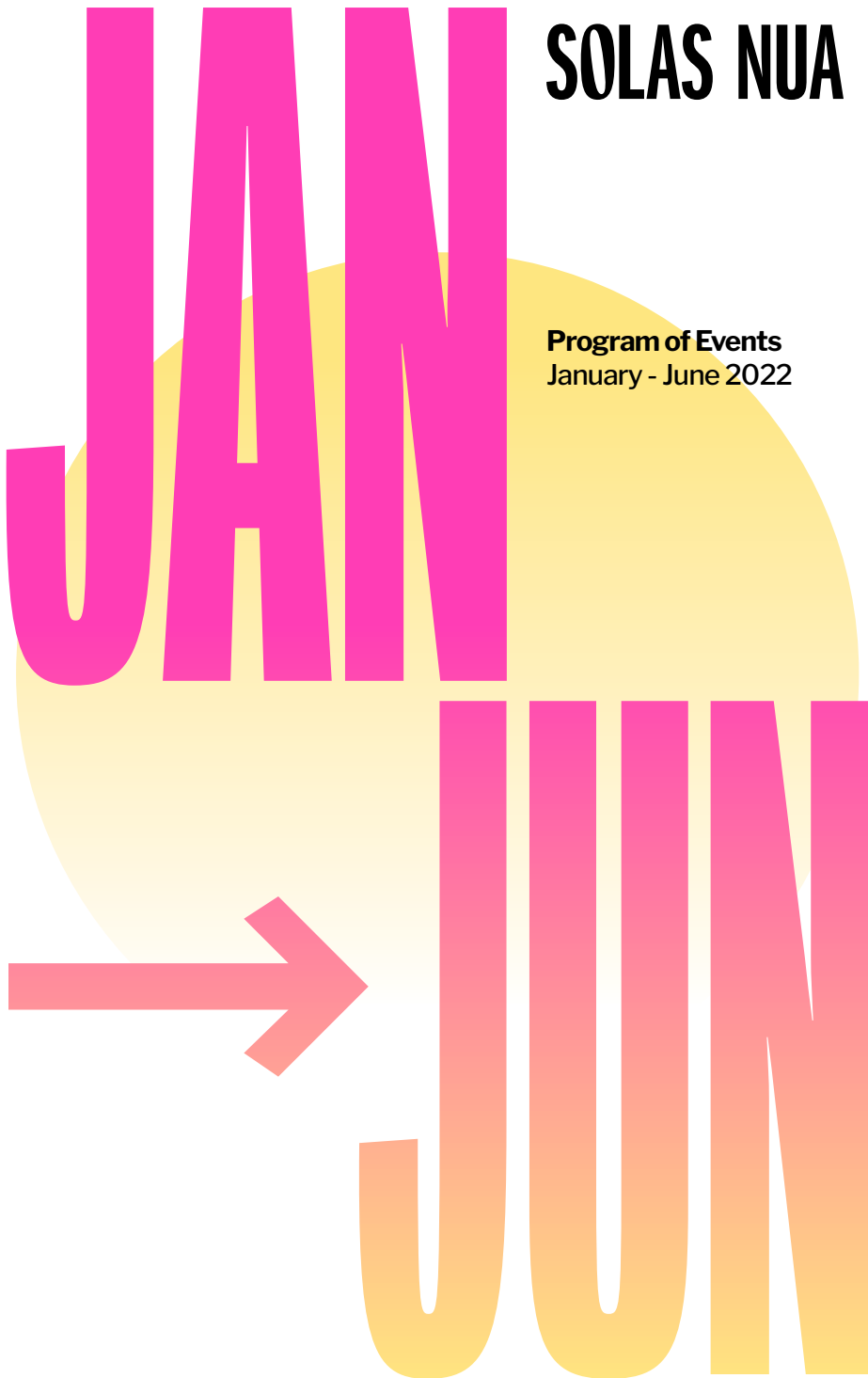


SOLAS NUA

Program of Events
January - June 2022



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



I am delighted to launch the first half of Solas Nua's 2022 program with this beautiful new brochure, which highlights all of the multi-disciplinary offerings that we have in store for you over the coming six months. It is especially poignant for us to be able to do so, after some twenty-one months of being apart and programming mostly online. Looking towards 2022, we are very committed to bringing the best of contemporary Irish arts to Washington, D.C. and are deeply thankful to our valued supporters. Your help goes directly into making our program happen, and gives artists the time and support they need to make their work.

