# Welcome to the Youth Theatre Ireland Practice Symposium 2026 – Friday November 13th

Thank you for choosing to come to our Practice Symposium on November 13th and 14th. This visual guide is designed to give an overview of what you can expect over the course of the two days. We will be expecting approximately 100 attendees over the course of the event.

The event will take place in the East Quad Building of TU Dublin's Grangegorman campus. The building has a Mazemap page which can be accessed here: https://link.mazemap.com/GGBLmbLI. *This can provide you with directions if you get lost.*

When you come to our event, there will be a check in desk at the **East Quad Front Foyer.**



The check in desk will be staffed by members of the Youth Theatre Ireland Staff team, all of whom are listed at the end of this document.

When you check in you will receive a name tag.

Check in is from 11.15-12.00pm on Friday the 13th of November.

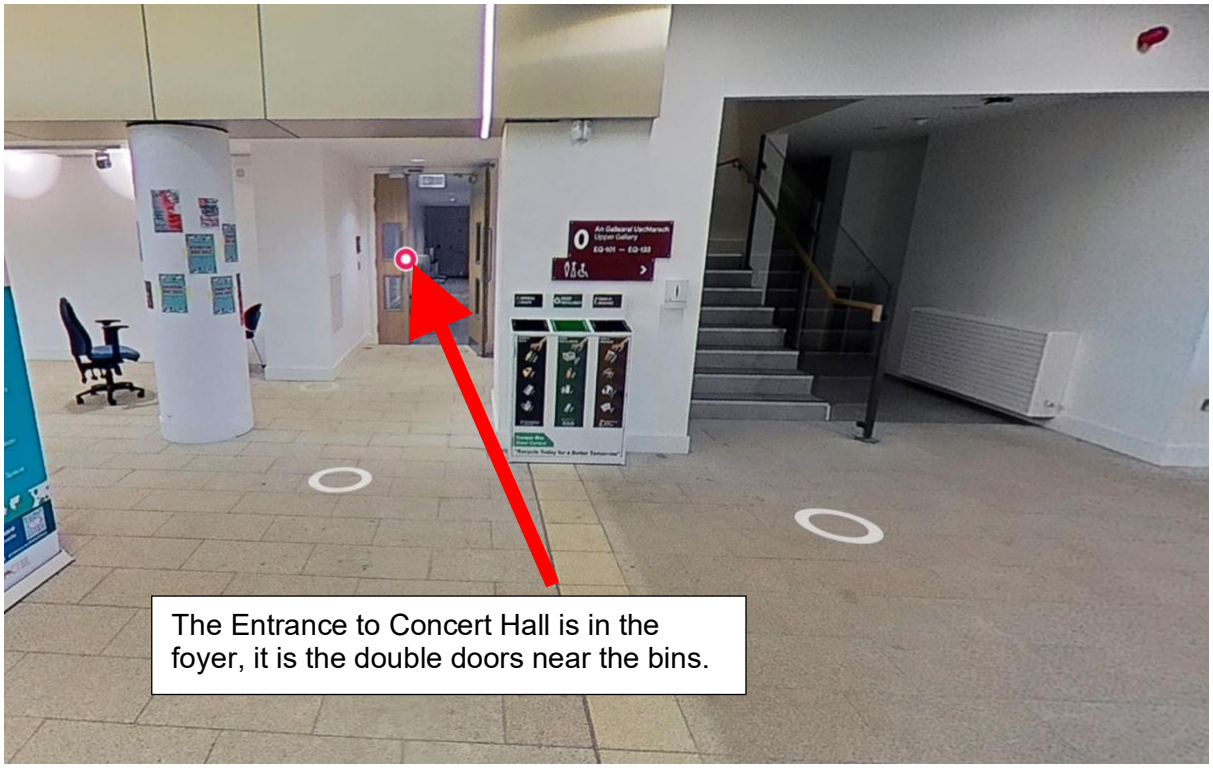
The East Quad is the main reception area of the building, which is part of a larger university and as such there will be many people there not connected to our event. This has the potential to get loud. We will have ear defenders and plugs on hand, but if you have some yourself that you like to use, we recommend you bring them with you.

**There is a list of designated Quiet Rooms on the last page of this document.**




When you check in you will be given your event pass, which will contain a QR code which provides you with all the relevant information you may need including your workshop choices.

