

A CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN

COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE. CRASH ENSEMBLE. FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY.
GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL.



Invitation to a Journey

inspired by Eileen Gray



CREDIT: EILEEN GRAY. IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND. PHOTO BY BERENICE ABBOTT

**CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Crash Ensemble,
Fishamble: The New Play Company &
Galway International Arts Festival** present

the world premiere of

Invitation to a Journey

Inspired by Eileen Gray

Direction	David Bolger, Jim Culleton
Script	Gavin Kostick
Original Score	Deirdre Gribbin
Choreography	David Bolger
Musical Direction	Kate Ellis
Set & Costume Design	Maree Kearns
Lighting Design	Sinéad McKenna
Sound Design	Kevin Gleeson

**Black Box Theatre, Galway
9 – 16 July, 2016**

'We must ask nothing of artists
but to be of their own time'

EILEEN GRAY



PROGRAMME NOTE

CoisCéim is dedicated to the production of new dance works, Crash Ensemble to new contemporary music and Fishamble to new dramatic works. The companies thus share an ethos: the commitment to the new, and the members of each company have long admired each other's work. Dance, music, drama: they seemed a natural fit and so, around five years ago, the three companies came together for Culture Night with each producing a short, stand-alone. Audiences seemed to really enjoy the chance to sample all three art forms in a single evening.

It seemed natural to take the next step of working together on a single project. The idea came from David Bolger, artistic director of CoisCéim, and was not so much, 'Eileen Gray' as 'who is this Eileen Gray?' which is not to say that she was unheard of, but rather that in a relatively short space of time she seemed to have moved from almost having become 'a ghost in my own lifetime' to being a major figure in design, art and architecture, celebrated across Europe and more recently in Ireland. If nothing else, who was this person who designed the most expensive chair ever sold at auction? Further, who was she as a

person? She was said to be immensely private and yet she was capable of walking the streets of Paris with her lover, the chanteuse Damia, and their pet panther. The immense scale and prodigious output of her life with a range of interests from the unique objects of high bourgeoisie culture to the needs of the French holiday camper – and more than anything the interest in life as it is actually lived – meant that there was an almost endlessly rich source of material from which to work.

Galway International Arts Festival joined the three companies as a partner for the work and to provide it with its first home.

A series of workshop were arranged, housed by CoisCéim, and performers in dance, music and drama came together to try out exercises to see what could be created. At this point the whole project might have been killed by kindness ("you go first", "by no means", "no you", "no... after you") so it was decided that different sessions would be actively lead by different artists, still involving all three disciplines, but each having a go at creating something without negative comment sure in the knowledge that things which didn't work could be quietly abandoned

later. It was agreed that the fact that Eileen Gray designed from the natural movement of the person outwards: in her carpets, her chairs and with most conspicuous success in her house in the South of France E1027, was important and somehow should be embodied in the work. It was also agreed that to the question 'who is this Eileen Gray' could be added 'and why did so many people want something from her'?

Based on moments and ideas from the workshops, the composition of the music, by Deirdre Gribbon, came next and reflects the spirit of the age of decorative art in Paris in the 1920s-1930s. It embodies Eileen's spirit of self-discovery reflecting transformations through her life from Edwardian Irish aristocrat to emancipated pioneering Parisian artist who had a pilot's license and drove a motorcycle.

The work evolved into a document shared between the companies and the drama started to develop into key moments, collisions with various characters and reimagined turning points in the life of Eileen Gray from the Paris of the 1920s to the E1027 house in the South of France to older age in Paris of the 1970s. The lodestone for writer Gavin Kostick is the

quote given at the head of the note which he felt obliged him to attempt to be of our time as she was of hers. The obligation is not so much as to be accurate as to be brave.

The choreography, by David Bolger, has continued to be formed during rehearsals and looks at the decorative functionality of the work and explores feelings, for example as simple as what it feels like to sit in one of her chairs through how a person might move through her architectural spaces, the combination of form and flow, and the emotional context of the work: for her as an individual and for us as we experience it.

