



MENTOR DIRECTORY



ALEX BORWICK

PRODUCER | RECORDING ENGINEER | MIXER | MUSICIAN (MUSIC)

Originally from New Zealand, Alex has been based in Ireland since 2012. He is the head engineer at Grouse Lodge Residential Recording Studios, and his career includes working as a producer, recording & mix engineer, touring musician, and obsessive problem-solver! When not at Grouse Lodge, he works out of a variety of studios around Ireland and overseas.

He has worked with producers such as George Clinton, Garret "Jackknife" Lee, and Starsmith, and with artists such as Sam Fender, Parliament Funkadelic, Catfish & The Bottlemen, James Vincent McMorrow, and Lankum. Alex produced, recorded and mixed the critically acclaimed debut album 'Hemet' by Niamh Regan, which was nominated for the RTÉ Choice Music Prize Irish Album of the Year 2020



AGNES BURKE

BUSINESS OWNER | TRANSFORMATIONAL COACH | MENTOR (LIFE COACH)

Agness brings a wealth of experience not only in the creative industry but also in resilience coaching, drawn from her personal journey of overcoming challenges while running her own business and raising three children. Balancing the demands of entrepreneurship with the responsibilities of parenthood taught her invaluable lessons in resilience and self-care.

Her entrepreneurial journey she embarked on a transformative path by returning to college as a mature student to study psychology and anthropology. This experience has brought her a new level of awareness and depth to her understanding of human behaviour and resilience.

Agnes is fuelled by her passion for personal development, she has leveraged her newfound knowledge to deliver workshops and one-on-one sessions with individuals who aspire to succeed in life. Whether it's exploring the intricacies of human behaviour or delving into the psychology of resilience, Agnes is dedicated to empowering others to unlock their full potential and thrive in both their personal and professional endeavours. She is committed to guiding you on your journey towards success through a blend of practical insights, compassionate support, and evidence-based techniques.



AILEEN GALVIN

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SYNC & SWIM (MARKETING & COMMUNICATION)

A graduate of Limerick School of Art & Design, Aileen Galvin is Managing Director of Sync & Swim, the creative marketing and strategic communications agency working in arts, culture and heritage, festivals, entertainment and events, and the tourism and hospitality sectors.

She has worked in marketing and communications for almost 30 years and her clients include the National Gallery of Ireland; MoLI – Museum of Literature Ireland; Landmark Productions; The Dean Arts Studio, Dublin; Creative Places; Music Network; Dublin City Arts Office and many more. She also curates the art collections for Press Up Hospitality Group.

Aileen was Director of Public Engagement for the national St. Patrick's Festival from 2019 - 2022. She was recently awarded an Irish Times Theatre Award and a Writers Guild Award for services to the arts as part of the National Campaign for the Arts National Steering Committee, for which she led the communications and marketing activities throughout the pandemic, devising and launching the #SaveTheArts campaign.

Aileen specialises in marketing and communications strategy, project management, development, and advocacy.



ALFIE HUDSON TAYLOR

ARTIST | SONGWRITER | MUSICIAN

(MUSIC)

Alfie Hudson - Taylor is an Artist, songwriter, and musician and the frontman of the band Hudson Taylor.

He has over twelve years of experience working in the music industry as a commercial musical artist.

With his band Hudson Taylor, He has worked with many distinguished producers and songwriters, Released music with both independent and major labels and performed in studios and on stages all over the world.



ALICE COGHLAN

DRAMATURG | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

(THEATRE)

My name is Alice Coghlan and I'm an Artistic Director of Wonderland Productions. These days I'm a regular Script Mentor at the Irish Writers Centre where I also teach courses like Classic Techniques of Comedy and Techniques of Adaptation.

I trained as a Literary Reader at The Abbey Theatre, Ireland's National Theatre for 12 years. I have since directed over 70 shows and I am a qualified Drama teacher. I know all about the challenges of original writing as I have written and professionally produced my own plays, translations and adaptations.

I accomplished this by founding and running my own theatre company Wonderland Productions in 2003, through which I have written, directed, produced and designed my own work.

Aside from writing, I am a Staff/Assistant Director for opera. I have worked for The Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera and Opera Ireland specialising in the Italian repertoire to date.



AISHLING MULLER

LENS-BASED MEDIA | PERFORMANCE

ARTIST

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Aishling Muller is a lens-based media and performance artist from North Westmeath. She has 17 years of experience as a practising artist through the blended mediums of photography, video, performance, visual storytelling, social commentary, art, and activism. Aishling offers support and guidance to artists working on long-term projects, emerging artists, and those who are returning to their arts practise after some years of a gap. Aishling has a particular interest in working with those who identify as outsider artists and those who may have spent some years living abroad.

Aishling offers a fresh insight, promoting renewed enthusiasm and a thought-provoking reflective examination of an artist's practise to date. Aishling supports artists in finding continued worth and meaning in a long-term body of work that may have reached a standstill. She also encourages creative reflection on the conceptual nature of a body of work, inspiring and building confidence in the mentee in regard to the further development of a work or for the artists return to their arts practise.

Aishling guides mentees to tap back into their authentic voice so they can stay true to their themes while also exploring their existing and ongoing catalogue of works from a fresh perspective.



AILISH MCCARTHY

COMEDIAN

(COMEDY)

Ailish is a comedian based in Dublin. She has climbed the ranks in the past 4 years to become a regular at clubs in Ireland.

Ailish has supported household names at multiple festivals and is one of the co-founders of the Irish Comedy guide.

She can offer support on:

- Resources.
- Project management.
- Getting started in comedy.
- Strategy.
- Advice other performance resources available.



AOIBHIE MCCARTHY
ARTS MANAGER | CURATOR & ARTS EDUCATOR |
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
(VISUAL ARTS)

Aoibhie McCarthy is an arts manager, curator & arts educator and, since August 2020, Artistic Director of Sample-Studios.

After graduating with a B.A in Art History, Architectural History & English Literature from TCD, she worked in the National Gallery of Ireland, the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin Contemporary and Whyte's Auctioneers before securing the Shinnors Curatorial Scholarship, M.A tracking PhD research scholarship and becoming Education Curator of Limerick City Gallery of Art and eva International.

She led visual arts programming at Galway Fringe Festival and Make a Move Festival before undertaking project management roles as part of regional and national initiatives such as Limerick City of Culture 2014, The Year of Irish Design 2015 and National Adult Learners' Festival 2016.

From 2016-2018, Aoibhie McCarthy was Visual Arts and Outreach Manager of Garter Lane Arts Centre in Waterford, where she is currently on the board of Waterford Youth Arts. From 2018-2020, she was Marketing and Development Manager of Cork International Film Festival and the Business to Arts Fundraising Fellow.



ANDREW MACKLIN

ACTOR | CAREER COACH | TRAINER

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Andrew Macklin is a professional actor, career coach and trainer working in the creative industries.

Andrew aims helps people transform their creative career from where it is currently, to where they want it to be. He does this in ways that are personally meaningful and fulfilling to his client.

Andrew focuses on areas such as; getting clear on your career direction, working through professional and creative blocks, and sustainably balancing the competing demands of a creative life.

His approach is evidence-based, pragmatic and empowering.



ANDREW HANNON

AUTHOR | SCREENWRITER | PLAYWRIGHT | PUBLISHER

As an accomplished author, screenwriter, playwright, and publisher, Andrew Hannon is a well-rounded professional with extensive experience in the writing and publishing industry. With a particular expertise in horror, Andrew has made a name for himself as a chart-topping author, as well as a writer and producer of short films and a successful stage play.

In addition to his writing, Andrew has published over one thousand books across all genres through his publishing company, Dizzy Emu Publishing.

With his experience of creativity in books, screenplays and stage plays and his knowledge of the modern publishing industry, Andrew is well-equipped to advise and mentor aspiring writers from the initial stages of their creative process to the final polished product.



BRIAN O'REGAN

DIRECTOR - ARTS LEADERS ASSOCIATES

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

With a background in classical music, Brian moved into arts administration after completing the MA in Arts, Festival & Cultural Management in Edinburgh. Since then, he has worked in a variety of different roles with organisations including Edinburgh International Festival, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and more recently with the Whale Theatre in Greystones where he serves as Artistic Director.

In 2020, Brian founded Arts Leaders Associates and since then has worked with a range of clients including the Arts Council, Wicklow County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Liz Roche Company, Backwater Artists Group and Sligo Festival of Baroque Music among others. Recently completed projects include a Craft Strategy for Co. Wicklow, a Feasibility Study for a Youth & Community Arts Centre and various other research and strategic development projects.



BRIAN SCALLY

CO-FOUNDER | CO-CEO OF PARAGON RECORDS

(MUSIC)

Brian Scally is co-founder and co-CEO of Paragon Records, an independent label established in 2018. With leading independent FUGA as their distributor, Paragon has a multi-genre roster that includes singer-songwriters Pa Sheehy (former lead singer with Walking On Cars) and Curtis Walsh, NI Music Prize Album Of the Year Winner Kitt Philippa, Belfast-based producer, top-line specialist and performer Jessica Hammond, electronic act and sync favourites The Sei, female-fronted rock band Sick Love and all-girl indie band Florence Road.