The first event of our Symposium is the Introduction and Welcome, which will take place in the Concert Hall. This will begin at 12:00pm



The Entrance to Concert Hall is in the foyer, it is the double doors near the bins.

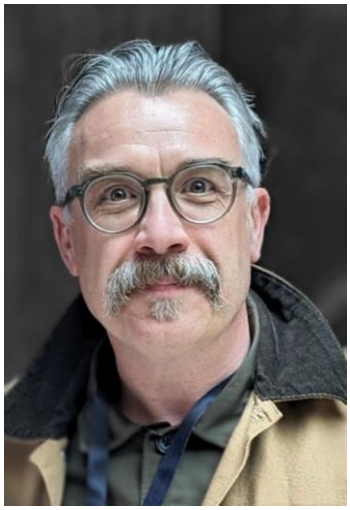


This is where the speakers will stand – on the wooden floor of the Concert Hall.



This is where the audience will sit – in the audience of the Concert Hall – please sit near the front!

We are not allowed to eat food or have drinks in the Concert Hall. If you want to bring in a water bottle, please put it in your bag.



The welcome address will be from Deputy Director Alan King.

Alan will ask people not to clap their hands but rather click their fingers or wave their hands to show their appreciation.

A member of TU Dublin's Academic Staff will also welcome you to the event.

Following the welcome address, we will remain in the concert hall for our four keynote speakers. We will be in the Concert Hall for approximately 90 minutes total. If you need to use the bathroom during that time you are free to do so. Each speaker will speak for approximately 10-15 minutes, and then there will be a panel discussion hosted by Sarah Fitzgibbon from TU Dublin.

**Keynote Speakers:**



**Eoghan Doyle**
Youth Theatre Ireland Launch Strategic Plan 2026- 2030





**Rachel Doolin & Donna O'Keeney**
Graffiti BEAG Creating Space for the Magic in Everyday



**Catherine Sheridan**
What If? Making Room for Wonder



**Dominic Campbell**
Playing For All of Your Life



**Sarah Fitzgibbon -**
Chair of Panel Discussion



After the panel discussion, at 1:30pm we will have lunch. Lunch will be served in the Front Foyer, where you checked in. Based on the dietary information provided by attendees we will have:

- PICNIC LUNCH BAG (Sandwich, crisps, chocolate bar, whole fruit)
- Salad Boxes for people who have passed on specific dietary requirements to us in advance
- Water is available from the Water Fountains, so please bring your own water bottle or reusable cup.

We have asked for your dietary requirements in advance , so hopefully there will be food you will enjoy.

**Please do not take any Picnic lunch Bag or Salad Box that are specifically labelled for other people.**

If you think the lunch might not be to you taste, you're welcome to bring your own snacks or food.

Unfortunately there are not a lot of places to sit, so do please find what you can or you can go outside if it is not raining or too cold.

Lunch break will involve approximately 75 people and is taking place in a large space – this has the potential to be loud!

At 2:25pm, when lunch is finishing, please assemble in the Front Foyer. Here you will be called into your four smaller Workshop groups. Each group has approximately 18 people. These smaller groups will be accompanied by a TU Dublin Student Helper, who will help show attendees around the building as needs be.

**Your assigned workshops will be on a sticker on your event pass.**





***Workshop 1:*** **What If? Making Room for Wonder**
Catherine Sheridan
Taking Place in
Concert Hall.





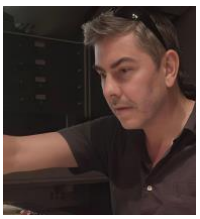


***Workshop 2:*** **Permission to Play**
Rachel Doolin and Donna O'Keeney

Taking Place in EQ006a







***Workshop 3:*** **Sound Play: Making Audio Performance Together**

Dr. Ciara Murphy & Dr. Brian Keegan
Taking Place in EQ311









***Workshop 4:*** **Point. Click. Play. - Interactive Theatre with Barry & Cathal**
Barry Morgan, Cathal Thornton, with Donal Beecher

Taking Place in EQ305



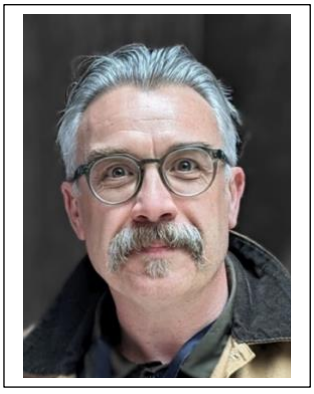
At 4:30pm we will take a tea break in the East Quad Foyer – the same place as registration.

