'Wake' (Boyle Arts Festival, Electric Picnic, Galway Youth Theatre Festival -WINNER Best New Writing) and co-creator and director of 'Amy I want to make you hard' (Dublin Fringe Festival 2011). She has also worked as a drama facilitator in community settings, creating theatre performances with community members out of shared lived experience. Short fiction includes 'That first night', published by the Irish Independent New Irish Writing Magazine in 2012 and 'Sunday', published in Anthology of New Writing commissioned by DLRC (Dublin) in 2014. Her first short film Homecoming has screened at festivals nationally and internationally winning five awards including Best Irish Narrative at Kerry Film Festival 2016, Best Short Film at Fingal Arts Festival 2017 and the audience award for Best Short Film at Chicago Irish Film Festival 2018. Homecoming screened on RTÉ2 in May 2018. Most recently, she directed the BAI funded radio play Desert Island by new writer John Casey, produced by Near FM. She is currently in development with Arcade Film for two new short films, funded by County Wicklow Arts Office.

Date of appointment: 14th March 2017

John Leech

John has spent his entire career in the digital space, initially building digital solutions to solve customers' business problems through his work in IBM and then using digital technology to build a significant eCommerce business in Europe for Lenovo.

Date of appointment: 7th November 2017

Rose Sullivan

Rose was a teacher in Drogheda for many years where she developed an interest in process drama, valuing its importance both as a tool for teaching and as a means of education and self-development for children. Rose also worked with the Travelling Community in Co. Louth for over ten years. She was part of an amateur drama group for some years and went on to complete a course in Community Drama with Smashing Times Theatre Company, exploring the value of drama as a means of looking at issues both local and national, and empowering and giving a voice to people and groups. Rose is delighted to join the board of Upstate Theatre Project.

Date of appointment: 13th December 2018