

# Design & Destroy: An Exploration of Irish Design through the Medium of Virtual Reality

This project is funded by Culture Ireland and supported by the Arts Council

Presented in Virtual Reality, the Irish exhibition is curated by Jo Mangan, Artistic Director of Carlow Arts Festival and The Performance Corporation. This exhibition meets designers and their work within a Virtual Reality world - in their studios, on stage, in 360 visualisations, and during the inevitable destruction of their creations. With this approach we try to capture the reality that stage design exists for short and beautiful periods of time and the struggle to capture the essence of live experience.

ISSSD is a member of the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland







# **Curator's Note**

It has been a joy to have had the opportunity to explore the work of Irish stage and screen designers over the past 4 years through being invited to curate the Prague Quadrennial for Ireland this Summer. It is a challenge to represent design and lighting design in particular, in a non theatrical environment. This started me on the path to explore recent technological developments such as Mixed Reality, Augmented Reality and 6 Degrees of Movement technology as possible tools to assist in fully showcasing the designers' work.

I was also keen not to have a large built structure that would be very resource heavy, especially as the theme I evolved for the Irish exhibition was Design & Destroy – highlighting the fact that most creations are destroyed at the end of their useful lives. I was also keen to explore the individual designers' process in some way as part of the installation. The creation of a Virtual Reality film was the method settled on to allow us to do all of this through capturing design in 360 degrees, and bringing all the disparate elements together in a format that will exist post the Prague Quadrennial. And nothing will end up in landfill.

Jo Mangan

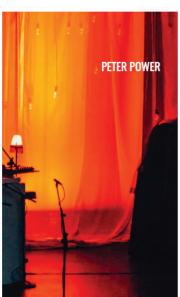
# PQ 2019 FEATURED DESIGNERS

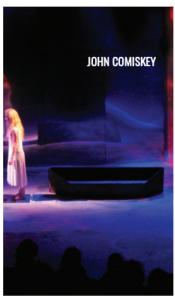


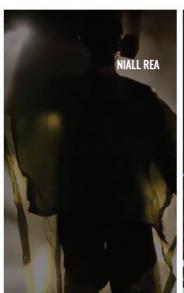
















Ciaran Bagnall



Sarah Jane Sheils



John Comiskey



Peter Power



Katie Davenport



Niall Rea



Catherine Fay



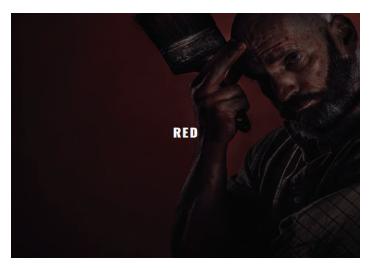
Jo Mangan - Curator

#### CIARAN BAGNALL

Ciaran Bagnall is generally known as the hardest working man in theatre in Ireland (and the UK). He creates lighting and set design for traditional and site-specific performances that always seem to resonate precisely with the particular space, the text and his collaborators.

Ciaran trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff and was made a fellow of the college in 2017. Recent Theatre includes: Set & Lighting Design: The Magic Flute (INO, Wexford Opera House, Gaiety Dublin); A Streetcar named Desire (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); Lady Magma (Atelier de Paris); The Last Yankee (Library Theatre, Bolton); UBU The King (Tinderbox, MAC, Belfast); Oliver Twist (Hull Truck); And Did those Feet (Macron Stadium, Bolton); Double Cross (Lyric Theatre Belfast & Abbey Theatre, Dublin); The Mai (Irish Tour/Dublin Theatre Festival); Lovers (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); The Man who fell to Pieces, Hard to be Soft (The MAC, Belfast); The Great Gatsby (Gate Theatre, Dublin – Winner Best Design Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards).

