



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

The American Irish Historical Society, 5th Avenue, New York

# POST-CONFLICT STAGE & SCREEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Tuesday, 30 April 2024





## Free and open to everyone

Join Queen's University Belfast and the American Irish Historical Society as they host a symposium on Post-Conflict Stage & Screen in Northern Ireland.



**TICKETS**

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## POST-CONFLICT STAGE & SCREEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND

As Owen McCafferty's dramatisation of the last days of negotiations leading to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement runs at the Irish Arts Centre in New York, this one-day colloquium, organised by the Drama Department of Queen's University Belfast, critically engages with the role played throughout the

peace process by artists who have used theatre, film, and testimony to address the complex legacies of conflict that continue to haunt Northern Ireland today - more than a quarter-century after the Good Friday Agreement was signed.



## RUNNING ORDER

10:00 – 10:30

Arrival & Welcome Tea/Coffee/Pastries

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Professor Sir Ian Greer,  
President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast

Dr Elizabeth Stack,  
Executive Director, The American Irish Historical Society

10:30 – 11:40

### **PANEL 1 PERFORMING PEACE**

Chair: Professor Brian Singleton (Trinity College Dublin)

Dr Aoife Monks (Queen Mary University of London)  
Justice is Boring: Staging Peace as Process

Dr Mark Phelan (Queen's University Belfast)  
Staging Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Drama

Respondent ~ Dr Tim Loane (Queen's University Belfast)

11:50 – 13:00

### **PANEL 2 'THE TROUBLES' WITH TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Chair: Stephen Douds (Fine Point Films)

Dr Des O'Rawe (Queen's University Belfast)  
Screening the Past: Documentary Film & Conflict Transformation

Professor Anna Bryson (Queen's University Belfast)  
Oral History and Reconciliation: Speaking, Truth and Power

Respondent ~ Paula McFetridge (Kabosh Theatre)

12:45-13:45

### **BREAK**

13:45 – 14:45

### **STAGING THE AGREEMENT**

Dr Mark Phelan in conversation with playwright Owen McCafferty

15:00 – 16:00

### **CLOSING REMARKS & ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Professor Brian Singleton  
Paula McFetridge  
Professor Anna Bryson  
Jimmy Fay (Lyric Theatre Belfast)

**Reception Hosted by Queen's University Belfast**



**Professor Anna Bryson**  
(Queen's University Belfast)

**Anna Bryson** is a professor in the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast and a fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. She was appointed Director of Research for QUB Law in 2023. Since 2020 she has served as chair of the independent human rights NGO, the Committee on the Administration of Justice.

Her most recent research has developed at the intersection of socio-legal studies, transitional justice and oral history. She is currently working on an AHRC project titled Enhancing Democratic Habits: An Oral History of the Law Centre Movement (collaboration with colleagues at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, and the British Library). Her recently awarded British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship is supporting the completion of her fifth book titled Walking Over Hell on Tissue Paper: Memory, Identity and Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland (OUP).

**Aoife Monks** completed her BA and PhD at Trinity College Dublin. Since 2003, Aoife has been a lecturer at the University of Reading and then a senior lecturer at Birkbeck, University of London, where she established and directed the BA Theatre and Drama Studies and the MA Text and Performance (with RADA). In 2014, Aoife joined Queen Mary and founded the QMUL Artist Research Fellowship scheme in 2015. She is Co-Director of Research for Drama and the QMUL Arts and Culture academic lead.



**Dr Aoife Monks**  
(Queen Mary  
University of London)



**Professor Brian Singleton**  
(Trinity College Dublin)

**Brian Singleton** is the Samuel Beckett Professor of Drama & Theatre at Trinity College Dublin and Academic Director of The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art. He is a fellow of Trinity College Dublin and an honorary fellow of Rose Bruford College. He is former Editor of Theatre Research International (Cambridge University Press, 2001-3) and former President of the International Federation for Theatre Research (2007-11). In 2012 he and Janelle Reinelt won the ATHE Excellence in Editing Award for their 40-volume book series Studies in International Performance. A second book series (with co-editor Elaine Aston) entitled Contemporary Performance InterActions has been completed with a further 25 monographs and edited collections published. He has published widely on theatre and performance practice in Irish and European contexts with a particular interest in interculturalism, orientalism, gender and memory.

**Dr. Des O’Rawe** is a senior lecturer in Film Studies at the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen’s University Belfast, where he is also a research fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. He works chiefly on comparative approaches to the study of film, particularly documentary. He is the author of *Regarding the Real: Cinema, Documentary, and the Visual Arts* (Manchester University Press, 2016); and he is currently completing a monograph on documentary filmmaking and the politics of psychiatry (Palgrave).



**Dr Des O’Rawe**  
(Queen’s University Belfast)

**Paula McFetridge** has been Artistic Director of Kabosh since 2006. Kabosh is a Belfast-based theatre company committed to challenging the idea of what theatre is, who it is for and where it is staged. She commissions, dramaturgs and directs the company's programme of socially engaged theatre. Paula is a fellow of Salzburg Global Seminar Session 532



**Paula McFetridge**  
(Kabosh Theatre)

Peacebuilding Through the Arts, was made Belfast Ambassador in recognition of utilising the arts to tackle difficult issues and won the Northern Ireland Tourism Board 'Hero' award for her work in cultural tourism.



**Dr Mark Phelan**  
(Queen's University Belfast)

**Mark Phelan** is a senior lecturer in Drama at the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast and trustee of the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. He has published extensively on Irish theatre, with his recent research primarily concerned with the role that theatre and performance 'plays' in ongoing processes of conflict transformation in the North of Ireland. He has edited a number of collections of plays by Owen McCafferty, Tim Loane, and Joseph Crilly as well as books and journals; most recently, with Des O'Rawe, *Cities of Memory: Post-Conflict Performance, Film and Visual Arts* (Palgrave Macmillan).



**Stephen Douds** is a producer working with Fine Point Films in Belfast, which specialises in producing high-end documentaries for international distribution. The company regularly premieres work at both the Tribeca and Sundance Film Festivals as well as other international industry events such as DocsNYC and HotDocs. He is currently producing a feature length documentary on Senator George Mitchell who chaired the Irish peace talks which culminated in the Good Friday Agreement. A former BBC staff producer and Royal Television Society winner, he has worked with all the major broadcasters in the UK and Ireland and headed up teams to deliver output with a strong cultural and social resonance. As a radio producer he established BBC Radio Ulster's first daily arts programme and produced many documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service. He is a former vice-chair of the Lyric Theatre in Belfast and as such participated in the capital development campaign which led to the reconstruction of the theatre in 2011. He is a co-editor, along with Mark Carruthers, of *Stepping Stones: The Arts in Ulster 1971 - 2001* which surveyed culture and cultural achievement during the Troubles.



**Stephen Douds**  
(Fine Point Films)



**Dr Tim Loane**  
(Queen's University Belfast)

**Tim Loane** co-founded Belfast's Tinderbox Theatre Company in 1988 and has worked as a writer, director and actor in film, television, theatre and radio. His stage plays include political satires *To Be Sure* and *Caught Red Handed* for which he won the Irish Times and Stewart Parker Awards. He wrote the post-ceasefire comedy film *Out of the Deep Pan*, created the BAFTA-nominated TV series *TEACHERS* (Channel 4), and was lead writer of *Versailles* (Canal+). Tim directed the short film *Dance Lexie Dance* which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1997.



AMERICAN IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**With sincere thanks to our hosts at the  
American Irish Historical Society.**