

SOLAS NUA

Program of Events
July - December 2022



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



I am delighted to launch the second half of Solas Nua's 2022 program with this beautiful brochure, which highlights all of the multi-disciplinary offerings that we have in store for you over the coming six months.

On the centenary of the publication of James Joyce's great modernist novel *Ulysses*, we think about the profound influence that great early 20th century works continue to have on contemporary Ireland and the many artists that call Ireland home. This program considers a sense of movement and place throughout - choreographer Liz Roche explores themes in *Ulysses* through dance and the body, issues of immigration arise in a modern-day retelling of *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Space We Occupy* exhibition considers our place and tenuous relationship with Earth. As part of our play reading series, *iGirl* by Marina Carr searches for meaning in history, myth and the stories human beings have told themselves since the beginning of time.

Throughout the year we also bring you a smorgasbord of online offerings, the ever popular *CIFF@Home with NYU DC Dialogues*, writers in conversation - *Is It About A Bicycle?* and the last of our captivating podcasts with Irish artists, *We Are the Makers*, commissioned by Solas Nua.

As always, we are 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. Our new tagline is 'New Irish Arts' and we are proud to share all that is inspiring about 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



JULY

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

THE SPACE WE OCCUPY

CURATED BY MIRANDA DRISCOLL

George Bolster, You Are Made of Stardust, Photo by Nir Arieli

VISUAL ARTS

WHEN: Opens Saturday 09 July, 2pm.
Runs until 31 July. See website for opening times.

WHERE: Whittle School & Studios

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

The Space We Occupy is an exhibition of work by Irish visual artists Neil Carroll, Ailbhe Ní Bhriain, Colin Crotty, Katie Holten, Fiona Kelly and George Bolster, curated by Solas Nua's Executive Director, Miranda Driscoll. Presented by Solas Nua in partnership with the Irish Arts Center, New York.

The Space We Occupy is a group exhibition of work by six visual artists based in Dublin, Cork and New York City. The artists represent the depth and breadth of contemporary visual art being made across the island of Ireland today and by the many Irish artists who call the U.S. home. The works consider our relationship with place and time; from the macro to the micro—Earth's place in the solar system, humankind's brief time on Earth, the place we occupy in community and the physical relationship between artwork and viewer.

Originally conceived to mark the opening of the new Irish Arts Center building in New York, the exhibition now travels to Washington, D.C., to occupy the spectacular Whittle School and Studios in the North Cleveland Park neighborhood. Formerly used as the U.S. headquarters of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intelsat), the building is known for its futuristic, high-tech architecture. Designed by the Australian architect John Andrews, Intelsat's design became an important model for environmentally conscious and energy saving architecture. At the time of its construction, the new Intelsat headquarters was one of the first green buildings in Washington, D.C.

The Space We Occupy will be opened by Ambassador Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's Ambassador to the USA, at 2pm on Saturday 09 July at Whittle School & Studios, 3400 International Dr NW, Washington, D.C., 20008. This exhibition, which runs until Sunday 31 July, originated at the Irish Arts Center in New York City and is supported by Culture Ireland.

Special thanks to the artists and Rachael Gilkey, Director of Programming, Irish Arts Center.

JULY - AUGUST

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

CIFF@HOME PRESENTS: VIOLET GIBSON: THE IRISH WOMAN WHO SHOT MUSSOLINI

FILM

WHEN: Wednesday July 27, 6pm ET

WHERE: Online

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Live Q&A with writer Siobhán Lynam and director Barrie Dowdall.

Registration will give you access to an on-demand film link to view ahead of the live Q&A discussion. 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. In 1926, Violet Gibson pushed her way through an adoring crowd in Rome and shot fascist dictator Benito Mussolini at point-blank range. She came the closest to success of four assassination attempts on Mussolini, yet, she was labeled a "mad Irishwoman", committed to an asylum, and effectively written out of history.



Violet Gibson



Marina Carr, photo by Yousef Khanfar

iGIRL BY MARINA CARR

PLAY READING

WHEN: Sunday August 07, 3pm

WHERE: St Thomas Episcopal Parish

PRICE: Free, donations welcome

Marina Carr's singular theatrical vision is distilled in this powerhouse play. *iGirl* is a compelling and visceral monologue piece, charting a procession of female voices through time. 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!

