

National Theatre School of Ireland - Gaiety School of Acting (GSA) Faculty Profiles

Patrick Sutton has been director of the Gaiety School of Acting – the National Theatre School of Ireland for the past 22 years and prides himself on the quality of GSA graduates who not only have significant careers in film, television, and on the stages of many of the leading theatres throughout the world. Patrick has an MA in Screenwriting from IADT. He has worked extensively as an actor in Ireland, England and France. Patrick is a former Director of Plymouth Action Community Theatre, The National Festival of Youth Theatres, Ireland, Wexford Arts Centre, and Artistic Director of TEAM Theatre Company. He teaches acting and improvisation on both the full time programme and on international programmes.

Martin Maguire is a leading Irish playwright and actor. He has taught for the Gaiety School of Acting since 1995. As an actor he has worked in most of Ireland's main theatres as well as on film and television productions broadcast nationally and internationally. He has written extensively for stage, television and radio as well as directed several theatre productions in Ireland and abroad.

Helena Walsh is the voice coach on our Two Year Full Time Intensive Actor Training Programme. She has studied with Phillipe Gaulier (of Le Coq), Kevin Crawford (Roy Hart International Voice Centre), and Andrea Ainsworth (Abbey Theatre). Helena has taught voice on the New York University Tisch School of the Arts theatre programme, on the BAS Professional Actor Training Programme in Trinity College, and on the BA Drama programme in University College Cork. Helena has given workshops both internationally in France, Italy (Academia Dell'arte in Arezzo) New York (NYU Tisch School of the Arts), and nationally (Actor Training Ireland, Irish Film Academy, residential workshops, workshops for amateur dramatic societies, one to ones etc.).

Gerry Dukes is a freelance editor, critic, and writer. He is a specialist in the work of James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. Having published his annotated edition of Beckett's post war novellas, *First Love and Other Novellas*, Penguin has also published his *Illustrated Lives: Samuel Beckett*, a pictorial biography of the writer. With the actor Barry McGovern he adapted Beckett's post war trilogy of novels as a one-man Beckett show, *I'll Go On*, which premiered at the Dublin Theatre Festival in 1985 and which has become a benchmark for Beckett productions worldwide. He is a regular contributor to journals, magazines, and newspapers and has frequently written for television and radio.

Donal Courtney (Acting) graduated from the Gaiety School of Acting in 1991 and has qualifications in Combat and Directing from the British Academy of Dramatic Combat and the University of Ulster. Since then he has worked as an actor, director, writer, and facilitator in Ireland and abroad. He has taught with the Gaiety School of Acting since 2000. He has taught at all levels with the school, including the Full Time Actor training programme, International programmes, and the the Educate and Corporate programmes.

Russell Smith (Voice) opens actors up to the range, depth, and subtlety of their communication, verbal and non-verbal, treating practicalities such as projection, clarity or accent, as extensions of a more fundamental integrated development of physicality and psyche. Russell is an honours graduate of Trinity College Dublin and of the Gaiety School of Acting. He has a background in physical therapy

alongside 20 years of experience as actor on stage and screen. As a singer and musical director/composer/accompanist, Russell has engaged in extensive ongoing training with a range of founding members of the Roy Hart Theatre at the International Centre for Voice in France (most significantly Kevin Crawford, Kaya Anderson, and more recently, Jonathan Hart), and numerous other coaches and physical practitioners. In recent years he has served as a voice, dialect, and singing coach at both ACTT and AADA in Sydney, Australia. Russell has been a long-standing singing coach and musical director at GSA as well as a singing coach for the degree programme in acting at Trinity College Dublin.