

# X-POLLINATOR

X-Pollinator 2024 is supported by Screen Ireland through the Screen Stakeholders Funding Scheme and Coimisiún na Meán, in association with Creative Europe Desk Ireland and TU Dublin School of Media.

## KATIE HOLLY

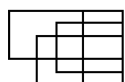
Katie Holly is the owner and Managing Director of Dublin-based Keeper Pictures, where she has produced several award winning and critically acclaimed features including Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman's EXTRA ORDINARY starring Maeve Higgins and Will Forte, Academy Award Nominee Whit Stillman's LOVE & FRIENDSHIP starring Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny, which was nominated for a Golden Globe; Conor Horgan's THE QUEEN OF IRELAND about activist and icon Panti Bliss and Sophie Fiennes' GRACE JONES: BLOODLIGHT & BAMI. Her films have screened at festivals including Sundance, Berlinale, Tribeca, SXSW, Toronto, New York, London, Rotterdam, Karlovy Vary and Sydney.



Current productions include Nick Pesce's VISITATION for eOne with Rumble Films, starring Olivia Cooke, Isla Johnston, Olivia Williams, Penelope Wilton, Stephen Rea and Alfie Allen which is in post production, Claire Dix's debut feature SUNLIGHT, written by Ailbhe Keogan (BAD SISTERS), ODDITY which is written and directed by Damian McCarthy starring Gwilym Lee (THE GREAT) for Shudder and 6 x 1 hour drama series THE GONE, an Irish New Zealand co-production for RTÉ, TVNZ & Red Arrow International Studios, written by Anna McPartlin & Michael Bennett, starring Richard Flood and Michelle Fairley which aired on RTÉ in October 2023.

Recent projects include BONO AND THE EDGE: A SORT OF HOMECOMING WITH DAVE LETTERMAN directed by Academy Award winning Morgan Neville for Disney+, MR. MALCOLM'S LIST, directed by Emma Holly Jones, starring Freida Pinto, Şoşə Dirisù, Zawe Ashton and Theo James, ABOUT JOAN, a French-German-Irish co-production with 247 Films directed by Laurent Larivière and starring Isabelle Huppert, Lars Eidinger, Swann Arlaud & Freya Mavor which premiered at Berlinale where Isabelle Huppert was honored with the Golden Bear; Azazel Jacobs' Golden Globe Award® nominee FRENCH EXIT starring Michell Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges, a co-production with Elevation Pictures in Canada which also premiered at Berlinale and was released by Sony Pictures Classics, and Irish-Lux-Belgian coproduction THE RACER directed by Kieron J. Walsh, which premiered at SXSW.

Katie is a graduate of EAVE and Inside Pictures and was a former Producer on the Move at Cannes. She is a member of IFTA, BAFTA, BIFA and the European Film Academy, and a former Board Member and Audit Committee Chair of Screen Ireland. She is also founder and co-creative director of X-Pollinator, a cross-disciplinary training and networking initiative that addresses gender diversity in the Irish screen industry.



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## LARA HICKEY

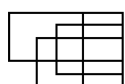
Lara Hickey is an award winning Irish producer based in Dublin. She has had her work selected internationally at over 75 festivals, broadcast on RTÉ, Virgin Media and Canal+, and was nominated for two IFTA Awards and appeared on the longlist for the Academy Awards with two short films, most recently with the Screen Ireland Focus Short LAMB by Sinéad O’Loughlin, which had its World Premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in New York. Also in 2023, Lara released BURN IT ALL written & directed by Jack Hickey, which won the Donal Gilligan Award for Best Cinematography at Galway Film Fleadh and the Best Irish Short Film award at Kerry International Film Festival, and sold to Canal+; and GOOD CHIPS by Nell Hensey and Brigid Leahy, which won the Virgin Media Discovers award, in association with Screen Ireland and had its world premiere at Dublin International Film Festival and was broadcast on Virgin Media One.



Lara has just wrapped on SEPTEMBER SAYS, the debut feature film by Ariane Labeled, producing for Element Pictures, a co-production between Element Pictures (Ireland), Match Factory (Germany) and Crybaby (UK), and funded by BBC Film, BFI UK Global Screen Fund, Creative Europe and Eurimages. Lara currently has a number of feature films in development with Screen Ireland for her own production company, Copper Alley Productions, is Development Producer for Motherland on their slate of projects, and is currently Co-Creative Director of X-Pollinator, with Co-Director and founder Katie Holly (Keeper Pictures) and producer Evan Horan, a pioneering development initiative that addresses gender diversity in the Irish screen industry, funded by Screen Ireland, Coimisiún na Meán and Creative Europe.

## EVAN HORAN

Evan Horan is a producer and the co-production lead at film and TV production company Keeper Pictures – based in Dublin, Ireland. He has worked across various dramatic, documentary and genre projects including ODDITY – a Shudder Original, directed by Damian McCarthy which will have its world premiere at SXSW 2024; ABOUT JOAN – a French/Irish/German co-production, directed by Laurent Larivière, starring Isabelle Huppert; A DOG CALLED MONEY - directed by award-winning photographer Seamus Murphy who accompanied musician PJ Harvey on a journey through the creative process behind one of her albums; SUNLIGHT - directed by Claire Dix, as part of Screen Ireland’s POV Scheme for female creative talent. Horan is a queer filmmaker who is committed to working with LGBTQIA+



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and female identifying talent and stories. He is on the Board of Directors of GAZE International LGBTQIA+ Film Festival, is an alumni of Rotterdam Lab, EAVE Producers Workshop, Berlinale Talents, and Emerging Producers. He also manages X-Pollinator - a talent development initiative and network, now in its fifth year, that addresses gender diversity in the Irish screen industry.