RED (Lyric Theatre, Belfast – Winner Best Design Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards); The Train, Observe the Sons of Ulster marching towards the Somme (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); Ashes, Educating Rita, Two, Two 2, A view from the Bridge, Love Story, Twelfth Night, Piaf, Of Mice and Men, Tull, The Glass Menagerie, Habeas Corpus, Secret Thoughts, Oleanna (Octagon Theatre, Bolton); A Christmas Treasure Island, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella (Hull Truck); Macbeth (Shakespeare's Globe, London); Singin' in the Rain (UK Tour); Othello (RSC, Stratford upon Avon); Lally the Scut, The God of Carnage, Villa, Discurso, Tejas Verdes (MAC, Belfast); Conquest of Happiness (Olympic Stadium, Sarajevo); Shoot the Crow (Opera House, Belfast); Snookered (Bush Theatre, London); The Killing of Sister George (Arts Theatre, London); A Slight Ache and Landscape (Lyttelton Theatre, National Theatre London).



Prime Cut Productions & The Lyric Theatre, Belfast

Writer John Logan
Director Emma Jordan
Set and Lighting Designer Ciaran Bagnall
Sound Designer – Carl Kennedy
Design Designer – Enda Kenny
Movement Director – Dylan Quinn
Cast Patrick O'Kane, Thomas Finnegan
Assistant Director Rhiann Jeffrey
Production Manager Siobhan Barbour
Producer Una Nic Eoin



The MAC Belfast & Blunt Fringe

Director Rachel Logan Fee
Supervising Director Stephen Whitson
Musical Director Mark McGrath
Choreographer Sarah Johnston
Lighting and Set Designer Ciaran Bagnall
Costume Designer Roisin McNamee
Sound Designer Ian Jordan
Arrangements Nick Boyle
Stage Manager Martin McDowell
Sound Technician Catherine Grealis

Piano Mark McGrath
Percussion Matt Weir
Flute Cormac McCool
Double Bass Michael Currie, Thomas Alford
Clarinet & Sax: Gillian McCutcheon



Prime Cut Productions & Oona Doherty

Choreographer/Performer Oona Doherty
Composer/Sound Design David Holmes
Set and Lighting Design Ciaran Bagnall
Associate Lighting Designer Sarah Gordon
Performers Ajendance Dance Company, Sam Finnegan, Ryan O'Neill, Bryan Quinn, John Scott
Film & Photography Luca Truffarelli
Projections Jack Phelan
Production Manager Siobhan Barbour
Stage Manager Gina Donnelly
Producers Una Nic Eoin, Stephen Coulter
Photography Luca Truffarelli

#### KATIE DAVENPORT

Katie Davenport is a young and prolific talent on the Irish design scene. Her creation of an enormous eye was an arresting vision in the opera Tales of Hoffmann. In the national exhibition at the National Opera House, Wexford organised by ISSSD, it glowered at the viewer from on high. In the Virtual Reality film it will be an animated presence rendered in 3D, perfectly suited to the digital medium as well as the analogue one.

Katie is a costume and set designer and trained in Production Design for Stage and Screen at IADT (Institute of Art, Design & Technology) Dublin, graduating with a First Class Honours in 2014. In 2017 she held the position of designer in residence at The Gate theatre in Dublin. This year she was nominated for an Irish Times Irish Theatre Award for Best Costume Design for The Tales of Hoffmann (Irish National Opera).

Her recent credits include Sure look it fuck it for This is popbaby, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man and A Midsummer Night's Dream for Rough Magic Theatre Company.

Katie has designed for many of Ireland's leading theatre companies and works regularly as Jamie Vartan's associate designer. She has also worked as assistant designer in film and TV for Ardmore Studios, RTE, PBS and Sky Arts.

She is currently designing for Irish National Opera's autumn season, Northern Irish Opera and The Abbey and will represent Ireland at The Prague Quadrennial, a world exhibition of Theatre design, in June 2019.