On the centenary of the publication of James Joyce's great modernist novel *Ulysses*, Solas Nua's program will loosely reflect on some of the work that was made in Ireland during the first decades of partition and the profound influence that this work still has on contemporary Ireland and the many artists that call Ireland home today. Our new tagline is 'New Irish Arts' and we are proud to share all that is inspiring about contemporary, globally diverse Ireland – a culture and identity that is shared across borders, ethnicity, and economic lines.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our partner venues in 2022!

Best Wishes,

Miranda Driscoll
Executive Director, Solas Nua

IS IT ABOUT A BICYCLE?

LITERARY EVENT

WHEN: Sunday – Jan 16 – 3pm ET

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Is It About A Bicycle?: Writers in Conversation is a series presented by Solas Nua that brings together contemporary Irish writers or writers based in Ireland, with leaders and experts from a variety of sectors to explore their shared interests across disciplines. The title comes from Flann O'Brien's classic comic novel, *The Third Policeman*, a meandering tale about the nature of time, death, and the absurdity of human existence. In association with Global Irish Studies at Georgetown University. See solasnua.org for program details.



CIFF@HOME PRESENTS: KEVIN ROCHE: THE QUIET ARCHITECT

FILM

WHEN: Wednesday – Jan 26 – 6pm ET

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Director - Mark Noonan

Hand-picked by Solas Nua's Capital Irish Film Festival, *CIFF@Home* with NYU DC Dialogues is a bi-monthly, curated series of Irish film, followed by Q&As.

Pritzker Prize winning architect Kevin Roche reached the top of his profession, but had little interest in celebrity and eschews the label "Starchitect". Despite a lifetime of acclaimed work that includes 40 years designing new galleries for The Met in New York, he had no intention of ever retiring. Roche's architectural philosophy focused on creating "a community for a modern society" and he has been credited with creating green buildings before they became part of the public consciousness.

MAIJA SOFIA IMBOLC

MUSIC

WHEN:	Tuesday – 01 Feb – 8pm ET
WHERE:	St. Thomas' Parish, 1517 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20036
PRICE:	\$25, Ticketed, in person

Solas Nua is delighted to present *Imbolc*, a new work written and performed by Irish folk singer-songwriter from County Galway, Maija Sofia. Commissioned by Solas Nua especially for St. Brigid's Day (Imbolc), for this unique event, Maija Sofia will perform this new piece live for the first time in the intimate, modernist setting of St. Thomas's Parish, an Episcopal church in Washington, D.C.

While working on this commission, Maija Sofia considered St. Brigid as a mystic, pagan feminist icon; a figure through which old Irish traditions, wisdoms and practices persisted in spite of the patriarchy of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Taking the 'Cailleach' (divine hag or witch) as a starting point, Maija looks at how St Brigid symbolizes a kind of secret resistant undercurrent of feminine, mystic and ecological forms of knowledge.

The new piece will be performed alongside Maija's other songs that deal with themes of feminist historical narratives and alternate forms of knowledge as well as older folk songs that contain similar themes of nature and witchcraft.

Solas Nua looks forward to welcoming Maija Sofia to a Washington DC stage for the first time, to premiere this ambitious new commission on February 1st, the ancient festival of Imbolc, to celebrate rebirth, renewal, the coming of Spring and the symbol of feminine energy. Supported by Culture Ireland.

Maija Sofia is a songwriter and artist from rural Galway. Her debut album 'Bath Time' was released in November 2019 through Trapped Animal Records. By turns arresting, intimate and strange, her songs are built around striking electric guitar, intricate lyrics, harp, analogue synth and more experimental instrumentation. The album was critically lauded as the arrival of a poignant, original new talent, receiving full-mark reviews and a nomination for the RTE Choice Award Irish Album of the Year. It was described in the Sunday Times as "quietly breathtaking [...] the arrival of a unique new voice."



