Once Before I Go

Phillip McMahon
The Gate Theatre was founded in 1928 by Hilton Edwards and Micheál Mac Liammóir. Pioneers in both their professional and personal lives, their productions were innovative and experimental, offering audiences an introduction to European and American theatre as well as classics from the Irish repertoire.

During their first season they presented seven plays, including ambitious productions of Ibsen’s *Peer Gynt*, Eugene O’Neill’s *The Hairy Ape* and Wilde’s *Salomé*. On 17th February 1930, the Gate moved to its present location on Cavendish Row with a production of Goethe’s *Faust*.

To this day, the Gate Theatre remains an artist-led organisation producing original work of world-class excellence which inspires, challenges and entertains our audiences.

The Gate develops and supports emerging and established practitioners with the ambition and talent to produce new work, alongside reinvigorating existing work from the Irish and international canon.

The ethos and vision of the Gate demands that we fulfil our social and cultural purpose as an international home for Irish artists and an Irish home for international artists, creating a ‘world theatre’ that leads the cultural conversation for our communities in an inclusive way.

Equality and diversity are firmly at the core of the Gate’s cultural values as we seek to deliver world-class policies that shape and lead new ways of thinking.

For more news on how to support the Gate’s work, and for information on upcoming productions, visit www.gatetheatre.ie.

The Gate Theatre is supported by the Arts Council.
ONCE BEFORE I GO
by Phillip McMahon

The *Once Before I Go* Company
Cast (in order of appearance)

Lynn          Aisling O'Sullivan
Jase          Sam Crerar
Daithí        Seán Campion
Young Lynn    Martha Breen
Young Daithí  Desmond Eastwood
Bernard       Matthew Malone
Director      Selina Cartmell
Set Designer  Francis O'Connor
Costume Designer Katie Davenport
Lighting Designer James F. Ingalls
Composer and Sound Designer Alma Kelliher
Movement Director Liz Roche
Associate Director Darren Sinnott
Intimacy Director Sue Mythen
Voice Director Andrea Ainsworth
Casting       Maureen Hughes
Creative Producer Consultant Sarah Lynch
Stage Manager Eavan Gribbin
Assistant Stage Managers Fiona Craddock
                                   Leona Nally
Costume Assistant Nicola Burke
Dresser        Sarah Higgins
Hair and Make-Up Sarah McCann
Lighting Technician Matt Burke
Set Construction Theatre Production Services
Scenic Artist  Sandra Butler
Photography    Agata Stoinska / Ros Kavanagh
Graphic Design Niall Sweeney / Pony Ltd

Special thanks to Michael Doyle and Liam Finn of Peter Mark
The Gate Theatre Company

ARTISTIC AND ADMINISTRATION
Director / CEO
Selina Cartmell
Associate Producer
Michelle King
Production and Executive Assistant
Chloë Ní Mhurchú
Gate Associate Artist
Tom Lane
Gate Artist-in-Residence
Loosysmokes

AUDIENCE AND MEDIA
Head of Audience and Media
Stephen Boylan
Audience and Digital Media Officer
Lisa Nally
Publicist
Christine Monk

BOX OFFICE
Box Office Manager
Dave Fleming

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
Head of Finance
Andrea Keaveney
Facilities and Operations Manager
Orna MacMonagle
Finance Assistant
Lisa Harrington
HR Project Manager
Catherine Bannon

PRODUCTION
Production Manager
Jim McConnell
Head of Costume
James McGlynn Seaver
Sound Engineer
Andy Walsh

THEATRE
Front of House Manager
Vincent Brightling

THE GATE THEATRE BOARD
Peter Crowley (Chair)
Jim Clery
Anne-Marie Curran
Séamus Given
James Morris
Sandra Thorpe

THE EDWARDS-MAC LIAMMÓIR GATE THEATRE TRUST
Peter Crowley
Nicholas Kearns
Martin McAleese

Once Before I Go opened at the Gate Theatre, Dublin on October 1st 2021.
Phillip McMahon – Writer

Phillip McMahon is a playwright and director based in Dublin.

