

## National Festival of Youth Theatres 2024 – Workshops and Facilitator Profiles

Below you will find details on the five workshops available at this year's festival in Kilkenny.

### Ciara Fleming – Play Explorers

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#### **WHAT IS YOUR WORKSHOP CALLED?**

*Play Explorers*

#### **WHAT'S IT ABOUT AND WHAT KEY SKILLS ARE EXPLORED?**

*Play Explorers* will focus on examining a play script, and understanding how this process can bring a new level to your acting skills.

Working with text, we will explore story structure and character development and will use our new skills to bring scenes to life.

#### **WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP SUITED TO AND WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT?**

If you love acting or directing and want to gain some new tools for understanding characters and scripts on a deeper level, this is the place for you.

These workshops will be an exciting challenge for anyone that wants to sink their teeth into scenes and scripts, and we'll have a focused mix of brain and body work to keep things interesting.

### Riain Cash and Ciara Laste – Musical Mania

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#### **WHAT IS YOUR WORKSHOP CALLED?**

Musical Mania

#### **WHAT'S IT ABOUT?**

Singing. Dancing. Acting. This workshop will explore all aspects of musical theatre, but crucially how to combine all three elements. The workshop will be facilitated by two professional theatre makers. Our emphasis is always on creating musicals audiences don't expect. We will work to create ensemble performances of incredible musical theatre songs keeping thought and intention clear throughout.

### **WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP SUITED TO?**

Anyone interested in musical theatre and working physically. You don't have to be the best singer or dancer or actor, just be willing to give everything a go. We are not looking for experts in any one department, this week is about having fun, trying some things out and working together!

### **WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT FROM THIS WORKSHOP?**

Working together to create something epic. We totally believe in having fun in what we do and celebrating the love we have for theatre. We will work hard, with a lot of physical work but we are here to have a good time. Every day will have elements of singing, dancing, and acting with members also having opportunities to ask about the professional industry.

### **WHAT ARE THE KEY SKILLS THAT ARE EXPLORED IN THIS TYPE OF WORK?**

- Singing
- Dancing
- Acting
- Physical Theatre
- Devising
- Comedy

**\*PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING ONE ITEM WITH THEM THAT INVOLVED A JOURNEY OF LEARNING\***

Think outside the box. What is a lesson you learned from a surprising source. What random object gave you an epiphany. What did your mind conjure up while dreaming that has always stuck with you. Bring an item you feel vulnerable with. Be brave. Be bold. Be you!

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**Jo Dennehy – Puppetry and Object Play**

### **WHAT IS YOUR WORKSHOP CALLED?**

Puppetry and Object Play

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?**

This workshop will focus on puppetry and bringing objects to life through performance. It will give participants an introduction to the vast world of puppetry and some of the different styles and traditions. We will breathe life into ordinary everyday objects, and discover what kind of stories they might tell and what kind of characters emerge. Throughout the workshops we will do a lot of playing and exploring a different type of performing, where the object is the main actor. Most importantly... It will be fun!

**WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP SUITED TO?**

This is suitable for anyone interested in playing !

**WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT FROM THIS WORKSHOP?**

Lots of playing with materials: newspaper, sticks, fabric etc. Puppeteering skills which involve focus and concentration, using your hands to move objects and give them life and some patience with yourself as we explore a type of performance that may be new to you. Some improvisation and devising stories.

**WHAT ARE THE KEY SKILLS THAT ARE EXPLORED IN THIS TYPE OF WORK?**

- Puppeteering with different kinds of puppets
- Animating puppets and objects
- Drawing and making
- Devising
- Improvisation

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Nick Kavanagh – Streets Ahead

**WHAT IS YOUR WORKSHOP CALLED?**

*STREETS AHEAD*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?**

Street theatre. Character-building. Physical Theatre. Ensemble play. Audience interaction.

Join Nicholas Kavanagh of Curious State as he delves head-first into the world of street theatre and spectacle, pageantry, and parades. In this series of workshops, explore all the elements of how to devise, design and perform street theatre for the great outdoors. The form of the workshop comprises discussion, collaboration, character-building, ensemble, explorative play, and performance, and it is suitable for new-comers and experienced street theatre performers.

**WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP SUITED TO?**

Anyone interested in devising street theatre and character-building.

Anyone interested in movement, voice, and improvisation.

Anyone interested in audience interaction.

Anyone and everyone who wants place themselves outside their comfort zone.

**WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT FROM THIS WORKSHOP?**

Laughter, moments of unexpected brilliance. High energy performance. Using your voice and body in weird and wonderful ways. Creating magical characters and wearing outlandish costumes and maybe some masks too. Using live music, recorded music and physical theatre and the voice to create characters from another planet.

**WHAT ARE THE KEY SKILLS THAT ARE EXPLORED IN THIS TYPE OF WORK?**

- Physical theatre
- Voice work
- Devising
- Ensemble work
- Improvisation
- Working with costumes, masks, and props

*\*PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING ONE TRANSFERABLE SKILL WITH THEM TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP*

A musical instrument, a circus skill, a singing voice, ability to do accents, dance or movement training, gift of the gab etc. The list is endless, but you must choose one of your many skills to share with the group. No need to haul your grand piano to the festival, we will provide an alternative.

**WHAT IS YOUR WORKSHOP CALLED?**

Having your own back.

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?**

This is an improvisation/ devising workshop with a twist. It is a mindful improv class. This will be a fun high-energy class bracketed with some mindfulness and nervous system regulation exercises. It will push the participants performance-wise, while at the same time teaching them techniques to support themselves. We will explore what is happening internally as we create. How can we support our nervous systems as we are jumping into the unknown? How can we help ourselves trust the creative process?

**WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP SUITED TO?**

Anyone interested in general performance skills.

Anyone interested in improvisation and devising.

Anyone interested in exploring the creative process.

Anyone interested in mindfulness and ways to support themselves while they explore creatively.

**WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT FROM THIS WORKSHOP?**

A combination of fun challenging improv with nurturing relaxation. It will be a high-energy physical workshop with moments of nurturing stillness and quiet.

**WHAT ARE THE KEY SKILLS THAT ARE EXPLORED IN THIS TYPE OF WORK?**

- Improv
- Devising
- Mindfulness
- Nervous system regulation exercises
- physical theatre.

*\*If participants could bring a comfy blanket from home that would be great and wear comfortable loose clothes.*