## **DR. CAROLINE O’SULLIVAN**

*Saturday 24 February, 09:15 – 09:45, How Do We Make X-Pollinator X-tinct?*

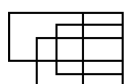
Dr. Caroline Ann O’Sullivan is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the School of Media in TU Dublin. Caroline is a media sociologist and holds a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin. She has over 20 years’ experience in academia and has been developing undergraduate and post graduate programmes in Media and Screen Industries since 2000. She is the principal investigator for Dublin on the Europe wide Live Music Mapping project. Caroline lectures and researches in the areas of gender; media literacy; popular music; reality television; Identity and expression online, Internet youth culture and EDI in the Creative Industries.



## **DR. MARY ANN BOLGER**

*Saturday 24 February, 09:15 – 09:45, How Do We Make X-Pollinator X-tinct?*

Dr. Mary Ann Bolger is head of Media Arts at the School of Media at TU Dublin. A design historian with an interest in intersectional feminism, she previously lectured in design history and visual culture in the School of Art & Design. She is the author of the monograph, *Design Factory: On the Edge of Europe* (Lilliput). Mary Ann studied Drama and History of Art at Trinity College Dublin and holds a PhD from the Royal College of Art, London. She is currently writing about groovy 1970s Gaelic typefaces and the material culture of death, religion, and papal visits.



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## **SOFIA EXARCHOU**

*Saturday 24 February, 09:45 – 10:45, Feature Film Case Study: ANIMAL*

Sofia Exarchou was born in Athens, and studied electrical engineering at the National Technical University of Athens, film direction at the Stavrakos Film School and theatre at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York. She pursued post-graduate film studies at ESAV in Toulouse, France. In 2014, she was selected for the Sundance Screenwriters & Director's Lab. *PARK*, her first feature film, premiered at Toronto IFF and San Sebastian IFF, where it won the New Directors Award. Since then, it has participated and won awards in numerous international film festivals. Her sophomore film, *ANIMAL*, was selected and participated in L'Atelier (Festival de Cannes) and Mia Roma Market. In August 2023, *ANIMAL* premiered at Locarno IFF, where it won the Award for Best Performance. *ANIMAL* also won Best Film Award at Thessaloniki IFF, Cork IFF and Vancouver IFF plus numerous other awards in various festivals such as Best Performance Award at Les Arcs FF and Thessaloniki IFF, Fipresci Award at Mannheim IFF.



## **MARIA DRANDAKI**

*Saturday 24 February, 09:45 – 10:45, Feature Film Case Study: ANIMAL*

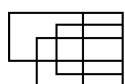
After working for several years as a producer and a communication and development manager in film and television, Maria Drandaki founded her own production label Homemade Films in 2009.

With a taste for sharp, cutting edge, innovative cinema, Maria has produced and co-produced several short and feature films, which participated and won awards in many international film festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, Toronto, Rotterdam, IDFA, Karlovy Vary, etc.) and were distributed in movie theatres, TV channels and platforms around the world.



She also contributes as a production and co-production expert in various workshops and film industry events.

She is a member of the EAVE and ACE producers' networks as well as the European Film Academy.



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## PAULA HEFFERNAN

*Saturday 24 February, 09:45 – 10:45, Feature Film Case Study: ANIMAL*

Paula Heffernan has been Head of Production for Element Pictures, one of the leading production companies in Ireland, since 2016, working across the company's slate of film and television productions and co-productions.

Prior to joining Element, Paula received a BSc in Communications, Film and Broadcasting from Dublin Institute of Technology, and worked as a Production Manager on light entertainment and current affairs television. She began working in Element in 2007 as PA to Company Directors Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe, quickly progressing to the role of Production Executive. She was also Series Producer on two series of Element's continuing drama RED ROCK (80 x 30min eps per series).



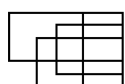
During her time on RED ROCK, Paula helped to design and implement a Writers Academy and Director Shadowing Scheme, the latter particularly aimed at bringing more female directing talent into television drama.

During her time in Element, Paula has worked on over 70 feature film and TV drama projects, including Academy Award nominees POOR THINGS, THE FAVOURITE and ROOM. She has shot projects in a variety of locations including the US, Canada, Hungary, Czechia, and Zambia. Current productions include KINDS OF KINDNESS by Yorgos Lanthimos, Rungano Nyoni's second feature film, ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL, Ariane Labed's debut feature SEPTEMBER SAYS, and Nancy Harris' THE DRY Season 2.

## AISHA BOLAJI

*Saturday 24 February, 11:15 – 11:25, My Thoughts Exactly...*

Aisha Bolaji, co-founder of The GALPAL Collective, is a leading advocate for DEI in the arts and media sector in Ireland. Aisha has lead various initiatives to further bridge gaps for young people from marginalised communities within the arts. Aisha is also making her mark as a film and music video director, showcasing their creative vision. Aisha was most recently nominated for South Dublin Woman of the Year further showcasing her dedication to inclusivity and aims to reshape the industry. Her latest short film WHY THE SUN & MOON IN THE SKY, was shortlisted for the Virgin Media Discovers Short Film Competition in 2022, and in 2023 received the Creative Ireland South Dublin Film Award . She is also a film curator and programmer, acting as one of two of Dublin International Film Festival's shorts



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programmers as well as having involvement in various Irish short form screenings and film festivals.