As the whole show is about such an influential figure as Eileen Gray, the set and costume design, by Maree Kearns, with lighting by Sinead McKenna are absolutely integral to the project.

The title *Invitation to a Journey* is from the title of the Baudelaire poem, *L'invitation au voyage*, which was written on the wall of the E1027 house, and part of which is freely adapted as part of the script of the play.

**DAVID BOLGER, JIM CULLETON, KATE ELLIS,
DEIRDRE GRIBBON, GAVIN KOSTICK**



COISCÉIM DANCE THEATRE

Last seen in Galway last October with the highly acclaimed *The Wolf and Peter*, CoisCéim Dance Theatre is one of Ireland's leading dance companies. Its style of performance is contemporary and vibrant, with a knowing regard for the everyday. Artistic Director David Bolger embraces a selection of dance styles as a creative device to demonstrate and articulate stories and emotions that are relevant to the landscapes in which we live. For over 20 years, the company has presented highly original work to audiences large and small, onstage and on film throughout Ireland and overseas. Its work has been included in many prestigious series and festivals including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Peak Performances in USA, the Venice Biennale, the Brighton Festival, and the inaugural 10 Days on the Island festival in Tasmania. The company conducts an original and comprehensive artform awareness and participation programme through CoisCéim Broadreach.

BOARD

Elma Cusack, Pádraig Heneghan, Garry Hynes, Brigid McManus, Cian O'Brien (Chair)

EXECUTIVE

David Bolger (Artistic Director)
Bridget Webster (Executive Producer)
Philippa Donnellan (Broadreach Director)
Sarah Latty (Company Manager)
Maeve Hegarty (Administrator | Maternity Cover)

DANCE ANGELS

Miranda Arkwright, Gwen Bolger, Mary Boushel, John Comiskey, Paul & Elma Cusack, Julian Erskine, Margaret Finlay, Martin J. Munroe, Madeleine Nesbitt, Brigid McManus, Cian O'Brien, Gene Rooney, Morleigh Steinberg, Jenny Traynor, Tumblehome, Michael & Liz Welsh and all those who wish to remain anonymous

FUNDERS

Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council, Culture Ireland



CRASH ENSEMBLE

Crash Ensemble is Ireland's leading new music ensemble; a group of world-class musicians who play the most adventurous, ground-breaking music of today. Performing worldwide, from the Edinburgh International Festival to Carnegie Hall with artists as diverse as Íarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming), Bryce Dessner (The National), Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire), Sam Amidon and Gavin Friday, Crash have made an indelible mark on the Irish music scene and beyond with some of the most distinctive living composers writing for the group including Terry Riley, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Louis Andriessen, Arnold Dreyblatt, Kevin Volans, Glen Branca, Nico Muhly and Gerald Barry. Crash have recordings on NMC, Cantaloupe, Nonesuch and upcoming on the Icelandic Bedroom Community label. Crash Ensemble are adventurous, innovative and ambitious.

BOARD

Olga Barry, Louise Corrigan, Tim O'Connor, Eithne Harley, Julien Caplain and Frances Mitchell
 Creative Partner: Jimmy Eadie

EXECUTIVE

Kate Ellis (Artistic Director)
Donnacha Dennehy (Artistic Partner)
Neva Elliott (CEO)
Jonathan Pearson (Concerts Manager/ Administrator)
Adrian Hart (Production Manager)
Lina Andonovska (Engagement Coordinator)
Jared Smith (Intern)

SUPPORTERS

Funders | The Arts Council of Ireland | Dublin City Council | Aaron Copland Fund |
 Project support | Culture Ireland | Arts Council of Ireland | Canada Council for the Arts | Norwegian Embassy in Ireland | Finnish Embassy in Ireland | Danish Embassy in Ireland
 Preferred suppliers | The Belvedere Hotel | High Performance | Big Bear Sound



FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

Fishamble is an Olivier Award-winning, internationally acclaimed Irish theatre company, dedicated to the discovery, development and production of new work. Fishamble is committed to touring in Dublin, throughout Ireland and internationally, and typically presents over 200 performances of its plays in approximately 60 venues per year, as well as running a range of artist support initiatives. Fishamble has earned a reputation as 'a global brand with international theatrical presence' (Irish Times), 'forward-thinking Fishamble' (New York Times), 'acclaimed Irish company' (Scotsman) and 'excellent Fishamble...Ireland's terrific Fishamble' (Guardian) through touring its productions to audiences in Ireland as well as to 19 other countries.

