

ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS AND DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN PRESENT

# Without Distinction of Sex

CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, & DIRECTED BY VERONICA COBURN  
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER SINÉAD DISKIN  
PERFORMERS CAOIMHE COBURN GRAY & SIBÉAL DAVITT

30 Sept - 3 Oct 2026

Draíocht Main Auditorium  
Blanchardstown

D15 RYX6

Tickets from €20

# Team

Concept, Text & Direction: **Veronica Coburn**

Performers: **Caoimhe Coburn Gray** and **Sibéal Davitt**

Composer & Sound Design: **Sinéad Diskin**

Set & Costume Design: **Deirdre Dwyer**

Lighting Design: **Mark Galione**

Video Design: **Michael Dunne**

Choreographer: **Sibéal Davitt**

Creative Producers: **Emer McGowan** and **Maura O’Keeffe**

Line Producer: **Emilia Smart-Denson**

Assistant Director: **Mark Anthony O’Reilly**

Production Manager: **Brendan McLoughlin, Showscope**

Technical Manager: **Mark Fennell, Showscope**

John McCabe: **Technical Manager, Draíocht**

Stage Manager: **Stephanie Ryan**

Production Sound Engineer: **Kevin McGing**

Chief Electrician: **Alan Mooney**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Kaitlin Gaddy**

Rehearsal Facilitator: **Debra Salem**

Collaborating Artist/Early Development: **Joe Lee**

Choreographic Consult: **Emily Kilkenney Roddy**

ISL Interpreters: **Ela Cichocka and Shelley Gibson**

Chorus Video: **Kilian Waters and Daniel Keane, Arcade Films**

Chorus Audio Engineer: **Morgan Dunne**

Graphic Design: **Medb Lambert**

Photography: **Ewa Figaszewska**

Chorus recorded at Studio14

Funded by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## Chorus On Screen

Caroline Ahearne  
Sandra Austin  
Teresa Conway  
Kay Downey  
Fiona Fitzpatrick  
Niamh Geran  
Rosie Geran  
Ann Marie Kelly  
Aoife Kiernan

Maura Maycock  
Elaine McNally  
Toni McNally  
Brenda McSweeney  
Alice Murphy  
Deborah Murphy  
Renate ní Uigín  
Anne Owens

Charlotte O'Reilly  
Maureen Penrose  
Elaine Quinn  
Katherine Quinn  
Mary Smith  
Vanessa Smith  
Alivia Thomas  
Áine Whelan

## Chorus in Development

Amani Kamal  
Selma Daniels  
Colm Deignan  
Helena Foley  
Jean Grey  
Ger Halpin

Mary Harford  
Áine Hayden  
Della Hickey  
Sinéad Moore  
Aisling Moore

Michelle O'Connor  
Eileen Quirke  
Angela Rocca  
Sara Shine  
Nicola Whelan



# A note on the performance

**All citizens shall, as human persons, be held equal before the law.**

That is how Article 40 in our current Constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann, opens. Articles 40 to 44 outline Fundamental Rights for Irish citizens.

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Article 40  | Personal Rights  |
| Article 41  | The Family       |
| Article 42  | Education        |
| Article 42A | Children         |
| Article 43  | Private Property |
| Article 44  | Religion         |

What a great sentiment. The sentence that follows less so. **This shall not be held to mean that the State shall not in its enactments have due regard to differences of capacity, physical and moral, and of social function.**

Social function, what's that then? Moral? The answer is to be found in Article 41, The Family which dictated a social function for half the population according to Rome's moral code. The Catholic family was to be the foundation of Irish society. And a woman's role within that family was wife and mother. Equality is promised and equality is taken away.

When referencing the content of Article 41 it seems right to use the past tense because it belongs to the past doesn't it? That way of thinking was of a time. Bunreacht na hÉireann was enacted in 1937. It reflects Ireland as it was then. And Ireland is different now. We've had Marriage Equality. The 8<sup>th</sup> has been repealed. It's tempting to think that it doesn't matter, that Article 41's continued presence in our Constitution doesn't matter, but it does. It really does.