There will be Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Please bring your own reusable cup to cut down on waste.

The Tea break will involve approximately 70 people and is taking place in a large space – this has the potential to be loud!



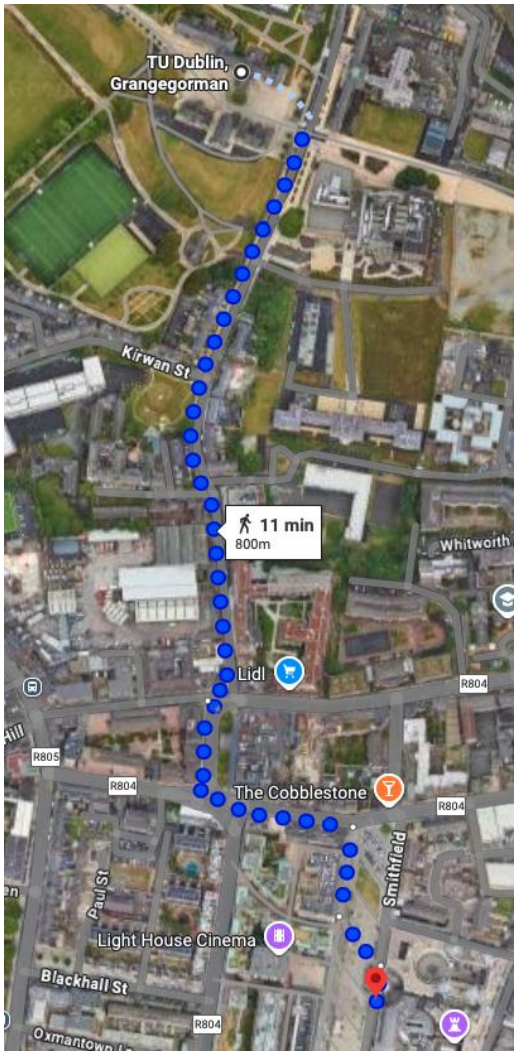


**Workshop: Making Connections**
Alan King

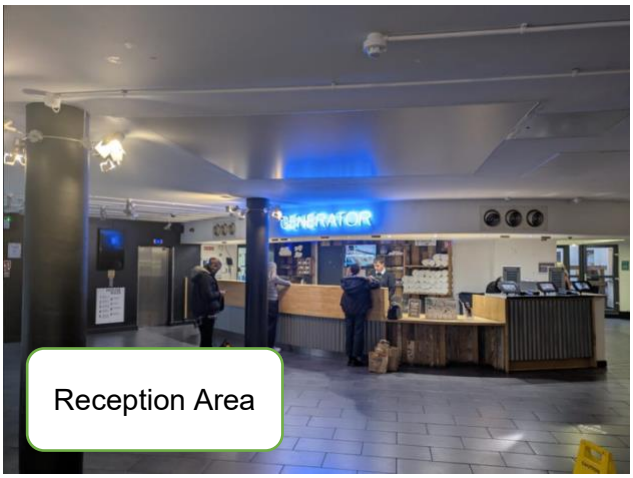
Taking Place in Concert Hall.

At 5pm, Alan King will host a workshop, 'Making Connections' in the Concert Hall. This workshop will involve working with new people and drama games, depending on the group, this workshop may be loud! This workshop can take up to 70 participants.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR LANYARD BEFORE DEPARTING TU DUBLIN FOR THE EVENING. LANYARDS WILL BE RETURNED AT CHECK IN ON SATURDAY.**









