



THE ULSTER DRAMA FESTIVAL

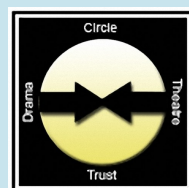
THE 71ST

ULSTER DRAMA FESTIVAL

The Best of Amateur Drama

**Six nights of excellent drama from the
top amateur teams**

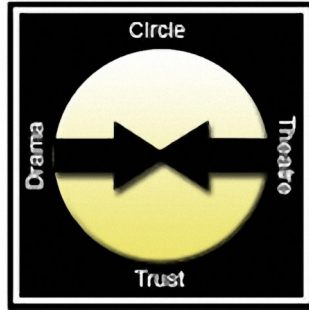
Adjudicator: Ailbhe Garvey-Hughes ADA



www.thecourtyardtheatre.com

www.theaudf.org.uk

The Association of Ulster Drama Festivals would like to extend its thanks for the generous sponsorship and support of the following:



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The 70th Ulster Drama Festival

Organised by the
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Our President: Dan Gordon

The Magic of Theatre

Welcome to these highly anticipated Ulster Drama Finals! Tonight, we gather to celebrate the art of storytelling, the passion of performance, and the magic that unfolds on stage. The AUDF finals are a testament to dedication, creativity, and hard work and we are thrilled to share this evening with you.

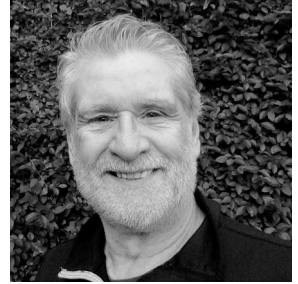
We extend heartfelt gratitude to those performers, directors, and backstage crew who have devoted countless hours to bring these productions to life. Your talents and commitment shine brightly, and it is a privilege to witness your artistry.

To our esteemed adjudicators who have got us to this point, thank you for your expertise and for taking on the difficult task of evaluating these remarkable performances. Your insights and feedback are invaluable to the growth and development of our talented actors.

And most importantly, to our audience, thank you for your unwavering support. Your presence here tonight is not only a source of encouragement but also a celebration of the spirit that theatre fosters. We hope you enjoy the diverse array of performances, each one offering a unique glimpse into the human experience.

As we embark on this unforgettable journey together, let us applaud the courage and creativity of every participant. May the stories told tonight inspire, entertain, and leave a lasting impression on our hearts. Enjoy the show!

Dan Gordon



The Mayor's Welcome

Our Chairperson: Clare Greer

Clare Greer
Chair AUDF



Our Adjudicator: Ailbhe Garvey-Hughes ADA

Ailbhe has been involved in theatre for most of her life. She holds a fellowship from Thames Valley University and a Licentiate from Trinity College.

Her experience began as an actor in amateur drama, where she won the Best Actress award playing Jill Tanner in *Butterflies Are Free* at the All Ireland Finals in Athlone: later playing in many productions in An Taihbdearc, Galway's Irish Language Theatre.

She played with the internationally renowned Druid Theatre Company in many productions including at the Dublin and Edinburgh Theatre Festivals. These productions include; *A Galway Girl*, *The Pursuit of Pleasure*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Sam Shepard's *Action*, Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Bernard Farrell's *I Do Not Like Thee Dr Fell*, Brian Friel's *Philadelphia Here I Come*, Eugene O'Neill's *A Touch Of The Poet*, Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn*.

Ailbhe has worked as an actor, director, adjudicator and teacher for many decades and has been a member of the Association of Drama Adjudicators since its inception. She is also an adjudicating member of the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Her recent festival engagements include: Strabane, New Ross, Claremorris, Gorey, Doonbeg, North Kerry, Naas, Rossmore and Newry.



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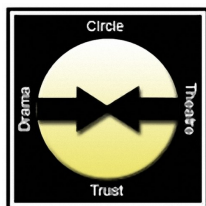
2025 ULSTER DRAMA FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Play
Monday 5th May	8:00 pm	<i>Ghetto</i> by Joshua Sobol Newpoint Players
Tuesday 6th May	8:00 pm	<i>The Woodsman</i> By Steven Fetcher Castleblaney Players
Wednesday 7th May	8:00 pm	<i>Can You Ever Forgive Me?</i> by Ian Mcdonald Rosemary Drama Group
Thursday 8th May	8:00 pm	<i>Art</i> by Yasmina Reza Dundalk Theatre Workshop
Friday 9th May	8:00 pm	<i>The Night Alive</i> by Conor McPherson Slemish Players
Saturday 10th May	7:30pm	<i>Ulster American</i> by David Ireland Balally Players

Each performance is followed immediately by an adjudication by Ailbhe Garvey-Hughes ADA. Please stay and hear her comments about the play you have just watched.