SEPTEMBER

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

YES AND YES BY LIZ ROCHE COMPANY

DANCE

WHEN:	Friday & Saturday September 09 & 10, 7.30pm
WHERE:	Atlas Performing Arts Center
PRICE:	\$45, ticketed, in person

To mark 100 years since the first publication of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, one of the most important works of modern literature, Solas Nua has commissioned leading Irish choreographer Liz Roche and her company to create a brand-new dance piece, *Yes and Yes*, to premiere in Washington D.C. this September.

Yes and Yes takes its title from the final episode of the book which both begins and ends with a "yes". "...yes I said yes I will Yes"; the famous last words of the book,

exclaimed by Molly Bloom, finally name the sense of surrender implied throughout. *Yes and Yes* follows the 18 episodes, suffused with curiosity, sensuality, release and resignation, and explores this in movement with four extraordinary dancers and through film, sound and design. Dublin city and its people, today and 100 years ago, serve as the heart and the backdrop of the piece, bringing this heady mix of ideas together. The performance connects us into the minutiae of a moment while opening us up to the fleeting nature of experience.

Danced by Sarah Cerneaux, Mufutau Yusuf, Grace Cuny and Diarmuid Armstrong, this show will be the premiere performance by one of Ireland's leading contemporary dance companies on a Washington, D.C. stage. *Yes and Yes* will then travel to the John and Joan Mullen Center for the

SEPTEMBER

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Performing Arts at Villanova University, Philadelphia and later to Project Arts Centre in Dublin and Cork Opera House.

Yes and Yes by Liz Roche is a co-production between Solas Nua in Washington D.C. and Liz Roche Company in partnership with Cork Opera House. Commissioned by Solas Nua. Kindly supported by Culture Ireland and The Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

On Saturday Sept 10, Liz Roche will also participate in a panel discussion as part

of the Global Irish Studies Initiative of Georgetown University's "Ulysses in the World" conference.

<https://globalirish.georgetown.edu/>

"Liz Roche is an artist with a serious track record..."

- Judith Mackrell, **THE GUARDIAN**

"Liz Roche from Ireland continues to marry an increasingly unquiet rhetoric with gorgeous movement"

- **IRISH CHOREOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2018 TANZ Magazine (Ballet International/Tanz Aktuell)**

Mufutau Yusu, photo by Davide Belotti

SEPTEMBER

IS IT ABOUT A BICYCLE? ROSALEEN MCDONAGH

LITERARY EVENT

WHEN:	Sunday September 25, 3pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Is it About a Bicycle?: Writers in Conversation is an online 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.

Dr Rosaleen McDonagh is a playwright, academic, social worker, feminist, columnist for The Irish Times and a member of Aosdána. Her plays include *The Baby Doll Project*, *She's Not Mine*, *Rings*, *The Prettiest Proud Boy* and *Mainstream*. Her most recent commissions were *Walls and Windows* for the Abbey Theatre and *Contentious Spaces* for the Project Arts Centre. Rosaleen is a board member of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and was appointed a Human Rights Commissioner in June 2020. *Unsettled* is her first book.

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CIFF@HOME PRESENTS: 100 YEARS OF ULYSSES

FILM

WHEN:	Wednesday September 28, 6pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Live Q&A with director Ruán Magan.

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. Produced to mark the 100th anniversary of the book's publication, *100 Years of Ulysses*, a one hour documentary devised by historian Frank Callanan and directed by Ruán Magan, sets out to unlock one of most impregnable and explosive books of modern times. *100 Years of Ulysses* brings viewers on an enlightening journey into the heart of one of the most inspiring and influential novels and reveals how it remains as relevant today as it ever was.



