

RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE
27TH - 29TH MAY 2021



**National
Theatre**

Connections
2021

WELCOME

I am happy to welcome you all to the Riverbank Arts Centre 2021 Connections Festival. They are welcoming groups from across Ireland, and I'm really excited to see what they've been working on.



Connections is the National Theatre's nationwide youth theatre program, and we strive to commission writers to create plays written specifically for young people to perform on professional stages across the UK and Ireland. Despite a global pandemic, and the closure of schools and theatres, it has been incredible to see the hard-work, dedication and passion that these young people, their teachers and youth theatre leaders have put into creating the performances you are going to see throughout this festival. I hope you enjoy it, and I look forward to welcoming you back into the theatre in person very soon.

Clint DYER

Deputy Director, National Theatre

Welcome to our first
National Theatre Connections Festival - Online

Each year the National Theatre commissions 10 new plays for young people to perform as part of the National Theatre Connections Festival. Over 300 groups perform at partner theatres across the UK and this year Riverbank Arts Centre is the first venue in the Republic to host the online festival for participating Irish youth theatres.



As we cannot present the shows to live audiences yet due to Covid restrictions, we will be sharing them online instead. We are delighted to present the videos by KYT, Ardclough Youth Theatre and Drama House Youth Theatre and we look forward to collaborating with NT Connections in the years to come.

We hope you enjoy the performances!

Alex ROSIAK

Acting Director, Riverbank Arts Centre

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY - 27TH MAY - 5PM

Welcome to Connections 2021 Opening Event

THURSDAY - 27TH MAY - 6PM

The Marxist in Heaven by Hattie Naylor
Drama House Youth Theatre

FRIDAY - 28TH MAY - 6PM

Find a Partner!
by Miriam Battye Kildare Youth Theatre

SATURDAY - 29TH MAY - 6PM

The Marxist in Heaven by Hattie Naylor
Ardclough Youth Theatre

All plays are FREE to book and available for 24 hours from schedule start time.

BOOKING: www.riverbank.ie

DRAMA HOUSE YOUTH THEATRE: THE MARXIST IN HEAVEN BY HATTIE NAYLOR 27TH MAY 2021

Valerie 'wakes up' in paradise and once she gets over the shock of this fundamental contradiction of everything she believes in, she gets straight back to work and continues her lifelong struggle for equality and fairness for all... even in death.

CREDITS:

Directors: Rachel Lally and Sarah Healy

CAST:

Rachel Walsh:	Valerie
Lily Frazer:	Bob
Molly Hughes:	Nanael
Nina Gaughan:	Hofniel
Sadhbh Carroll:	Muriel
Juliet O'Connor:	Michael & Multitude
Sophie King:	Mighty Metatron & Keanu
Grace Daniyan:	God & Jade
Emily Cullen:	Bailey, Chen & River
Kate Kelly:	Xu & Ayo
Alisa Ivanova:	Daza & Raz
Ella Brennan:	Chandra, Umut & Fara



ABOUT THE COMPANY:

Drama House Youth Theatre opened in the midst of the pandemic, in September 2020 and has had a rollercoaster of a first year. Our group has shown immense dedication to this ensemble based program and our show "The Marxist in Heaven" is a glowing testament to what our young people can achieve when they put their minds to it. Drama House Youth Theatre aims to nurture and inspire young people's voices through participatory theatre activities. Ultimately, helping them to develop enduring and transferable skills that lead to increased confidence, emotional literacy and long term well-being as well as develop their understanding and love of the arts.

KILDARE YOUTH THEATRE: FIND A PARTNER! BY MIRIAM BATTYE 28 MAY 2021

Find a Partner! is an online reality game show where young people are pitted against each other to find out which lucky pair will “WIN AT LOVE!” ... the alternative is being deemed unloved, unpartnered, disposable...literally! At the mercy of the scheming Producer and the ruthless Spectators, twelve teenagers fight to the death in the hope of surviving long enough to find true love!

In Miriam Battye’s dystopian game show she shines a light on the ways that we perform ‘Being in Love’ and the societal ramifications if you end up ‘Unpartnered’. Battye rails against modern society’s obsession with reality television shows that aim to pair people up and the ways in which we, as audience members/spectators ourselves, sit back and pass judgement on the contestants. It’s a play which holds a mirror up to our society and makes us question our priorities: a tragicomedy for our times.