## **NADINE FLYNN**

*Saturday 24 February, 11:25 – 12:30, Demystifying Development*

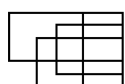
Nadine Flynn is a scripted development professional from Dublin, who is passionate about discovering new voices and untold stories. Nadine started her career in television as an assistant script editor for RTÉ's FAIR CITY. In 2019, Nadine left Carrigstown for Walford, where she worked as a script editor on BBC's flagship drama, EASTENDERS. As well as this, Nadine has worked as freelance development consultant with Screen Ireland, working closely with producers and writers across Film, TV and Animation. Nadine also worked as a mentor and script editor on a number of schemes such as RTÉ's Storyland, Virgin Media Discovers Shorts, Screen Ireland's Spotlight and RTÉ's Frameworks. Nadine is now working with Danú Media, as a Development Executive. As well as overseeing Danú's exciting slate of TV and Film, Nadine heads their new Writers Development Programme – Greenlight Screenwriting Lab.



## **CHELSEA MORGAN HOFFMAN**

*Saturday 24 February, 11:25 – 12:30, Demystifying Development*

Chelsea Morgan Hoffmann is an in-house producer at Element Pictures where she works across both Film and TV. Her upcoming projects include THE LISTENERS for the BBC and SEPTEMBER SAYS, the feature debut of director Ariane Laped, based on the Daisy Johnson novel SISTERS. Previously she has worked as story producer on CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS, and script editor on THE WONDER, HERSELF, RED ROCK, and NORMAL PEOPLE. Originally from New York, Chelsea has a BFA in Theatre from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and an MFA in Irish Film, Theatre and Music from Trinity College, Dublin. She lives in Dublin.



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## DEARBHLA REGAN

*Saturday 24 February, 11:25 – 12:30, Demystifying Development*

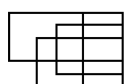
Dearbhla Regan is Head of Film & Talent Development at Wild Atlantic Pictures, producers of – amongst others - THE HOLE IN THE GROUND, BLACK 47, EVIL DEAD RISE, THE GREEN KNIGHT, COCAINE BEAR, FOUNDATION, GRETTEL AND HANSEL and Joshua Oppenheimer's new film THE END, with Tilda Swinton. Prior to this she was a Project Manager for Screen Ireland, where she Exec-Produced a broad slate of Features and Docs including the Oscar-nominated AN CAILÍN CIÚIN, PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS, IT IS IN US ALL, LIES WE TELL, LOLA, DATING AMBER, PAPI CHULO AND MR. MALCOLM'S LIST. She was a creative consultant for Screen Skills, is a regular industry mentor, and her background is as a development producer and script editor in film and TV.



## HEATHER BROWNING

*Saturday 24 February, 11:25 – 12:30, Demystifying Development*

Heather Browning is a Development Executive at Screen Ireland, where she works across the agency's slate of feature film and TV projects and oversees the Screenplay Development scheme. Prior to this, Heather was Development Executive for Deadpan Pictures from 2018-2022, where she worked as script editor across the company's TV slate. During this time, she also worked as a script editor and consultant for many Irish production companies, and on schemes and initiatives such as Spotlight, X-Pollinator, and Galway Film Centre's Mentorship Scheme. Her credits include NORTHERN LIGHTS, DEAD STILL, SWAN SONG and upcoming feature SPILT MILK.



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## MAEVE STONE

*Saturday 24 February, 13:30 – 13:40, My Thoughts Exactly...*

Maeve Stone is a director and writer for film and theatre, whose work responds to issues of climate breakdown, and revisits the canon with a feminist lens. She is founder and lead artist of Axis Ballymun's Green Arts Department and just completed an artist-in-residence with Project Arts Centre. She co-founded Cracking Light Productions with partner Alex Gill in 2021 and through a series of Arts Council awards has created work that builds connections between people, place and nature. In 2023 she and actors Aoibheann McCann and Liv O'Donoghue made a short called THE LAST HARVEST that looks at mothering in a hundred years. THE LAST HARVEST was a pilot project in sustainable short filmmaking supported by Clare County Council and resulted in a detailed documentary and report of the process.



## OONAGH KEARNEY

*Saturday 24 February, 13:40 – 14:45, Navigating the World of Television Drama*

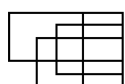
*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 16:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: A Career in Directing: Joys and Challenges*

Oonagh Kearney is a writer and director from Cork. With a BA in English and Philosophy from University College Cork and M.Phil in Irish Theatre from Trinity College Dublin, Oonagh's passion for story began in the theatre. Her interest in screenwriting and directing was sparked when she got the job as casting director to Ken Loach on his Palme d'Or winning THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY in 2005. After graduating from the National Film and Television School in London, Oonagh wrote and directed nine award-winning dramatic/experimental shorts, a feature doc WONDER HOUSE and a TV pilot (with the support of Screen Ireland, the Arts Council, RTÉ, TG4, BRITDOC and Wellcome Trust).



For television, Oonagh recently directed OBITUARY (Eps 4,5 & 6), a new TV series for RTÉ/Hulu/AMC/Tua Films and VARDY V ROONEY: A COURTROOM DRAMA for Channel 4/Chalkboard TV, starring Michael Sheen, which was nominated for Best Drama Mini Series at the British Press Guild Awards in 2022, and Best Debut Director at the New Voices Awards in London in 2023. Oonagh also directed 2nd Unit for Dearbhla Walsh on the award-winning first series of BAD SISTERS for Apple TV/Merman.