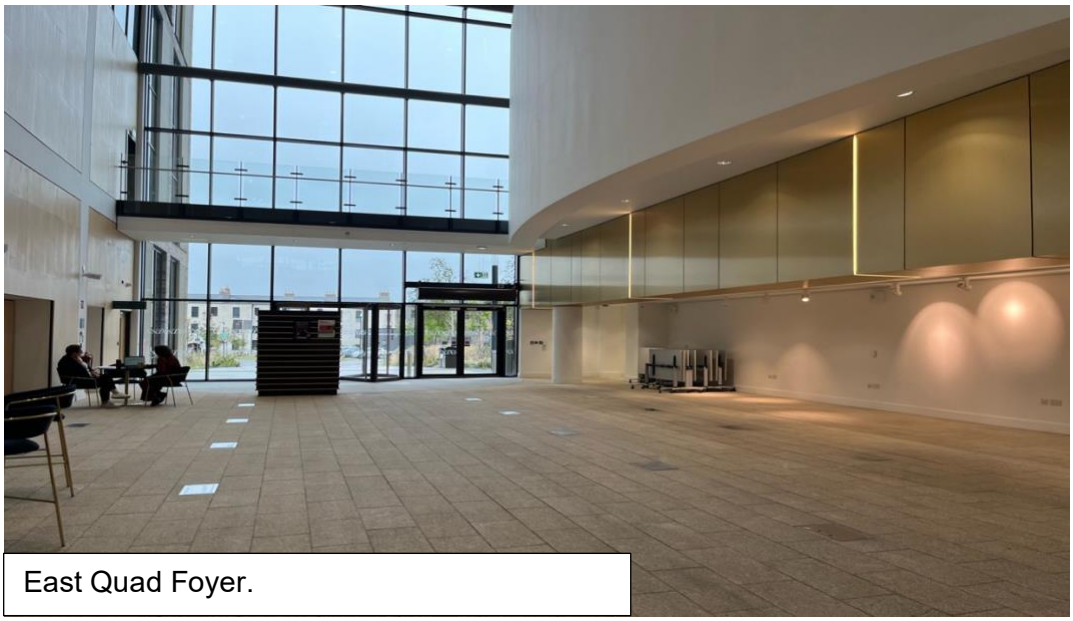


The final event of the first day of the Symposium will finish with a social event in the Generator Hostel in Smithfield from 7pm to 9pm. If you are unsure where to go, just ask one of the Youth Theatre Ireland Event Team Members and they will bring you over.

We will be running a quiz in the cinema room of the venue. **This is an alcohol free social event.** You can buy soft drinks and food at the bar. The Generator hostel is a busy space, and the foyer is an echoey space, be prepared for it to be noisy, and for there to be lots of people around as you enter. The Cinema Room is in the Basement. You can take stairs or a lift down. There will be some music and chatting in the room and it may get loud so you might want to wear ear defenders or earplugs.

# Welcome to the Youth Theatre Ireland Practice Symposium 2026 – Saturday November 14th

For those only joining us on the Saturday, registration will be open from 9:00 – 10:30 in the **East Quad Foyer.**



East Quad Foyer.

The check in desk will be staffed by members of the Youth Theatre Ireland Event Team, all of whom are listed at the end of this document. This is where you can collect your nametag once again. On Saturday the University is very busy with a lot more people who ae not directly attending the symposium. It may be louder and busier than Friday.



**The Youth Theatre Ireland AGM** will take place in the Black Box Theatre from 9.30 – 10.30am.

The AGM is not a mandatory part of the Symposium, and is exclusive to individuals, organisations and youth theatres who are paid up members of Youth Theatre Ireland contact eoghan@youththeatre.ie

From 10:30 am, attendees will once again split in to workshop groups. Please assemble in the Front Foyer from 10.20 if you are not attending the AGM. Here you will be called into your four smaller groups. Each group has approximately 18 people. These smaller groups will be accompanied by a TU Dublin Student helper, who will help show attendees around the building as needs be.





