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IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE

Findings Report of  
**Playography na Gaeilge:**  
1975-2009

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# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Introduction

The wonder of theatre and its essential cruelty have one and the same source: evanescence. In an age where everything seems capable of being infinitely reproduced, theatre is precious because it is never the same. Even a single production can change radically from night to night, making each moment as unique as it is fleeting. But this wonder is also painful. The art leaves no tangible traces: a text is not a piece of theatre and neither is a recording. Oblivion haunts even the greatest performances. This cannot be helped, but it can be counter-balanced. Theatre can be documented. The bones of a tradition can be preserved, and, if necessary, exhumed. For all its self-consciousness as an established tradition, Irish theatre has tended to define itself narrowly and neglect the notion of a repertoire that is constantly re-examined and re-invented.

PLAYOGRAPHYIreland is by far the most important antidote to this amnesia, and now, the development of Playography na Gaeilge (1975-2009) makes it far more potent. As it has grown, it has become less of an aide-memoire and more a framework for exploration. Its technology allows

the user to make surprising connections, to turn half-remembered notions into hard facts, to stumble upon unexpected discoveries. It is creating, for the first time, a memory-bank of the Irish language repertoire, a canon of works that is not rigid and narrow but free-flowing and open-ended. I have no doubt that in its new form it will be increasingly inspirational, not just to researchers and theatre historians, but to practitioners who will be stimulated to dig out long-forgotten texts and bring some of them back from oblivion and out again, for some more brief and fleeting moments, into the light of performance.

**Fintan O'Toole, April 2010**

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: A Definition

*Playography na Gaeilge* is housed within Irish Theatre Institute's PLAYOGRAPHYIreland resource and complements the original Irish Playography, a searchable database of all new Irish plays (in English) produced professionally in Ireland, North and South, since 1904. If one chooses to go to the *Playography na Gaeilge* site by way of a link on the Irish Playography ([www.irishplayography.com](http://www.irishplayography.com)) homepage, one is brought to a wholly Irish language section. Details of all the Irish language plays only are given here, and all the information is given in Irish. It is important to note that *Playography na Gaeilge* is not a translation of the main Irish Playography site. It is a separate entity and information about plays in English cannot be accessed from this site. In short - all plays, in Irish and in English, are found on Irish Playography and *Playography na Gaeilge* contains only plays in Irish. Irish Theatre Institute will update PLAYOGRAPHYIreland on an on-going basis.

*Playography na Gaeilge* is a comprehensive on-line searchable catalogue of all new Irish language plays (including new versions, adaptations and translations) produced in Ireland by professional theatre companies, venues, festivals, commercial producers and once-off producers from 1975 to present. The catalogue also includes some plays produced by amateur companies and semi-professional organisations where the work is deemed to be of particular significance to the repertoire. The entire *Playography na Gaeilge* catalogue will be completed by 2011 and will include all new Irish language plays produced since 1901 in Ireland, North and South.

*Playography na Gaeilge* 1975-2009 includes 256 plays, each containing a synopsis, cast list, crew list and details of where and when the first production

took place. Over 100 playwrights are represented, in most cases with biographical information and, in many with rights contact details for their work. The database includes over 1,000 performers. A simple search by actor's name will display all new Irish language plays in which he/she has performed. *Playography na Gaeilge* acknowledges and documents the contribution of over 600 theatre practitioners to this new work including directors, designers, lighting designers, stage managers, scenic artists and many others. It is possible to track the work of these practitioners in new Irish language plays by means of a simple name search. In the case of published works full bibliographical information is given. Additional information concerning unpublished scripts is given where available.

*Playography na Gaeilge* not only defines and maps the Irish language theatrical repertoire for the first time but also aims to revitalise that repertoire by reintroducing many lost scripts and providing a gateway for locating and clearing rights for all existing scripts. The website allows writers to attach downloadable versions of their plays for purchase by interested theatre professionals and amateurs and by academics/researchers.

Please see back page of this report for the research parameters, a list of sources and details of those who have contributed to the research.

**Anna Bale**

*Editor, Playography na Gaeilge*  
[www.irishplayography.com](http://www.irishplayography.com)

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Key Companies

## **An Taibhdhearc, Galway (115 new plays in the period, 44.92%)**

An Taibhdhearc (Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe) theatre opened in 1928 in Galway, to great acclaim, with *Diarmuid agus Gráinne* by Mícheal Mac Liammóir (1899 -1978). This was a culmination of years of work which saw a delegation of largely language enthusiasts such as Dr Séamus Ó Beirn, Professor Liam Ó Briain, Professor Tomás Ó Máille obtain funding of £600 per annum from the Minister of Finance, Ernest Blythe. Mac Liammóir was An Taibhdhearc's first artistic director and it has continued to produce new plays and translations in Irish since then. Writers such as Eoghan Ó Tuairisc, Críostóir Ó Floinn, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain and Mícheál Ó Conghaile have all had their work premiered there. An Taibhdhearc commissions new writing and organises the annual Walter Macken Award, specifically for new plays and it also conducts theatre workshops and courses for teenagers through its venture called Na Crosáin. A fire destroyed the theatre in 2007, but An Taibhdhearc has continued to produce plays, in various venues in and around Galway, while it awaits the rebuilding of the theatre. Séamus Ó hAodha is its current Artistic Director.