Over the years, Oonagh has participated in several international training initiatives such as Berlinale Talents, She Writes, Screen Yorkshire's Triangle Scheme, the Apulia Experience,



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Torino TFL TV Labs, Sources 2 Feature Film Development, UK Guiding Lights and the UGC Writers Campus at Series Mania. Oonagh's feature screenplay SNOW ON BEARA won her a place on the Athena IRIS Screenplay Lab in NYC, BBC Drama Writers Room in London and EWA Screenwriting Residency in Berlin, and is now in development with EZ Films and Creative Europe. Oonagh's feature film VIRTUOSO and TV series NOTIONS are in development with Keeper Pictures, Screen Ireland and RTÉ.

As director, Oonagh has just completed a new short film NEVER KILL A FEMBOY ON THE FIRST DATE written by Lee-Loi Chieng and produced by Aoibhín Murphy of Newgrange Pictures for Virgin Media Discovers. It will premiere at Dublin International Film Festival on February 24th 2024 and thereafter will be available to watch online.

## **RACHEL KILFEATHER**

*Saturday 24 February, 13:40 – 14:45, Navigating the World of Television Drama*

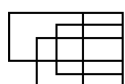
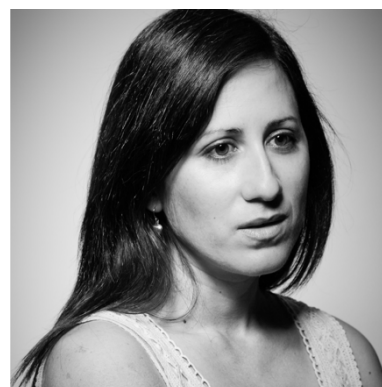
Rachel Kilfeather has written over one hundred hours of produced television. Starting out in Childrens' Drama, she then moved on to Soap, writing for FAIR CITY, RED ROCK and HOLLYOAKS. She was Consulting Producer on Season Two and Lead Writer/Co-Executive Producer on Season Three of VIKINGS-VALHALLA for Netflix. More recently she has written episodes for Season Three of the Psychological Thriller THE HEAD, Season One of the Irish Comedy Drama, SMALL TOWN BIG STORY and the Medieval Miniseries, KING AND CONQUEROR.



## **URSULA RANI SARMA**

*Saturday 24 February, 13:40 – 14:45, Navigating the World of Television Drama*

Ursula Rani Sarma is a Writer, Director and Executive Producer for TV, Film and Theatre of Irish/Indian descent. Her credits include BODKIN (Netflix/Higher Ground/Wiip), SMOTHER (Treasure/BBC Studios/ RTÉ), DELICIOUS (Sky One/Bandit), RED ROCK (Element/TV3) and RAW (Ecosse/RTÉ) amongst others. Ursula is currently creating a new TV Drama for Sister Pictures and the BBC, which she is also Lead Writing and Exec Producing, as well as developing new work for Netflix, Smokehouse, Carvinal, and Eon Productions amongst others. IN THE SHADOWS, a feature film written by Ursula and based on the life of boxer Ramla Ali will be shot later this year and stars Letitia Wright in the lead role. IN THE SHADOWS will be directed by Anthony Wonke and is produced by Lee Magiday (THE FAVOURITE) for Sleeper Films and was developed with the assistance of Film4.



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Ursula is also developing a feature film TURLOUGH which she will write and also direct for Treasure Entertainment, supported by Screen Ireland. Before writing for the screen, Ursula worked in the theatre for many years and has written numerous plays including: A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS, YERMA, THE DARK THINGS and EVENING TRAIN, a musical with music by Mick Flannery. Her plays have been produced around the world, extensively translated and are published by Oberon, Faber and Faber, Nick Hern and Penguin Random House. Ursula is currently developing new theatre pieces for The Abbey Theatre and The Royal National Theatre London.

Ursula was the Programme Leader of the MA in Scriptwriting at Bath Spa University for ten years and continues to mentor and support emerging artists at home and abroad.

## **AILISH MCELMEEL**

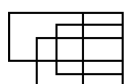
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Since forming Deadpan Pictures with Paul Donovan in 2014, Ailish Elmeel and Paul have produced some of the most critically acclaimed TV shows to come out of Ireland, including CAN'T COPE WON'T COPE, and DEAD STILL, establishing Deadpan Pictures as the comedy drama production company in Ireland.

Ailish is currently in pre-production on VIDEO NASTY a darkly comic horror coming of age drama series for BBC, WDR, Virgin Media and Boat Rocker. Recent series include NORTHERN LIGHTS for TG4, Streamz and ZDFNeo in association with Screen Ireland and Lionsgate TV. THE SOUTH WESTERLIES, a 6 x 1 hour ratings hit for both RTÉ and Acorn. Previous productions include WOMEN ON THE VERGE, a co-production with Merman for UKTV and RTÉ, the critically acclaimed CAN'T COPE WON'T COPE for RTÉ / Netflix / BBC3. NOWHERE FAST for RTÉ and the multi-award winning web series, BURNING WISHES. Ailish also produced the feature film HALAL DADDY (2017) under Deadpan.



Ailish is a graduate of Inside Pictures 2019, TransAtlantic Partners 2013, EAVE 2007 and holds a diploma from UCLA in Film Development and a B.Sc in Film and Broadcasting from DIT. She was a founding board member of the Irish Chapter of Women in Film and Television.