Paragon were an early signatory to the Keychange pledge to bring underrepresented genders in the music industry to the main stage and are also members of the 1% For The Planet initiative, where a minimum of 1% of their annual sales go to environmental and climate justice causes.

Brian is also a Board Member of The Association of Independent Music (AIM) Ireland, is a Mentor for Keychange's We Grow mentoring programme for women and gender-expansive artists and innovators.



CAREY FITZGERALD

PRODUCER | LECTURER | ENTREPRENEUR

(FILM & TV)

Named by The Irish Post Business Year in Review as a Game Changer and one of the fifty influencers who made their mark in 2022, Carey is an experienced Film & TV Entrepreneur, Producer, Mentor & Lecturer in Film & TV. She has a long history in production, distribution, advertising, financing & global sales, and marketing. She has enjoyed Oscar Nominations and Festival Selections along with a wide range of commercially successful TV Commissions.

She is the Founder of Irish Silver Mountain Productions, the Film & TV production, distribution & training business, specialising in creating film, drama, and creative documentaries for the international market in all languages, focusing on stories of the historically underrepresented. She partners with Len Collin in the UK's Ballpoint Films.

She is currently Chair of and produced SHOUT LONDON - The Ashford Place Mental Health Film & Arts Festival. She is also the Chair of Irish Film London.

She founded the global female empowerment social enterprise, Wise Women. She is a Mentor for Screen Skills Ireland, WIFTV & Birds Eye View. Concerned about the disconnect between academia and the commercial world, she created BOFTV.



CLÍ DONNELLAN

MUSICIAN | FACILITATOR | PRODUCER |
CURATOR
(MUSIC)

Cli Donnellan, a native of East Clare, is an Irish traditional fiddle player, facilitator, producer, and curator at Turas House. She founded and ran the Mountshannon Trad Festival for ten years (2010-2019) and produced and presented a live Irish traditional music radio show “The Morning Dew” for Scariff Bay Community Radio from 2019-2021.

Cli completed a Ph.D. in Philosophy through music in 2018. Her research focused on investigating ways that we can enhance our creative process and performance experience. Drawing on her own life experience and practices while working with clients, Cli places emphasis on creative awareness, establishing perceptions about our ‘self’, identifying and letting go of negative patterns, and devising practices that may help to connect more deeply with the creative process and performance.

As a musician, Cli’s music is deeply rooted in her native East Clare style. In 2020, she produced and released her debut album “Beneath the Hedgerow” and is currently working on a new music project.

Cli continues to curate music and multi-disciplinary arts events in East Clare through various funding opportunities presented by Clare County Council in collaboration with Mountshannon Arts Festival. Cli is currently on the peer panel of the Arts Council of Ireland and is a Mentor with Minding Creative Minds.



CLAIRE BECK

DJ | RADIO PRESENTER | MUSIC MANAGER
(MUSIC)

Claire Beck has 20+ years of experience in commercial radio, on air and behind the scenes, as well as DJing at major festivals and clubs around the country.

She currently works as a Music Producer for Bauer Media, working across several brands. She hosts a number of shows on Today FM and 98fm, including the award winning All Irish show on Today FM which platforms up and coming Irish artists. Claire told us: 'I'm thrilled to be joining the Minding Creative Minds mentorship programme. I'm looking forward to working with artists to help them get the airplay and exposure that will best fit their career path, as well as any other advice I can give to empower them to move forward'.



CORRINA KAVANAGH

AUDIENCE & BRAND MARKETING COACH | PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COACH (MULTI - INDUSTRY)

Corrina Kavanagh is a freelance Audience and Brand Marketing Consultant and a qualified Personal Development Coach. Her career spans almost 10 years, primarily in the music and entertainment industry across audience development, social and content strategy, event management, talent management and influencer marketing.

In her last role as Senior Audience Development Manager at Columbia Records UK, Corrina was responsible for devising best in class social media, content and CRM strategies for artists signed to the label. As the voice of the fan, her focus was understanding and building audiences, by drilling down into their individual needs and triggers for engaging with their favourite artists. Her roster covered a variety of established and developing artists including George Ezra, Harry Styles, Declan McKenna, James Vincent McMorrow and Tom Odell.

Corrina was also on the winning Artist Marketing team at the Music Week Awards in 2019 and 2020 for campaigns with George Ezra and Harry Styles. Previously, Corrina also held positions at Google Ireland and at influential talent agency Gleam Futures in London.



CIARA EVE
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COACH |
COMEDIAN
(MULTI - INDUSTRY)

Ciara Eve is a Minding Creative Minds mentor, specialising in confidence building, recognising and changing negative thoughts, acknowledging and altering limiting core beliefs, resilience skills, personal development, self improvement, organising and prioritising, setting goals, focusing, managing tasks, personal resourcing, self-support, relaxation strategies and coping mechanisms, among other things.

Ciara Eve has a background and extensive experience in Education (BSc), Psychology (BSc), Counselling & Psychotherapy (HDip), and a Master's in Psychotherapy. She is also a Mindfulness Practitioner.

Creatively, Eve is a stand-up comedian, writer and podcaster. She has written and performed her own shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Smock Alley's Scene and Heard Festival, as well as performed at the Iveagh Gardens Comedy Festival, Kilkenny Cat Laughs, to name a few. She is currently supporting Jarlath Regan on his nationwide tour.



DAMIAN MCGARRIGLE

HEAD OF CATALOGUE | DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS

(MUSIC)

Damian started out in the industry in 2003 while studying in Liverpool - running, booking and promoting gigs in the local venue circuit - including The Barfly and M&S Bank Arena, before moving to London in 2011 as Marketing Manager for Live Nation, working national tours & festivals.

Having spent a decade in live music, he left this behind in 2013 - moving to Sony Music UK - starting initially across TV compilation & artist projects such as Grandmaster Flash and Run-D.M.C., before moving into the label's first ever streaming-focussed marketing role in 2016 and overseeing the UK playlist strategy.

He moved to Dublin in 2018 and has since evolved his role into new opportunities within the label, bringing together his extensive marketing experience with a strategic outlook as Head of Catalogue & Digital Partnerships - working with key label partners such as Spotify, Apple Music, TikTok & YouTube.