His plays include *The Rock*, *Come On Home*, *Town Is Dead*, *Alice In Funderland*, *Pineapple*, *Elevator*, *Investment Potential*, *All Over Town* and *Danny & Chantelle* (still here).

His directing highlights include *Dublin Oldschool* by Emmet Kirwan (Project Arts Centre, National Theatre UK); *Not A Funny Word* by Tara Flynn (THISISPOPBABY); *Insane Animals* by Bourgeois & Maurice (HOME, Manchester); and *Town Is Dead* (Abbey Theatre).

He has developed, directed and toured five smash hit shows with drag superstar Panti Bliss, and was co-writer and co-producer on Conor Horgan’s esteemed documentary about Panti, *The Queen of Ireland*.

Phillip is co-founder and co-director of theatre production company THISISPOPBABY, wherein he was co-creator and co-curator of the THISISPOPBABY performance venue at Electric Picnic Music and Arts Festival, *Queer Notions* cross arts festival, *WERK Performance/Art/Club*, *Where We Live* festival of performance and ideas, and *RIOT!* – the international smash hit show (Winner Best Production Dublin Fringe Festival 2016).

He is a former Writer In Association at the Abbey Theatre, and is a current Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, London.

Selina Cartmell – Director

Selina Cartmell has been Director of the Gate Theatre since April 2017. Gate productions in this time have included *The Great Gatsby*, *Tribes*, *Look Back In Anger*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, *Hamlet*, *The Children*, *Beginning*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Snapper*, *Incantata*, *Faultline*, *Beckett's Room*, *The Beacon*, *Pale Sister*, *Our New Girl*, *Medea*, *The Visiting Hour* and *In MiddleTown*. For the Gate, Selina has also directed *A Christmas Carol*, *Assassins*, *The Red Shoes*, *Catastrophe*, *Festen* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Selina took a First in Drama and History of Art from Trinity College, Dublin and Glasgow University, and graduated with an MA (Distinction) from Central School of Speech and Drama in Advanced Theatre Directing. In 2007 Selina was protégé to Julie
Taymor as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. She won the 2014 Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Director for *Punk Rock*, following previous wins for *Titus Andronicus* and *Medea*.

Selina’s other theatre credits include *Fando & Lis*, *La Musica*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Shutter*, *Macbeth*, *Medea*, *The Lulu House*, *The Making of Tis Pity She’s A Whore*, *A Tender Thing*, *Grounded* (Siren Productions); *By the Bog of Cats*, *King Lear*, *Woman and Scarecrow*, *Only An Apple*, *Big Love* (Abbey Theatre); *Rigoletto* (Opera Theatre Company); *Punk Rock*, *Three Sisters* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *Override* (Watford Palace, London); *The Broken Heart* (Theatre For a New Audience, New York); *The Cordelia Dream* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *The Prince and the Pauper* (Unicorn Theatre); *The Giant Blue Hand* (The Ark Theatre); *Molly Sweeney* (Leicester Curve); and *Here Lies Passades* (Operating Theatre, Dublin).

Television and film work includes *The Dote* for RTÉ and Filmbase.

**Francis O’Connor – Set Designer**

Francis O’Connor is a frequent designer of Gate Theatre productions, most recently for *The Father* and *The Beacon*. His other design work for the Gate includes *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Month in the Country*, *The Caretaker*, *The Price*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, *My Cousin Rachel*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Weir*, *Crestfall* and *The Bread Man*.

In Ireland, he also has a long association with Druid Theatre and Garry Hynes, and their work extends from the original production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, to DruidSynge and DruidShakespeare. Francis has also designed productions for the Abbey Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and the National Theatre.

He is a regular designer at Garsington and the Grange Park Opera Festivals, including 2021’s *The Maid of Pskov*. Other recent productions include *Šárka* at TOBS in Switzerland, the reopening of Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris with *Parade*, and *Street Scene* for Opera North.