CREDITS:

Shane Hickey-O’Mara (Director)
Sinead Mooney (Assistant Director/Sound Designer/Graphic Designer)
Athina Fragkou (Stage Manager/Prop Designer)

CAST:

Siobhra Behan, Koldo Colás, Aoife Doyle,
Lauren Giltrap, Ralph Gosnell,
Fionn Hamilton, Catherine Joyce, Gráinne Lavelle, Tara Mooney, Kate Mulreany
Elizabeth Ryjkova, Marcel Szameta, Ethan Taylor, Ignas Visockis

ABOUT THE COMPANY:

Established in 1996 by Crooked House Theatre Company, Kildare Youth Theatre is based in Newbridge, Co. Kildare. It has a history of presenting ambitious work, influenced by European theatre-making and Irish narrative traditions. Using Crooked House’s wide network of European connections, and availing of the EU’s Erasmus+ programme, the young people are able to collaborate with several youth theatre-making projects a year across the continent. In addition to devising its own new work it also stages classical plays, newly scripted plays, and several conference and educational shows each year.



ARDCLOUGH YOUTH THEATRE: THE MARXIST IN HEAVEN BY HATTIE NAYLOR 29 MAY 2021

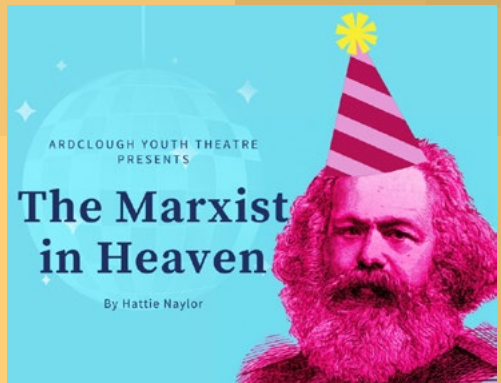
The Marxist in Heaven is a play that does exactly what it says it will do. Valerie wakes up in paradise, and once they get over the shock of this fundamental contradiction of everything they believe in.....they get straight back to work and continue their lifelong struggle for equality and fairness for all, even in death. This play is funny, playful, provocative, pertinent and jam-packed with discourse, disputes, deities and disco dancing by the bucketful. This upbeat, buoyant allegory shines its holy light on globalisation and asks the salient questions: Who are we, and what are we doing to ourselves? Perhaps most importantly, What conditioner do you use on your hair?

CREDITS:

Directed by Aaron Heffernan
and Phoebe O'Leary

CAST:

Anna Donohoe, Kate Graham,
Abdul Rahman, Martha Ryan,
Matthew Aherne, Tessa Haque,
Aoife Mitchell, Grace Donohoe,
Robyn Donohoe, Oliver Finneran
and Oisín Maguire.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION/COMPANY

The Marxist in Heaven was rehearsed in quarantine and filmed throughout May 2021. Ardcloough Youth Theatre would like to thank Straffan Community Hall for their generosity and support in the run-up to tonight's performance. Ardcloough Youth Theatre is a voluntary run organisation open to all young people aged 12-19. We welcome new members all year round.

RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE

Riverbank Arts Centre aims to enrich the imagination and creativity of our audience by working in partnership with international, national and local artists to deliver an accessible and consistently high quality arts programme in an intimate environment. We provide a multi-disciplinary programme which includes theatre, cinema, comedy, music, dance, workshops and visual arts. With a dedicated children's gallery and programming of high quality theatre and workshops for younger audiences, Riverbank is also committed to promoting early engagement with and access to the arts.
www.riverbank.ie

TEAM

Acting Director: Alexandra **ROSIAK**

Marketing & PR Manager: Caroline **WILLIAMS**

Box Office & FOH Manager: Theresa **DAVIDSON**

Technical Manager: Phil **JENNINGS**



HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to all the youth theatre companies involved in Connections 2021. Thanks to the NT Connections team for all their assistance with this presentation.

We hope to welcome you all again – to the Riverbank stage! – in 2022.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

Connections 2021