



NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF DRAMATIC ART



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

GRAD FEST 2024

Four plays by graduating MFA directors and designers

Monday, June 24th — Thursday, July 11th

Book online at www.thelir.ie

— **GRADFEST 2024** is a season of productions directed and designed by this year's graduating MFA students. The four plays being produced are a culmination of an intensive year of hands-on training in theatre directing, lighting design, costume design and set design. The cast of each production consists of final-year acting students and the backstage roles are undertaken by our Stage Management and Technical Theatre students.



The Almighty Sometimes

by Kendall Feaver

Tuesday, 25th June — Thursday, 27th June, 7pm

Preview: Monday, 24th June, 7pm

Matinee: Thursday, 27th June, 1pm

Studio Two

"I've been on those pills for so long, I don't know who I am without them, if the things I say or do are because of the medication or in spite of it – but what I do know is that before you put me on them I could write. It is the only thing I know about myself that is true, or real, or in any way authentic"

Diagnosed with a severe mental illness as a child, Anna has been on medication for so long she can't remember who she is without it. All she knows is that, as a little girl, she was a prodigious writing talent, in possession of a thrilling imagination. Has this been lost to years of pills and prescriptions? Now 18, Anna is determined to find out. Walking the line between control and care, her mother Renee, has always been at her side, keeping her safe.

On the precipice of a new chapter, both women struggle to find their place. Will they find a balance where both can thrive or will their delicate ecosystem collapse under these new pressures?

Kendall Feaver's multi-award-winning play is a heartfelt drama filled with humour, pain and a little bit of magic. A play about mothers and daughters, caretakers and finding yourself amongst all the labels.

The Almighty Sometimes was first performed at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester (UK) as a winner of the 2015 Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting on February 9th, 2018, directed by Katy Rudd.

____ CAST

Renee	Alison Kinlan
Vivienne	Kailey Greenberg
Anna	Isabelle Harriet
Oliver	Darren Mone

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Alisha Finnerty
Set Designer	Maria Del Mar Pares Baraldes
Costume Designer	Caroline O'Connor*
Lighting Designer	Pedro Pacheco*
Sound Designer	Chris Nolan

____ CREW

Production Manager	Jenna Crossan
Company Stage Manager	Rosie Turpin
Assistant Stage Manager	Ada Price
Set Construction	David Farrelly
Scenic Artist	Fionn Loughman
Costume	Reggie Pollock
Chief LX	Jennifer Kelly
LX Programmer	Grace Woulfe
Venue Technician	TJ Danielsson
Props	Dragana Stevanic



Eurydice

EURYDICE

By Sarah Ruhl

Wednesday, 26th June — Friday, 28th June, 7.30pm

Preview: Tuesday, 25th June, 7.30pm

Matinee: Friday, 28th June, 1pm

Studio One

How do we grieve?
What do we owe the dead?
Does art betray the love it seeks to
honour?
Is any memory of love not informed
by mourning?

Who would win in a battle between
language and music, and does there
need to be a battle?

Where lies the common ground
between life and death?
What secrets are kept and whispered
in the rain?
When does grief become a sin?

In how many languages can we say I
love you? In which can we understand
it?

How does a person remember to
forget?
What use is a love letter from beyond
the grave?

In the wake of tragedy, what has
happened?

Water.
Why has it happened?

Water.
What of justice?

Water.
Why anything?

Because water.

If you love, do you turn?
If you love, do you say good-bye?
Exploring questions about grief and
loss, Sarah Ruhl's 2003 play, *Eurydice*,
breathes new life into the classic
Greek myth. This poignant telling
follows Eurydice's journey through
the underworld after her sudden
death.

____ CAST

Eurydice	Alexandra Bierer
Orpheus	Gabriel Draper
Father	Joshua McEneaney
Nasty Interesting Man	Shane Mc Cormick
Little Stone	Allie P. O'Neill
Big Stone	Penny Morris
Loud Stone	Gemma Allan

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Zia Loparic Basbaum
Set Designer	Ronan Duffy*
Costume Designer	Clodagh Deegan
Lighting Designer	Kevin Murphy*
Sound Designer	Leon Henry

____ CREW

Production Manager	Callum Staney
Company Stage Manager	David McGee
Deputy Stage Manager	Grey Bayliss
Assistant Stage Manager	Jen Faherty
Set	Em Kelleher
Scenic	Charlotte Ni
Costume HOD	Thea Xia
Chief LX	Emma Brennan
LX Programmer	Cathal Ó Broin Brace
Sound HOD	Sarah Doyle
Props	Dragana Stevanic

This amateur production of Eurydice is presented by
arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

This play was originally produced by Madison Repertory
Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin, August 29, 2003. Richard
Corley, Artistic Director, Tony Forman, Managing Director
and subsequently produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre
in 2004. Tony Taccone, Artistic Director, Susan Medak, Man-
aging Director. Yale Repertory Theatre, James Bundy, Artistic
Director, Victoria Nolan, Managing Director. Produced by
Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2007, Carole Rothman:
Artistic Director.