Irish National Opera

Conductor Andrew Synnott **Director** Tom Creed Set and Costume Designer Katie Davenport Lighting Designer Sinéad McKenna Assistant Director & Movement Director Paula O'Reilly Hoffmann Julian Hubbard Olympia / Antonia / Giulietta / Stella Claudia Boyle Nicklausse Gemma Ní Bhriain Lindorf / Coppélius / Miracle / Dappertutto John Molloy Andrès / Cochenille / Franz / Pitichinaccio Andrew Gavin Crespel Brendan Collins The Voice Carolyn Holt Spalanzani Fearghal Curtis Schlemihl Kevin Neville Nathanaël Peter O'Reilly Hermann Cormac Lawlor Luther Robert McAllister Photography Patrick Redmond

### **SARAH JANE SHIELS**



**Project Arts Centre** 

Writter Emmet Kirwan
Director Phillip McMahon
Performers Emmet Kirwan and Ian Lloyd Anderson
Lighting Designer Sarah Jane Shiels
Sound Designer Ivan Birthistle
Produced by Cian O'Brien & Claire O'Neill for Project Arts
Centre, Dublin
Photography Ros Kavanagh

This work was developed as part of Show in a Bag (2014), an artist development initiative of Dublin Fringe Festival, Fishamble: The New Play Company and Irish Theatre Institute.

Sarah Jane Shiels' lighting design for Dublin Oldschool jumped out, as it was a massive feat to do what she did, effectively, and stylishly light an empty stage. Sarah Jane found a way to be able to sculpt the air around the two performers to create mood after mood.

SJ began designing lighting in Dublin Youth Theatre, completing a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies 2006 (Trinity), and the Rough Magic Seeds3 programme 2006 – 2008. From 2010 – 2017, she was coartistic director of WillFredd Theatre.

Lighting designs include Sure Look It, Fuck It (This Is Pop Baby), Close Quarters (Out of Joint/Sheffield Crucible), FRNKNSTN, Mr Foley the Radio Operator (Theatre Lovett), Dolores, Soldier Still, Dusk Ahead (Junk Ensemble), East Belfast Boy/Everyday I Wake Up Hopeful (Prime Cut), Radio Rosario (Little John Nee), Jimmy's Hall, The Remains of Maise Duggan, Town is Dead (Abbey Theatre), Dublin Oldschool (Project Arts Centre), Woman Undone, This Beach, Have I No Mouth, The Blue Boy, Silver Stars (Brokentalkers). Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Midsummer Night's Dream, The Effect, Everything Between Us, The Critic, The House Keeper, Plaza Suite (Rough Magic), PALS (Winner Irish Times Theatre Award Best Lighting 2015), The Boys of Foley Street, Laundry, World's End Lane, Basin (ANU Productions).

Set and Lighting Designs include, BEES!, Jockey, CARE, Farm, Follow (WillFredd Theatre), How to Keep an Alien (Sonya Kelly/Rough Magic), It Folds (Junk Ensemble/Brokentalkers, Winner Irish Times Theatre Award Best Lighting 2015)

### PETER POWER



Sparsile Collective Triskel Christchurch and Cork Midsummer Festi-

Creator/Director/Co-Composer Peter Power
Co-Composer Michael Gallen
Dancer/Choreographer Stephanie Dufresne
Contemporary Choral Ensemble Tonnta led by Robbie Blake
Writer Sara Baume
Designers Sarah Jane Shiels, David Mathúna and Izabelle

Producers Maura O'Keeffe and Eimear Reilly

Producers Maura O'Keeffe and Eimear Reilly Photography Laura Sheeran Peter Power is a man who is constantly pushing boundaries. Not just satisfied with being a hugely talented composer, he is also creating work in a visual arts context as well as theatrical and installation works.