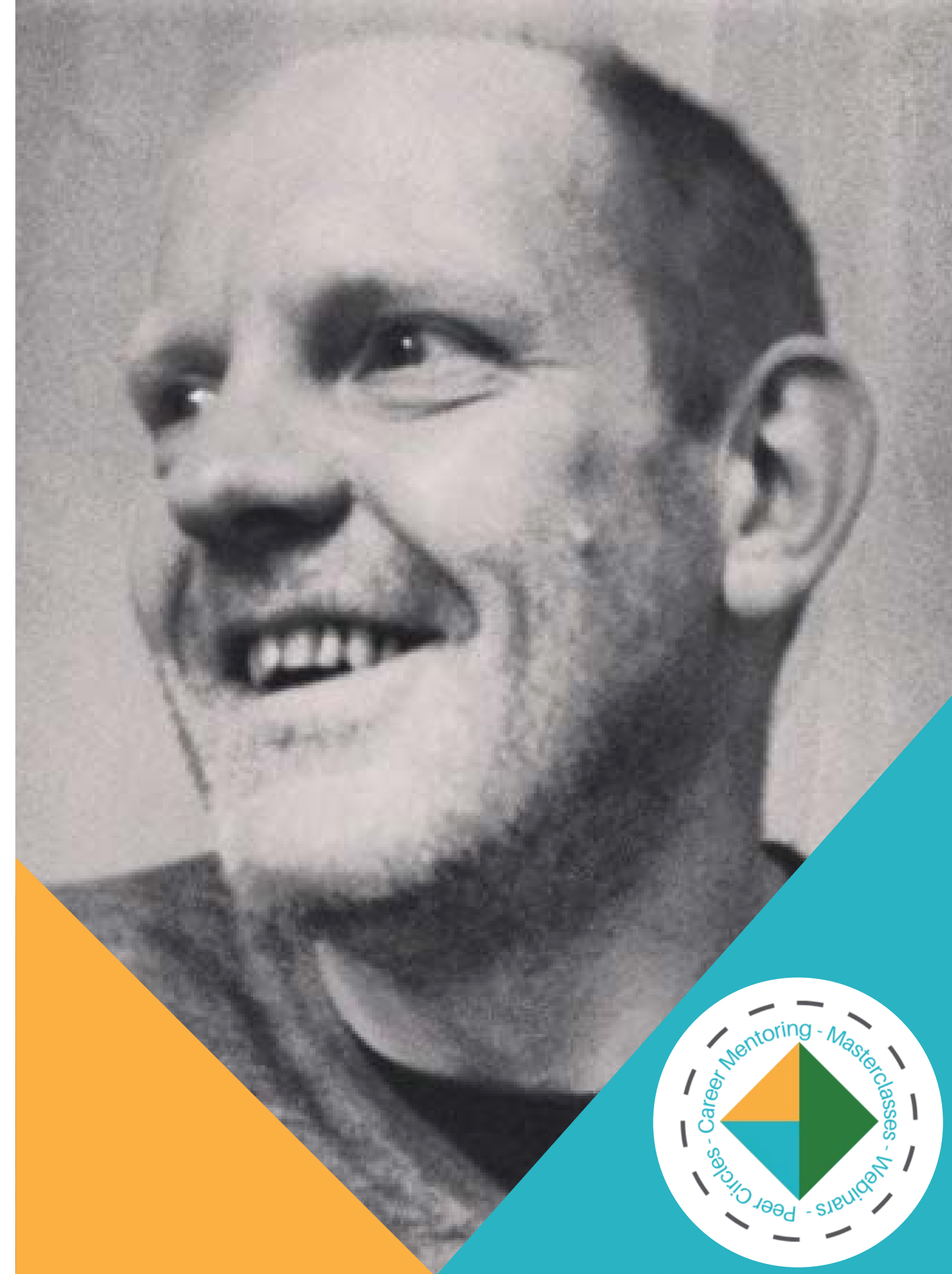


DAN OGGLY

ARTIST MANAGEMENT | MUSIC CONSULTANT | RTE CHOICE MUSIC PRIZE (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Dan Oggly has spent nearly forty years immersed in different areas of the music industry. A music journalist in Dublin at the beginning of the 90s he set up and ran the "blunt" Record Label before co-founding Friction PR to handle Publicity full-time for a host of national and international artists (including Ash, Snow Patrol, David Gray, The Frames, Bell X1, Villagers, Arctic Monkeys, Franz Ferdinand and a host of others). He also co-founded Dublin's legendary Road Records music shop.

Transitioning from Publicity into Management in 2007 Dan has worked with Delorentos and Tindersticks for many years along with a number of other short-term Artist projects. He was a lynchpin in the birth, shaping and growth of the national Choice Music Prize annual event in 2005 and continues to be a central part of the brand as its Head Of Operations and an Executive Producer of the RTÉ-broadcast TV highlights programme of the event every year.



DARREN REDMOND

MARKETING DIRECTOR UNIVERSAL MUSIC IRELAND (MUSIC)

Having begun his career in adverting working with well-known global & Irish brands such as Audi, McDonalds, Honda, RTE & Jameson, Darren joined Universal Music Ireland in 2013 to work within the Digital and Business Development area of the label.

During his time in that role, Darren and his team oversaw the growth and development of UMG artists across streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer, Youtube Music & Amazon Music as well as music focused social platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and Thriller – a role he continues to lead today.

In 2018 Darren became Head of Digital Strategy & Partnerships to oversee the audience development, streaming, content, D2C and digital media strategies for all Universal Music Group artists in Ireland, as well as working with brand partners to help bring their music-based activations to live across experiences, sync, digital media and artist partnerships.



DAVID WILKINSON PUBLISHER | ARTIST MANAGER (MUSIC)

After studying Music Business in BCFE Dublin, David went on to spend twelve years at the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO) which culminated in him working his way up the ranks to Member Relations Manager.

During his time at the company, David worked closely with songwriters and music publishers on a daily basis. David is also an experienced independent artist manager, events coordinator and also acts as a music industry consultant.

In 2021, David co-founded Sticky Songs Music Publishing which is an independent, proactive global music publisher based in Dublin, Ireland.



DEIRDRE GILSENAN

VOCALIST

(MUSIC)

A vocalist, with many years of touring and theatre performance under her belt, Deirdre has much to offer as a mentor. She teaches from her dedicated performance studio in her home, where she offers one to one tuition since 1998.

Musical diversification has naturally occurred for Deirdre through honing her craft on the world stage. She has featured as a solo vocalist in various shows (Anúna 1996-1998, Celtic Woman 2005-2006, Lord of the Dance 1997-2012, Celtic Thunder 2010, Celtic Tenors 2002-2016). She has recorded TV shows, music specials and two successful solo albums, Deirdre Shannon 2006 and AnamCeol 2011. This vast experience means she is comfortable offering help in the studio and in the world of production.

Deirdre received her formal vocal training in Classical Irish, Italian, French and Lieder under the tuition of Professor Mary Brennan ARNCM, GRNCM in the College of Music, Dublin, Ireland.

Her professional stage work has been complimented throughout by her teaching career. Vocalists who want to refine their skills will find a world of help in Deirdre's mentorship.

She will help address bad habits, thus expand longevity, increase stamina and resilience. Improvements in pitch-accuracy, tone-enrichment and vocal-agility all serve to enhance presentation, making audience connection genuine and exciting again.

Over the last 2 years, Deirdre has been working with the Department of Education in an incentive called 'TAP+' (Teachers and Artists in Partnership) in National Schools in Leinster. She has been chosen to work with special schools in another new programme called 'I Am Creative', also recently rolled out by the Department of Education.



DON BARRY

TV FORMAT CREATOR & PRODUCER | MUSICIAN (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

As a mentor for Minding Creative Minds, he is excited to help new mentees achieve their goals.

His own journey as a 2022 mentee led to the creation of innovative TV formats and deep holistic learning. He holds an International BA in Art History and Music from UCD, with extensive experience in creative writing, TV and film production, and events. He has collaborated with Grammy-winning producers, some of Ireland's largest independent TV production companies, and performs as a guitarist and singer.

Furthermore, his 17 years corporate background in international sales, strategy and recruitment greatly enhances his ability to support the growth of mentees across multiple industries.



ELAINE MCCANN

MUSIC CONSULTANT | CAMPAIGN & DIGITAL
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER | MENTOR
(MUSIC)

Elaine McCann is a music consultant, mentor, campaign, and digital distribution manager with 15+ years of experience in the music industry at an international level.

Working within the digital distribution landscape, Elaine has in-depth experience working on campaigns for bands and artists alike, including some of the UK and Ireland's most notable independent record labels & aggregators (The Orchard, Rubyworks, Hozier, Irish Women In Harmony, Orla Gartland, Hudson Taylor, Wyvern Lingo, Lyra, David Keenan, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Jonny Greenwood (radiohead) Al Green and many more).

Elaine also has a vast knowledge of Canadian markets. She worked the festival and live circuit in Toronto for 5+ years, producing music Industry showcases and networking events, with a high emphasis on marketing, management, and artist development.



EOIN SANDFORD

MARKETING CONSULTANT | LECTURER | ARTIST MANAGER (MUSIC)

Eoin Sandford is a Marketing Consultant, Music Business Lecturer at BIMM Dublin and Artist Manager.

Specialising in Digital Marketing, Eoin has over ten years experience working with clients such as American Express, Coca Cola, Adobe, Hewlett Packard among others. He managed numerous campaigns across multi channel platforms while overseeing six figure online advertising budgets.

Eoin produced and co-hosted the successful music industry podcast Around The Sound and has previously managed Irish Singer Songwriter Megan O' Neill who has amassed over a million streams, had a successful sync in Netflix show Firefly Lane and supported Sir Tom Jones on tour.



ELAINE WALSH

MERGE PRODUCER | SCRIPT EDITOR |
SPECIALIST CONSULTANT CLIMATE
STORYTELLING
(TV/FILM)

Elaine Walsh is a disability, diversity, creativity and climate activist.

She believes creativity, storytelling, whether through music, art, writing, technology is a human right, and all storytellers' hearts, minds and souls must be nurtured to do their best work.



EVE LALOR

THEATRE | DANCE | ARTS CONSULTANT |
COACH | MENTOR
(MULTI - INDUSTRY)

Eve is an arts manager with 15 years' experience across dance, theatre, visual arts, and craft. She works as a project manager, arts consultant, coach, and mentor.

Previous roles include General Manager of Dublin Theatre Festival, General Manager with Dance Ireland and Programme Development Officer with The RDS Foundation. Developing artists and arts organisations and helping support sustainable careers is a key interest, which led to her completing the RD1st coaching for leadership training in the UK.

She works with mentees on leadership, managing people, as well as business development skills and challenges.



ELIZABETH REAPY

WRITER | EDITOR

(WRITING)

Elizabeth Reapy is a multi-award-winning writer and mentor from Mayo. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Queen's University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from UCC and is the author of the novels Red Dirt and Skin (both published by Head of Zeus). She was writer-in-residence for Dublin UNESCO City of Literature and Dublin City Libraries and for Mayo Arts Council.

In 2024, she was appointed literary programmer for Hedge School Doolin Festival. She has taught, edited and coached writers of all levels for the past 20 years. A keen advocate for holistic and healthy approaches to support creative lifestyles, she is also a certified hypnotherapist and fitness instructor.