In 2019 he was honoured to have his work represent Irish theatre at the Prague Quadrennial Fragments exhibition.
Katie Davenport – Costume Designer

Katie Davenport is a set and costume designer based in Dublin. She trained in Production Design for Stage and Screen at IADT.

Katie has designed for a number of major theatre, opera and dance companies in Ireland, including The Red Shoes and The Great Gatsby at the Gate Theatre. She has also worked with the Abbey Theatre, Irish National Opera, Landmark, United Fall, Liz Roche Dance Company, Northern Irish Opera, Theatre Lovett, THISISPOPBABY and Rough Magic, and has associated at St Ann’s Warehouse (New York) and The Barbican (London).

She has worked in the art department at Ardmore Studios, has designed for RTÉ, and won an ICAD for Piranha Bar in 2016.

In 2019 she was nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award and represented Ireland at The Prague Quadrennial, a world exhibition of theatre design, and in Beijing NCPA at Evolving Design for Performance in 2016.

Katie is Vice Chair of the Irish Society of Stage and Screen Designers, and was Designer in Residence at the Gate Theatre in 2017. She recently participated in a cross-disciplinary group curated by the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) and Project Arts Centre, Studio Interruptions in 2020, and is currently contributing work towards a collaborative publication later in 2021.

James F. Ingalls – Lighting Designer

James F. Ingalls is a lighting designer. His previous work at the Gate Theatre includes Pale Sister and The Beacon.

James’s other theatre credits include The Seagull, The Cherry Orchard, Richard III, Sive, King of the Castle, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Waiting for Godot, DruidShakespeare: Richard II, Henry IV (Parts 1&2) and Henry V (Druid); and Ghosts with Uma Thurman, directed by Carey Perloff (Williamston Theatre Festival).

His opera credits include Orfeo et Euridice (Metropolitan Opera); Idomeneo and La Clemenza di Tito (Salzburger Festspiele); world premieres by John Adams including Doctor Atomic and Nixon in China; and world premieres by Kaija Saariaho including Only the Sound Remains and L’Amour de Loin, all directed by Peter Sellars; Il Farnace and Kat’a Kabanova, both directed by Garry Hynes (Spoleto Festival/USA).
James’s dance credits include George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker and Firebird (Miami City Ballet); Unbound (San Francisco Ballet’s New Works Festival); John Cranko’s Onegin (National Ballet of Canada, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Ballet West); Alexi Ratmansky’s The Sleeping Beauty (American Ballet Theatre and La Scala); several pieces for Paul Taylor’s American Modern Dance; many pieces for Mark Morris Dance Group including Mozart Dances, The Hard Nut and L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato; and Twyla Tharp’s 50th Anniversary Tour.

He often collaborates with The Wooden Floor dancers in Santa Ana, California.

**Alma Kelliher – Composer and Sound Designer**

Alma Kelliher is an award-winning composer, sound designer and musician, working throughout Ireland, Europe, Australia and America. She has worked in multiple disciplines including theatre, film, circus, live art, music and animation. She blurs the lines between music and sound in all of her work which includes Very Old Man With Enormous Wings (Collapsing Horse); RIOT! (THISISPOPBABY); riverrun (Olwen Fouéré); and The Elephantom (National Theatre UK).

Alma is an associate artist with THISISPOPBABY and has written music for many of their successful projects including RIOT!, Elevator and WERK. She is also an associate artist with The National Folk Theatre at Siamsa Tire for whom she created the audiovisual project To The Sea, an elemental celebration of the ocean.

Nature and the environment play a key role in much of her work, both thematically and by using real world sounds in her music.

Alma performs as electro-folk act LUX ALMA. Her sound is contemplative and pulsing, exploring themes of female power, nature and Irishness, wrapped in a dreamy electro aesthetic with soaring vocals at its core. For more, see www.luxalmamusic.com.