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## ELLA GLENDINING

*Saturday 24 February, 15:15 – 15:50, Is There Anybody Out There?*

*Saturday 24 February, 16:20 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Finding Your Voice in Documentary*

Ella Glending is a disabled Writer/Director. IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? premiered at Sundance 2023, and has won awards including the Silver Horn for the director of a film on social issues at Krakow Film Festival 2023, the prestigious FIPRESCI International Film Critics Prize, and the Bring the Change award at Biografilm Festival 2023. Ella also secured two 2023 BIFA nominations, Best Debut Director – Documentary Feature, and The Raindance Maverick Award. Ella was one of three recipients of the BFI and Chanel Filmmaker awards 2023, celebrating 'creative audacity', and was named a BAFTA Breakthrough 2023. Ella is currently writing a historical drama feature she will also direct for the BFI, called CURIOSITIES OF FOOLS.



## AOIFE KELLEHER

*Saturday 24 February, 15:15 – 15:50, Is There Anybody Out There?*

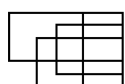
*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Finding Your Voice in Documentary*

Aoife Kelleher is an award-winning film and television director. Her debut documentary feature film, ONE MILLION DUBLINERS was described as "entertaining, thought-provoking and poignant" (RTÉ Guide); "beautifully filmed" (The Irish Times) and "all you need in a film" (Film Ireland). It received numerous awards, including Best Irish Feature Documentary at the Galway Film Fleadh, Best Irish Feature Documentary at the Sky Road Film & TV Festival, Best Irish Film of 2014 by The Irish Times, the Gold Medal for Best Television at the Sandford St. Martin Awards, a Silver Medal for Documentary at the New York Festivals World's Awards, Best Factual at the Celtic Media Awards and an IFTA award.



In 2018, Aoife was IFTA-nominated for Best Director for the RTÉ documentary, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DAD.

Her critically acclaimed RTÉ documentary series, GROWING UP GAY, was described as "superbly made" (The Irish Times) and "groundbreaking" (Irish Independent) and was awarded Best Television Series at the 2010 Entertainment.ie awards. Her short



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documentary film, HOME, was awarded Best Documentary at the Fastnet Short Film Festival.

Her radio documentary, THE CASE OF MAJELLA MOYNIHAN broadcast on RTÉ Radio One in June 2019, won Best Documentary at the IMRO Radio Awards 2020. The documentary also received a Gold Medal at the New York Festivals Radio Awards and a Special Commendation at the Prix Europa 2019.

Along with Majella Moynihan, Aoife wrote Majella's memoir, A GUARDED LIFE, which was published by Hachette in 2020 and was nominated for an Irish Book Award.

## JESSICA BERMINGHAM

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Creativity in Advertising*

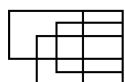
Droga5 Dublin – Head of Production. Jessica Bermingham is an award-winning production executive who has been working in advertising and film for over 15 years. Before joining Droga5 Dublin, Jessica worked in New York with some of the world's top production companies and agencies including Droga5 NY. Jessica is passionate about the craft of production across all disciplines and her work has won multiple awards and screened at festivals including Tribeca, Full Frame, AFI and Big Sky. She believes in supporting storytellers as well as amplifying new voices and perspectives in the creative industry. When she is not talking about the merits of sustainable production, she is pushing for creative excellence in every project. Outside of work, Jessica can be found trying to convince her two young boys to jump into the cold Irish Sea with her.



## ALEX INGARFIELD

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Creativity in Advertising*

Droga5 Dublin – Creative Director. Over the past 15 years, Alex Ingarfield has created impactful creative work for clients like Audi, AB InBev, AIB, Dunkin' Donuts, and Volkswagen. She grew up in South Africa and started her career with Ogilvy & Mather and BBDO. In 2018, Ireland called, and she joined Droga5 Dublin where she now works as Creative Director. Alex has changed perceptions about periods at work, repositioned Ireland's national airline and help rebuild trust in a pillar bank. Outside of work, she can be found in the park with her husband and pug named Gus



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## KARINA COTTER

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Creativity in Advertising*

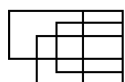
Droga5 Dublin – Senior Producer. Karina Cotter has been a part of the Droga5 Production team for the past 8 years, gaining extensive experience across major international brands including LEGO, Guinness and White Claw. With a grá for productions big and small, Karina has a distinct passion for connecting with talent that bring a fresh perspective and a different approach. Karina is currently producing an experimental short film with a 2023 X-Pollinator alumna. Inspired by a recent trip to Patagonia, she is training to be a mountain guide.



## CLAIRE DIX

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Shorts To Features: Taking The Leap*

Claire Dix has been making films for over a decade, working in arthouse, fiction and documentary. All her work has received awards at home and abroad. SUNLIGHT, her first narrative feature premiered in 2023 and won Best Feature at the Austin International Film Festival. Claire has been nominated for two IFTAs and lectures in film in Dublin Business School.



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## EMMA NORTON

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions:  
Producing: Working With The Talent*

Emma Norton is a Producer at Element Pictures working across film and television.

Emma joined Element Pictures in 2008. She worked as a Development Executive and Head of Development, before becoming a Producer in 2017 when she produced Paddy Breathnach's feature film ROSIE, starring Sarah Greene and written by Roddy Doyle. ROSIE premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and received widespread acclaim.

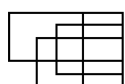


Emma has since exec produced two series of Nancy Harris' original comedy drama THE DRY (ITVX/RTÉ), the adaptations of Sally Rooney's novels, CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS, and the critically acclaimed NORMAL PEOPLE, both directed by Lenny Abrahamson (BBC/HULU); and Shane Meadows' period drama THE GALLOWS POLE (BBC/A24).