FRANK GREGG

ACTOR | MENTOR

(TV/FILM)

Frank has been an actor for over two decades and has worked almost for a decade on the TV series 'Fair City'. He has appeared for years on Netflix, Amazon Prime and has starred as the lead in an award-winning movie and has performed in numerous other acting roles.

Frank has helped and mentored many artists to launch their careers and overcome barriers to success. He has served to help many artists from actors and artists starting out to celebrities who need mentoring in many different fields. He has been a member of Irish Equity for almost two decades and is an advocate for mental health and support of artists.

He was nominated by model and actress Barbara Mazur from London to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office UK in 2023 for Honour or Gallantry Award.'



FIONA LENNON

LIFE + CONFIDENCE COACH

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Fiona is a life, career, and relationship coach, a qualified teacher, and a musician.

She holds a Master's degree in Management from Smurfit College and in 2021, she established her own business and practice, 'Space2Relate'. As a coach, she works with clients across the country to build confidence, have a positive mindset, and increase self-belief/ self-worth.

As a singer-songwriter under the moniker Fí, and an artist for the last 6 years, she has learned first-hand, the ups and downs of being in the music industry. She's written music in London and Los Angeles worked with Grammy-nominated songwriters, played on national radio, and performed on stages at Electric Picnic, Whelans, and Cyprus Avenue.

Fiona has changed career paths several times going from teaching to business and coaching, all whilst working on her passion. She is proof that portfolio careers can work.

Using her coaching skills, creativity, her teaching background, business acumen, and life experience; Fiona is passionate about supporting and empowering creatives to get to where they want to be and shining a light on their unlimited potential.



FIONA LINNANE

COMPOSER | MUSIC PRACTITIONER

(MUSIC)

Fiona Linnane is a composer, specialising in opera and vocal music. She has been the recipient of bursaries through the Arts Council of Ireland Limerick City and County Council.

In 2023 she was awarded the King House Piano Commission and a Project Award for Crawford Art Gallery's Building as Witness Project. Previous work includes the site-responsive opera No.2 Pery Square, devised in collaboration with, and commissioned by, production company Opera Workshop and her song cycle Songs for Kate O'Brien, which have been in development since 2011. Linnane is spearheading the Kate O'Brien 2024 Initiative aimed at celebrating and amplifying the work of Limerick author Kate O'Brien.

She is widely sought after for her work in arts in education. She has undertaken training at European level through participation in the International Teacher Artist Partnership Professional Development. Her work has twice been the recipient of the Arts in Education Documentation Award. She is also on the panel of experts for the Heritage in Schools Programme. Linnane is very active in community music and collaborative practice. In 2022 she worked with Limerick Bat Group, supported by the Arts Council of Ireland Artist in the Community Scheme.



GILL DOOLEY
AIM IRELAND, CEO | ARTIST MANAGER |
MUSIC CONSULTANT
(MUSIC)

Having begun her career working with EMI in 2003, Gill spent years working with indie distributors RMG Chart, before moving to New Zealand to work as a buyer for their largest music retailer in 2006.

Returning to Dublin she ran events with Hot Press magazine & spent 11 years as Director of Digital & Business Development with Universal Music. Leaving Universal in 2018 to branch out as an independent artist manager & consultant, she began managing rising pop star Aimée, and was part of an Enterprise Ireland backed team working on an audio software project. CEO of Irish indie music trade association AIM Ireland since 2021, Gill also sits on the board of European independent music champions, IMPALA.



HARRY MARTIN
UNIVERSAL MUSIC IRELAND |
COO UM IREL
(MUSIC)

A music business professional with over thirty years experience, primarily in the independent sector. Most of this time spent at London independent Domino Recordings and its sister company, Domino Publishing.

Martin has an extensive knowledge of all aspects of the music industry, gained while growing Domino from a fledgling label to respected global music company.



IAN SHIPLEY

BRAND LICENSING | CONTRACT MANAGEMENT | BUSINESS AFFAIRS SPECIALIST | TENDER AND BID MANAGEMENT (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Ian has years of hands-on experience from being on the creative edge as a co-creator of one of the UKs most popular greeting card brands (Violent Veg) and managed licensing programmes covering greeting cards, Publishing (Penguin, Barnes & Noble), calendars, 3D collectibles) on an international basis to being a highly published photographer creating licensed editorial features for a number of international automotive publications. In more recent times Ian has been involved in the negotiated contract side of broadcast rights (Broadcast, Format options, Production and Publishing).

He has the rare experience of blending both the creator and commercial aspects (from his own experience of having done it) of creative intellectual property and has a deep understanding of how Licensing works to exploit your creative work, whether it be visual, editorial or audio.

Over the years, he has been called upon to assist several creatives, artist management and broadcast content distributors in approaching/managing the minefield (Trademarks, Rights clearance, etc.) that is the commercial and contractual side of licensing agreements along with the strategy to support them. From Photographic art to humour based properties (Irish Farmer calendar, Violent veg, Dumpster love and more) to recording artists and broadcast rights and contracts, the principles have a lot of similarities.

Ian is not a trained lawyer; however, he does bring years of hands-on experience and a keen eye for the commercial aspects/pitfalls of license agreements. He brings a pragmatic no flannel approach to the subject matter having given numerous talks (Business clubs, BBC panelist) over the years on the subject.



JULEY-ANN COLLINS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTS MANAGER | PRODUCER

MULTI-INDUSTRY

Juley-Ann Collins is a freelance Arts Manager and Producer, with over 10 years' experience in cultural and production management in a multi- disciplinary national and international context; producing and co-ordinating small to large scale projects and tours, funders including the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Europe.

Juley-Ann has worked across multi-disciplinary arts settings such as festivals, production companies, venues and local authorities, working with leading artists across different artforms including circus, dance, spectacle, theatre, visual arts and work for early years, children and families and with communities of interest and place.

With a Higher Certificate in Broadcasting IADT, Bachelor of Business in Event Management and PR GMIT, MA in Public Advocacy and Activism NUIG and a Professional Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Leadership UCD Professional Academy, memberships include Theatre Forum and the Irish Street Arts Circus and Spectacle Network, and Board member with expertise in Arts for Mother Tongues.



JAMES BYRNE

LABEL MGT | MUSIC MGT | MUSICIAN |
ARTIST MUSICIAN
(MUSIC)

James joined his first band at 15 and spent his formative musical years as an active presence within the city's fertile underground DIY music scene. He studied music management at college, and upon leaving began working for Dublin's leading pirate radio station, Phantom FM, presenting and producing a show for the next ten years while promoting various events around the city.

He runs Any Other City, a label and management company that has been responsible for releasing records by some of the most influential Irish artists of the last decade, including GILLA BAND, James Vincent McMorrow and Villagers.

As a musician, James has spent the last nine years as a recording and touring member of Mercury-nominated and Choice-prize-winning singer songwriter SOAK's band. Previously he spent seven years drumming in Villagers. He continues to be an in-demand studio recording presence.

His wealth of experience and trusted reputation within the independent music sector give him a valuable perspective on how artists can best navigate the Industry.



JENNIFER DAVIDSON

CHAIR OF THE WRITERS GUILD | WRITER (WRITING)

Chair of the Writers Guild of Ireland since 2020, Jennifer writes for Ireland's national soap opera, Fair City, having been a core member of the writing team since 2012. She also has a number of original series and feature films in development.

Jennifer is an experienced screenwriter with a background in documentary production and development. Having spent almost twenty years working for a number of Ireland's top independent production companies, securing commissions for a wide range of programmes, her years spent encouraging other people to have their stories told on screen informs her work as a writer.

A fierce advocate for Irish writers, through her work with the Writers Guild, she has originated and run a wide number of training and development initiatives for new writers. Her development experience includes contracts for O'Sullivan Productions, Independent Pictures, Jump Films, Animo, Adare, Shinawil, Coco and Kite.

She recently completed a Postgraduate qualification in Creative Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development through CREW Digital/ATU Galway with a view to setting up her own writer led production company, Heartfelt Drama.



JUSTINE DOSWELL

CREATIVE PRODUCER | CHOREOGRAPHER (DANCE)

Justine completed her dance training in the UK, graduating from Central in 1991. She has since worked extensively in dance, theatre, fashion, design and arts/music management.

She has been based in Dublin since 1997 and has been a resident dance artist in schools for County Councils. currently works with the junior section of Dublin Youth Dance Company (12-17yrs).

Justine also works freelance and contract on various other collaborative projects & dance productions and has previously managed Irish rock band, Preachers Son (2010/16).



JULIE GRIFFITHS

VISUAL ARTIST | CULTIVATOR

(VISUAL ARTS)

Julie Griffiths is an award-winning visual artist, activist, and cultivator who has delivered collaborative projects in Ireland and internationally for over 10 years. Her background is in textile design, and she uses many tactile processes in her projects, as well as horticultural and ecological approaches.

The key driver for her practice is concern for the environment, and how art can tilt peoples' understanding and motivations in the challenging times that we are living through.