*Once Before I Go* is Alma’s Gate stage debut.

**Liz Roche – Movement Director**

Liz Roche is the choreographer and Artistic Director of the Dublin-based Liz Roche Company. Her previous work at the Gate Theatre includes The Red Shoes, Festen and The Mariner.
Since 1999, the company has produced and toured her works throughout Ireland and internationally, most notably at the Baryshnikov Arts Centre, New York; The South Bank Centre, London; Meet in Beijing Festival; and Brisbane Powerhouse. Her work has been commissioned by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin Dance Festival, Cork Opera House, the National Ballet of China, Goethe Institut Irland, Arcane Collective, Croí Glan Integrated Dance, Scottish Dance Theatre, DTI and Cois Céim.

She has choreographed extensively in theatre and opera with the Gate Theatre, the Abbey Theatre, Landmark Productions, Lyric Theatre Belfast, Siren Productions, The Ark, Irish National Opera, Wexford Festival Opera, National Opera of Korea, Rossini Opera Festival, Liceu Barcelona, Opernhaus Zurich, Opera de Nice and Opera Ireland.

In 2020 Liz was elected to Aosdána.

**Darren Sinnott – Associate Director**

Darren Sinnott’s previous directing credits include **Admin** by Oisín McKenna (Dublin Fringe Festival, Winner – First Fortnight Award; Outburst Arts, Belfast; Vault Festival, London).

He is a creative associate at Jermyn Street Theatre, London.

Previously he worked as a production assistant at Smuggler in New York and London, producers of **Sing Street** (Broadway), **The Kid Stays in the Picture** (Royal Court), and **Once, the Musical** (Broadway).

He has an MFA in Theatre Directing from Birkbeck University, London.

**Once Before I Go** is Darren’s Gate stage debut.

**Sue Mythen – Intimacy Director**

Sue Mythen is a movement director and intimacy director. Sue’s previous work at the Gate Theatre includes **The Heiress** and **Our New Girl**.

Sue’s other credits include **To the Lighthouse** (Everyman); **Asking For It** (Landmark); **Flights** (Project); **Private Peaceful** (Pavilion/US Tour); **The White Devil** (Shakespeare’s Globe); **Oedipus** and
On Raftery’s Hill (Abbey Theatre); Crestfall (Druid); Shadow of a Gunman (Abbey Theatre/Lyric Theatre).

Other work at the Abbey Theatre includes Hedda Gabler, Twelfth Night, Plough and the Stars, Heartbreak House, 16 Possible Glimpses, The House, The Rivals, Pygmalion and Major Barbara. Sue’s collaborations with ANU include The Lost O’Casey for which she won Best Movement Director (ITTA 2019), Sin Eaters, On Corporation Street, Sunder, Pals, and Angel Meadow.

Movement for opera includes Elektra (Canadian Opera Company); Radamisto (NI Opera); Semele (RIAM); Il Ballo delle Ingrate (RIAM/Abbey); and Dead Man Walking (Gaiety Theatre).

Intimacy coordination on film includes Normal People (Element/BBC); Modern Love (Amazon Prime); Kin (Bron/RTÉ); The Dry (Element); Valhalla and Fate: The Winx Saga (Netflix); and Smother (RTÉ/BBC). Sue is Head of Movement at The Lir Academy.

**Andrea Ainsworth – Voice Director**

Andrea Ainsworth is a voice director.

Andrea’s previous work at the Gate Theatre includes Hamlet, An Ideal Husband, Performances, Arcadia, The Price, and The Eccentricities of a Nightingale.

Andrea has been the Resident Voice Director at the Abbey Theatre since 1995, working with Irish and international directors on all Abbey and Peacock Theatre productions. She taught on the Professional Actor Training Course at Trinity College, Dublin from 1995 to 2008. She has worked with many of the independent theatre companies in Ireland, most recently The Haircut for The Ark. She also coaches actors for TV and film.