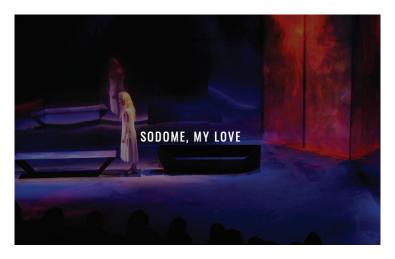
Peter Power is a Composer, Director and Sound Designer from Waterford based in Cork. His interests are in the collaborative creation of events using design-lead theatre, audio and music as a non-linear narrative source. His passion for this work stems from a want to pursue what cultural theorist and Architectural critic Charles Jencks called 'extreme emotional arousal': to control the definition of time and to express a scale of idea beyond conversation through extraordinary contexts.

Peter is Artistic Director of Sparsile Collective, a group that come together to create Big Experiences from Big Ideas lead by music. He is also Director of Eat My Noise, a multi-genre audio duo with David Duffy that work in Composition, Event, Film, Television and Post-Production. Peter's most recent work includes In Clouds by Sparsile (Creator, Director, Co-Composer), My Dad's Blind by Anna Sheils-McNamee and PAN PAN (Sound Design/Winner of Best Production Dublin Fringe 2018), Man at the Door Number 54 by Junk Ensemble (Composer/Sound Designer) The Same by Enda Walsh and Corcadorca (Composer/Sound Designer) flux by Eat My Noise (Co-creator, Composer), Override by Stacey Gregg (Composer, Sound Designer), ProdiJIG: The Revolution by Cork Opera House (Music Supervisor, Composer, Sound Designer), Thomas Kent by Lantern Productions (Composer, Sound Designer) Gentrification by Enda Walsh (Associate Director, Composer, Sound Designer) and Carinae by Eat My Noise (Creator, Composer, Director).

Peter is currently Artist-In-Residence in the National Sculpture Factory, engaged in a year long collaboration with the building moving towards an exhibition/happening in 2018. Peter is also the winner of the 2017 Arts Council of Ireland Music Bursary award and the 2018 Arts Council of Ireland Music Project Award, and an Artist-in-Residence on the DEEP SPACE program 2018. Peter holds a BSC Hon in Biochemistry and an MA Comp. Peter is a member of the committee for the Irish Society of Stage and Screen Designers (ISSSD) and currently holds the position of Media and Outreach Officer.

## **JOHN COMISKEY**

John Comiskey is one of the most respected designers in Ireland. He has created set and lighting designs with all of the large production companies in the country. His response to the theme of Design & Destroy was perfectly irreverent – he presented charred images and designs from many of his works.



John Comiskey has worked extensively in theatre, music, film and television. He curated and designed the first ever Irish participation at the Prague Quadrennial exhibition of world theatre design in 2007.

He has won Best Design at the Irish Theatre awards for Copenhagen (Rough Magic) and has been nominated several times for Best Lighting Design. Notable theatre productions include: Hamlet, Outsiders – set, lighting and video design – (Abbey Theatre)

Sodome, My Love and Phaedra – set, lighting and video design – (Rough Magic), Mermaids and Hanging on by a Thread – set and lighting design – (CoisCéim Dance), Beckett in the City: The Women Speak – set and lighting design – (Company SJ), The Diamond Body – lighting design – (Operating Theatre, of which he was an artistic director with Roger Roger Doyle and Olwen Fouéré) and two collaborations with Sam Shepard Kicking a Dead Horse – lighting design – Abbey Theatre/ Public Theatre, New York 2007, 2008, A Particle of Dread (Oedipus Variations)– lighting design – Field Day 2013.

Film directing credits include the award-winning dance drama Hit and Run; documentaries I Was the Little Girl - the Berlin of Agnes Bernelle; The Wren's Day and Behind the Walls, a history of Ireland's mental asylums; the recent two-part drama The Bailout (with Conall Morrison); various concert films including the original Celtic Woman; Johnny Cash and the live transmission of the Eurovision Song Contest.

He was Associate Director of Centenary, RTE's commemorative concert for the anniversary of 1916. He has had a lengthy association with Riverdance beginning with the original Eurovision Song Contest performance, followed by two years as Production Director worldwide of Riverdance – the Show and returning more recently as lighting designer.