Julie has delivered projects in all kinds of formal and informal settings, with a wide diversity of participants and groups: primary and secondary schools, academic institutions and seminars, galleries and community centres, gardens and beaches, town squares and parliamentary buildings, castles and kitchen tables



JOHN GLENNON

MUSIC MANAGEMENT | PR | CONSULTANCYPR | CONSULTANCY (MUSIC)

Founder and Partner in Jawdropper Music, a management label and PR consultancy with artists currently signed by Universal, Columbia, RCA, BMG, Akira, Kobalt, Sony Publishing etc

John has over 30 years' experience working with both Irish and international artists. Some of Jawdropper's current clients include Robert Grace, modernlove, L'aupaire, Crybabyamy and Columbia Mills.

Recently elected to the Board of AIM Ireland, John has a wide-ranging knowledge and experience of record labels, publishing, live, sync, streaming, digital marketing etc and a proven track record in mentoring and developing new artists.



JOANNE RYAN

FREELANCE THEATRE PRACTITIONER

(THEATRE)

Joanne is an award-winning Limerick-based theatre artist, playwright, and performer with a track record of making quality, ambitious work in socio-political contexts.

Currently, Joanne is developing a number of different projects in partnership with Ormston House, Fishamble Theatre Company, and Lime Tree Theatre. In addition to her work as a writer and maker, Joanne has performed with many companies in Ireland.

Joanne has received numerous grants and awards from Arts Council Ireland, Culture Ireland, Create, Local Authority as well as benevolent funds and other funding bodies.

She regularly consults with artists across art-forms advising on funding and other applications.



JILL THORNTON

EVENT MANAGER | THEATRE PRODUCER | BUSINESS OWNER (THEATRE)

Jill began her career in stage production, and supporting event production over a decade ago. With a background in live events production & mgt, event mgt, venue mgt, programming, theatre.

Jill is a motivated Event Manager, Production Manager, Stage Manager and Production Coordinator with experience in areas such as Live, Charity, Cultural, Theatrical and Festival Events in both Ireland and the UK.

Jill has also has experience as a tour manager abroad and at home.

Currently, she is working with Ashville Media to organise and host award ceremony events post Covid-19.



JO SCHOFIELD

WRITER | DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER (TV/FILM)

A highly motivated BAFTA nominated screen industry professional with 20+ years' experience. I hold unique dual skills across story creation and talent development leadership.

I am a seasoned story and creative producer, script editor, development lead & commissioning exec. I've worked across story generation, commissioning, agile story development and ran short film funds nationally and internationally including the Galway Film Fund for RTE.

Programme Director across several flagship initiatives for writers, directors and producers including Screen Yorkshire's FLEX talent lab, ScriptEd, and the BFI's INSIGHT emerging feature film producer programme.

I've held many creative responsibilities including 10 years at ITV as Storyliner, Script Editor & Digital Producer. Former RTE Drama Commissioning Executive, launching the hugely successful talent development vehicle Storyland nationally across Ireland.

I am focused on addressing inequality, impact, and inclusion creatively, and co established the North of England Hub for the Film & TV Charity and was Chair of its internal anti-discrimination working group. I also sit on the XR Stories executive group & regularly contribute to panels, Q&As and keynotes.



KAREN MALONEY

LIFE COACH

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Karen Maloney is an INSIDE OUT Life Coach helping people to elevate their mindset and believe in themselves more.

She also mentors in time management, stress management, self-confidence & being an entrepreneur.

Her background is in Events Management before making huge life changes & becoming a coach.

She has travelled the world (currently residing in México) & loves to help people to feel confident about themselves & create life on their terms.

You can find her on <https://www.karenmaloney.com/>.



LOUISE LONERGAN CEO OF LONERGAN GROUP (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Louise is the C.E.O. Of The Lonergan Group, a company that provides end-to-end solutions in strategic reward and recognition, and branding. Lonergan Group works with companies that wish to reward their staff with hampers, Care packs, onboarding packs, service awards, branded gifts and much more. Louise's ambition for her company is to scale into new markets in Europe.

In the two decades she has been in business, she has continually expanded through innovation to move the company forward and offer clients the best service, ahead of the trends. Louise's areas of expertise include sales, innovation, entrepreneurialism and negotiation, Louise is also a great advocate for diversity and have huge experience in this area. Louise is part of Going for Growth, Entrepreneurial Spark, Vital Voices and WeConnect International . Lonergan Group partners with Ronald McDonald House Charities Ireland as her charity partner and has recently become Great Place To Work Ireland's preferred supplier.



LUAN PARLE

ARTIST | SONGWRITER | MUSIC EDUCATOR (MUSIC)

Acclaimed performing artist, songwriter, composer & music educator Luan Parle has had numerous hits and accolades, including a Meteor Award for Best Irish Female. Her top 10 hit single 'Ghost' spent three months in the Irish Charts, was the most played Irish single of that year, and featured on numerous number 1 compilation albums.

Luan signed her first record deal at just twelve years of age before later signing with Sony Music and Elton John's management company Twenty-First Artists. After spending several years performing and touring extensively in Ireland, Europe, and the US,

Luan released her fourth studio album, Never Say Goodbye, in February 2020, to critical acclaim. The album features ten original tracks, including two co-writes with Dire Straits guitarist Hal Lindes.

Luan has extensive experience teaching song writing to people of all ages and has facilitated song writing workshops for both IMRO (the Irish Music Rights Organisation) and the Department of Education for a number of years & most recently Waltons New School of Music.



LUCINA RUSSELL

LECTURER IN ART & DESIGN EDUCATION | ARTS OFFICER

(ART AND DESIGN)

Currently on a career break to lecture in Teacher Education in Limerick School of Art, Lucina Russell has worked as Arts Officer for Kildare County Council since 2000 and in recent years, took on Kildare's Creative Ireland Coordinator role. With overall responsibility for arts policy and programme in Kildare, she established many groundbreaking arts programmes, founding Kildare Short Grass Films and producing 'All About Eva' which premiered at the Dublin Film Festival 2014. A member of the Arts Council peer panel, she has rolled out arts grants and bursary awards in Kildare and has assessed grants for other public bodies.

In 2019, Lucina led the successful bid, with KWETB, for Kildare Music Generation and in 2021, a bid for Creative Places Athy. She is a founder member of artsandhealth.ie and represented local authority Arts Officers on the advisory group for artsineducation.ie from its inception until 2023. She was appointed to the board of Arts and Disability Ireland in 2022.



MARIA AULETTA

CIRCUS SKILLS FACILITATOR | THEATRE DIRECTOR (PERFORMING ARTS)

Hi, My name is Maria Auletta. Born in Italy. Based in Galway since 2005. I am a Creative and Somatic Life Coach. A Mother, a Circus skills Facilitator and a Theatre Director for Young Audiences.

While studying Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Naples in Italy I became fascinated by the rituals that different tribes from around the world use on a regular basis. Since then I decided to become a Circus and a Theatre Practitioner and to deliver these skills workshops in Corporations and Schools. I graduated with a Master's Degree in Sociology and completed my studies with a thesis/research about juggling & circus, choices, and motivations that draw the artist to choose this path.

In the past 5 years, I moved my creative mind and purpose toward Theatre for Young Audiences. Thanks to a self-development path and mentors I was able to focus on what was important for me and frame my ideas into a project that resonate with my values and also gave visibility and recognition to my creative intent.. I firmly believe life is our main teacher and the people we meet can become our mentors.



MORAN BEEN-NOON

VISUAL ARTIST

(VISUAL ARTS)

Moran Been-noon is an Israeli, Dublin-based visual artist. She predominantly makes moving image installations, using animation, archived material, and non-traditional projections. She uses her own identity to explore how compound ethnicities influence one's sense of belonging.

In 2022, Moran was awarded the Home Residency with Digital Arts Studios in Belfast, and a visual artist residency at Axis, Ballymun in Dublin, which includes acculturation-related community engagements. In 2021 she exhibited two acculturation-related projects in Dublin: 'On Belonging' at The Library Project; and a digital commission for The LAB. She was awarded the 2021 Arts Council Ireland's Artist Bursary to pursue her projects as an artist.

Moran will be exhibiting her first solo exhibition at South Tipperary Arts Centre in November, 2023. Her year started with a residency in Iceland, as part of the SÍM Residency programme.



MARK CROSSINGHAM

UNIVERSAL MUSIC IRELAND

MANAGING DIRECTOR

(MUSIC)

Mark has worked in the recorded music industry for over 35 years, starting as a trainee sales rep at Warner Music UK. He worked his way up through sales eventually running the UK International Department, working on Global campaigns for the likes of Seal & Enya. Mark joined the fledgling MCA International team in 1996, soon transferring to MCA UK as Marketing Director.

After MCA was re-named Universal Music, and after the merger with Polygram, Mark became General Manager at Island Records with various central roles including running the Universal Music UK International Department and overseeing Global Campaigns for acts such as U2, Snow Patrol & Keane.

He moved to Dublin in 2008 to take up his current role.