## **Aisling Ghéar, Belfast (26 new plays in the period, 10.15%)**

Aisling Ghéar is Ireland's only full-time, professional theatre company producing shows through the medium of Irish. Founded in Belfast, it is the resident theatre company in the Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich on the Falls Road. The company was established in 1997 by Gearóid Ó Cairealláin and Máire Andrews and has consistently produced new plays and translations

in Belfast and on tour around Ireland. Aisling Ghéar makes its productions accessible to non-Irish speakers by providing a simultaneous translation for every performance. The Artistic Director is Bríd Ó Gallchóir who was formerly an Artistic Director with Amharclann de hÍde.

## **The Abbey Theatre, Dublin (22 new plays in the period, 8.5%)**

The history of the Abbey Theatre, the National Theatre of Ireland, has been well documented since its formation in 1904. The company was an amalgamation of two previous companies, Frank and W.G. Fay's National Dramatic Society, founded in 1901 and the Irish Literary Theatre founded in 1899 by W.B. Yeats, Edward Martyn and Lady Gregory. The Irish Literary Theatre's production in 1901 of *Casadh an tSúgáin* by Douglas Hyde, in the Gaiety Theatre is widely regarded as being the first production of a play in Irish on a commercial stage. The number of actors and theatre practitioners who honed their skills on the Abbey stage in Irish language plays over the years is vast. Plays in Irish have traditionally been produced on the Peacock stage since 1969. In 2009 the Abbey staged rehearsed readings of new Irish language plays by Aodh Ó Domhnaill, Celia de Fréine and Dave Duggan. The Director of the Abbey Theatre is Fiach Mac Conghail.

## **Amharclann de hÍde, Dublin (12 new plays in the period, 4.6%)**

Amharclann de hÍde was founded in 1992 in Dublin, on the initiative of Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, by the Arts Council and Bord na Gaeilge as a professional Irish language theatre company. Its aim was to develop and

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Key Companies

present professional standards in acting, writing and production. Over ten years, Amharclann de hÍde developed and produced Irish language theatre by writers such as Liam Ó Muirthile, Éilis Ní Dhuibhne, Alan Titley, Celia de Fréine and others. The company had no permanent venue but produced its plays in various theatres, mostly in Dublin, although it also occasionally toured around Ireland. Amharclann de hÍde ceased production in 2001.

## **An Damer, Dublin (10 new plays in the period, 3.9%)**

An Damer was set up as an Irish language theatre under the auspices of Gael Linn in 1955 and was located at An Damer Hall at 112 St Stephen's Green, Dublin. It played a central role in the social life of Irish speakers in the city for many years. Through the operation of its 'Club Drámaíochta' it fostered a consistent and loyal audience for Irish language theatre and generated new playwriting in Irish. Authors such as Eoghan Ó Tuairisc, Brendan Behan and Mairéad Ní Ghráda premiered work there. Although fundamentally an amateur organisation, professional directors such as Frank Dermody and Tomás Mac Anna were engaged by An Damer and many emerging young actors and directors of Irish language theatre were trained there. Gael Linn withdrew funding from An Damer in 1976 and, in its place, a fully professional company was established in 1978 with Artistic Director Áine Uí Dhrisceoil. This professional company survived for three years before closing in 1981.

## **Deilt, Dublin (10 new plays in the period, 3.9%)**

Deilt was a professional theatre and television company which was founded in 1983 by Ray Yeates. The company produced plays by writers such as Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Antoine Ó Flatharta, Gabriel Rosenstock, John Mc Ardle and Seán McCarthy. From the outset, it was the aim of Deilt to provide teachers of Irish with innovative material. From 1987 Deilt directed its energies into developing an adult audience with televisual, film and video resources. Deilt's first play for adults, *Daoine ar an Dart*, was a site-specific piece performed for commuters over a number of days during the Dublin Theatre Festival of 1987. Deilt co-produced *Bullaí Mhartain* with Na Fánaithe in 1989. The company ceased production in the early 1990s.

## **Na Fánaithe, Galway (10 new plays in the period, 3.9%)**

Na Fánaithe was founded in Galway City in 1987 by Diarmuid de Faoite, Marina Ní Dhubháin and Trevor Ó Clochartaigh and its first production was *Clog*. As part of its work, the company directed its energies towards the Irish summer colleges and arranged drama courses in Connemara. The company co-produced *Bullaí Mhartain* with Deilt in 1989. The company toured nationwide with its plays and in 1992 Na Fánaithe was invited to Andalucia in Spain to perform its play *Misiún ar Muir* which was an adaptation of a novella by the writer and poet, Dara Ó Conaola. This overseas visit was the subject of a television documentary *Exposé-Na Fánaithe i Seville* which was transmitted on RTE1 in 1993. The company has ceased production since the mid 1990s.