EURYDICE is produced by special arrangement with Bruce
Ostler, BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York,
NY 10036. Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.
concordtheatricals.co.uk



The Nest

By Franz Xaver Kroetz

Translated by Conor McPherson

Monday, 8th July — Wednesday, 10th July, 7pm

Preview: Saturday, 6th July, 7pm

Matinee: Wednesday, 10th July, 1pm

Studio Two

"If we don't do anything about it, it'll just be someone else doing it next month and someone else the month after that. And I'll know they're doing it! It'll always be someone else. That's the problem!"

The Nest, by Franz Xaver Kroetz and translated by Conor McPherson is an environmental drama set in Dublin in 2024. Martha and Kurt, expectant parents, reside in a small apartment, work tirelessly, yet their efforts never suffice. When Kurt is offered quick money for a mysterious side job, his decision is swift. The play delves into the interplay between individual choices and collective consequences, exposing the underlying violence within our socioeconomic structure.

____ CAST

Martha
Kurt

Niamh Murphy
Dan Tracey

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Hair & Makeup

Friederike Karpf
Anna Biza
Dara Gill*
Matt McGowan
Cameron Macaulay
Val Sherlock

____ CREW

Assistant Production Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Set HOD
Scenic HOD
Costume HOD
Sound HOD
Chief LX
LX Programmer
Props

Beth Thomas
Alison Meehan
Amelia Hauer
Sinead Cullen
Sophie Lawlor
Ais Flattery
Isaac McGrath
Alex Thein
Juliea Nasset
Dragana Stevanic



bent

by Martin Sherman

Tuesday, 9th July — Thursday, 11th July, 7.30pm
Preview: Monday, 8th July, 7.30pm
Matinee: Thursday, 11th July, 1pm
Studio One

"We made love. We were real. We were human. We made love."

In the rising darkness of Nazi Germany, *Bent* tells the story of Max, a gay man living a carefree life in Berlin. When violence erupts and his world crumbles, Max is forced to make a desperate choice. As he enters a concentration camp and meets fellow prisoner Horst, a brutal reality for the two men unfolds. *Bent* explores themes of survival, love, and the fight for humanity in the depths of depravity.

____ CAST

Max	Conor Wolfe O'Hara
Horst	Connor Curran
Rudy	Sean Landau
Wolf / Man / Prisoner	Gabriel Draper
Greta / Freddie / Kapo	Nathan Patterson
Lieutenant / VO /	
Officer / Captain	Shane Mc Cormick
Guard	Darragh Kavanagh

____ CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Connor Mickiewicz
Set Designer	Ronan Duffy*
Costume Designer	Chrysi Chatzivasileiou*
Lighting Designer	Kevin Murphy*
Sound Designer	Lara Gallagher

____ CREW

Production Manager	Adam Rafter
Company Stage Manager	Chiara Mangold
Deputy Stage Manager	Joan Bernzen
Assistant Stage Manager	Jasper Cahill
Set Construction	Megan Conlan
Costume HOD	Niamh McGrath
Chief LX	Alan Fay
LX Programmer	Arden Tierney
Sound HOD	Emma Mulligan
Props	Dragana Stevanic

Bent by Martin Sherman first premiered in 1979 at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, London.

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



**Anna
Biza**

Anna Biza was born in Athens and is majoring in Set Design and minoring in Dramaturgy for her MFA in Stage Design at The Lir Academy. She also holds a Diploma in Architecture from the University of Patras, Greece, and has completed a one-year workshop in Set & Costume Design at the National Theatre of Greece in Athens.

Over the last number of years, she has worked as a set designer assistant on several productions in Greece with companies including the Athens & Epidaurus Festival, National Theatre of Greece, Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun and more. She has also worked as an assistant in production and video design projects for television and theatre, as well as a freelance architect, associate academic researcher, and teaching assistant in the field of architecture and urban design.



**Maria Del Mar
Parés Baraldés**

Maria Del Mar Parés Baraldés is majoring in Set Design and minoring in Dramaturgy for her MFA in Stage Design at The Lir Academy. Maria graduated from the University of Art and Design of Barcelona in 2023 with a BA in Design, which included experience in interior design, as well as visual arts and the culture of design. During her time there, she cultivated a deep passion for the performative arts, especially when she first encountered scenographic design. As a part of her studies, she was able to train as a set designer with professional scenographers and theatre creators.

As a part of her placement, she worked with set designer Anna Alcubierre in a National Theatre of Catalonia production, as well as the sculptor Jaume Plensa for an exhibition on Barcelona's iconic building, La Pedrera. In both projects she had the role of set design assistant.



Alisha
Finnerty

Alisha Finnerty is a theatre director from Kerry, Ireland. Through her work she aims to boldly explore and celebrate the human experience in all its forms. She hopes to be a facilitator of change in the world by focusing on stories she feels not only deserve but need an audience. Alisha specialises in dynamic performance pieces with a keen social and cultural awareness. She has previously completed a BA in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies in the University of Galway.