Words matter. They encapsulate thought. They make space for action. Article 41 allowed the State to limit Irish women's lives for decades. And as long as those words remain in our Constitution, the space to discriminate based on gender and sexuality is not only maintained but continues to thrive under State protection. And once a society allows itself to discriminate against one group of people it becomes very easy to discriminate against another.



This piece, *Without Distinction of Sex*, is about equality. And it feels, in this year of 2026, that that is an important conversation. A decade ago, I couldn't have imagined the world as it is now. It seems, in so many places in the world, that we are once again fighting for basic rights. The right to education. The right to govern our own bodies. The right to govern our own lives. It's so hard to contemplate all that needs to change so *Without Distinction of Sex* brings us back to the beginning. The beginning of our State. The promises that were made. The intention is to refresh. Refocus. Reset. So that we can continue to fight for what is right.

I am proud to present this piece in my artistic alma mater. I am proud to be part of Draíocht's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. I want to thank all my artistic collaborators who were instrumental in bringing this piece to DTF. In particular, Sinéad Diskin, this piece has as many notes as it has words, perhaps more. And Sibéal Davitt who has been on the adventure from the start. And I want to thank the 40 women and one man from Dublin 15 and beyond who are the beating heart of WDS.

This piece is for my grandmother who didn't want ten children. This piece is for my aunt who returned to school after she retired, to sit her Leaving Cert in her 60s. This piece is for my mother who sank under the weight of a world that told her she had no worth outside of marriage. This piece is for my nineteen-year old birth mother who had no choice but to give up her illegitimate child. This piece is for my younger self who foolishly believed for so many years that things were different. And this piece is for my daughters. I want the world to be better for them.

**Veronica Coburn**



# Veronica Coburn

## Concept, Text & Direction

Veronica Coburn is a theatre artist of some 40 years' experience.

She has a rich relationship with Draíocht Arts Centre and has created some of the work that she is most proud of with their support. She acted as Artistic Director on Draíocht's ambitious, large scale

visionary projects, *HOME THEATRE* (Ireland) in 2018 and *NEST*, in 2024, both celebrating the lives of the people of Dublin 15. Other projects for Draíocht include *Our Place*, *Our Stories* and *Hallelujah!* Draíocht's Community Clown Choir, a longitudinal participatory project exploring the artform of clown in a contemporary societal setting.

Veronica has been Programme Director of TENDERFOOT, The Civic Theatre's apprentice theatre programme for TY students since its inception in 2007. A book documenting the work of Tenderfoot, *The Mess*, will mark Tenderfoot's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. Veronica has been a Civic Theatre Associate Artist since 2017.

Veronica served as Artistic Director of The National Youth Theatre from 2018 – 2021 and established ARTiculate, Youth Theatre Ireland's young playwright programme, facilitated by Carys D Coburn.

Veronica recently directed Louise Lewis' *Thérèse* for Dublin Fringe Festival 2026. *Thérèse* is a modern-day epic, grappling with the negative impact of social deprivation in contemporary Ireland. She also recently directed Noelle Brown's *In Plain Sight*, an exploration of Ireland's history of Mother and Baby Homes through the lens of architecture. *In Plain Sight* will tour nationally this Autumn. She also directed Gavin Kostick's play for young audiences, *The Leap*, for DTF 2025. *The Leap* will tour nationally next year.

Veronica is the author of *Clown Through Mask – The Pioneering Work of Richard Pochinko As Practised By Sue Morrison*, written in collaboration with Sue Morrison and published by Intellect Press. The Catalan translation was recently published by Neret Edicions and the Spanish translation will be published next month. She has been awarded the Prix Europa/Radio France, World Gold Medal Status New York, and a Writers' Guild of Ireland Zebbie Award for her work in radio drama.



# Caoimhe Coburn Gray

## Performer

Caoimhe Coburn Gray is an actor and Irish Sign Language/English Interpreter based in Dublin. She is a founding member of bluehouse theatre. Caoimhe most recently appeared in *Deaf Republic*, a Dead Centre and Royal Court co-production at the Royal Court (2025), Dublin Theatre Festival (2025) and Noorderzon Festival (2026).