James Joyce

OCTOBER

SOLAS NUA PROGRAM

WE ARE THE MAKERS OLWEN FOUÉRE

Olwen Fouéré, photo by Barry McCall

PODCAST

WHEN:	Available from Saturday October 15
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Commissioned by Solas Nua, *We Are The Makers* is a long-form audio documentary series that focuses 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. With the makers as our guide, these are deep-dives into back catalogues and entire bodies of work. In the sixth and final episode of the series, presenter Dónal Dineen meets one of Ireland's most important contemporary theatre and performance artists, Olwen Fouéré, an

artist known for her remarkable and often physical performances. Fouéré - actor, writer, director and performance artist talks with Dónal about her multidisciplinary career and creative journey. Born on the west coast of Ireland to Breton parents Yann Fouéré and Marie-Magdeleine Mauger, Olwen Fouéré is an artist whose extensive practice navigates theatre, film, the visual arts, music, dance theatre and literature. She has received international acclaim for her work and was performer and artistic collaborator in Jesse Jones's *Tremble, Tremble* which represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale in 2017.

We Are The Makers is written and presented by Irish broadcaster Dónal Dineen and produced by Ian Cudmore. Original music by Ultan O'Brien. Commissioned by Solas Nua in Washington, D.C.

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD



A NEW ADAPTATION BY BISI ADIGUN & RODDY DOYLE
DIRECTED BY SHANARA GABRIELLE
US PREMIERE PRODUCTION

THEATRE

WHEN:	Previews Thursday November 03 - Saturday November 05 Shows November 06-20
WHERE:	Atlas Performing Arts Center
PRICE:	\$45, Ticketed, in person

J.M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World* was first staged in the Abbey Theatre in 1907, depicting the humor, colloquialism, and struggle of rural life in the West of Ireland. A hundred years later the story is retold by Nigerian-Irish playwright, Bisi Adigun and one of Ireland's best-known writers, Roddy Doyle. The original western farmers and villagers are now tough Dublin gangsters. The scallywag, runaway playboy of the story Christy Mahon is re-imagined as Nigerian refugee, Christopher Malomo. This adaptation presents modern-day, urban Ireland and highlights the changes that have occurred in the country, including the issues of immigration, inequality, and urban gangland crime. The script was

first commissioned by Adigun's theatre company, Arambe Productions, Ireland's first and only African Theatre Company.

Artistic Director Rex Daugherty shares, "*Playboy* is arguably Ireland's most famous play, and this contemporary adaptation showcases the comedy and dramatic power that Synge originally captured, while simultaneously reframing the context to include the multi-cultural identity of modern Ireland. It's a remarkable piece of writing and I'm so proud Solas Nua will be producing the US premiere!"

"a hugely entertaining, often laugh-out-loud funny...superb piece of theatre"

-THE IRISH TIMES

"Adigun and Doyle's impulse to tell a new story through Synge honors the author and argues for the play's continuing relevance."

- VARIETY

"a marvellous adaptation...a post-modern piece reflecting contemporary Irish society...refreshingly ironic...carefully portrayed"

- BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE



Bisi Adigun

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

CIFF@HOME

FILM

WHEN:	Wednesday November 30, 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.

Film to be announced - see solasnua.org for program details.

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Hannah Khalil, photo by Leighton Moody

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S SON HANNAH KHALIL

PLAY READING

WHEN:	Friday December 02, 7pm
WHERE:	St Thomas Episcopal Parish
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Hannah Khalil is an Irish-Palestinian playwright, currently the Resident Writer at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Additionally, she is a Creative Fellow at the Samuel Beckett Archive and is creating this new work, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Son*, in response to her unique access to the Beckett Archives. Hannah will be working with Solas Nua on another upcoming project that is co-commissioned by Solas Nua, Mosaic Theater Company of Washington, DC, and Fishamble: The New Play Company of Dublin, Ireland.

Join us for an evening 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!