***Workshop 1:*** **What If? Making Room for Wonder**
Catherine Sheridan
Taking Place in EQ3006

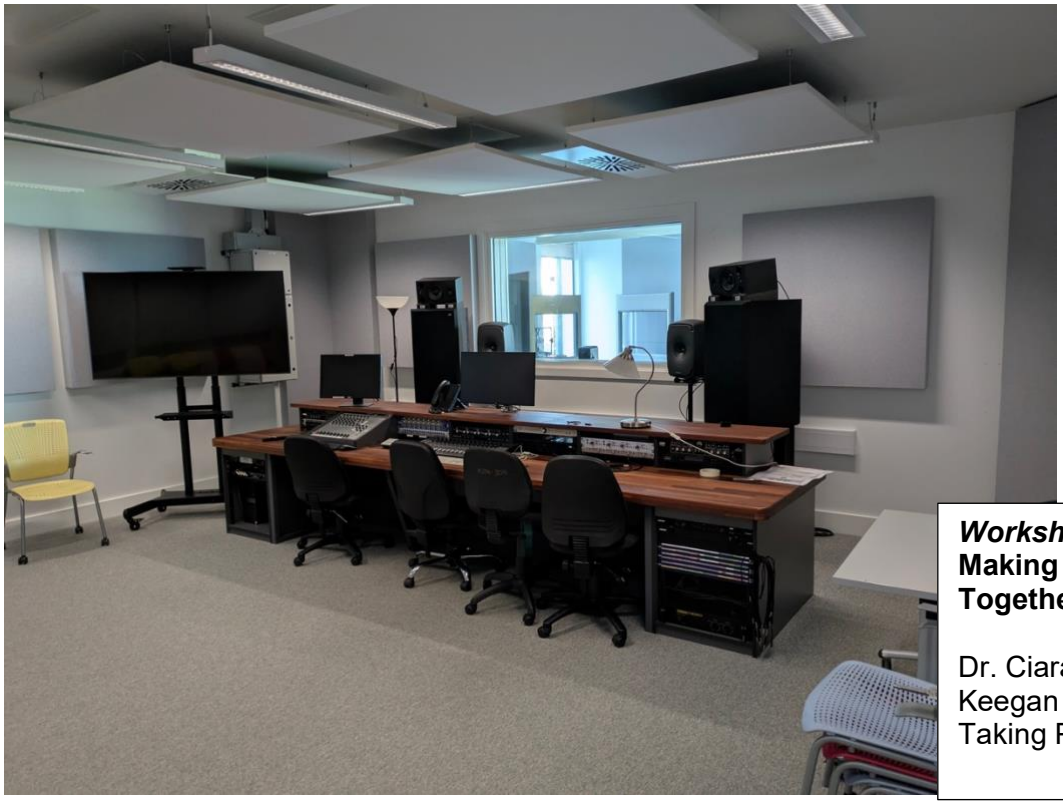




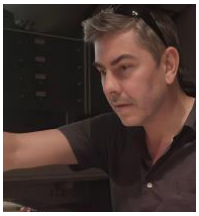


***Workshop 2:*** **Permission to Play**
Rachel Doolin and Donna O'Keeney

Taking Place in EQ006a







***Workshop 3:*** **Sound Play: Making Audio Performance Together**

Dr. Ciara Murphy & Dr. Brian Keegan
Taking Place in EQ311









***Workshop 4:*** **Point. Click. Play. - Interactive Theatre with Barry & Cathal**
Barry Morgan, Cathal Thornton, with Donal Beecher

Taking Place in EQ305




From 12:30 – 1:15 we will take a lunch break will take place in room EQ211 on the 2nd Floor. You can take the lift or stairs. Student Helpers and Youth Theatre Ireland Staff will help you find the way. This lunch break is 45 minutes long.

In keeping with our sustainable practices theme from last year's symposium, today's lunch will be vegetarian for all. This helps us reduce carbon emissions.

Today's lunch is being catered by a different company. The reason being that the in house caterers do not provide lunch on Saturdays for events.

The format and layout will be different from Friday

Based on the dietary information provided by attendees we will have:

- Choice of Vegetarian Sandwiches
- Salad Boxes for people who have passed on specific dietary requirements to us in advance
- *Salad boxes are not Gluten Free, so there will be a selection of Gluten Free Sandwiches for specific people. This will be clearly labelled for specific people.
- Water is available from the Water Fountains, so please bring your own water bottle or reusable cup.

We have asked for your dietary requirements in advance , so hopefully there will be food you will enjoy.