BOARD

Tania Banotti, Padraig Burns, Elizabeth Davis, Peter Finnegan, Liz Nugent, Vincent O'Doherty, John O'Donnell, and Andrew Parkes (Chair)

EXECUTIVE

Jim Culleton (Artistic Director)
Eva Scanlan (General Manager)
Gavin Kostick (Literary Manager)

FRIENDS OF FISHAMBLE

Alan & Rosemarie Ashe, ATM Accounting Services, Mary Banotti, Tania Banotti, Colette Bowles Breen, Padraig Burns, Maura Connolly, John Fanagan, Pauline Gibney, Alan & Caroline Gray, Eithne Healy, John and Yvonne Healy, Gillie Hinds, Lisney, Monica McInerney, Liz Nugent, Ger McNaughton, Patrick Molloy, Sinead Moriarty, Pat Moylan, Dymphna Murray, Michael O'Connor, Vincent O'Doherty, Nora Owen, Georgina Pollock, David and Veronica Rowe, Colleen Savage, Mary Sheerin, and Darina White. Thank you also to all those who do not wish to be credited. Fishamble are funded by The Arts Council and Dublin City Council.

Fishamble's international touring is supported by Culture Ireland.



GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

A Festival of Extraordinary Experiences

Founded in 1978 Galway International Arts Festival is one of Europe's leading international arts festivals and celebrates the very best of the performing and visual arts from Ireland and around the world. The Festival takes place each July in Galway, Ireland with an annual attendance of 200,000.

In recent years the Festival has begun touring its own productions and exhibitions nationally and internationally.

The world premieres of *Arlington [a love story]* by Enda Walsh a Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival co-production; *Kitchen* a short text by Enda Walsh; and *Death at Intervals* by Kellie Hughes a Festival co-production with Kellie Hughes all premiere at GIAF 2016.

Recent productions include *Ballyturk* (co-produced with Landmark Productions), starring Cillian Murphy, Mikel Murfi and Stephen Rea, which won Best Production at the Irish Theatre Awards 2014; *A Girl's Bedroom* (which recently played the Kennedy Center, Washington, June 2016) and *Room 303* all written and directed by Enda Walsh. Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival's production of *Misterman* by Enda Walsh starring Cillian Murphy premiered in Galway in 2011 and toured to St. Ann's Warehouse, New York in 2011 and National Theatre of Great Britain in 2012.

TheEmergencyRoom and Galway International Arts Festival's production of *riverrun*, in association with Cusack Projects, written, performed and directed by Olwen Fouéré, premiered in Galway in 2013, and

toured to Dublin, London, Edinburgh, New York, Adelaide, Sydney and most recently to the Kennedy Center, Washington in May 2016. The same team produced *Lessness* by Samuel Beckett, also starring Olwen Fouéré, which premiered in London at the Barbican's International Beckett Season in 2015.

Alongside its producing role the Festival has also presented the work of seminal artists in recent years across the artforms including Joni Mitchell, Bill Viola, The National, Grizzly Bear, Bon Iver, St. Vincent, John Grant, John Gerrard, Hughie O'Donoghue, Sophie Calle, Louise Bourgeois, Cormac McCarthy, Brett Bailey, David Hockney, Kronos Quartet, Philip Glass, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, Michael Clark, Hofesh Shechter, Stephen Petronio, Steppenwolf, Royal Court, New York Theatre Workshop, and Australia's Circa, and works regularly with leading Irish companies including Druid.

The Festival is led by Chief Executive **John Crumlish**, Artistic Director **Paul Fahy**, Financial Controller **Gerry Cleary**, Administrator **Elizabeth Duffy** and Communications & Development Manager **Hilary Martyn**.