MAYA CULLEN PETROVIC
ARTIST MANAGER | CO-DIRECTOR OF JAWDROPPER
MUSIC.
(MUSIC)

Maya Cullen Petrovic is an artist manager and co-director of Jawdropper Music, with a management roster of clients in Ireland, the UK and Germany. She has worked in the Arts for over 17 years, & has a broad range of experience, from running festivals, to artist development and management, music PR and Music Business education, as she currently holds the Artist Manager lecturing position in BIMM Dublin. Maya has also just been announced as one of the Keychange Talent Programme Innovators for 2023. Keychange is the pioneering international initiative for gender equity in the music industry.

Bringing together a multitude of different skills and networks through the Keychange Pledge and Talent Development Programme, Keychange offers a unique ecosystem with international collaboration at its heart.

Selected by industry and export specialists as future leaders, the newly announced participants mark the third cohort of artists and music industry professionals from 12 countries across Europe and Canada to take part in a year-long programme.

Maya has worked for DICE, as a team member for festivals such as Body&Soul, Electric Picnic, Choice Music Prize, Sounds From A Safe Harbour and many more.



MARY SCHOALES

GRAPHIC DESIGN | UX DESIGN (DESIGN)

Creative director Mary Schoales has an MA in visual communications from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, and has over 20 years experience in the graphic design industry working in Berlin, London, and Dublin.

I believe effective communication thrives on visual simplicity and strong typography. I like my workspace to be a fusion of organic inspiration and pin-point precision. Whether collaborating with a team or working independently I believe attention to detail is paramount to good design.

In recent years I have completed a diploma in UX design. The continuous development of new techniques, technologies, and design trends makes working in this area fresh and exciting. I am filled with enthusiasm for the challenges and creative opportunities that lie ahead.



MICHELLE CAHILL

PRODUCER | ARTS MANAGEMENT | COACH

(DANCE - THEATRE)

Michelle is a freelance producer, arts professional and coach. Her work is driven by a strong interest in supporting and nurturing creative and physical expression. She is passionate about supporting collaborative artistic projects across different disciplines to produce ambitious new works for public engagement. Artists and companies in her producer portfolio include Róisín Whelan Dance; Deirdre Griffin/Headonbody, Monica Muñoz Dance, Regan O'Brien, and Rowan Tolley Company (UK).

Since 2017 she works as a company line producer with the award-winning dance theatre company Junk Ensemble. She has 20+ years' experience working in dance, choreography, and performance. Her solo show 'Thirteen Steps to the Attic' premiered in 2018 that toured widely.

Michelle is a qualified Relational Dynamics coach, RD1st accredited.



MICHAEL ROE

ARTIST | LABEL MANAGER

(MUSIC)

Michael Roe's career in music commenced when he became the drummer in the acclaimed Wexford based post-rock band Adebisi Shank. He also formed The Richter Collective to release the band's debut album. The band released three albums, one of which was shortlisted for the Choice Music Prize.

In 2012 he joined the highly regarded American label / management company Sargent House as the Head of European Operations. Roe's projects during this role included working on acclaimed albums from Deafheaven, Chelsea Wolfe and Russian Circles within Europe.

Michael joined Faction Music in 2017 to continue his focus on Irish acts and has been a Music Business Tutor at BIMM, Dublin.



NICK YOUNGER

UNIVERSAL MUSIC IRELAND |
COO UM IRELAND | MANAGING DIRECTOR
0207 DEF JAM, LONDON
(MUSIC)

Nick has worked in recorded music for almost 20 years having started a career in EMI in London, 2003.

Varying roles in EMI saw him based in New York, Dublin and then in Cologne, Germany as the Chief Financial Officer for EMI Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Following Universal's acquisition of EMI in 2012, he returned to Dublin to become COO for Universal Music Ireland, recently leading the acquisition of Tara Music and the exclusive license deal with Claddagh Records. S

ince 2021 he has the dual role as Managing Director of 0207 Def Jam - the brand new label based in London.



PAMELA MC QUEEN

PLAYWRIGHT

(DRAMATURG)

Pamela is program manager for the diversity playwriting project The Baptiste Project with Black Irish theatre makers in Smock Alley Theatre . She is also project manager for The Mavens & The Mavens Lab playwright development programs for 35yrs+ female theatre makers at The Mill Theatre. In 2024 Pamela will be curating a new ISSD & I.T.I mentorship platform for designers and playwrights, Design Matters:Explore Design. She is also a mentor and workshop facilitator with Minding Creative Minds.

Most recent production dramaturgy includes a trilingual international coproduction by Fishamble Theatre Company/BaraCaws/Theatre GuLeor of the site responsive play Taigh/Ty/Teach 2024; Prickly by Caoimhe O'Malley produced at DLR Mill Theatre 2024, Clonmel Junction Festival ART:23 production From Out The Land 2023 and The Whispering Chair by Tara Lovett produced by LivinDred Theatre Company, 2022.

Other productions include Pamela was dramaturg on 'Jimmy's Hall' with The Abbey Theatre, 2017 & 2018 and 'Scotties' by Frances Poet & Muireann Kelly, National Theatre Scotland & Theatre GuLeor 2018.

She was selected for the Dublin Theatre Festival 2020 research residency Unacknowledged Loss with Barbara Raes. Her work has been supported by several Arts Council of Ireland awards and a DCC Arts bursary.

Pamela was New Play Dramaturg at The New Theatre, Temple Bar 2017-2020. Previously Pamela McQueen was Associate Dramaturg of the Tron Theatre, Glasgow from 2008-2011. Freelance Scottish work included the Olivier award winning Roadkill by Cora Bissett & Stef Smith (2011). She has an M.Litt in Dramaturgy & Playwriting from the University of Glasgow.



PAULA PHELAN CREATIVE LIFE COACH | CEO (MUSIC)

Paula has spent over 20 years in senior leadership positions in the Arts in Ireland, including CEO of VISUAL and Head of Quality at Music Generation Ireland.

Paula is a musician and founder of Traverso Coaching where she works to support creatives to develop new insight and gain clarity in their personal and professional life.



PHILIP MAGEE

MUSIC PRODUCER | MIXER | DIRECTOR AT
R.A.A.P.
(MUSIC)

Proven hitmaker Philip Magee has been working behind the scenes for more than 20 years, supporting artists like Kodaline, The Script, Gavin James, Miles Kane, The Academic, Lucy Spraggan and many more. Working as a music producer, mix engineer and music industry professional, Philip has a keen understanding of the business, across a wide range of genres, working also in A&R, movie music supervision, music consultancy and as his role as a board member on Ireland's performers royalties organisation (RAAP) and a founding director of Association of Independent Music Ireland (AIM Ireland).

To date, he's worked on songs with over six billion streams, and albums that sold over four million copies. As a producer, he's the secret sauce in the song; an integral part of the creative and technical process.

Philip guides artists in the studio, unlocking their potential and shaping their hits from beginning to end – a process he's deeply passionate about. His humble approach, genuine curiosity and creative technique allows him to connect with artists and share their vision, so that the sounds coming out of the studio are unique each time.



REBECCA FOUNTAIN

CEO

(STRATEGIC & MARKETING)

Rebecca is a professional strategic marketer who has worked across many industries over the past 25 years.

For the past 10 years, Rebecca has worked from her virtual office in the South of France, using her marketing knowledge to service organisations around the world.

Rebecca helps start up business and individuals understand the ways in which they can promote their brands, products, and services to build awareness and ultimately, their client / following bases.

If you need support to get your name out there, Rebecca can advise you and help you make some quick, creative, and pragmatic interventions to get started or re-launch in your respective industry.

In addition to her professional marketing skills set, Rebecca is also an experienced singer with various bands (rock, funk, soul, pop) and currently part of a local duo in her hometown in the south of France, Playlist. She has a well-rounded network of global contacts that include vocal coaches, musicians, writers, road crews, studio owners and much more.



RICHEY MCCOURT

SONGWRITER | PRODUCER

(MUSIC)

With a career spanning 20 years in music, Richey McCourt has established himself as one of Ireland's most sought after songwriters and producers. From humble beginnings in Dublin guitar bands, and years spent working as a session guitarist – it was the world of songwriting and music production that ultimately ended up being home for Richey.

A songwriter with versatility and ambition, Richey spent many of his formative professional years as a songwriter collaborating with Swedish pop teams, harnessing his skill for delivering top tier melody.

He's written with and for international artists such as Will Young, Rebecca Ferguson and Latin sensation TINI. He's also become the defacto collaborator for some of Ireland's brightest shining talents such as Aimée, Erica-Cody, Megan O'Neill and many more. Working predominantly between Dublin, Stockholm and London, Richey also works as a mentor with Minding Creative Minds, offering workshops focused on songwriting to mentee's.



ROWAN MCDONAGH

AV TECHNICIAN | STAGE MANAGER | FESTIVAL PRODUCTION MANAGER (MUSIC)

Rowan has 25 years of experience in the live music and corporate AV industry.