Her latest producer credits include Joanna Hogg's THE ETERNAL DAUGHTER (BBC Film/A24) starring Tilda Swinton and THE SOUVENIR PART II (BBC Film/A24/Focus) which had its world premiere at Directors' Fortnight in July 2021 and Simon Woods' BAFTA nominated short film SUCH A LOVELY DAY (BBC Film).

She has previously worked across a range of Element's projects from WHAT RICHARD DID, A DATE FOR MAD MARY, and THE LOBSTER, to Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA-winning films ROOM and THE FAVOURITE.

Before joining Element, Emma worked at Film4 and prior to that was a freelance script reader for a range of UK production companies and theatres, including Kudos, Scott Free, the BFI and the Soho Theatre.



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## EIBH O'BRIEN-COLLINS

*Saturday 24 February, 15:50 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Festivals, Audiences and Talent Platforms*

Formerly the Programme Director for the Kerry International Film Festival, Deputy Director of Irish Screen America, Manager IndieCork and Irish Film London.

Eibh O'Brien-Collins is currently the Talent Development Executive for Ardán, the Programme Director of the National Talent Academy Film & Television, an Associate Shorts Programmer for South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference & Festival and the Director of Shorts Programming for the Oscar-accredited Galway Film Fleadh.



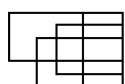
## KRISTINA YEE

*Saturday 24 February, 16:20 – 17:20, Break Out Sessions – Roundtable Discussions: Writing For Animation*

Kristina Yee is a writer, showrunner, director, and animator living in Dublin, Ireland. Kristina graduated from Harvard University where she studied Folklore and Mythology. She was also a member of the prestigious Harvard Lampoon where she drew cartoons for the famous campus comedy magazine. After Harvard, Kristina attended the National Film and Television School, UK, where she earned her MA in Animation Direction. Her graduation film, MISS TODD, an ambitious stop-motion musical went on to win many accolades, including a Student Academy Award, Royal Television Society Award, an Annie Award Nomination, and many others.



Kristina has written for shows such as BEST & BESTER for Nickelodeon, DODO for Sky, LOVE MONSTER for CBeebies, and SPACE CHICKENS IN SPACE for Disney. Her episode 'Food Fight' received a Best Writer for an Animated Series nomination at the Irish Animation Awards 2019. She also developed ALVA & THE TROLLS for Sky, and has several of her own projects in development including original series and features for both animation and live-action. Kristina is co-creator of GOAT GIRL (Cartoon Network, Kika) alongside Shannon George, with whom she is also currently co-head writing a major Zodiak Kids property for France TV.



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## CLAIRE FRANCES BYRNE

Sunday 25 February, 09:30 – 10:35, *READY OR NOT: A Work in Progress Case Study*

Since 2019 Claire Frances Byrne has had a lot of success with her short films, in particular *SISTER THIS*, her Screen Ireland funded short film that was nominated for a 2020 IFTA and premiered at the Dublin International Film Festival 2020 where she won the Aer Lingus Discovery Award. Since then Claire has been busy working on her debut feature film, *READY OR NOT* that went into production over the summer of 2023. *READY OR NOT* is supported by Screen Ireland and produced by Ruth Coady for Gaze Pictures. The feature film is currently in post-production with editor Nathan Nugent (*ROOM, NORMAL PEOPLE*).



## LYNN RUANE

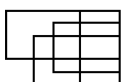
Sunday 25 February, 09:30 – 10:35, *READY OR NOT: A Work in Progress Case Study*

Lynn Ruane is an independent Irish politician, who has served as an Senator and deputy leader of the Civil Engagement Group in Seanad Éireann since 2016. Lynn is from Tallaght; an historically underserved and neglected community in Dublin. A long-time community and drugs worker, Lynn now champions the causes most close to her heart and community in Ireland's parliament.



An ardent legislator, Lynn tables progressive bills which respond to the lived experiences of those on the margins of society. To date, that has included pursuing harm reduction in drug policy, meaningful rehabilitation in criminal justice, a fairer child maintenance system for lone-parents, and the cessation of the misuse of non-disclosure agreements. Lynn also regularly seeks to amend Government legislation, to ensure it reflects the principles of human rights, social justice, equality, inclusion, and the empowerment of the marginalised. In addition to legislative work, Lynn is a member of three parliamentary Committees: Justice, Assisted Dying, and Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth.

Outside of her work in the Oireachtas, Lynn is a mother to two daughters, a published author, writer and screenwriter, a frequent contributor in print and online media, the creator and host of the award winning podcast *CONVERSATIONS ON THE MARGINS*, and, most recently, the co-presenter of the RTÉ documentary *LADY GREGORY - IRELAND'S FIRST SOCIAL INFLUENCER* with the esteemed Miriam Margolyes OBE. Lynn's first feature length film, *READY OR NOT*, will be released later this year.



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# X-POLLINATOR

## RUTH COADY

Sunday 25 February, 09:30 – 10:35, *READY OR NOT: A Work in Progress Case Study*

GAZE Pictures, an independent production house, was founded in 2020 by accomplished Film and TV producer Ruth Coady and is now part of the Anton Film and TV Studio.

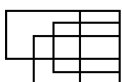
Specialising in bold scripted stories for the international market, GAZE leverages Ruth's 20 years of experience in independent production, key industry relationships and strong creative and commercial acuity, to produce innovative ideas for an ever-changing industry.