The performance on Saturday starts at **7:30 pm** and will be followed by the final adjudication by Ailbhe and the presentation of awards.

DRAMA CIRCLE THEATRE TRUST



Applicants are invited to apply for a grant towards furthering an individual's wish to develop skills in any of the following aspects of theatre:

DIRECTING; ACTING; WRITING; TECHNICAL; DESIGN

Details of conditions may be found and applications may be made at:

www.dramacircletheatretrust.org

LAST DATE for applications is FRIDAY 16th MAY 2025

The Trust is a fund established by the former Circle Theatre and The Drama Circle, Belfast, to provide assistance to individuals in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland who wish to further an interest in all aspects of theatre.

Monday 5th May @ 8:00 pm

Ghetto by Joshua Sobol — Newpoint Players

Cast

Srulik (narrator).....	Anthony Fitzpatrick
Kittel (also Dr. Paul).....	Peter Havern
Weiskopf	Mickey Brannigan
Hayyah	Frances Morgan
Gens	Lowry Hodgett
Dummy.....	Sarah Smith
Kruk.....	Cormac Begley
Gabik	Tobiasz Zycschko
Ooma	Ellen McGuigan
Lili Marlene	Leah Wade
Dessler	Matt Freeman
Haikina	Leah Wade
Executed Female	Lena Chendrowska
Executed Male	Ryan McGarry
Other Parts.....	Members of Newpoint Players
Ghetto Actors	Darren Loy, Grainne O'Flaherty, Amanda McGuigan, Lorcan McGreevy
Ghetto Workers	Elaine Inghram, Annabelle Leddy, Vincent Lowe and others
Nazi Soldiers.....	Jack Murphy, Philip Deane (also Drag Queen)
Jewish Police	Lorcan McGreevy, James McAteer
Guitar and Logistics.....	Donal O'Hanlon, Mickey Murphy

Production Team

Director.....	Sean Treanor
Assistant Directors	Leo Reynolds (Choreography) Declan McConaghy (Lighting/Sound/Technical) Terence Rafferty (Music/ Song)
Stage/Set construction.....	Tom Carville
Set Design/Costume/Art	Mary Goss
Make-up.....	Siobhan Carragher
Stage Team.....	Members of Newpoint Players
Costume	Bernie McParland
Props	Ana Rose Heatley

Synopsis

Set in a Jewish ghetto during WW2 in a Nazi occupied Lithuania, the play explores the experience of Jews living under a harsh occupying army. The play incorporates the traditional songs and jazz music.

This amateur production of **Ghetto** is presented by arrangement with Colin Smythe Ltd, London.

There will be no interval for this production.

Tuesday 6th May @ 8:00 pm

The Woodsman By Steven Fetcher
Castleblaney Players

Cast

Walter Roraidh Irwin
Rosen Ryan McMahon
Carlos Pat Kerley
Nikki Heather Hennessy
Lucas David Maine
Girl/Robin..... Ensemble

Stage Team

Director..... **David Maine**
Set Design David Maine
Lighting/Sound..... Carl McGinn
Tree Sculpture..... Robert Kelly
Crew Conall Duffy, Francis G. Duffy, Nicky Hore

Synopsis

Walter is trying to rehabilitate into society after serving prison time for something no one can forgive him, not even himself, for ... molesting a child. He must battle his demons, resist temptation and confront his past on the impossible path to redemption.

Contains Adult Themes & Coarse Language.

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

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Wednesday 7th May @ 8:00 pm

***Can You Ever Forgive Me?* by Ian McDonald**
Rosemary Drama Group

Cast

Lee Israel Lilian Parkes
Jack Hock..... Mark Irvine
Marjorie Gottlieb Stephanie Leeman
Librarian Ian Lee
Elaine Carrington/Judge Helen Sweet.....Julie-May Noteman
Louise Brooks/Client 1/Gorilla Lady/ Meredith Brown.....Shirley Sweeney
Fanny Brice/Mercedes/Jodie Slaughter/Store OwnerJamie McKinney
Mrs Gershowitz/Usher/Edna Ferber Patricia Lemon
Dorothy Parker/Client 3 Nicole Stewart
Noel Coward/Jaime..... Brian Haslett
Andrew Weiner/Vet..... Alan Kennedy
Lloyd Epstein/Tom Clancy David Ryan
Probation 1/Fed 1 Preston Parke
Probation 2/Fed 2 Lynne Hunter
All other parts played by members of the company

Production Team

Director..... **Ian McDonald**
Stage Manager and Movement Director Brian Haslett
Set design and build Mark Irvine and Richard Dowling
Sound, light, VFX Barton Hunter and Ian McDonald
Costumes Eileen Lee
Props. Barbara Lavelle, Avril Hunter

Synopsis

Lee Israel 1939-2014 Biographer and Literary Forger.