He has been involved with music throughout his career, devising and directing themed performances such as The Frost is all Over (ten42) and The Well (Abhann) – both with Tony McMahon- and more recently collaborating with Irish piper David Power and electronic composer Linda Buckley on the performance/video installation Antarctica (Kilkenny Arts Festival).

### **NIALL REA**



Terra Nova Productions

Creative Producer/Director Andrea Montgomery
Creative Producer/Associate Director (Masque & Storm) Tom
Finlay

Composer/ Musical Director Nick Boyle
Sound Designer Augustine Leudar
Choreographer/ Movement Director Gary Rowntree
Choreographer/ Movement Director Bridget Madden
Lighting Designer Conleth White

Set and Costume Designer Niall Rea

Costume Designer Ciana Mc Donald

Choir Master Keith Acheson

Production Manager Ashley Smyth

Stage Manager Cassie Gallagher

**Assistant Stage Managers** Seana Green, Monica McNally, Sarah

Robb, Aaron Cathcart, Bridget Madden **Sound Operator** Conor Ó Gallachóir

Set Design Consultant T13 Liam Lynch

Prospero James Doran, Ariel Patrick McBrearty, Caliban Gary Crossan, Miranda Debra Hill, Prince Ferdinand Parys Jordon, Queen Alonsa Nicola Gardner, Antonia Jo Donnelly, Gonzala Moninne Dargan, Sebastian Ashley Alymann, Trincalo Robert Kane Stephana Nuala McKeever Niall Rea's model box for The Belfast
Tempest is immediately inviting. It draws
the viewer in to a world in miniature
where every small detail appears to
open into another, like an Escher design.
The perfection of the world he creates
showcases his attention to detail and the
virtuosity of his craft.

Niall lectures in Theatre Design and Performing Arts at Institute of Technology Sligo. He received his AHRC funded doctorate from the Brian Friel Centre for Theatre Research Queen's University in Belfast.

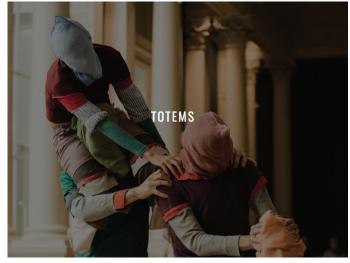
As a designer, Niall has worked extensively all over the UK and Ireland, as well as in the rest of Europe and the USA. He has designed over one hundred productions in Belfast for companies such as Tinderbox, Lyric Theatre, G.B.L. Productions, Replay, Greenshoot, Aisling Ghear, Theatre at the Mill, Brassneck. Some of his other favourite credits include Ghosts (Fru Emilia Theatre, Iceland), La Dispute and Kiss of the Spiderwoman (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield), and Sweet Charity (B.A.C., London). He is associate designer of Rawlife Theatre company having designed all their productions since 2006. The European companies he has worked with include Michel Laub/Remote Control Productions and Company RAZ; designing for Planet Lulu, Daniel and the Dancers, Frankula, and Angelo senza Angelo, often collaborating with Marina Abramovic, the renowned international performance artist. Niall also works with choreographers to stage experimental dance pieces; including the Puerto Rican National Ballet, Melanie Stewart Dance, Philadelphia and Theatre Encorps in

His practice-based academic research explores the performance of queer identities in Northern Ireland through the conflict and post-conflict periods. He is artistic director and designer of TheatreofplucK, Northern Ireland's first publicly funded gay theatre company. TheatreofplucK were in residence at the MAC, Belfast's modern contemporary arts centre, when it opened in 2012/13, preparing four productions all of which examine LGBT people in society, and all either world or Irish Premieres.

# **CATHERINE FAY**

Catherine Fay's work can be subtle or flamboyant, but it is always seamlessly connected to the work of the other designers, highlighting her deeply collaborative nature. She creates work for theatre, opera and dance, some of which was brought to life for the film by dancer Justine Cooper.