DECEMBER

IS IT ABOUT A BICYCLE? SINÉAD GLEESON

LITERARY EVENT

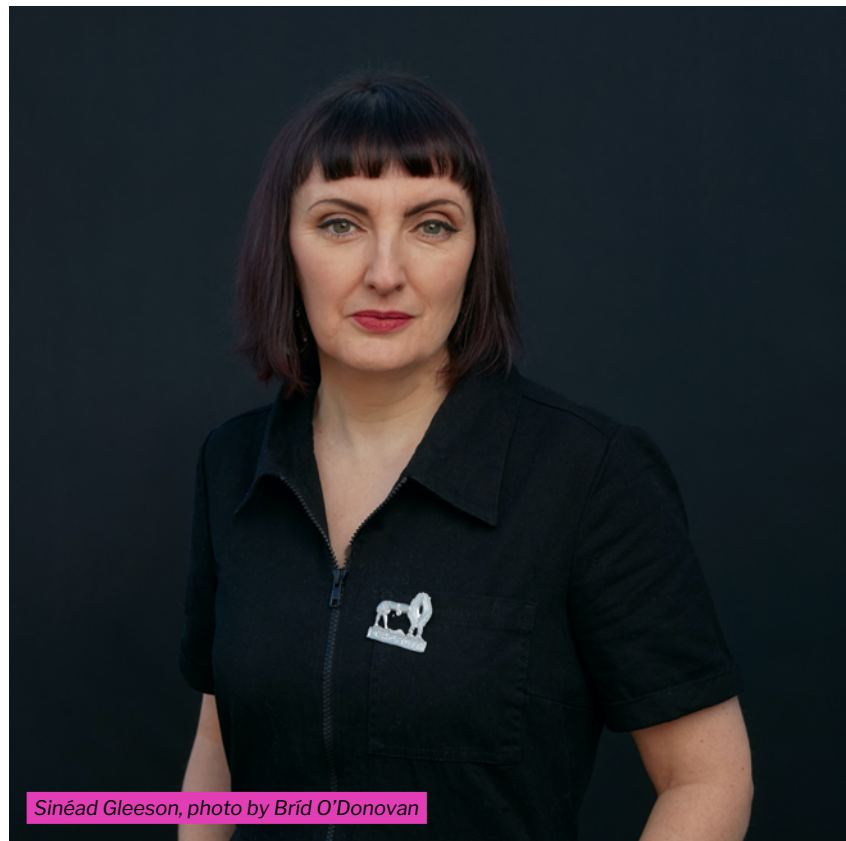
WHEN:	Sunday December 11, 3pm ET
WHERE:	Online
PRICE:	Free, donations welcome

Is it About a Bicycle?: Writers in Conversation is an online series presented by Solas Nua that brings together contemporary Irish writers or writers based in Ireland, with leaders and experts from a

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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. *Is It About a Bicycle* is in association with Global Irish Studies at Georgetown University.

Sinéad Gleeson is a writer, editor, freelance broadcaster and journalist. She is most recently co-editor with Kim Gordon of *This Woman's Work: Essays on Music* (White Rabbit, April 2022) and is currently working on a novel.

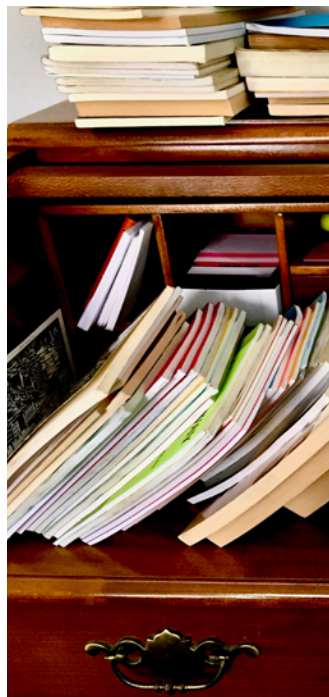


Sinéad Gleeson, photo by Bríd O'Donovan

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

(SUMMER)

Niamh McCann is a Dublin based visual artist. Her work is a considered, individual voice in contemporary Irish art; effortlessly correlating strands of three-dimensional work, painting/ drawing and installation. Niamh was selected for Solas Nua's inaugural Norman Houston Multi-disciplinary Commissioning Award; she will spend six weeks at STABLE Arts this summer, returning in 2023 to present her work.



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!





DC MAYOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN THE ARTS

HELEN HAYES AWARD-WINNING COMPANY

"IT EXEMPLIFIES THE INTERNATIONAL ART SCENE AS SURELY AS ANY ONE COUNTRY CAN."

MARK JENKINS, THE WASHINGTON POST

"SHEER ENERGY...EXCITING PERFORMANCES"

CHARLES ISHERWOOD, THE NEW YORK TIMES

SUPPORT US

Solas Nua is a leading multidisciplinary arts organization that is dedicated exclusively to contemporary Irish arts. Our activities are possible because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers. To donate just scan this QR code.



To volunteer please email
contact@solasnua.org

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.