BOARD

Padraic Brennan (Chair), Patrick Dawson, John Grealish, Gary Joyce, Maccon Keane Maria Mahon and Martina Moloney.

Galway International Arts Festival,
 Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway, Ireland
www.giaf.ie



CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Crash Ensemble, Fishamble: The New Play Company & Galway International Arts Festival present

the world premiere of

Invitation to a Journey

Inspired by Eileen Gray

CAST AND CREATIVES

Justine Cooper
Ingrid Craigie
Kate Ellis
Ivonne Kalter
Ronan Leahy
Emma O'Kane
Deirdre O'Leary
Alex Petcu
Maria Ryan
Kate Stanley Brennan

Direction **David Bolger, Jim Culleton**
Script **Gavin Kostick**
Original Score **Deirdre Gribbin**
Choreography **David Bolger**
Musical Direction **Kate Ellis**
Set & Costume Design **Maree Kearns**
Lighting Design **Sinéad McKenna**
Sound Design **Kevin Gleeson**

Stage Manager **Paula Tierney**
Assistant Stage Manager **Stephanie Ryan**

Production Manager **Nic Rée**
Chief LX **Kevin Smith**
Costume Supervisor **Barbara McCarthy**
Company Class Teachers **Jennifer Fleenor, Laura Macken, Mónica Muñoz Marín,**

Photographer **Ros Kavanagh**
Graphic Design **Alphabet Soup**
Publicists **Sinead O'Doherty, Gerry Lundberg PR |**
Gwen O'Sullivan, Galway International Arts Festival

Company Manager
Company Manager (pre-production)
Production Administration
Interns

Jonathan Pearson
Sarah Latty
Maeve Hegarty
Victoria Kilkenny, Jared Smith, Emma Stier, Karly Thomas

Producers

Neva Elliot, Crash Ensemble
Eva Scanlan, Fishamble: The New Play Company
John Crumlish, GIAF Chief Executive
Paul Fahy, Galway International Arts Festival
Bridget Webster, CoisCéim Dance Theatre

Recorded Score

Lines Are No Longer Frontiers, Building Cities, Triangle of Desire –
Composed by **Deirdre Gribbin**
Performed by **Crash Ensemble**
Violin: **Anna Cashell** | Viola: **Lisa Dowdall** | Cello: **Kate Ellis** |
Double Bass: **Malachy Robinson** | Flute: **Susan Doyle** |
Clarinet: **Deirdre O'Leary** | Trombone: **Roddy O'Keeffe** |
Electric Guitar: **John Godfrey** | Percussion: **Alex Petcu** |
Piano: **Andrew Zolinsky** | Conductor: **Alan Pierson**

Production

Recording Engineer **Alan Kelly**
Recording Studio: **Windmill Lane**
Mix and Edit: **Adrian Hart**

Special Thanks to Jennifer Goff and all at Collins Barracks, National Museum of Ireland.

THANK YOU

Marketa Dowling, Julia Hazel, Pan Pan Theatre Company, Adam Fitzsimons, Rob Usher, John Donnelly, Tracey Ferguson, Fiona Nic Dhonnacha, Tree Light Pictures, Hilda Reid, Des Kenny, The Abbey Theatre, Garry White, Ella Daly, Rob Furey, Donal Shiels, Lisa Mahony, Clive Welsh, Town Hall Theatre, Black Box Theatre, Project Arts Centre and everyone who has helped since this programme went to print.



Jim Culleton | Direction

Jim Culleton is the Artistic Director of Fishamble: The New Play Company for which he has directed productions on tour throughout Ireland, UK, Europe, Australia and the US, winning Olivier, Fringe First, Herald Angel, Argus Angel, The Stage, 1st Irish, and Irish Times Theatre awards. Recent productions for Fishamble include *INSIDE THE GPO* by Colin Murphy (staged in the GPO for Easter 2016), *TINY PLAYS FOR IRELAND AND AMERICA* (Kennedy Center, Washington DC, and Irish Arts Center, New York, for Ireland 100), *SPINNING* by Deirdre Kinahan (Dublin Theatre Festival), *LITTLE THING, BIG THING* by Donal O'Kelly (touring in Ireland, UK, Europe, US, Australia) and *FORGOTTEN, SILENT* and *UNDERNEATH* by Pat Kinevane (touring to over 60 Irish venues and 17 other countries).