Maija Sofia, photo by Jilly McGrath

THIRST BY RONÁN NOONE

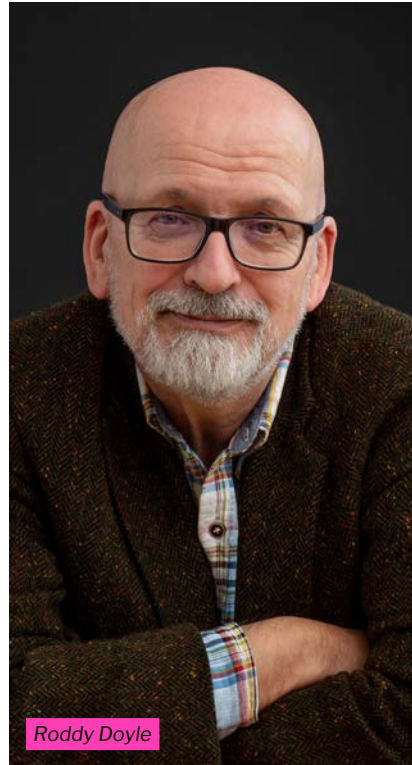
PLAY READING

WHEN: Sunday – Feb 20 – 3pm ET

WHERE: Mansion O St

PRICE: Free, in person,
donations welcome

With Eugene O'Neill's classic *Long Day's Journey into Night* as a backdrop, *Thirst* is set in the downstairs world of the Tyrone family kitchen in August 1912. Two Irish immigrant servant girls and the chauffeur search for love, success, and a sense of belonging in their new world in this lyrical and poignant play. Join us for an afternoon with a new play read by some of DC's most talented performers, followed by a post-show discussion with Artistic Director of Theatre, Rex Daugherty. Chatting with audiences about the new scripts in the Play Reading Series is one of the most direct ways our community informs what shows we choose for full production. This is your invitation to be in the room where it happens!



P&P LIVE! RODDY DOYLE LIFE WITHOUT CHILDREN - WITH NUALA O'CONNOR

LITERARY EVENT

WHEN: Tuesday – Feb 22 – 5pm ET

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Bestselling author Roddy Doyle sits down with Nuala O'Connor to discuss his new book, a brilliantly warm and witty portrait of our pandemic lives, told in ten heartrending short stories. In partnership with Politics & Prose, the Embassy of Ireland and Global Irish Studies at Georgetown University.

MARCH

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

CAPITAL IRISH FILM FESTIVAL (CIFF)



FILM

WHEN:	March 3 - 6
WHERE:	AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center
PRICE:	Full access passes \$120, Ticketed paid - in person

Solas Nua's Capital Irish Film Festival has been showing Irish films, and films by Ireland-based filmmakers annually for 16 years. The four-day festival is based at the historic art deco American Film Institute's Silver Theatre & Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD.

In 2022 short filmmakers from or living in Northern Ireland will be entered into the running for the Norman Houston Short Film Award - an annual honor for the best new short film created by a filmmaker based in or from Northern Ireland. The

Norman Houston Short Film Award is part of the Norman Houston Project - a new project initiated by Solas Nua in Washington D.C., dedicated to the memory of Norman Houston, the former Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau (NIB), in the United States.

Supported by Culture Ireland, the Northern Ireland Bureau and the Embassy of Ireland.

"The festival films showcase the full humanity of the Irish people. They are tough without being mean, forgiving without being saccharine. Quiet, deadpan humor is never far from their lips. These films are almost all a welcome reprieve from the D.C. grind."

Washington City Paper.

<https://www.solasnua.org/ciff>

MARCH

IRISH BOOK DAY HOLY SHOW'S URBAN ODYSSEY

LITERARY EVENT

WHEN:	Thursday - Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
WHERE:	Online and selected locations around Washington, DC
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

James Joyce's *Ulysses* was first published on February 2nd 1922. Exactly one hundred years later, specially for Solas Nua's Irish Book Day, Holy Show will send four pairs of the best Irish writers and artists on their own urban voyage, in Dublin and beyond. This verbal and visual celebration will then be free to enjoy from March 17, in abridged printed form and in full on Solas Nua's website. Drawing on *Ulysses*'s themes of exile and the quest for belonging, on Solas Nua's Irish Book Day 2022 experience the spirit of Joyce's masterwork anew. Selected and produced by Holy Show.

Holy show is an annual magazine that presents all flavours of life, society and culture through the eyes of Ireland's artists and writers.

Kindly supported by Dennis Houlihan and Mimi Conway.