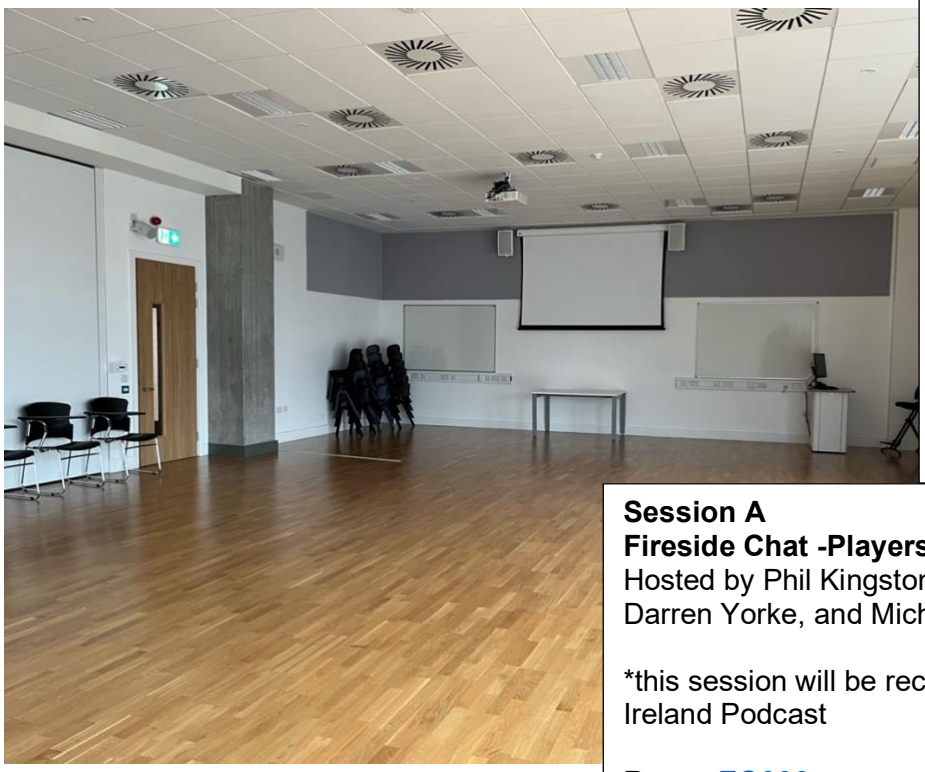
**Please do not take any Picnic lunch Bag or Salad Box that are specifically labelled for other people.**

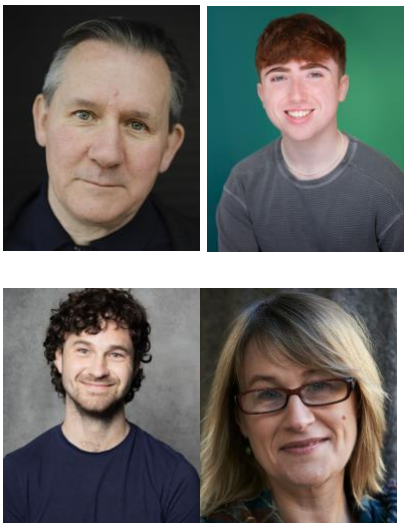
If you think the lunch might not be to you taste, you're welcome to bring your own snacks or food.

Lunch break will involve approximately 85 people and is taking place in a large space – this has the potential to be loud!

In room EQ211 there are more places to sit and relax. You can also sit on some of the chairs and pods on the second floor too.

From 1:30– 2:40pm, there will be opportunities to take part in our '**Saturday Sessions'.** Please make your own way your room, depending where you are in the building. If you are unsure, please ask a Student Helper or Youth Theatre Ireland Staff Member.