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Key Companies

## **Graffiti Theatre Company, Cork (9 new plays in the period, 3.5%)**

Graffiti, founded in 1984 by Emelie FitzGibbon, is a professional Cork-based company which provides drama and educational theatre for young people. In that time, the company's productions have been seen by over a million young people in Ireland and abroad. In 1999 Graffiti extended its programme to include theatre in the Irish language and has commissioned, produced and toured a number of new plays in the past ten years. Graffiti operates from its refurbished building in Cork city which includes a performance and rehearsal space and it also tours to schools throughout Munster and South Leinster.

## **Salamandar, Galway (4 new plays in the period, 1.5%)**

Salamandar is a Galway-based, professional company founded in 2006 by Darach Ó Scolaí. Salamandar aims to provide a structure for acting, directing and writing talents in Irish. The company commissions and produces new scripts and all of its plays to date have been original works. Salamandar also tours extensively in Ireland. One of its more recent productions, *A+E*, was a co-production with the dance company Ciotóg.

## **Branar, Galway (4 new plays in the period, 1.5%)**

Branar is a theatre-in-education company based in Galway which was founded in 2001 by Marc Mac Lochlainn. It creates both theatre and drama workshops for young people and tours primarily to schools, children's arts

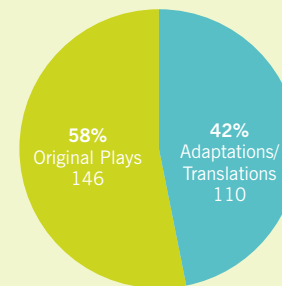
festivals and other festivals throughout Ireland. Branar's shows are not language dependant but use a small number of performers, original live music, imaginative manipulation of objects, puppetry, and physical theatre styles/methods and techniques.

*And please note the inclusion of:*

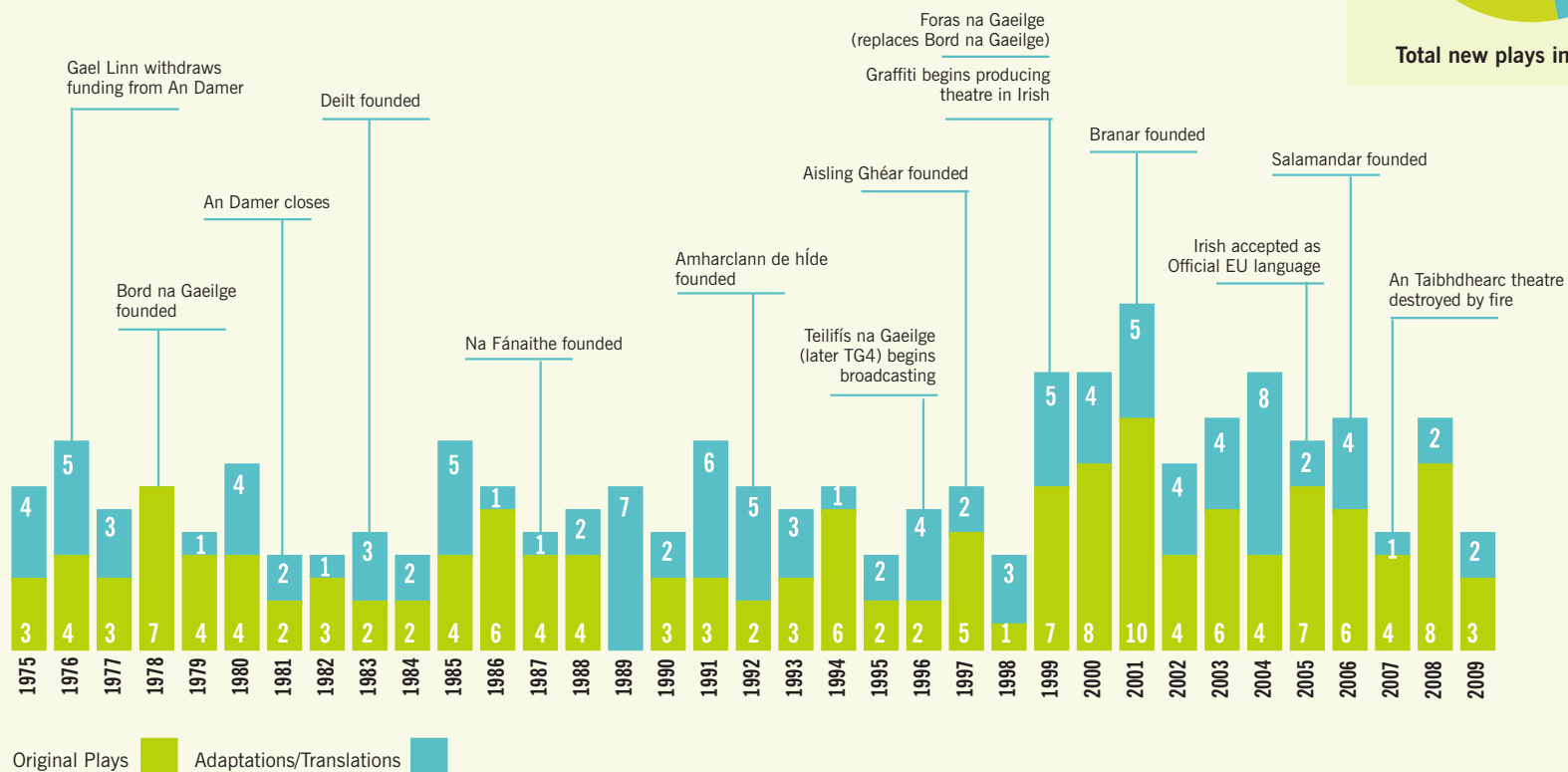
## **Aisteoirí Bulfin, Dublin (14 new plays in the period, 5.4%)**