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

CIFF@HOME PRESENTS: A WAR ON WOMEN

FILM

WHEN:	Wednesday – Mar 30 – 6pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Director - Ciara Hyland

Hand-picked by Solas Nua's Capital Irish Film Festival, CIFF@Home with NYU DC Dialogues is a bi-monthly, curated series of Irish film, followed by Q&As. This Irish language documentary blows up the myth that sexual violence against women didn't happen during the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War and tells for the first time in their own words some of the stories of women who were victims of it. It sheds new light on the Irish Revolution and points at the repeated silencing of women and their stories in Irish society. Why are these stories missing from the Irish Revolution?

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION; THE SPACE WE OCCUPY

VISUAL ARTS

WHEN:	Thursday – Mar 31 – 7pm ET
WHERE:	St. Thomas' Parish, 1517 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20036
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Visual artists Ailbhe Ní Bhriain, Colin Crotty, George Bolster, Fiona Kelly, Neil Carroll and Katie Holten in conversation. These artists represent the breadth and depth of contemporary Irish visual arts being made across the island of Ireland and by the many Irish artists who call the US home. In partnership with the Irish Arts Center.



Exploring Ulysses with Kim Schraf

EXPLORING ULYSSES

KIM SCHRAF

WORKSHOP/READING CIRCLE

WHEN: April 05 - Dec 06
First Tuesdays of the month

WHERE: Online

PRICE: \$60 - for 9 monthly sessions

Are you among the ranks of the Joyce-curious? Have you always wanted to dip a toe into James Joyce's masterwork, *Ulysses*, but balked at its reputed impenetrability? This online reading group will be a communal leap into that language-rich and daunting lake, intended to emerge with more questions than we had before we jumped. All are welcome to the table for nine monthly seminars led by Kim Schraf, DC theatre professional and fan of the novel in all its dense and delicious difficulty. Neither a master class nor a series of lectures, but a guided exploration that will be inviting, eye-opening, and fun.

SCORCH

BY STACEY GREGG

PLAY READING

WHEN: Sunday – Apr 10 – 3pm ET

WHERE: Mansion O St

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

A touching and provocative story of first love through the eyes of a gender-curious teen, Stacey Gregg's *Scorch* was inspired by recent UK cases of 'gender fraud'. For those who feel they're not living the right life, online is a place to be yourself. Out in the real world, though, things can be very different. Join us for an afternoon with a new play read by some of DC's most talented performers, followed by a post-show discussion with Artistic Director of Theatre, Rex Daugherty. Chatting with audiences about the new scripts in the Play Reading Series is one of the most direct ways our community informs what shows we choose for full production. This is your invitation to be in the room where it happens!



Play Reading at the Mansion on O St.

YE VAGABONDS



Ye Vagabonds, photo by Myles O'Reilly

MUSIC

WHEN: Saturday – Apr 16 – 8pm ET

WHERE: Secret location, tba, see solasnua.org for details

PRICE: \$25, Ticketed, in person

Ye Vagabonds, brothers Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn are often described as “being at the fore of a new wave of Irish folk”. They grew up playing music together around their hometown of Carlow, a small town in the southeast of Ireland. After moving to Dublin in 2012, they quickly became a staple of the live music and session scene in Ireland, playing their own original songs as well as folk songs from Ireland, Scotland, England and the US.

After a chance meeting at Electric Picnic in September 2015, the brothers performed onstage with Glen Hansard, who invited them to open for him on his European tour the following October. Their debut EP *Rose & Briar* was released on October 7th 2015. Since then, they have been busy touring Ireland, the UK and Europe, opening for acts such as Villagers, Roy Harper and Lisa Hannigan (whose band they played in for her Irish tour, June 2016). They have played sold out headline shows in Ireland, France, Switzerland and the UK. They have made numerous television and live radio appearances in Ireland, and were also part of ‘Imagining Home’, a live broadcast concert in the National Concert Hall of Ireland, 2016, curated by Glen Hansard, Philip King and Gary Sheehan.

APRIL

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

OPENED GROUND:
TERI ELLEN CROSS DAVIS -
AMERICAN POETS
REFLECTING ON IRISH POEMS

POETRY IRELAND DAY

WHEN: Thursday – Apr 28 – 4pm ET

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Poets from across the U.S. will read their favorite Irish verses in celebration of the reach and impact of Irish poetry, curated and led by poet Teri Ellen Cross Davis and in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library and Poetry Ireland. Teri Ellen Cross Davis is the author of a more perfect Union (The 2019 Journal/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize) and Haint (2017 Ohioana Poetry Award). She is the 2020 Poetry Society of America's Robert H. Winner Memorial Prize winner and the poetry coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C.