He is the ex General manager of the Av provider company CAVS, and has experience as a touring Av tech, stage manager, and festival production manager.

Rowan is also a Music industry mental health advocate.



RITA MELIA

EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK CONNECTOR (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Dr Rita Melia is a lecturer in early childhood education and care at Atlantic Technological University Galway and Mayo campuses. Rita has worked in Early Childhood Education and Care, in practice, research, and policy for over thirty years. As an owner /manager of a creche and preschool and as the Reggio Children International representative for Ireland,

Rita has been influenced by Loris Malaguzzi's theory of the Hundred Languages. Rita was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Harvard Graduate School of Education under the sponsorship of Professor Howard Gardner (Multiple Intelligences) and Professor Benjamin Mardell (The Pedagogy of Play)

Rita has a variety of national and international experiences which have resulted in her developing relationships and networks which support her in her many areas of interest in Early Childhood Education and Care. Rita`s PhD research is titled. My self-image and your interactions!: The influence of the preschool educator's image of the child as a learner on children's wellbeing and involvement.

Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí (praise the young and they will flourish)



RUTH MEDJBER

PHOTOGRAPHER

(VISUAL ARTS)

Dublin-born and globally-based Ruth Medjber* was encouraged by her father to take photographs from a young age. While in her honors year of a Bachelor of Arts (Photography) at Dublin Institute of Technology, Medjber regularly contributed to Hot Press magazine and subsequently NME, Rolling Stone, Kerrang! and Classic Rock.

Medjber's portfolio includes portraits of Grace Jones, Hozier, Metallica, and the Foo fighters. Most recently, she documented Arcade of fire on their tour of the UK and Europe, as well as covering the Glastonbury Festival for the BBC. With close ties to her community, the artist uses her creative talent to support local charitable causes and has a long-term project Women of Notes, which celebrates inspiring women in the Irish music industry in a bid to create a gender balance in music.

In 2020, when the music industry was paused by covid19, Medjber began taking portraits of people at home through their windows in a series titled "Twilight Together". This body of work, now published as a book by Penguin, became one of the most iconic portrait series of our time.

*Pronounced: Medj (as in hedge) Ber (as in teddy)



RÓISÍN STACK

THEATRE MAKER | COACH | ARTS MANAGER (THEATRE)

Róisín Stack is based in the West of Ireland. She makes contemporary performances, coaches artists across art forms, and designs and delivers arts programmes.

She previously held positions within Druid, Macnas, Clod Ensemble (UK) and Galway Theatre Festival and has worked extensively in the area of artist development where she has mentored emerging theatre artists. In addition, she has assessed funding applications for Arts Council Ireland, Culture Ireland, iPortunus (now Culture Moves) and Galway County Council. She was the Arts Council Ireland Jerome Hynes Clore Fellow 2019.

Róisín has experience coaching and mentoring on topics such as: time management, creative process, self-care, and strategic planning, among others. She brings a coaching sensibility to her mentoring, which is to say, a questioning and supportive framework that works with the individual's disposition, as opposed to a purely advisory approach.



RON HEALY

AGILE COACH | PRODUCT MANAGER | PRODUCT OWNER | BUSINESS ANALYST | LECTURER, AUTHOR & EDITOR | ENTREPRENEUR (MULTI - INDUSTRY)

Ron is currently a consultant who works with small and large organizations to help them adapt new mindsets and new techniques to leverage the benefits of being agile, adaptive & experimental. He is a lifelong learner, a lifelong teacher, a lifelong disrupter, a lifelong inventor and a lifelong change agent.

- 12 years as a Driver and Tour Planner in Tourism.
- 10 years as an adult / returning student (achieving Bachelors and Research Masters degrees) while also working full time.
- Almost half a decade as a Lecturer and Researcher, inventing a number of technology Products.
- 10 years as a Coach and Trainer in the Software Engineering sector and
- In parallel, more 20 years as a serial Entrepreneur.

Ron works with SMEs and solo entrepreneurs to help them identify and demystify business, He also has a range of expertise in eCommerce, Marketplaces and Digital Strategy. Ron helps mentees to explore outside the box and firmly believes in learning by doing, improving by failing, and never self-censoring.



SARAH HONE

ACTOR | CASTING DIRECTOR | DRAMATHERAPIST (THEATRE)

Sarah Hone is an experienced actor, acting coach, casting director and dramatherapist. She holds a BA in Theatre and Performance and an MA in Dramatherapy, completing her Master's thesis on Role, Identity and Oppression and the use of Dramatherapy within the Irish Travelling Community. She has worked extensively in her fields in Ireland, USA, Australia and Japan. Her tutoring in universities led her to The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Sydney and Temple University Japan.

In mid 2016 she returned to Ireland following a two year tour of Japan performing for Disney. Prior to living in Japan she began her casting career in 2013 as an extras casting assistant on the blockbuster "Mad Max: Fury Road", in Sydney Australia.

Back home - a regular tutor at Bow Street, Filmbase and the Gaiety School of Acting, she primarily spent 5 years working in casting for Ali Coffey Casting and sister company Fishpond. After these years in full-time casting, she re-joined The National Screen Acting School of Ireland - Bow Street Academy, full time in 2022, as Associate Artistic Director.

She also casts independently under Sarah Hone Casting. Recent projects include Lance Daly's feature TRAD (currently in post production), and Naomi Sheridan's short KIKI which recently premiered at Dublin International Film Festival.



SHELLEY BUKSPAN

SOLO ARTIST | SINGER-SONGWRITER | STUDIO RECORDING ARTIST | BACKING VOCALIST (MUSIC)

Shelley Bukspan was born in The Bronx, N.Y, and immigrated to Ireland in 1986. Since the late 80s to the present day she's been performing as a solo artist, singer-songwriter, studio recording artist and backing vocalist, as well as arranging vocals for other artists. She embarked on her performance mentoring career in 2008, was recruited to lecture at BIMM Institute Dublin in 2011 and promoted to Head of Vocals in 2016. In addition, she has worked closely with The Gaiety School of Acting since 2012 and became a mentor for Minding Creative Minds in 2023.

As lecturer and former Head of Vocals in BIMM Institute Dublin, Shelley has mentored some of the most successful contemporary artists and musicians to come out of Ireland in recent years. As a graduate mentor she introduced a new generation of dedicated vocal experts to the vocal department in BIMM and to other international institutions. As part of her role, she has hosted and contributed to international masterclasses and workshops both online and in person.

For theatre Shelley has coached the cast of '48' by Emma Kane (Smock Ally and National Tour) and 'Wickedness of Oz' by Kate Gilmore (Project Arts Centre). For film Shelly trained a stellar cast on the musical 'The End' alongside producer Marius de Vries which included Tilda Swinton, Bronagh Gallagher, Michael Shannon, Moses Ingram, George Mackay, and Tim McInnery.

Shelley's music career in Ireland spans over 30 decades with multiple collaborations including The RTE Concert Orchestra, The Ormond Multimedia Centre (Elevator), Bill Whelan (Riverdance), Gavin Murphy, John Walsh (Symphonic) Dave Barker, Mary Black, Dolores Keane, Mary Coughlan, Mik Pyro, and Horslips, to name a few. Her voice and music are featured in numerous international films, projects, and ads, including on "Maniac 2000" which became an Irish phenomenon and winning The Meteor Music Awards in 2001. Her most recent releases include her solo album 'The Bronx Age' in 2021 and a Gospel inspired single 'At Last our Time is Here' featuring Eamon Flynn & The Henry Girls in 2022.

Shelley is trained in the Buteyko breathing method under Patrick McKeown and holds a Post Grad in Further and Higher Music Education, Middlesex University, 2014.



SUE CULLEN

MINDSET COACH | PROGRAMME MANAGER

(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Sue has spent the past 15 years coaching, mentoring, and training people from parents to individuals in a variety of programs, both private and voluntary through formal health support services, relationships, and career progression.

Sue has clients of various backgrounds and diversity, receiving coaching in all aspects of personal & professional development.

In recent years, Sue has been creating and managing support programmes, whilst also building a client base for 1:1 life coaching and more. As a life coach she has worked around Ireland and UK honing this craft, helping individuals break through their confidence barriers to achieve their goals, build resilience, self-confidence and belief while supporting them in their desired change & transformation.



STEPHEN DALY

TV& RADIO PRESENTER | VOICEOVER | CONTENT CREATOR (MULTI - INDUSTRY)

Stephen Daly is an Irish TV and Radio presenter, Voiceover and content creator with 20 years experience in the media industry.

He is currently part of the announcing team at Channel 4 in the UK, and a national radio presenter at Today FM. In the past Stephen was known for his work as a weather presenter with RTE and TV3, and also as a radio presenter at RTE Radio 1 and RTE Gold, and also at many of the locals and regionals across Ireland.

When not on screen, or on air, Stephen is one of Ireland's most sought after voiceover talents, with clients such as Disney, Coca-cola, The Irish Government, Diageo, Vodafone, The RNLI and Xtravision/HMV seeking him out to voice their campaigns.