I read the obit and her memoir of her forgery days and went into available material on Lee Israel and wrote a One-Act play. In 2018 a film with more material came out. There was more to be said about this terrible, flawed, fascinating woman. Much was contradictory — we can hardly expect a master forger to be totally truthful about their life and exploits. There was enough to expand it into a full-length play, with a few dramatic liberties along the way. I'm sure Lee wouldn't have minded. Can you ever forgive me?

This amateur production of ***Can You Ever Forgive Me*** is presented by arrangement with the Author Ian McDonald.

Thursday 8th May @ 8:00 pm

Art by Yasmina Reza
Dundalk Theatre Workshop

Cast

Serge Tom Muckian
Marc Sean Whelan
Yvan Tony Markey

Production Team

Director Fergus Mullen
Stage Manager Bernard Dunne
Lighting and Sound Seamus Farrell /Gareth Tuite

Synopsis

The Night Alive by Conor McPherson, tells the story of Tommy, an affable guy who ambles through life, doing a bit of wheeling and dealing with his friend Doc. He has created a squalid living space in his uncle Maurice's crumbling Dublin house. A chance meeting and an act of heroism brings a young woman, Aimee, into his life. Will Tommy be able to provide the safety she needs from the destructive Kenneth? McPherson gives us a humorous, warm and chilling story. It's everchanging switches in mood keeps us captivated, while leaving us asking — what's going on?!

This amateur production of ***The Night Alive*** is by kind permission with Nick Hern Books.

Friday 9th May @ 8:00 pm

***The Night Alive* by Conor McPherson**
Slemish Players

Cast

Tommy Michael Rose
Aimee Roisin Carey
Doc Joe O'Neill
Kenneth Fergus Boyle
Maurice Andy Speirs

Production Team

Director **Josie Corr**
Stage Manager Alex Morrow
Lighting Mervyn Barkman, Lynda Esler
Sound Eugene Neeson
Makeup/Costume Marie Mahany
Set Team Wilson Morrow, Cora Devlin, Bronwyn McLaughlin

Synopsis

The Night Alive by Conor McPherson, tells the story of Tommy, an affable guy who ambles through life, doing a bit of wheeling and dealing with his friend Doc. He has created a squalid living space in his uncle Maurice's crumbling Dublin house. A chance meeting and an act of heroism brings a young woman, Aimee, into his life. Will Tommy be able to provide the safety she needs from the destructive Kenneth? McPherson gives us a humorous, warm and chilling story. It's everchanging switches in mood keeps us captivated, while leaving us asking — what's going on?!

This amateur production of *The Night Alive* is by kind permission with Nick Hern Books



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Saturday 10th May @ 7:30 pm

Ulster American by David Ireland
Balally Players

Cast

Jay Conway.....Kevin Stanton
Leigh CarverKevin Fahey
Ruth Davenport.....Aisling Finn

Production Team

Director.....Declan Rudden
Stage Manager Aoife Braiden
Lighting Cathal O’Broin-Brace
Sound Sarah Groake
Makeup/CostumeDympna Murray
Set Team Tom Ronayne, Barry O’Connor, Patrick Hand, Oran O’Rua

Synopsis

‘Ulster American’ by David Ireland is a contemporary black comedy that features an Oscar-winning Hollywood actor, an English west-end theatre director and an up-and-coming female playwright who meet up on the eve of rehearsals of her new, career-transforming 'Irish' play, due to premiere in London's West End. But when it turns out that they're not on the same page, the night threatens to spiral out of control.

Please note earlier start time of 7:30.

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THE AUSTIN STEWART AWARD

To the society that is Runner Up to the Premier Award

THE BELFAST NEWSLETTER CUP

For Best Director

THE JAMES YOUNG GOLD AWARD

For the Best Performance by an actor

THE UTV HUBERT WILMOT AWARD

For the Best Performance by an actress

THE RICHARD COCHRANE AWARDS

For the Best Performance by an actor
and actress in a supporting role

THE COLIN BLAKELY AWARD

For the Most Promising Young Player

THE FRIERS AWARD

For the society or individual responsible for the Best Décor

THE TERENCE KIRKWOOD AWARD

For Best Moment of Theatre



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We hope you enjoyed this year's Festival.
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<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AUDFOffice/UlsterDramaFestival2025>

This will help with planning next year's festival.

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