Teri Ellen Cross Davis



Donal Dineen; *We are the Makers*

WE ARE THE MAKERS
DONAL DINEEN

PODCAST

WHEN: Available Saturday Apr 30

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

We Are The Makers is a new long-form audio documentary series focusing on the work of contemporary Irish artists and their practices. Built around extensive interviews with some of Ireland's most eminent artists, these quarterly transmissions are part portrait, part diary, travelogue and soundscape.

See solasnua.org for program details.

MAY

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

IS IT ABOUT A BICYCLE?

NIDHI ZAK/ARIA EIPE

LITERARY EVENT

WHEN:	Sunday – May 15 – 3pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Is It About A Bicycle?: Writers in Conversation is a series presented by Solas Nua that brings together contemporary Irish writers or writers based in Ireland, with leaders and experts from a variety of sectors to explore their shared interests across disciplines. The title comes from Flann O'Brien's classic comic novel, *The Third Policeman*, a meandering tale about the nature of time, death, and the absurdity of human existence. Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe is a poet, pacifist and fabulist. Founder of the Play It Forward Fellowships, she is poetry editor at Skein Press and Fallow Media, and contributing editor with *The Stinging Fly*. *Auguries of a Minor God*, her first poetry collection, was published with Faber & Faber in 2021.

CIFF@HOME

FILM

WHEN:	Wednesday – May 25 – 6pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Hand-picked by Solas Nua's Capital Irish Film Festival, CIFF@Home with NYU DC Dialogues is a bi-monthly, curated series of Irish film, followed by Q&As.

See solasnua.org/about/opportunities for program details.



THE NORMAN HOUSTON PROJECT

This award is a bi-annual commission for a new work, open to artists working in any discipline on the island of Ireland, comprising of a six-week research and development residency in Washington D.C. with a studio at STABLE Arts, travel and private accommodation provided (in year one), followed by a presentation of the new work produced for the commission (in year two). Supported by the Northern Ireland Bureau, the Embassy of Ireland and individual contributors.



MONTHLY BOOK GROUPS

WHEN: Monthly on Mondays

Free monthly book groups in four categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Modern & Contemporary Classics. Activities go beyond monthly discussions of a book, the group regularly collaborates with the Solas Nua team, giving valuable input into programming ideas

There is no membership, anyone is free to join!

MAZ & BRICKS

BY EVA O'CONNOR

DIRECTED BY REX
DAUGHERTY

PLAY

WHEN:	June 4 - 26
WHERE:	Atlas Performing Arts Center - Lab 2
PRICE:	\$45, Ticketed, in person

Solas Nua will produce the Washington premiere of *Maz and Bricks* by Eva O'Connor, an award-winning new playwright from Ireland. Directed by Artistic Director of Theatre, Rex Daugherty, this timely play was an audience favorite from our play reading series, now taking center stage at The Atlas Performing Arts Center.

Maz and Bricks is a passionate, angry, funny and touching play which tells the story of two young people who meet over the course of a day in Dublin. Maz is attending a 'Repeal the Eighth' demonstration, while Bricks is going to meet the mother of his young daughter. As the day unfolds, the two become unlikely friends, changing each other in ways they never thought possible. *Maz and Bricks* delves deep into the issue of reproductive rights in Ireland to ask what does it mean to be alive in Ireland today and what really makes it all worthwhile?

Eva O'Connor's work has won the prestigious Fringe First and a Lustrum Award at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and she was named as one of Broadcast's Hot Shots, which celebrated the outstanding work of women under 30 making waves in the TV industry

'particularly timely... excruciatingly funny... powerful' - Irish Independent

'a provocative comedy... a compelling story... spins our imagination... shines with stellar authenticity... immaculate comic timing... funny, sharp script' - Sunday Times