Further theatre credits include *The Race* directed by Marc Brew and commissioned by The Ark, Dublin Dance Festival and Arts & Disability Ireland; *To Be A Machine (Version 2.0)* by Dead Centre; Carys Coburn's *Absent the Wrong*, which ran on the Peacock Stage at the Abbey Theatre as part of Dublin Fringe Festival; and the Australian tour of MALAPROP'S *Love+* directed by Claire O'Reilly.

On screen Caoimhe played in the role of Aideen in *Conversations with Friends*, the TV adaptation of Sally Rooney's first novel, directed by Lenny Abrahamson for Element Pictures, BBC3 & HULU; in *Valhalla* (Season 2) for MGM, directed by Emer Conroy; and in the role of Vicky in the short film *Flicker* by Bold Puppy Productions.



# Sibéal Davitt

## Choreographer & Performer

Sibéal Davitt is a choreographer, performer and dance artist based in Dublin. Her practice is rooted in sean-nós dance and informed by a strong background in classical and contemporary dance. She is interested in how movement can explore cultural memory, rhythm and storytelling, and her

work draws on Irish heritage while engaging with contemporary performance. Since 2016 she has developed a body of original work for stage and screen, working both independently and in collaboration with artists across dance, theatre and music.

# Sinéad Diskin

## Composer & Sound Designer

Sinéad Diskin is a Dublin based sound designer and composer from Mayo. She studied music in Trinity College Dublin and is a graduate of the SEEDS program with Rough Magic.

Recent Theatre credits include: *Poor, Dancing at Lughnasa, Circle Mirror Transformation, Piaf, Pale Sister, The Glass Menagerie, The Snapper for the Gate Theatre*, Dublin; *The Cave, Audrey or Sorrow, Somewhere Out There You, Tales from the Holywell* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin; *Cold War* at the Almeida Theatre, London; *Bedbound* for Galway Arts Festival and Landmark Productions; *Dixon and Daughters* at the National Theatre, London; *Walking With Ghosts* for Landmark Productions, in the West End & on Broadway; *Blood in the Dirt, Happy Days* for Landmark Productions; *The Taxidermist's Daughter* at Chichester; *Boland: Journey of a Poet* and *The House* for Druid; *The Wakefires, Faultline* and *Torch* for Anú Productions; *The Anvil* for Manchester International Festival & Anú Productions; *Incantata* for the Galway International Arts Festival; *The Phlebotomist* at Hampstead Theatre London; *Home Theatre* (Ireland) and *The Visit* for Draíocht Theatre.

Film Credits include: *Suited* for Battersea Arts Centre; *Constance* with Úna Kavanagh; *Canaries, Torch* and *Hecatomb* for ANU Productions.

# Deirde Dwyer

## Set & Costume Designer

Deirdre Dwyer is a set and costume designer, writer and director. She is also the Street Theatre Programmer for Spraoi International Street Arts Festival. Her training includes an M.A. in Theatre Design from RWCMD Cardiff and a B.A. in Drama and English from UCC.

She is an artistic director of BrokenCrow and a founder of Shakespeare Squared, a Waterford based theatre collective. She teaches design to students in UCC and has guest lectured at and MIC, IADT, SETU, Berridge, France and LAMDA, London. She is a founding member of the ISPD and has been Theatre Artist in Residence in MIC, Limerick, Garter Lane Arts Centre and Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris.

# Mark Galione

## Lighting Designer

Mark's lighting designs in Ireland include works for LORDS OF STRUT, THISISPOPBABY, Fishamble, Barnstorm, Irish Modern Dance Theatre, CoisCéim, Dance Theatre of Ireland, The Peacock, Fíbín, Hands Turn, Classic Stage Ireland, Barabbas, Vesuvius, The Ark, Guna Nua, The Lir, Gonzo, The Civic, Peer to Peer, Jacinta Sheerin, Second Age and Theatre Lovett. He has also lit many exhibitions and events as well as music, and TV shows. Mark now works with High Res, a Dublin based lighting design consultancy who specialise in television, architainment, event lighting and virtual Production. Recent designs for High Res include Irland Pavilion, Expo 25, Osaka and Epic Museum.