Throughout her distinguished career, Ruth has developed and produced successful productions and co-productions in Ireland, the UK, Australia, Canada, the US and throughout Europe. Ruth was as an Executive Producer on both MY FATHER'S DRAGON produced by Cartoon Saloon, starring Judy Greer, Whoopi Goldberg and Studio Canal's LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER, starring Shalene Woodley and Felicity Jones, directed by Augustine Frizzelle. Ruth EP'd the TV series DARKLANDS for Virgin Media UK & Ireland with Fremantle and co produced MY SALINGER YEAR starring Sigourney Weaver and Margaret Qualley directed by Oscar nominated Director Philippe Falardeau which opened the 2020 Berlin Film Festival.

In 2022, GAZE in association with Peer Pressure and co produced by Mermade, produced SISTERS an original TV series for AMC, RTÉ, CRAVE and Fremantle with Ruth as EP and directed by DECLAN LOWNEY (TED LASSO).

Other projects Ruth has developed and produced include MARY SHELLEY starring Elle Fanning, directed by Haifaa Al Mansour, THE DELINQUENT SEASON starring Cillian Murphy, Andrew Scott and Eva Birthistle, written and directed by Mark O Rowe. She co-produced THE SIEGE OF JADOTVILLE for Netflix starring Jamie Dornan and Mark Strong.



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## NIAMH FAGAN

*Sunday 25 February, 09:30 – 10:35, READY OR NOT: A Work in Progress Case Study*

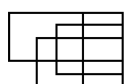
With almost 30 years' experience in the film and television industry, Niamh Fagan started out working in feature film cutting rooms in Dublin, London & Los Angeles, learning the craft of storytelling and filmmaking from Oscar winning editors and directors. From being an accomplished editor, Niamh gravitated toward developing and producing award-winning TV comedy and drama series for RTÉ, BBC & TG4. In 2019, Niamh produced international multi-award-winning feature documentary SHOOTING THE MAFIA, which had its World Premiere at the World Cinema Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival and had its European Premiere in the Panorama section at the Berlinale. Niamh is currently working for Screen Ireland, Ireland's National Screen Agency as Project Manager across a busy slate of Film, Documentary and TV Drama.



## CLEONA NÍ CHRUALAOÍ

*Sunday 25 February, 11:05 – 11:20, My Thoughts Exactly...*

Cleona Ní Chrualaoi is a film and television producer based in Dublin. She has produced many flagship programmes across all genres of television for RTÉ, TG4 and Virgin Media/TV3 including multiple IFTA award-winning productions. Cleona set up the film and television production company, Inscéal, in 2012. She produced the Irish-language feature film, AN CAILÍN CIÚIN which garnered worldwide critical acclaim and won over 40 national and international awards. It is the highest grossing Irish-language film of all time and was nominated for two BAFTAs and an Academy Award in 2023. AN CAILÍN CIÚIN made history by becoming the first Irish film to be nominated for an Oscar in the international feature film category. Cleona won the Film & Drama Award at the Tatler Women of the Year Awards and was selected as one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow in 2022.



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## GILLIAN COOPER

*Sunday 25 February, 11:20 – 12:20, Sales & Distribution: Finding Your Audience*

Gillian Cooper is Wildcard's Head of Theatrical and has been with the company since 2017. She is responsible for the distribution of acquired films to cinemas, online & TV in both Ireland and the UK, the organisation of events & premieres, festival communications, & relationship management with filmmakers. She works closely with the Managing Director, overseeing acquisitions in assessing new titles for the company's slate, both for production and distribution.



## MAEVE MCGRATH

*Sunday 25 February, 11:20 – 12:20, Sales & Distribution: Finding Your Audience*

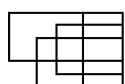
From Limerick, Maeve McGrath is Director of Programming at the Galway Film Fleadh and has previously worked as Artistic Director of Kerry International Film Festival, Producer at Carlow Arts Festival and as joint short film programmer at Dublin International Film Festival. Maeve, a professional actress, is embedded in community arts practise with The GAFF in Limerick and is producer at Dromglen Productions.



## NELL RODDY

*Sunday 25 February, 11:20 – 12:20, Sales & Distribution: Finding Your Audience*

Following an MA in Film and TV studies in DCU, Nell Roddy joined Element Pictures in 2008 where she headed up Publicity and Corporate Comms for the company for 11 years. In March 2019, Nell left Element and co-founded Break Out Pictures with Robert McCann Finn; an innovative film distribution company with a dedication to supporting emerging and established creatives. Previous releases include Emer Reynold's PHIL LYNOTT: SONGS FOR WHILE I'M AWAY, acclaimed festival favourite RIALTO, written by Mark O'Halloran, box-office hit BALLYWALTER and Sinead O'Shea's recent TIFF selected PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS. In 2022, Break Out Pictures released Oscar Nominated AN CAILÍN CIÚIN to much critical and commercial success.



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## SÍLE CULLEY

*Sunday 25 February, 11:20 – 12:20, Sales & Distribution: Finding Your Audience*

Síle Culley started her career in film distribution at Pulse Films working across their slate of independent films. She then managed worldwide sales and distribution on box office record-breaking alternative, cultural content for the big screen at CinemaLive. Síle then joined Altitude Films, where she was responsible for the theatrical roll-out of their slate in the UK & Ireland, working on Baker's THE FLORIDA PROJECT, Zhao's THE RIDER, and Pearce's BEAST amongst other gems.



Since 2019, Síle has been consulting on Audience Design for both independent producers and established production companies throughout Europe and the Americas. She facilitates and runs workshops for film teams to help them identify potential audiences for their films and the positioning of their projects in the ever-competitive marketplace. Her contribution as Audience Designer has led to international premieres at top festivals, world sales and theatrically-released titles, and successful applications with Creative Europe and the BAI.