Jim has also directed for the Abbey Theatre, and for companies in Ireland, UK, US and Australia. Jim most recently directed *BLOOMSDAY* on Broadway for IAC/Symphony Space in New York, and will next direct *MAINSTREAM* by Rosaleen McDonagh for Project/Fishamble.

David Bolger | Direction, Choreography

David Bolger is the Artistic Director of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. He has directed and choreographed original works for the company, which have toured throughout Ireland, UK, Europe, Australia, China and USA, winning many prestigious awards for innovation, performance and choreography. Recent productions include *SWIMMING WITH MY MOTHER*, *AGNES*, and *THE WOLF AND PETER*. His work for film includes the multi-award winning *HIT AND RUN*, *DEEP END DANCE* and *DANCING AT LUGNASHA*. David has work with many theatre companies including: Druid Theatre Company, The Abbey Theatre, National Theatre (London), The Royal Opera House and English National Opera. Recently David created the choreography for RTÉ's *CENTENARY* show at Bord Gais Energy theatre. His next project *THESE ROOMS* is collaboration with ANU Theatre Company and will premiere in Dublin in September 2016.



Kate Ellis | Musical Direction, Performer

Kate is a versatile musician dedicated to the performance and exploration of all new music. She is cellist and Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble and a member of the Taquin experiments, Yurodny and electro-folk group Fovea Hex. Kate has toured and broadcast in Australia, the USA, Europe and China, performing at the Canberra International Music Festival, Bang on a Can Marathon (NYC), Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Centre, Shanghai EXPO, Istanbul Akbank Jazz Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival.

Kate has collaborated with, commissioned and recorded works by composers including Steve Reich, David Lang, Nico Muhly and Donnacha Dennehy and has performed with Bobby McFerrin, Iarla O Lionaird, Gavin Friday and Karan Casey to name but a few.

Theatre credits include Siren productions *LA MUSICA* (winner of best production, DFF 2003), Rough Magic's *PEER GYNT* at the DTF 2011, the Cork Opera House *'MARIA DE BUENOS AIRES'* 2013 and Landmark and Wide Open Opera's *'THE LAST HOTEL'* by Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh at DTF, Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House London in 2015. (Winner Best Opera Award, Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards 2015).

Deirdre Gribbin | Original Score

Belfast-born Gribbin was a Fulbright Fellow at Princeton University and Arts Fellow at Trinity College Cambridge. Her orchestral work *UNITY OF BEING*, performed in New York after 9-11, was featured in The New York Times. She won the Arts Foundation Award for Aldeburgh Festival commissioned opera *HEY PERSEPHONE!* and also The UNESCO Composers Prize. She has written music for Sky Pictures *MY KINGDOM* starring Richard Harris and *THE DARK GENE* shortlisted for a 2016 BERLINALE Film Festival Prize. She collaborated with Gate Theatre London founder Director Lou Stein on Radio Productions with Benedict Cumberbatch and Patrick Stewart. Her music has been performed by, The BBC Symphony, Philharmonia and RTÉ NSOI for the Lyric FM label. Her second opera *CROSSING THE SEA* premiered at London's Wilton's Music Hall and was recorded for NMC label along with settings of Heaney's poetry. Her violin concerto *VENUS BLAZING* will be performed as a part of the TBC.



Gavin Kostick | Script

As Literary Officer for Fishamble, Gavin works with writers for theatre through development for production, scripts readings, mentorship programmes and a variety of courses and workshops. Gavin is also a playwright who has written over twenty plays which have been produced in Ireland and internationally. As a performer he performed Joseph Conrad's *HEART OF DARKNESS: COMPLETE*, a six hour show in Dublin and London. In all of these areas he has gained multiple awards.