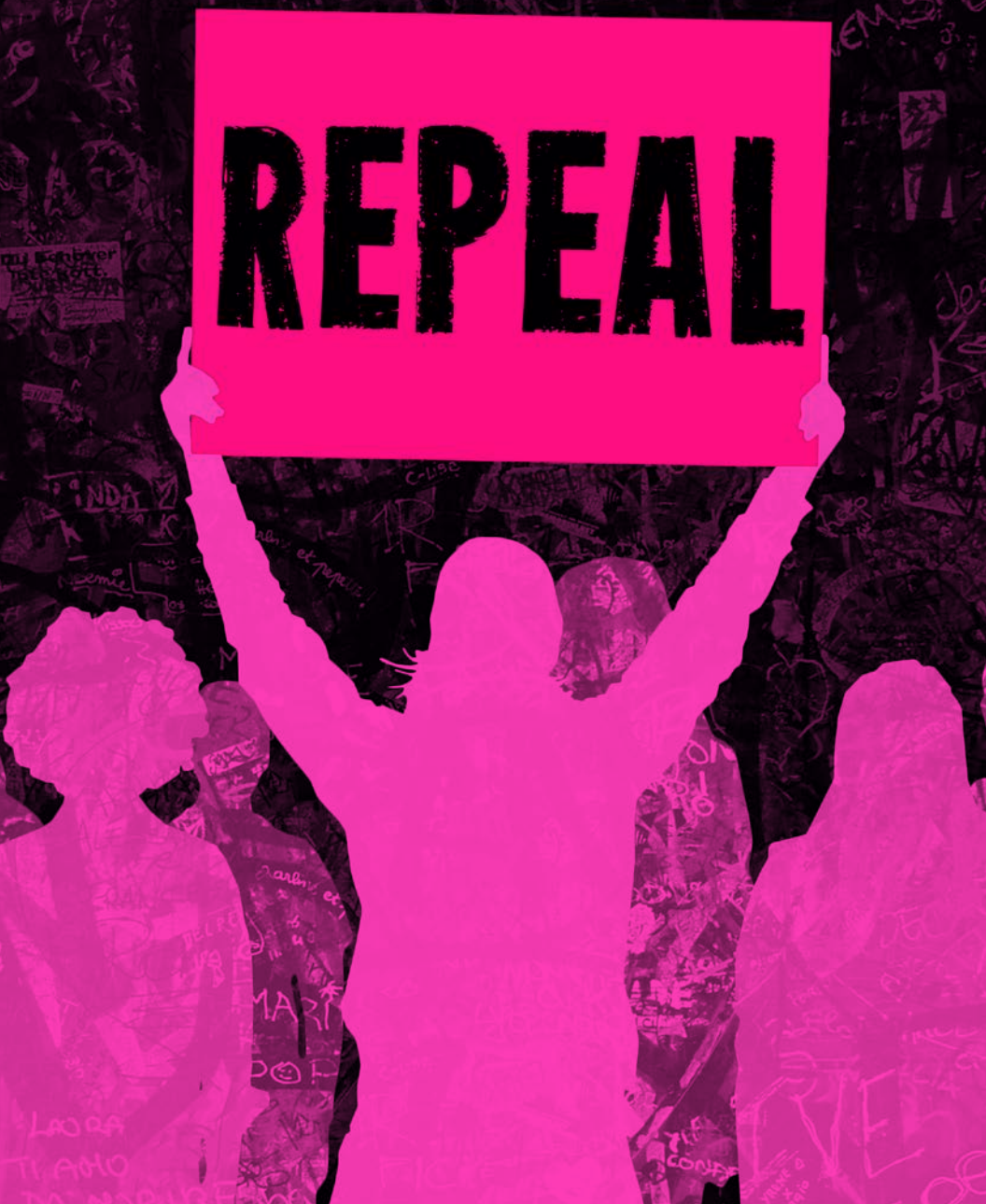
'Marvellous theatre... as beautiful a piece of insight and writing as I've seen in a very long time... extraordinary...almost perfect and unmissable piece of deeply moving drama' - Sunday Independent

'an audacious and multi-layered script...fast, witty and spot-on' ★★★★★ - Fringe Guru

JUNE

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

REPEAL



**"CATCH SUPER STORIES, HAUNTING
SOUNDS AND INTRIGUING
CONVERSATIONS AT SOLAS NUA"**

THE IRISH TIMES

**"INGENIOUS.....THERE IS NO BETTER
GROUP TO BRING LIVE THEATER BACK
TO THE DISTRICT."**

WASHINGTON CITY PAPER

**"ESSENTIAL VIEWING FOR NORTH
AMERICAN AUDIENCES"**

BROADWAY WORLD

"BEST OF THE YEAR"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Covid Information: Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend all indoor in-person events until further notice. See solasnua.org for updates on Covid requirements.



IRISH ARTS CENTER



STABLE



THE SHARE FUND

SOLAS NUA