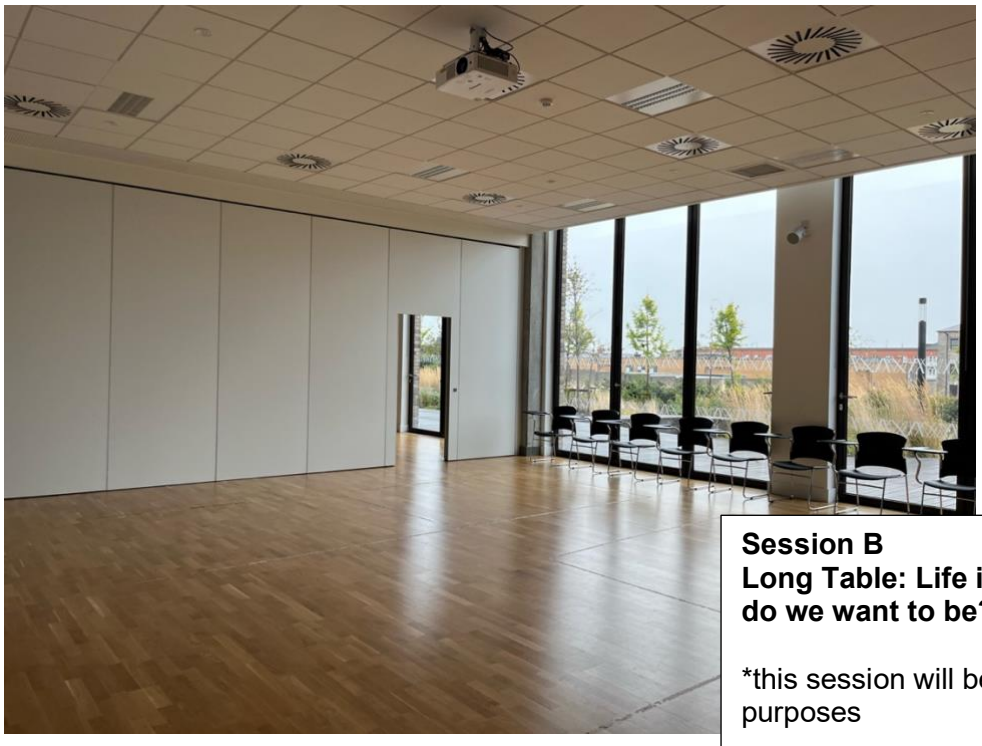




**Session A**
**Fireside Chat -Players At Life**
Hosted by Phil Kingston with Eoghan Flanagan Healy, Darren Yorke, and Michelle Read

*this session will be recorded for the Youth Theatre Ireland Podcast

Room: EQ006





**Session B**
**Long Table: Life in 2030 and beyond where do we want to be?**

*this session will be recorded for notetaking purposes

Facilitated by Dr. Ali FitzGibbon
Room: EQ006A



From 2:40 – 3pm we will take a short tea break in the East Quad Front Foyer – the same place as registration.

There will be Tea, coffee & mini-pastries and biscuits

There will be some gluten free pastries, but please do not take these if you are not gluten intolerant.

Please bring your own reusable cup to cut down on waste.

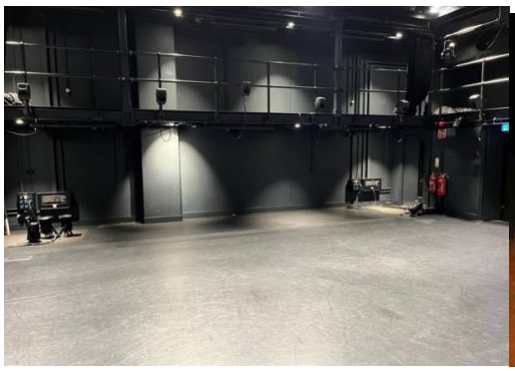
The Tea break will involve approximately 80 people and is taking place in a large space – this has the potential to be loud!

From 3:00- 3.45pm Lara Coady will host the Emerging Voices Panel in EQ006, the room divider will be removed in order to join EQ006 and Room: EQ006A making a much larger space.





The symposium will culminate with a presentation of extracts of plays from our Playshare resource.




This will take place in the Black Box Theatre from 4pm – 5.30pm , and will be followed by a few words to close the event. This seats 85 people and will be full.

There may be sound and music and the lights will probably go from dark to bright a few times. We will ask people not to clap their hands but rather click their fingers or waves their hands to show their appreciation.

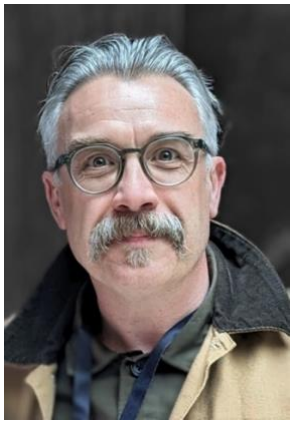
When the event is over we ask that you return your lanyard to a member of the Youth Theatre Ireland team before leaving.

# The Youth Theatre Ireland Event Team

We understand that over the course of the weekend you may have questions, or need help finding where to go. You can ask a member of the Youth Theatre Ireland team at any point of the weekend and we'll help you find your way!



Eoghan Doyle - Director



Alan King – Deputy Director



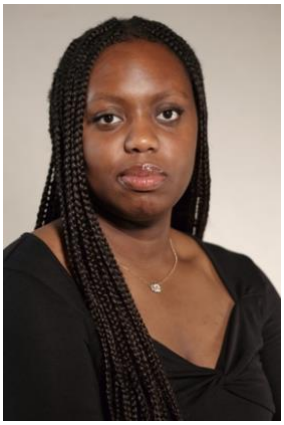
Katie Meehan - Administrator



Rebecca Feely – National Programme Co-Ordinator



Lara Coady – Emerging Voices Mentor



Faith Olasogba - Event Assistant

## *What do I do if I get lost?*

Information about the event will be displayed on screens throughout the building, the timetable can be accessed from the QR code on your lanyard. The Youth Theatre Ireland team and TUD students are on hand to answer any questions. There will usually be someone at the porters' desk to help you. If there is no one there when you arrive, the attendants may be doing a walk through the building and will be back shortly.