Maree Kearns | Set & Costume Design

As Literary Officer for Fishamble, Maree This is Maree's first collaboration with Crash Ensemble and Fishamble, and her fourth collaboration with CoisCéim Dance Theatre; previous designs have been *AGNES, PAGEANT & FAUN/ AS YOU ARE*. Other work includes *OPERA BRIEFS* (RIAM), *MONSTERS, DINOSAURS & GHOSTS* (Peacock), *MOLL* (Gaiety Theatre), *DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS* (Corn Exchange), *THESE HALCYON DAYS* (Edinburgh Fringe First 2013), *MOMENT* (Landmark/Tall Tales), *FAR AWAY FROM ME & ZOE'S PLAY* (The Ark), *IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY*, *TROILUS* And *CRESSIDA* (the Lir Academy), *HAMLET, KING LEAR, ROMEO & JULIET, MACBETH & DANCING AT LUGHNASA* (Second Age), *ANGLO THE MUSICAL* (Verdant), *THE FACTORY GIRLS* (Millennium Forum), *FAITH & GODDESS OF LIBERTY* (Gúna Nua), *PLASTICINE* (CorcaDorca), and *THE DEAD SCHOOL & OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME* (Irish Times Best Set Design 2009) (Nomad Network). Maree lectures in theatre design in the Drama Department of Trinity College and is the MFA Design Course Director in the Lir Academy of Dramatic Art in Dublin.



Sinéad McKenna | Lighting Design

Sinéad has designed *THE WOLF AND PETER, AGNES, PAGEANT AND SWEPT* for CoisCéim. Theatre designs include: *RICHARD III* and *UNCLE VANYA* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY, THE GIGLI CONCERT, THE MARINER, THE PRICE, AN IDEAL HUSBAND AND PRIVATE LIVES* (Gate Theatre Dublin); *HOWIE THE ROOKIE* (Best Lighting Design Irish Theatre Awards), *GREENER, OCTOBER, LAST DAYS OF THE CELTIC TIGER, BLACKBIRD* (Landmark Productions); *OTHELLO, ARISTOCRATS, QUIETLY, ALICE IN FUNDERLAND, THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS, 16 POSSIBLE GLIMPSES, THE BURIAL AT THEBES, HOWIE THE ROOKIE, FINDERS KEEPERS* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *NEW ELECTRIC BALLROOM* (Druid), *FAMISHED CASTLE, TRAVESTIES, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, IMPROBABLE FREQUENCY* (New York Drama Desk Best Lighting Design for a Musical nomination 2009), *THE PARKER PROJECT, LIFE IS A DREAM, ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE and DREAM OF AUTUMN* (Rough Magic). She has also designed for Lyric Theatre, Corn Exchange, Decadent, Thisispopbaby, and Siren Productions and for opera companies including. Malmo Opera House, Opera Theatre Company and Opera Ireland.

Kevin Gleeson | Sound Design

Kevin Gleeson is a sound designer and composer from Cashel, Co. Tipperary. He has designed sound for companies such as Anu Productions and Dead Centre. Following his studies in Windmill Lane Studios and later, Trinity College, Gleeson moved to the southwest coast of Ireland to take up a role as the Kerry County Council's Composer-in-Residence for 2014. It was out of this role that he began working in the area of live performance and theatre. Since returning to Dublin he has been involved with a number of exciting projects. Gleeson was part of the team that won best sound design at the 2015 Irish Times Theatre Awards for *CHEKHOV'S FIRST PLAY*.



Nic Rée | Production Manager

Nic was production manager for *ANTIMIDAS*, Samuel Beckett Theatre, Dublin and *LUCIA DI LAMMERMOORE*, Clonter Farm Opera. He is production manager for Dead Centre's production of *CHEKOV'S FIRST PLAY* and *LIPPY* touring in Europe and Australia. He was previously Assistant Production Manager for English National Opera on numerous productions including *PETER GRIMES*, *THE MESSIAH*, *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN*, and *BILLY BUDD*. Nic was Technical Crew Manager at Wexford Festival Opera from 2008–2015 and has been Master Carpenter for Wide Open Opera, Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Theatre Company on their recent tours. He has worked for many UK companies including English National Opera, Opera North, Garsington Opera, Bristol Youth Opera, Northern Ballet, Glyndebourne Opera House and has toured extensively with Fabulous Beast, Matthew Bourne and Northern Ballet Theatre. Recent productions include Wide Open Opera, *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* and *NEVILLE HOLT OPERA*.