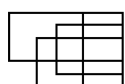
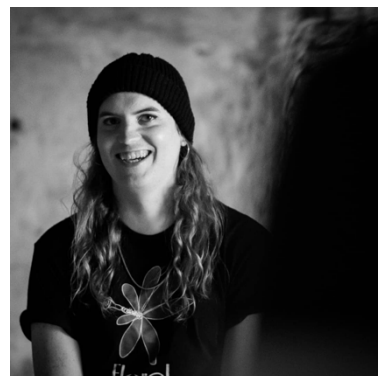
She is an industry expert for Eurimages' Co-Production Fund, as well the Director of The Audience Design Lab for the International Screen Institute in Vienna.

Síle is an alumni of Berlinale Talents, Torino Film Lab, LIM Less Is More and the NFTS. She is a member of the European Film Academy and the founder of The Breakfast Club, a peer-to-peer network for women working in the Business of Film in Ireland.

## ALLIE O'ROURKE

*Sunday 25 February, 16:05 – 16:15, My Thoughts Exacty...*

Allie O'Rourke is a transgender screenwriter, stand up comedian, filmmaker, producer, actress and theatre maker from Athlone, Ireland. She had gigged across Ireland, the UK and the USA, peddling her unique brand of girl dick energy. Allie has performed at festivals such as the Cat Laughs Comedy Festival, Paddy Power Comedy Festival, Electric Picnic and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Allie has produced, co-wrote and starred in two productions, FAILED BY DESIGN and PLATFORMS, at the Dublin Fringe Festival. She co-wrote and starred in PUNCHLINE which won the Virgin Media Discovers Award and premiered at the Dublin International Film Festival. Punchline has since won a further 12 awards and garnered over 40 laurels. Her project WATERHORSES AND THEIR KIN was previously selected to be part of the X-



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Pollinator: ELEVATOR program. Alongside her screenwriting partner, Matthew Tallon, Allie was selected to participate in the spotlight festival and the resulting project was optioned by Killer Films and MGM.

Allie's acting credits include PUNCHLINE, MASKS, STONEWALL AND HI, MY NAME IS. Her greatest acting achievement to date has been playing the role of man for 26 years.

## AOIFE MCARDLE

*Sunday 25 February, 16:05 – 16:15, Director in Focus: Aoife McArdle*

Aoife McArdle, a director and writer from the North of Ireland, is celebrated for her distinctive visual style and innovative storytelling.

Since the mid 2000s McArdle has worked extensively across short film, music videos and commercials with artists like Jon Hopkins, U2, Bloc Party, Cillian Murphy and Adam Driver. Further acclaim in recent years came with the mind-bending Apple TV + thriller series, SEVERANCE. Starring Adam Scott, Patricia Arquette and John Turturro, she was awarded the WFTV BBC studios Director and the IFTA Rising Star awards for her work as well as being nominated by the Director's Guild of America and contributing to the show securing 14 Emmy Nominations.



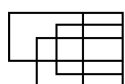
Aoife continues to leave an indelible mark in visual arts, seamlessly transitioning between film, TV, music videos and commercials and is currently focusing on developing several feature films.

## JEANIE IGOE

*Sunday 25 February, 16:05 – 16:15, Director in Focus: Aoife McArdle*

Jeanie Igoe is a Dublin based, Emmy nominated producer. After working in TV production in Dublin, Jeanie moved to New York, where she joined A24 at its conception in 2012, working on each of the company's early releases, a few titles include: SPRING BREAKERS, THE BLING RING, OBVIOUS CHILD, ROOM, THE LOBSTER, EX MACHINA, AMY.

In 2016, she helped launch the company's production arm, working as a production executive on titles such as Academy Award winning MOONLIGHT, IT COMES AT NIGHT, EIGHTH GRADE and Cannes Critics Prize winning THE LIGHTHOUSE.



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During her time at A24, she also produced the Emmy nominated comedy series AT HOME WITH AMY SEDARIS, the Peabody winning series RANDOM ACTS OF FLYNESS, Hulu's Golden Globe winning RAMY and various productions for HBO and NETFLIX.

After becoming a co-producer on David Lowery's THE GREEN KNIGHT, Jeanie went freelance in 2019 and produced the Sundance US Dramatic Competition title, from Channing Godfrey People, MISS JUNETEENTH, which won a Gotham Award and has been nominated for four Spirit Awards.

After wrapping season three of AT HOME WITH AMY SEDARIS, she came on board to produce Element Picture's CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS, directed by Lenny Abrahamson and Leanne Welham. She is currently in post on David's Lowery's upcoming feature film MOTHER MARY, as well as developing her company, Homebird Productions' slate of projects.

## ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

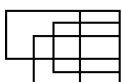
The Enterprise Academy offers a single-entry point for enterprise to partner with TU Dublin on their talent development initiatives and long-term skills strategy. We support collaboration between enterprise and TU Dublin's 24 schools and five faculties: Computing, Digital & Data; Engineering & the Built Environment; Sciences and Health; Business; and Arts & Humanities to co-create educational talent development solutions. The Enterprise Academy's team of sector-facing professionals, academics and educational designers have been working closely with Screen Ireland and the School of Media to provide partnership and programme development support, as well as the co-development of relevant modules in areas such as Work-Based Learning, Recognition of Prior Learning, micro-credentials and transversal skills. The Enterprise Academy is Your Partner in Talent Development, if you would like to learn more please contact Hugh McAtamney [hugh.mcatamney@tudublin.ie](mailto:hugh.mcatamney@tudublin.ie) Sector Engagement Manager for the Creative and Cultural Sector



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