Choreographer Liz Roche
Performers Henry Montes, Glòria Ros Abellana, Miguel Do Vale,
Marc Stevenson, Liv O'Donoghue
Music composition and performance Ray Harman, Mary Barnecutt, Doug Sheridan
Costume Designer Catherine Fay
Photography Luca Truffarelli



Liz Roche Company for Dublin Dance Festival 2017 / National Gallery of Ireland



Choreography and concept Liz Roche
Set Designer Paul Wills
Lighting Designer Lee Curran
Music Composition Ray Harman
Costume Designer Catherine Fay
Musicians Zoe Conway Ireland), John McIntyre Ireland),
Bryan O'Connell (Ireland)
Performers Henry Montes, Helene Cathala, Katherine
O'Malley, Sarah Cerneaux, Marc Stevenson, Liz Roche, Liv
O'Donoghue, Alexandre Iseli

Photography Luca Truffarelli

Liz Roche Company | Co-commissioned by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin Dance Festival 2015 and Kilkenny Arts

Catherine Fay's costume designs most recently include: Näher nearer, closer, sooner (Liz Roche Company). Orfeo ed Euridici (Irish National Opera), The Return of Ulysses (Opera Collective Ireland). The Plough and the Stars (Lyric Hammersmith / Abbey Theatre). In 2017, Girl Song (United Fall), 12 Minute Dances & Totems (Liz Roche Company), Owen Wingrave (Opera Collective Ireland), Acis and Galatea (Opera Theatre Company), The Importance of Nothing (Pan Pan Theatre), and Owen Wingrave (Opera Bastille, Paris, 2016). She has designed many productions for the Abbey Theatre including The Plough and the Stars (Irish Times Theatre Award nomination 2017), Our Few and Evil Days (Irish Times Theatre Award nomination 2015), Henry IV Part I (Irish Times/ESB Theatre Award nomination 2007). For The Gate she has designed Romeo and Juliet (Irish Times Theatre Award nomination 2016) and The Threepenny Opera. Other work includes Breaking Dad (Landmark Productions, Irish Times Theatre Award nomination 2015), and DOGS (Emma Martin Dance, Winner Best Production and Best Design for ABSOLUT Fringe Festival 2012).



Opera Collective Ireland in association with Kilkenny Arts Festival



Irish National Opera and United Fall
Produced in association with The Galway International Arts
Festival and Irish Baroque Orchestra

Conductor Christian Curnyn **Director** Patrick Mason Set & Lighting Designer Paul Keogan Costume Designer Catherine Fay Human Frailty/Peisander Eoin Conway Time Antinous Brendan Collins Fortune Juno Rachel Goode Love Minerva Emma Morwood Jove/Amphinous Andrew Boushell Neptune Alan Ewing **Ulysses** Gyula Nagy Penelope Raphaela Mangan Telemachus Andrew Gavin Eurymachus Peter Harris **Eumaeus** Rory Musgrave Euryclea Bríd Ní Ghruagáin Irus Ross Scanlon Melantho Margaret Bridge Photography Marshall Light Studio

Conductor Peter Whelan
Director Emma Martin
Assistant Director Emmanuel Obeya
Set Designer Sabine Dargent
Costume Designer Catherine Fay
Lighting Designer Stephen Dodd
Orfeo Sharon Carty
Euridice Sarah Power
Amore Emma Nash
Chorus
Soprano Emma Nash
Mezzo Soprano Dominica Williams
Tenor Fearghal Curtis
Bass Matthew Mannion
United Fall Dancers Robyn Byrne, Ste

United Fall Dancers Robyn Byrne, Stephanie Dufresne, Javier Ferrer, Sophia Preidel
Photography Patrick Redmond



#### **DESIGN & DESTROY PQ2019 VR FILM CREDITS**

**Director** Jo Mangan **Filmed and Edited** by Jack Morrow / RETiníZE **Associate Director** Peter Power

**Curator** Jo Mangan

**Featured Designers** 

John Comiskey, Set and Lighting Designer in his home studio

Peter Power, Composer, featuring music from In Clouds co-composed with Michael Gallen