Connor
Mickiewicz

Connor Mickiewicz graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Theatre. Originally from California, he was the founding artistic director of New Helvetia Theatre in Sacramento until 2019. Their mission was to produce lesser-known and contemporary musicals. Directing credits include *35MM: A Musical Exhibition*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Passion, Marry Me a Little*, *Tell Me On Sunday*, and *Celebration* (NHT). Acting credits include Dean/Devin in *Gloria* and Baby William in *The Behavior of Broadus* (Capital Stage), Jeff in *[title of show]* and Warren in *Ordinary Days* (NHT), as well as Nick/Narrator for Ron Cunningham's *The Great Gatsby* (Sacramento Ballet).



Friederike
Karpf

Friederike Karpf is a director based in Dublin. She has a background in Political Science, Theatre Studies, and Theatre Pedagogy. Her recent directing credits include *Abraumhalde* by Elfriede Jelinek (2020), *Abgehoben* (2021), and *Schichten* (2022). She is a founding member of the transdisciplinary, international collective projekt.vakuum, whose production *Tanken* (2023) premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Friederike is interested in politically ambitious experimental, writer-led, devised theatre and performance work that strives for socioeconomic change.



Zia
Basbaum

Zia Basbaum is a Brazilian theatre-maker with experience in acting, performance art, devising, and theatre directing, amongst other elements of theatrical craft. She has trained professionally as an actor, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Artes Cênicas (Scene Arts) from Universidade de São Paulo (USP). Professionally, she has worked as an assistant director to Cibele Forjaz in two productions: *Estação_3: EMBORRAR* (2022), part of the triptych *A Morte da Estrela*, by CIA Barca de Dionísos; and Forjaz's staging of the Brazilian Opera, *Il Guarany* (2023), for the Municipal Theatre of São Paulo. She comes from a background of highly political art, marked by joy, sex and viscera. She aims to be disruptive, ritualistic, dream-filled, generous, collective, and absolutely, above all, passionate in her work. In 2023, she was awarded the Haddad Fellowship by the Haddad Foundation, to pursue the Theatre Directing MFA at The Lir Academy of Dramatic Arts.

GRADUATING ACTING STUDENTS



Alexandra
Bierer



Alison
Kinlan



Allie
P. O'Neill



Connor
Curran



Conor
Wolfe O'Hara



Dan
Tracey



Eimhin
Fitzgerald
Doherty



Gabriel
Draper



Gemma
Allan



Isabelle
Harriet



Kailey
Greenberg



Nathan
Patterson



Niamh
Murphy



Penny
Morris



Sean
Landau



Shane
Mc Cormick



Síofra
Ní Éilí

GRADUATING STAGE MANAGEMENT & TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDENTS



Alessandro
Cristiano
Molina



Alison
Meehan



Alison
O'Shea



Arden
Tierney



Avram
Rosewood



Bianca
Baguio



Callum
Stanley



Cathal
Ó Broin
Brace



Chiara
Mangold



Christopher
Nolan



David
McGee



Dragana
Stevanic



Elizabeth
Thomas



Isaac
McGrath
Long



Jenna
Crossan



Josefine "TJ"
Danielsson



Jovetta "Jovy"
Tan Ler Sin



Maeve
Talbot



Niamh
McGrath



Oliver
Kampman



Peter
Bond



Sarah
Doyle



Thea
Xia



Thomas
Wall

____ TECHNICAL CREW

Alanna Busher Carly
Bradley Whelan
Ellen Hodgers
Konstantinos Papagiannis
Zoren Haljaste

____ SET & STAGE CREW

Brad O'Brien
Daniel Nolan
Eoin Bloomer Bonner
Nell Snyder

____ SCENIC & STAGE

Clíodhna Ryan
Grainne Clancy
Kaitlin Gaddy
Theo Lynch

____ COSTUME DEPARTMENT

Aoife Doyle
Coco Londres
Elena Cullen
Lara Hughes

____ INFO

Booking Tickets

Book tickets and find out more about shows at The Lir Academy in the What's On section of our website theilir.ie/events

Content Warnings

Please note that these productions contain adult themes that may be disturbing to some patrons. Feel free to contact our box office if you would like to discuss this further or discuss it in person with our front of house team. Contact details – boxoffice@theilir.ie or on 01 8962559.

Note

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited.

Social Media

Follow GradFest on our social media channels [#gradfest2024](https://twitter.com/gradfest2024)

____ THANK YOU

Special thanks from our production teams to: Richie O'Neill at Keylight; Tim Scott at the Samuel Beckett Theatre; and Lucas Kaufman and the team at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site.

Many thanks to our staff and tutors who have supported the realisation of this production.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters who give so generously to our students. As always, we are immensely grateful to our bursary supporters who work with us to ensure that training at The Lir Academy is made possible for more emerging talent.

____ SUPPORT US

The Lir Academy is a registered charity. RCN 20076689. For further information on our fundraising activities, please contact development@theilir.ie

* Welcome back to all The Lir Academy graduates working on these productions

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