*Aisteoirí Bulfin is a prolific amateur theatre company in Dublin which was set up by Conradh na Gaeilge in 1967. A portion of its work appears in Playography na Gaeilge where professional directors or other professional theatre practitioners were engaged for its productions. Its overall body of work is deemed to be of particular significance as Aisteoirí Bulfin was the only theatre company in Dublin providing new writing and productions in Irish for many years and because the company has continued to produce Irish language work consistently for over forty years.*

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Chronology of New Plays



Total new plays in Irish: 256





# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Total new plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland

**Total Irish Language Plays: 256**  
(14.5% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)

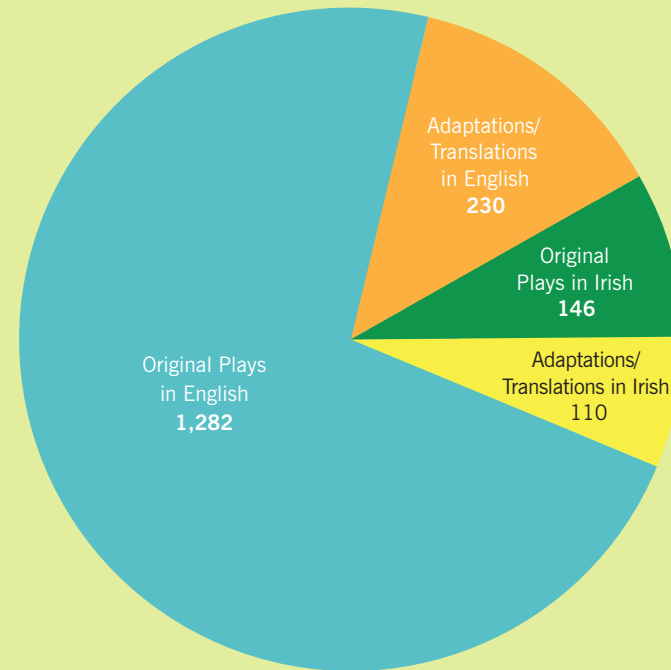
**Total Original Irish Language Plays: 146**  
(8.25% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)

**Total Irish Language Adaptations/Translations: 110**  
(6.25% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)

**Total English Language Plays: 1,512**  
(85.5% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)

**Total Original English Language Plays: 1,282**  
(72.5% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)

**Total English Language Adaptations/Translations: 230**  
(13% of all plays in PLAYOGRAPHYIreland)



Total new plays written in Irish and English  
in the period 1975 - 2009 is 1,768

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009:

## Playwright Credits: original plays, adaptations/translations

First Name	Surname	Original Plays	Adaptations/Translations	Total Plays
Gearóid	Ó Cairealláin	3	11	14
Máire	Stafford	9	5	14
Micheál	Ó Conghaile	4	5	9
Seán	Ó Carra	-	8	8
Aodh	Ó Domhnaill	7	1	8
Risteárd	Ó Broin	6	1	7
Pádhraig	Ó Giollagáin	7	-	7
Eoghan	Ó Tuairisc	6	-	6
Treasa	Uí Thiarnáin	5	2	7
Darach	Ó Scoláí	6	-	6
Antoine	Ó Flatharta	6	-	6
Síle	Ní Bhroin	3	2	5
Darach	Mac Con Iomaire	1	4	5
Críostóir	Ó Floinn	5	-	5
Marc	Mac Lochlainn	4	2	6
Trevor	Ó Clochartaigh	1	3	4
Seán	Mac Íomhair	-	4	4
Peadar	Ó Cúláin	-	4	4
Liam	Ó Muirthile	2	2	4
Macdara	Ó Fátharta	-	4	4
Pádraig	Ó Siocrú	4	-	4
Dara	Ó Conaola	2	1	3
Siobhán	Ní Shúilleabháin	3	-	3
Joe Steve	Ó Neachtain	3	-	3
Cathal	Ó Searcaigh	2	1	3
Seán	McCarthy	-	3	3