Paula Tierney | Stage Manager

A graduate of UCC, Paula has worked as stage manager for such companies as The Abbey and Peacock, Coiscéim, Druid Theatre Company, Fishamble, Everyman Palace Cork, Galloglass, The Gate Theatre, Gúna Nua, Galway Arts Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Macnas, Opera Ireland, Opera Theatre Company Pan Pan, Rough Magic, Second Age, Wide Open Opera, Wexford Festival Opera. She has been Company Stage Manager for Druid Theatre Company's productions of *DRUIDSHAKESPEARE*, *BRIGID/BAILEGANGAIRE* and *THE COLLEEN BAWN*. She has toured nationally and internationally with Fishamble, Druid, Opera Theatre Company and Rough Magic. Paula has also worked with *APRÈS MATCH* and *PODGE AND RODGE* on their live theatre shows and numerous corporate events including the opening ceremony of *THE RYDER CUP*. Recent Productions include Wide Open Opera, *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* and Opera Theatre Company, *LA BOHÈME*.





EILEEN GRAY

- 1878 Born Kathleen Eileen Moray Smith near Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. Spends her youth between family homes in Enniscorthy and London, with frequent travels in Europe.
- 1900 Brother Lonsdale is killed in the Boer War. Father dies shortly after. Travels to Paris for the first & enrolls in the Slade School of Fine Art in London.
- 1901 Begins studying lacquer technique with D. Charles in his shop in London.
- 1902 Moves to Paris and studies at the Académie Julian.
- 1905 Returns to London to be with her mother. Resumes lacquerwork with D Charles, and studies at Slade.
- 1906 Returns definitively to Paris.
- 1907 Purchases a flat at 21 Rue Bonaparte, which she will own her entire life.
- 1909 Begins working in collaboration with Japanese lacquer specialist Seizo Sugawara.
- 1910 Buys first car, and takes an interest in aviation.
- 1910 Opens a weaving workshop with Evelyn Wyld, & lacquer workshop with Sugawara.
- 1913 Exhibits in Paris leading to commission from collector Jacques Doucet.
- 1915 Exhibits in San Francisco. Drives an ambulance in Paris during the war.
- 1915 Opens a workshop in London with Sugawara. Brother James is killed in the war.
- 1917 Returns to Paris. English Vogue lauds her work.
- 1918 Mother dies.
- 1921 Buys small house in Samois-sur-Seine. Entertains friends here, including Damia, the singer/artist.
- 1922 Opens Galerie Jean Desert in Paris. Begins to work with Jean Badovici who encourages her towards architecture.
- 1926 Begins work on a vacation house in France for Badovici which will become E1027.
- 1929 Founding member of the Union des Artistes Modernes (UAM).
- 1930 Definitively closes Galerie Jean Désert and the lacquer workshop.
- 1940 As a foreigner during wartime, is forced to leave her home.
- 1945 Returns to Paris, and a looted home.
- 1968 Is the subject of an article in architecture and design journal Domus, which brings work to light again.
- 1972 Is named Royal Designer for Industry by the British Society for the Arts.
- 1973 Is made an honorary member of the Royal Institute of Irish Architects.
- 1973 A retrospective exhibition entitled '*Eileen Gray. Pioneer of Design*' is held at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London.
- 1976 Dies in her Paris apartment on 31 October at the age of 98.
- 2009 Dragon chair is sold at auction in Paris for €21.9 million.

If you are interested in finding out more about Eileen Gray, there is a permanent exhibition of her work at Collins Barracks in Dublin.

CREDIT: EILEEN GRAY. IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND. PHOTO BY BERENICE ABBOTT



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