SUZANNE DOYLE

MUSIC CONSULTANT | ARTIST MANAGER (MUSIC)

Suzanne Doyle is a Music & Creative Consultant/Artist Manager with thirty years experience in the international music industry, and working directly with singer/songwriters Finbar Furey, Declan O'Rourke and Graham Sweeney. She first joined U2's management company, Principle Management, in 1987 and worked directly with the band over a thirteen year period.

She also worked with other companies such as MTV Europe in London, RooArt, an independent record company in Australia, and is currently Dublin based working for over twenty years with her own Consultancy.

The unique insight into the music world from so many different angles led to a vast range of experience. She also works as a freelance Music Associate on specialist Television programmes for Irish National Broadcaster, RTE. As a mentor Suzanne provides broad and varied support to mentees.



STEPHEN JAMES SMITH

POET | PERFORMER | PLAYWRIGHT

(WRITING)

Stephen James Smith is an Irish poet. They are also a writer, performer, and playwright.

Their work has been seen by millions of people worldwide, leading them to perform with people like Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam), Patti Smith, and Bono (U2).

As a touring artist, Stephen has performed all over the world, from Ballydehob to Bangkok, but perhaps most notably at Glastonbury, the Nuyorican Poetry Café (New York), the Centre Culturel Irlandais (Paris), and the Palladium (London).

As a recording artist, Stephen's work has been critically acclaimed nationally and internationally, and led them to be called "Dublin's unofficial poet laureate".

Their work has been translated into eight languages and received numerous awards and nominations. Stephen was born in Dublin in 1982, and while they have done all this and more, Stephen recognises it's subjective and a lot of it is down to luck.



SINÉAD MEANEY

ARTIST | CURATOR | PRODUCER | DJ (MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Sinéad is a multi-disciplinary artist, curator, producer and DJ.

She holds a Masters in Music + Media Technologies from Trinity College, and has worked in various facets of the music, arts and tech industries - from the creation of audiovisual installations, music projects and performances, to event curation, music publishing, radio and film production. She is a recent recipient of an Arts Council Music Bursary.

Her installation work has been exhibited at The World Science Festival (New York), The Field Museum (Chicago), The Mind Museum (The Philippines), Electric Picnic (Ireland), Science Gallery (Dublin), and Engage Arts Festival (Cork). She has performed electronic music live at CTM Festival (Berlin), Rhizom Festival (Zurich), Body + Soul (Ireland), Panke Gallery (Berlin), and DJ'd at Turnmills (London), Kings Cross (London), Krake Festival (Berlin) and Berghain Kantine. She has curated events for Ableton's Loop: a Festival for Music Makers, Berlin Music Week, The National Gallery of Ireland, and produced content for RTE, Cork Midsummer Festival, Dublin Theatre Festival and Dublin Digital Radio.



SHEILA MEANEY

TV PRODUCTION | FILM PRODUCTION

(TV/FILM)

Sheila comes from an extensive background in TV, film, and broadcast media production, among other complimentary areas. She has been producing, and production managing broadcast productions since 1995.

She has been the Executive Producer on programmes such as Dancing with the Stars, Last Singer Standing and many other TV productions.

Sheila has worked her way from being a floor manager, line producer through to assistant director, production manager & executive producer with many organisations and collaborations.



SILKE MICHELS

MINDFULNESS COACH

(VISUAL ARTS)

Silke Michels, born in Germany is living in Ireland since 2002.

After completing the Arts in Group Facilitation Course at the Crawford College of Art and Design in Cork, she is working within the community mainly in the health and education field.

In her own art she explores the kinship with nature through an embodied presence by creating life performances and films.

Silke is a qualified Mindfulness Teacher and has a Diploma in Co-Active Coaching with Neuroscience.

Combining her skills she offers creative wellbeing courses and mindful coaching.



SHEELAH MOLONEY

CREATIVE CAREERS CONSULTANT

(VISUAL ARTS)

Sheelah is the founder of 2020 Curates which provides resources for visual artists to assist them in navigating the complex world of art sales through mentorship, advice and guidance.

She loves all things visual and has a degree in Art History (BA Hons) and is an avid amateur photographer. Her passion for art led her to open 2020 Art Gallery in 2009. In 2019, in response to the market and demand she transitioned the business into creative consultancy 2020 Curates. She has 15+ years' experience in the world of art sales as a gallery owner and curator. and has curated almost 50 exhibitions and worked closely with many artists.

She has a strong passion and belief in the importance of art and visual communications for the betterment and development of communities. This is the foundation of everything she does at 2020 Curates.



SHEENA MCGINLEY

FOUNDER OF PROOFIT.IE

Founder of Proofing | Copywriting | Web Building service, PROOFIT.IE

Accomplished Features Journalist, Columnist, and Copywriter, well versed in delivering a range of copy for online and print media (including Mediahuis, TheJournal.ie, Image.ie, Beaut.ie, entertainment.ie) over the last two decades. Currently, I write a weekly TV column for The Irish Independent, reviewing the latest releases via Netflix, Prime Video, Disney +, Apple TV + etc. I also provide regular features for The Sunday Independent.

Detail-oriented and committed to creating quality content within tight deadlines, I've provided online and print copywriting services for a number of private and semi-state bodies. These include The Irish Hospice Foundation, WildAtlanticWay.com, OriginGreen.ie (Bord Bia), Screen Ireland (formerly Bord Scannán na hÉireann), Getalifeintourism.ie (Irish Hotels Federation), and NaomisKitchen.ie. Alongside this corporate copywriting for the Irish market, I work with international tech solutions companies, such as Parakeeto and VisibleThread.



SUSAN SWEENEY
DIRECTOR OF WINDYMILL
PRODUCTIONS | VISUAL ARTIST
(MULTI-INDUSTRY)

Susan Sweeney is the Director of Windymill productions and is an Independent Tech consultant, exhibited visual artist and research academic.

She has been working with VR since 2017 where she trekked across Canada wearing her VR headset embodying SUBORG. She is a pioneer of 3D modelling and animation since the mid 1990's.

Susan is a meditation teacher and won a scholarship with the Eckhart Tolle foundation for her work with third level students. Susan's research involves visual literacy, wearable technology and is looking to work with fractal geometry and also morphic resonance research projects.



SINEAD O'BRIEN

FILMMAKER | TV PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR | NON-FICTION AUTHOR (FILM AND TV)

Sinead O'Brien is an award-winning director, producer and non-fiction author with a career that has spanned over twenty years. During this time she has collaborated with Screen Ireland, BBC, Sky Arts, Northern Ireland Screen, RTE, TG4, the BAI and NRK on a range of documentary films.

Sinead O'Brien has co-authored two critically acclaimed non-fiction books. Left for Dead with Nick Ward was named Sunday Times Sports Book of the Year along with being named amongst books of the year in The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Irish Times and The Independent. Striking Back with Mary Manning was named non-fiction political book by the Irish Independent. This book is currently being adapted for the stage by renowned US playwright Matt Spangler (The Kite Runner)



TONY KILLEEN

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION (EVENTS)

Tony Killeen has over 40 years of experience of working in the live event industry. His roles have varied from Site Management to Event Control at most of Ireland's major events and festivals. He has been the Site Manager at Slane since 1995, and has also been the site manager for Croke Park, Aviva Stadium and the RDS and at events including the Papal visit in 2018, Oxygen at Punchestown (every year), Feile in Thurles 1990-1995, Trinity Ball since 2006 and many more.

Tony has been Head of Production at St. Patrick's Festival since 2006. He also works as an Event Consultant for a number of events and local councils, being involved from the first planning meeting until the last truck is off site. Over the years,

Tony has also contributed to the design and layout of many event and festival sites



TRACY SAYERS

WRITER | FACILITATOR | SUPERVISOR | CONVENTION ORGANISER (COMIC)

Tracy is a writer, facilitator, supervisor, and conventions organiser. She has worked in the comic industry since 2016, as a volunteer, as a sales rep, as a support for other creators, and as a creator selling her own work. She immersed herself in all aspects of comic life, running the gauntlet that is the small press industry and convention scene, and survived. She has self-published comics and written scripts for other creators. Proud owner & organiser of Valkyrie Comic & Craft Conventions. Tracy has also been a member of the Comic Crusaders podcasting network and have been on several of their shows. Also, Proud member of the Nerdy Girls, speaking on Dublin City FM, at Dublin Comic Con, and on their podcast.

Since the pandemic hit her focus moved from writing to teaching. Tracy held classes for her niece and some of her younger cousins showing them how to write a story put it together, and make a comic. This lit a fire in her and the organisers of Cosmic Rebels Con let her run her first workshop. Since then, Tracy has held workshops at other conventions and festivals, and she run 6-week creative writing and comic arts programs via zoom. She is also a supervisor for 3rd-level animation students. She came up with a 6-week comic prep course and a 12-week work experience program.