First Name	Surname	Original Plays	Adaptations/Translations	Total Plays
Bríd	Ní Chatháin	-	3	3
Tom	MacIntyre	-	2	2
Máire	Holmes	2	-	2
Peadar	Cox	2	-	2
Diarmuid	de Faoite	1	1	2
Seán	Ó Briain	1	1	2
Seán	Mac Mathúna	2	-	2
Conor	Maguire	-	2	2
Celia	de Fréine	2	-	2
Éilís	Ní Dhuibhne	2	-	2
Ray	Mac Mánaís	2	-	2
Tomás	Mac Anna	1	1	2
Gearóid	Mac Unfraidh	2	-	2
Mícheál	Mac Cárthaigh	2	-	2
Tom Sailí	Ó Flaithearta	-	2	2
Gabriel	Rosenstock	2	-	2
Seán	Ó Broin	2	-	2
Charlie	McBride	-	2	2
Brian	Ó Riagáin	2	-	2
Aodhán	Ó Ríordáin	2	-	2
Uinseann	Mac Thomáis	1	1	2
Biddy	Jenkinson	2	-	2
Maria	Ní Mhurchú	2	-	2
Dónal	Mac Giolla Chóill	-	2	2
Mícheál	O Súilleabháin	1	1	2
Séamas	Mac Annaidh	-	2	2
Alan	Titely	2	-	2

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009:

## Playwright Credits: original plays, adaptations/translations

First Name	Surname	Original Plays	Adaptations/Translations	Total Plays
Breandán	Ó Doibhlin	-	1	1
Domhnall	Mac Síthigh	-	1	1
Máire	Andrews	-	1	1
Pádraig	Ó Snodaigh	1	-	1
Mick Óg	McGee	-	1	1
Eoghan	Ó Néill	1	-	1
Deirdre	Nic Con Uisce	1	-	1
Fidelma	Ní Ghallochobhair	-	1	1
Séamas	Ó Scolaí	-	1	1
Fiadhnat	Ní Mheara	1	-	1
Máire	Nic Mhaoláin	-	1	1
Nuala	Nic Con Iomaire	1	-	1
Felicity	Hayes-McCoy	1	-	1
Colm	Ó Dálaigh	-	1	1
Jacqueline	Wardlaw	-	1	1
Breandán M	Mac Gearailt	1	-	1
Boscó	Ó Conchúir	-	1	1
Pádraig	Standún	-	1	1
Seán	Ó Lochlainn	-	1	1
Úna	Ní Chonchúir	-	1	1
Mícheál	Mac Cába	-	1	1
Manchán	Magan	1	-	1
Alex	Hijmans	1	-	1
Brian	Ó Broin	1	-	1
Peadar	De Búrca	1	-	1
Proinsias	Mac Mathúna	-	1	1
Ruth	Lysaght	1	-	1

First Name	Surname	Original Plays	Adaptations/Translations	Total Plays
Ruairí	Ó Broin	1	-	1
Pól	Mag Uidhir	1	-	1
Mícheál	Ó Ceallaigh	-	1	1
Bairbre	de Barra	1	-	1
Maedhbh	Nic Giolla Íosa	1	-	1
Brídín	Nic Dhonncha	-	1	1
Breandán	Ó hEaghra	1	-	1
Caitríona	Ní Chonaola	1	-	1
Liam	Mac Con Iomaire	-	1	1
Tomás	Mac Giolla Bhríde	1	-	1
Seán	Ó Coisdealbha	1	-	1
Pádraig	Ó Neachtain	-	1	1
Ré	Ó Laighléis	-	1	1
Cóilín	Ó Corrbhuí	1	-	1
Béarnard	Ó Conaill	-	1	1
Mairéad	Nic Dhonncha	-	1	1
Seán	Ó hÓráin	-	1	1
Lisa	McGee	1	-	1
Prin	Duignan	-	1	1
Paul	Lee	-	1	1
Nuala	Ní Dhomhnaill	-	1	1
Ifor	ap Glyn	2	-	2
Brendan	Behan	-	1	1
Dave	Duggan	1	-	1
Mick	Lally	-	1	1
Mary	Ryan	1	-	1
Ken	Bourke	-	1	1

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009:

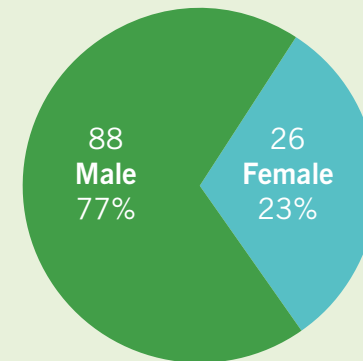
## Playwright Credits: original plays, adaptations/translations

First Name	Surname	Original Plays	Adaptations/Translations	Total Plays
Ríonach	Ní Néill	1	-	1
Bríd	Ó Gallchóir	-	1	1
Michael	Scott	-	1	1
Michael	Harding	1	-	1
Eamon	Morrissey	--	1	1
Brendan	Ellis	1	-	1
Siobhán	McKenna	-	1	1

Note:

- Of the 256 new Irish language plays 13 were devised by companies and therefore have no author credit.
- 23 plays are listed as Theatre for Young Audiences and these include adaptations/translations from other works such as stories written for children or international folktales.
- Brendan Behan's play *Oíche sa Reilig* (*Richard's Cork Leg*) was posthumously premiered in 1998, some 34 years after he died.

### Playwrights by Gender:



### New Plays in Irish

There were 555 playwrights writing new plays in English for the same period, with a gender breakdown of 69% male, 31% female which is similar to the Playography na Gaeilge figures above.

