

NINE TENTHS UNDER

Performing the Peace

Playhouse ICAN - International Culture Arts Network in partnership with School of Creative Arts at Queen's University, Belfast

CONFERENCE DATES:

Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th March 2012

VENUE:

The Brian Friel Theatre, 20 University Square, Belfast, BT7 1NN

HOTEL:

Malone Lodge, 60 Eglantine Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6DY

COST:

FREE

As Belfast prepares to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, the iceberg (the great ship's nemesis) provides an apt symbol for Northern Ireland's continuing peace process. Above the surface is the public face of the peace, but what of the great mass of untold and often problematic stories hidden beneath the official version?

The Playhouse International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) Derry-Londonderry and the School of Creative Arts at Queens University Belfast, will bring together a critical mass to explore how the arts can cast light on the hidden face of the peace, not just in Northern Ireland but other societies emerging from a history of conflict, including South Africa and the Balkans.

Events will include specially devised performances, talks, seminars and discussions.

All events are free and all are welcome to attend, especially community leaders and members, ex-combatants, academics, students and artists of all kinds.

The Nine Tents Under will build upon the success of ICAN's previous conferences, whereby cutting edge academics and arts practitioners have been brought together to showcase and discuss the role of the Arts in conflict / post-conflict areas. ICAN has hosted four conferences over the past two years, bringing forty delegates and five-hundred guests together to connect and exchange ideas in the field of community arts practices in local and international communities.

Thursday 22nd March Conference Launch

Room: Main Theatre 7:15pm – 9.30pm

| TIME | EVENT |
|-------------|--|
| 7.15 – 7.20 | Welcome |
| 7.20 – 7.45 | Opening address by Idan Meir, Theatre Director and writer, member of Combatants For Peace, Israel/Palestine |
| 7.45 – 7.50 | Introduction to <i>The Far Side of Revenge</i> by Teya Sepinuck, Director of <i>Theatre of Witness</i> , Playhouse Derry - Londonderry |
| 7.50 – 9.00 | <i>The Far Side of Revenge</i> , A Besom Production - produced and directed by Margo Harkin |
| 9.00 – 9.30 | Reflection and comments with Margo Harkin & Teya Sepinuck |

Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

Friday 23rd March

Venue: Brian Friel Theatre

| TIME | EVENT |
|---------------|--|
| 9.00 – 10.00 | Registration and morning refreshments |
| 10.00 – 10.10 | Welcome David Grant , Queen's University Belfast |
| 10.10 – 1.00 | Session 1– Red Red Shoes Project (Brian Friel Rehearsal room) An installation showcasing a collaborative project involving Ales Kurt and Belma Lizde-Kurt , Aparat Theatre Sarajevo, Anna Newell , Replay Belfast and Michelle Young , The Belfast/Sarajevo Initiative. The participants of the Red Red Shoes project will explore how the legacy of the past has been inherited and processed by the next generation. (Break 11.15-11.30) |
| 1.00 - 2.00 | Lunch (Brian Friel Theatre bar) |
| 2.00 – 4.30 | Session 2: 'Whose voice is it, anyway?' (Brian Friel Theatre) This session will showcase and discuss a project devised by David Grant , Queen's University in partnership with Professor Jane Taylor , University of Western Cape and the University of Chicago, Aja Marneweck , University of Capetown, and Belfast dramatist, Owen McCafferty . Participants will explore the ethics of communal story-telling. |
| 7.30 – 8.30 | Evening Event- (Brian Friel Theatre) Welcome and introduction by Michelle Young, Queen's University Belfast Performance- Threads of Resilience An ICAN Production facilitated and directed by Ailbhe Hines in collaboration with WISE Owl (Woman's Initiative for Self Empowerment Omagh). Participants have come from diverse cultural backgrounds to create a performance which documents their personal and community experiences. |

Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

Saturday 24th March

| TIME | EVENT |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 – 10.10 | Welcome David Grant , Queens University Belfast (Brian Friel Theatre) |
| 10.10 – 12.30 | Session 1: "Responding to Conflict: Theatre in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan". A case study in international theatre work, presented by Dave Duggan (Ireland), Hjalmar Jorge Joffre-Eichhorn (Germany/Bolivia) and Attiq Rayan (Afghanistan). The play <i>AH 6905</i> by Dave Duggan dramatises the challenges of truth recovery in a society moving from violent conflict to fragile peace. It was first produced and toured in Ireland in 2005 and subsequently in Afghanistan by Hjalmar Jorge Joffre-Eichhorn. (Break 11.15-11.30) |
| 12.30 – 1.30 | Lunch |
| 1.30 – 3.30 | Session 2: "Problematic Stories: Documenting Conflict during a Peace Process" (Queen's Film Theatre) Chaired by Declan Keeney , Queen's University, Belfast and Dr Cahal McLaughlin , The Prisons Memory Archive and University of Ulster. This symposium will focus on the issues of recording memories from the Northern Irish conflict in the context of a peace process. Journalist Ed Moloney will talk about 'The Belfast Project', a controversial archive of multiple testimonies from former combatants involved in The Troubles. Dr Cahal McLaughlin will speak about The Prisons Memory Archive and an archive of 175 filmed interviews of people connected to the Maze & Long Kesh Prisons will be shown. Other speakers include filmmaker Alison Millar , and Claire Hackett , who will also speak about Healing Through Remembering project, and Falls Community Council's oral history archive, Dúchas. |
| 3.30 – 4.00 | Conference conclusion chaired by David Grant |

Drinks and light refreshments will be served.

ICAN is a three year project which has been part-financed by the European Union's Regional Development fund through EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (**Peace III**) managed through Special EU Programmes Body.