# Michael Dunne

## AV Designer

Michael's recent video design work includes: *Crisis Actor* at Project Arts Centre; *Eureka Day* and *Poor* at the Gate Theatre; *Deaf Republic* for Dead Centre Theatre at the Royal Court, Samuel Beckett, and NYU Skirball; *The Cave*, *Safe House*, and *The Sugar Wife* at the Abbey Theatre; the 3Olympia Panto since 2022; and *The Jesus Trilogy* at Project Arts Centre.

Michael is also a sound designer, stage manager, and graphic designer.

# Mark Anthony O'Reilly

## Assistant Director

Mark Anthony O'Reilly is a Dublin-based director and actor. He trained as an actor at the TU Dublin Conservatory. After graduating, Mark founded Melia Theatre Company, which debuted with a production of Robert Patrick's *The Haunted Host* at Smock Alley Theatre in 2019. Melia Theatre Company has also presented original work, most recently *The New Warrior* at the 2025 Scene + Heard Festival of New Work. Mark has just completed his MFA in theatre directing at the Lir Academy, where he was assistant director to David Horan on his production of *Six Degrees of Separation* and directed his own production of Enda Walsh's *Penelope* as part of GradFest 2026. Mark's background is in devised theatre, with an emphasis on experimental, ensemble-based work.

# Stephanie Ryan

## Stage Manager

Steph Ryan has worked as a Stage Manager in theatre for many years and with numerous companies including Fishamble, CoisCéim Dance Theatre, Rough Magic Theatre Company, Druid, The Abbey Theatre and Irish National Opera to name a few.

Most recent work includes *Thérèse* with Once Off Productions, *The Leap* with Fishamble and extensive touring with Pat Kinevane's one man shows *Forgotten*, *Silent*, *Underneath*, *Before* and *King*. Steph is delighted to be working on this Once Off production of *Without Distinction of Sex*.

# Kevin McGing

## Sound Engineer

Kevin works across all aspects of theatre sound, including production, engineering, mixing, design and recording.

Some notable recent work includes:

Irish National Opera, *Testament*, GIAF/Dublin Theatre Festival 2026, production sound/design associate. Straymaker/Once Off Productions, *The Curing Line*, Kilkenny Arts Festival 2026, sound engineer. David O'Doherty, *At This Stage*, Dublin Fringe 2026 at the Abbey Theatre, sound engineer. United Fall, *Soft God*, Dublin Dance Festival 2026 at The Abbey Theatre, sound engineer. Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin: Sound consulting, project management, installation and commissioning of upgrade to BGET sound system, 2025–2026. Abhann Productions, *Riverdance*, Dublin and Killarney 2026, head of sound/monitor engineer. THISISPOPBABY, *WAKE*, Dublin, London, Manchester 2025 and Sydney Festival Australia 2026, FOH sound. *Her Father's Voice*, Dublin Theatre Festival 2025, FOH sound, and post-production audio editing and mixing 2026. Irish National Opera, *MARS*, Galway International Arts Festival, and Abbey Theatre 2025, production sound engineer. Eleanor McEvoy, tour sound engineer, Irish and UK tours 2022 – 2026. Irish National Opera, *TRADE / Mary Motorhead*, Kilkenny Festival 2024, production sound engineer.

# Alan Mooney

## Chief Electrician

Alan Mooney (Chief LX) is a collaborative lighting artist based in Cork, Ireland. He is a graduate of University College Cork, where he studied English and History. His artistic practice is focussed on the creation of visual languages in communicating story in live performance settings. He is one of the participating artists on the 2026 international Tales of Two Cities programme produced by Cork Midsummer Festival and Solas Nua in Washington DC.