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Playwrights writing in both Irish and English

	Original Plays in Irish	Adaptations/ Translations in Irish	New Plays in English (including adaptations/translations)
Antoine Ó Flatharta	6	-	6
Seán McCarthy	-	3	9
Gearóid Mac Unfraidh (Gerard Humphreys)	2	-	1
Seán Mac Mathúna	2	-	1
Tom MacIntyre	-	2	17
Tomás Mac Anna	1	1	1
Michael Harding	1	-	13
Ken Bourke	-	1	8
Michael Scott	-	1	6
Eamon Morrissey	-	1	2
Brendan Ellis	1	-	2
Lisa McGee	1	-	1
Paul Lee	-	1	1

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Bilingual and Trilingual plays

## BILINGUAL

**Oisín** by Eoghan Ó Tuarisc, produced by the Abbey Theatre, 1978

**Gaeilgeoirí** by Antoine Ó Flatharta, produced by the Abbey Theatre, 1981

**Gach Neach Beo** by Tomás Mac Anna and Eamon Morrissey, produced by the Abbey Theatre, 1984

**An Fear Bréige** by Antoine Ó Flatharta, produced by Deilt, 1991

**Buille an Phíce** by Brian Ó Riagáin, produced by Amharclann de hide, 1997

**Pádraic Ó Conaire** by Diarmuid de Faoite, produced by POC Productions, 2001

**Stones in his Pockets** by Gearóid Ó Cairealláin and Séamas Mac Annaidh, produced by Aisling Ghéar, 2008

**Broken Croí-Heart Briste** written and produced by Manchán Magan, 2009

**The following new plays in *Playography na Gaeilge* were performed in Irish and English on alternate nights:**

**Gadaí Ghéar na Geamh-Oíche/The Winter Thief** by Seán Mac Mathúna, produced by the Abbey Theatre, 1992

**Paris, Texas** by Diarmuid de Faoite, produced by POC Productions, 2003

## TRILINGUAL

**Frongoch** by Ifor ap Glyn and Micheál Ó Conghaile, produced by Project Arts Centre and Llywyfan Gogledd Cymru, 2005

**Branwen** by Ifor ap Glyn and Darach Ó Scolaí, produced by Project Arts Centre and Llywyfan Gogledd Cymru, 2006

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Production Credits

## Directors with most credits

Bríd	Ó Gallchóir	13
Gearóid	Ó Cairealláin	12
Ray	Yeates	11
Darach	Mac Con Iomaire	10
Pádraig	Ó hÉanaí	9
Treasa	Uí Thiarnáin	9
Eamonn	Draper	8
Seán	Stafford	8
*Emelie	FitzGibbon	8
Tomás	Mac Anna	7
Risteárd	Ó Broin	7

\* Also appears in the list of directors with most credits working on new plays in English over the same period.

## Most frequently appearing actors

### Male

Seán	Mac Giollarnáth
Mícheál	Ó hAinnín
Seán	Mac Íomhair
Macdara	Ó Fátharta
Pádraig	Ó Tuairisc
Séamus	Ó Nualláin
Peadar	Lamb
Diarmuid	de Faoite
Pádraig	Ó hÉanaí
Darach	Ó Dubháin

### Female

Colette	Ní Éanaí
Gearóidín	Nic Thomáis
Máire	Stafford
Máire	Ní Ghráinne
Máire	Ní Mháille
Máire	Andrews
Fionnghuala	Ní Choincheanainn
*Bríd	Ní Neachtain
Mary	Ryan
Máire	Hastings

\* Also features in the list of female actors most frequently appearing in new plays in English over the same period.

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Theatre Companies

Company	Plays Produced
Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe	115
Aisling Ghéar	26
Abbey Theatre/Amharclann na Mainistreach	22
*Aisteoirí Bulfin	14
Amharclann de hÍde	12
Na Fánaithe	10
Deilt	10
An Damer	10
Graffiti Theatre Company	9
Branar, Comhlacht Amharclainne Oideachasúil	4
Salamandar	4
Project Arts Centre	3
AnnÓg	3
POC Productions	3
Aisteoirí Bhréanainn	3

\* Aisteoirí Bulfin productions that were led by professional theatre practitioners



# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Venues

## Venue

An Taibhdhearc	114
Abbey Theatre	25
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	22
The Damer Hall	9
Town Hall Theatre	6
Project Arts Centre	6
THEatre SPACE @ the mint	4
The New Theatre	4
Andrews Lane Theatre	3
Smock Alley Theatre & Studio	3
Hawk's Well Theatre	2
Samuel Beckett Theatre	2
Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair	2
Amharclann Chois Fharraige	1
Old Museum Arts Centre	1
The Black Box	1
Druid Lane Theatre	1
An Grianán Theatre	1
AXIS - Ballymun Arts and Community Resource Centre	1