Katie Davenport, Set Designer, featuring Hoffmann's Eye from The Tales of Hoffmann

Sarah Jane Shiels, Lighting Designer, featuring excerpts from Dublin Oldschool

Ciaran Bagnall, Set and Lighting Designer, featuring the set of Hard to be Soft – A Belfast Prayer,

Red and The Luminaire Club in his home studio

Niall Rea, Set Designer, featuring the set for The Belfast Tempest

**Catherine Fay**, Costume Designer, featuring costumes from Bastard Amber, Totems, The Return of Ulysses, Orfeo ed Euridice

Sound Design Peter Power

Digital Artist "Hoffmann's Eye" Istvan Laszlo

Text written and performed by Emmet Kirwan

**Dancer** Justine Cooper

Technical Team Laura Honan, Bill Woodland - The Lir, David Cosgrove - RETiníZE,

Pádraig O'Grady - RETiníZE

Producer Tríona Ní Dhuibhir

#### **DESIGN & DESTROY PQ2019 EXHIBITION CREDITS**

**Curator** Jo Mangan

Producer Tríona Ní Dhuibhir

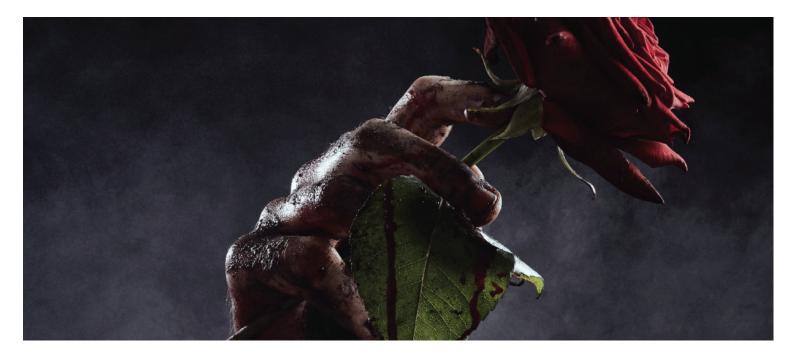
**Production Manager** Aisling Mooney

Marketing Noelia Ruiz

**Publicity** Cerstin Mudiwa

Front of House / Stage Managers

Pádraig Ó Grady and Christina Quill



#### **DESIGN & DESTROY NATIONAL EXHIBITION CREDITS**

Jo Mangan curated Ireland's representation at Praque Quadrennial from ISSSD's National Exhibition of Design for Performance which took place at 6 venues nationwide, January 16 – 26, 2019:

Theatre Development Centre, Triskel, Cork
Firkin Crane, Cork
Project Arts Centre, Dublin
National Opera House, Wexford
Lyric Theatre, Belfast
Blue Raincoat, The Factory, Sligo
ISSSD and Team PQ would like to thank each and every designer who took part.

The National Exhibition included outstanding work from Ireland's community of Irish designers, namely John Comiskey, Sinéad Cuthbert, Alan Farquharson, Maree Kearns, Joan O'Cleary, Ana Novacic, Francis O'Connor, Paul O'Mahony, Ciarán Ó Melia, Sarah Jane Shiels, Kevin Smith, Ciarán Bagnall, Catherine Fay, Sabine Dargent, Tim Feehily, Sarah Foley, Laura Perrem, Deirdre Dwyer, Valentina Gambardella, Peter Power, Kata Rozvadska, Hanan Sheedy, Lisa Zagone, Ciarán Bagnall, Lian Bell, David Craig, Diana Ennis, Stuart Marshall, Paula McCafferty, Róisín McNamee, Sinéad O'Donnell Carey, Niall Rea, Katie Davenport, Liam Doona, David Flynn, Joe Vanek, Ger Clancy, Ciara Murnane and Enya Dunphy.