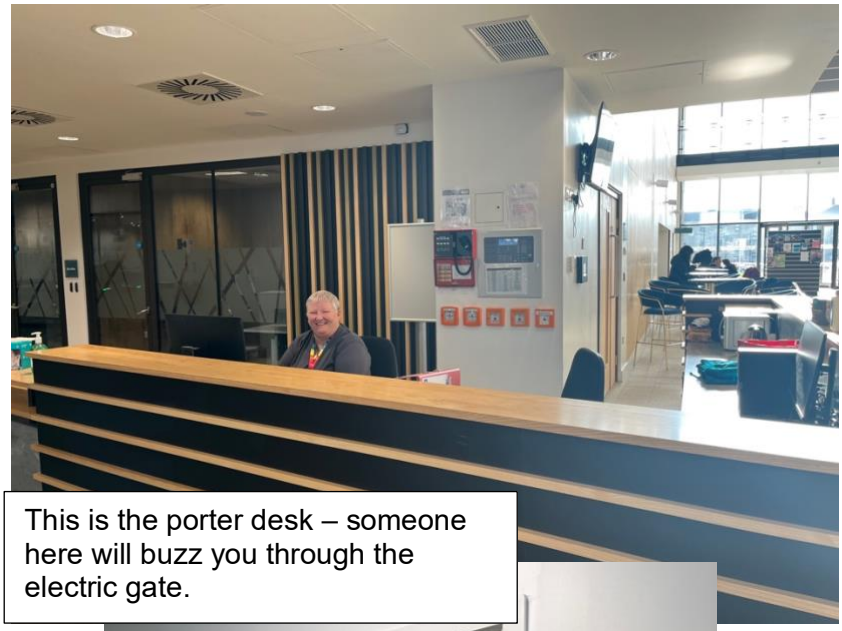

People wearing tops like these are TU Dublin student helpers and will be able to assist you. The tops might have long or short sleeves and be in other bright colours.

The campus has a Mazemap, which can give you directions to any room in the building, you can access that here:
https://link.mazemap.com/GGBLmbLI

## *Where can I go for a break?*

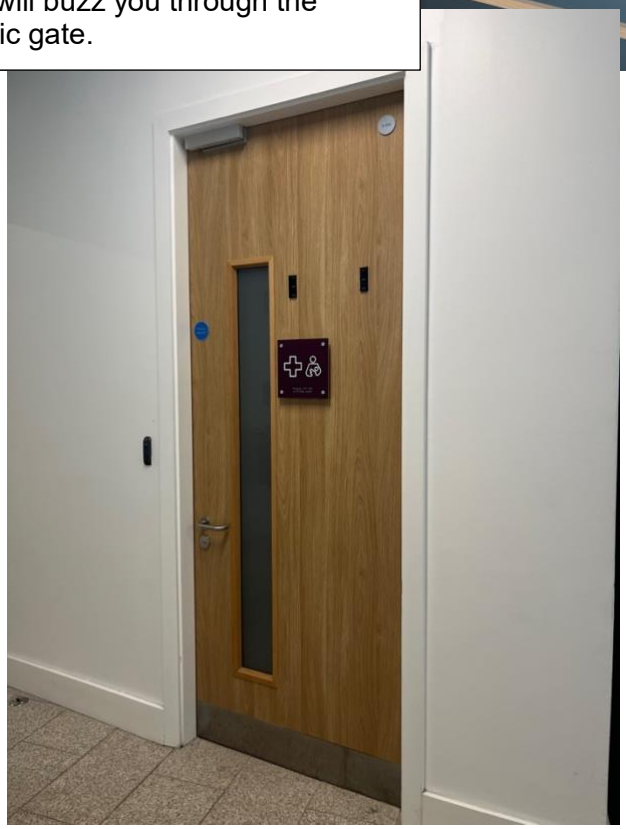
We have arranged for several Quiet Rooms on site. Three are on the ground floor and two are on the first floor.

Quiet room number EQ020 is normally used for First Aid. The room is just off the east quad foyer.



This is the porter desk – someone here will buzz you through the electric gate.







There are two additional quiet spaces on the ground floor, rooms EQ011 and EQ013