## Venue

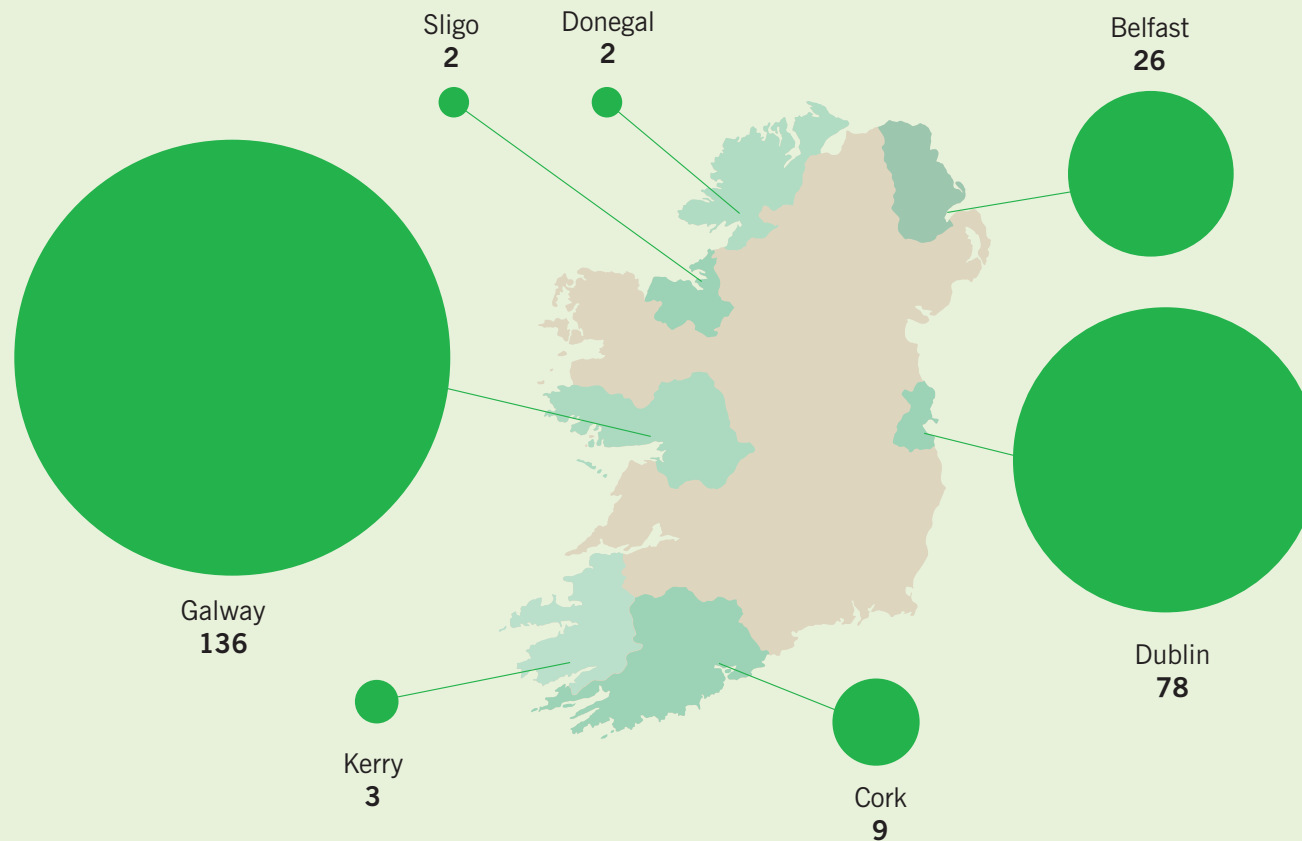
Pavilion Theatre	1
Crypt Arts Centre	1
Filmbase	1
Lyric Theatre	1
Siamsa Tíre, National Folk Theatre & Arts Centre	1

Other non-theatre spaces where plays were premiered: 43

The most recent Irish Language premiere was *Biffo Béar* written by Aodh Ó Domhnaill, produced by Aisteoirí Bulfin, the New Theatre Dublin, December 15 2009.