Recent lighting designs include *Sídh* (Jenny Whyte & Una Ni Bhriain / Cork Arts Theatre), *Where We Bury The Bones* (Dumbworld), *ShadowDock* (co-lit with Conal Clapper for Belfast24), *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately* (TheCollective), *Pitch'd* (Cork Circus Factory), *Kilter, Matter and Ghosts* (Natasha Bourke / Cork Midsummer Festival), *Echo* (Dominic O'Brien & Smock Alley), *Breathwork* (Irish National Opera), *Something Different* (Tinderbox), *The History of the Troubles [accordin' to my Da]* (GBL Productions & Grand Opera House), *Nobody / Somebody* (NI Opera), *Conversations on a Crosstown Algorithm* (National Sculpture Factory).

Associate Lighting credits include *Mavra / Pierrot Lunaire* (Royal Opera Covent Garden).

# Kaitlin Gaddy

## Assistant Stage Manager

BA Stage Management and Technical Theatre, Trinity College Dublin.

Credits include *Adelphi '63* (Stage Manager), *Scripted 2026* ( Stage Manager), *Norma* (2nd ASM), *Oklahoma* (2nd ASM), *Radio Bette* (Costume Supervisor & Dresser), *After Pinocchio* (Stage Manager), *The Mandate* (DSM), *Love's Labour's Lost* (CSM).

Other credits: *Wizard of Oz Jr*, *Sister Act Jr*, *Into the Woods Jr*, *Space Odyssey*, *Hans Christian*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *You Got Older*, & *The Misanthrope*.

She has worked with the Drogheda School of Performing Arts since 2023 and has been considerably involved within the community theatre space of Drogheda.

# Once Off Productions

Founded in 2006 by Maura O’Keeffe, Once Off Productions provides a structured, supportive and creative producing platform for independent performance artists making ambitious, innovative and collaborative work. Working nationally and internationally at all scales, the company is committed to bringing live performance to audiences in traditional and non-traditional locations. Once Off Productions facilitates artists to make work outside of traditional company structures while simultaneously offering all of the advantages of producing and administrative support. The Company enables some of the most brilliant and exciting artists based in Ireland to create, develop and present new work for a wide range of audiences.

Once Off Productions is a key part of the performing arts landscape in Ireland, nurturing artists and fostering the development of innovative, collaborative, courageous and ambitious projects while marrying this work with the needs of presenters to serve audiences across the island of Ireland and internationally.

Director: **Maura O’Keeffe**

Company Manager: **Morgan Steele**

Producer: **Kathleen Aleton**

Producer Programme Coordinator: **Sadhbh Barrett-Coakley**

Finance Officer: **Catherine Finn**

Marketing Associate: **Ciara Gogarty**

Line Producers: **Bernie Bourke & Emilia Smart-Denson**

Associate Producers: **Emily Aherne, Miles Harrigan, Joe Murphy, Michael Anthony-Greene & Muirenn Lyons**

# Draíocht Blanchardstown

## 2001-2026 - Celebrating 25 Years of Draíocht

In 2026, Draíocht celebrates its 25th Birthday. 25 years of inspiring and captivating audiences; 25 years of engaging communities and 25 years of supporting artists. Opened in 2001 and located in the heart of Dublin 15, Draíocht is an arts centre steadfastly committed to serving its local community. At Draíocht, their work goes far beyond their programme of events. Throughout the year, they help people of all ages to make space for the arts in their lives. Working collaboratively with artists of all disciplines, they journey with thousands of people to enhance their lives through arts events, projects and initiatives. They bring the public and artists together and in that space, magic happens.

Children & Youth Arts Officer: **Sarah Beirne**

Box Office Coordinator: **Philippa Cahill**

Front of House Manager: **Alexandra Craciun**

Marketing Assistant & Corporate Hires Coordinator: **Emily Daniel Hilliard**

Technical Assistant (part time): **Dave Durnin**

Technical Manager: **John McCabe**

General Manager: **Teresa McCabe**

Director: **Emer McGowan**

Marketing, Press & PR Manager: **Nicola Murphy**

Technical Assistant (part time): **Joshua Sex**

Ushers: **Aoife Byrne, Naoise Corcoran, Kyle Laing, Sean Lynch, Callum McNamara-Ryan, Nabilah Mohammad, Marty Pawlak, Eimear Sutton, Lulu Tandon, and Danila Timofeev**