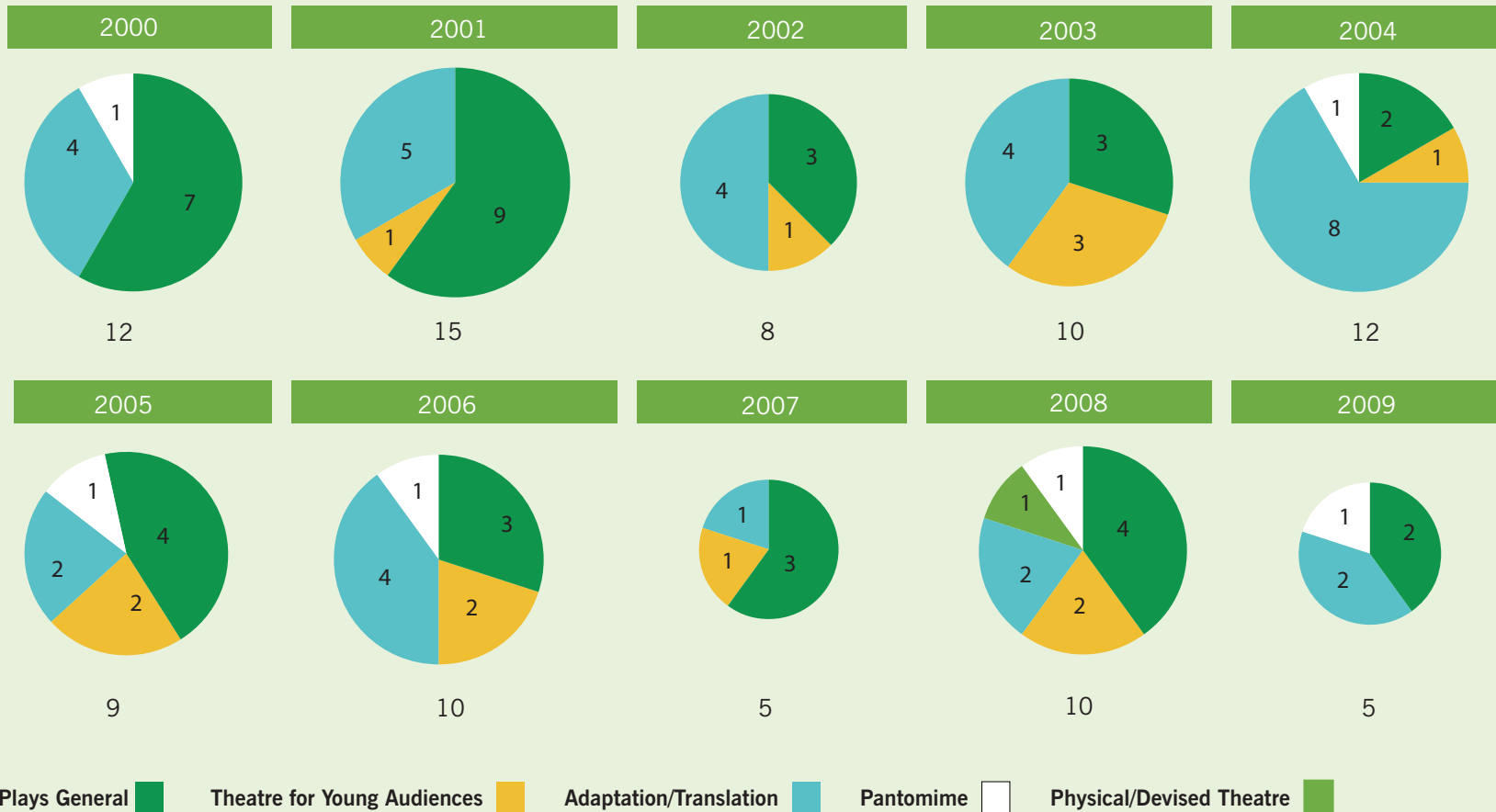
# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009:

Where new Irish language plays were performed



# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009:

## Play types premiered in the past 10 years



The term 'Plays General' includes full length and one-act plays

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Background

## **The Research Parameters:**

*Playography na Gaeilge* provides detailed information on each new play performed in Ireland, North and South, by professional theatre companies, venues, festivals, and commercial producers from 1975 to 2009. It also contains plays produced by fringe companies and by semi-professional organisations, where the work is deemed to be of particular significance to the Irish theatre repertoire.

*Playography na Gaeilge* includes full-length, one-act and theatre-in-education plays, plays for young audiences, musical theatre, adaptations, translations, improvised and devised works. It also includes some pantomimes that are deemed significant to the Irish language play repertoire. For editorial reasons it is not possible to include the work of community theatre, pageants, readings, semi-staged productions, plays commissioned but not produced, plays published but not produced, revues, cabaret, ré citations, sketches, performance art, stand-up comedy and puppet shows.

Phase II of *Playography na Gaeilge* will be completed by the end of 2011 and will include all Irish language plays professionally produced from 1901– 1974 in Ireland, North and South.

## **Information Sources:**

The information contained in *Playography na Gaeilge* is drawn from various sources. The bulk of the information is taken from original programmes, flyers and press releases as supplied by the theatre companies and archives. Secondary sources include libraries, contemporary press cuttings, interviews with writers and other key personnel, published scripts, catalogues, websites, magazines and academic research. Where possible, a 'source of information statement' is included for each play, to allow users to corroborate the information, if necessary.

*Irish Theatre Institute has taken great care in collating information for Playography na Gaeilge and for this Findings Report, however errors or omissions may occur. There are some gaps in the information given and it has proven very difficult to track certain productions especially in the earlier period. ITI welcomes feedback with regard to any omissions which might occur in the information provided. Irish Theatre Institute is particularly interested to hear from writers or other rights holders whom it has not yet tracked.*

# Playography na Gaeilge 1975-2009: Background

*Playography na Gaeilge* 1975 - 2009 has been a three-year research project. It is the initiative of Irish Theatre Institute as part of its PLAYOGRAPHYIreland resource.

#### **Funding:**

The *Playography na Gaeilge* project was made possible with funding from Foras na Gaeilge for which Irish Theatre Institute is extremely grateful. Irish Theatre Institute is core funded by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

#### **Credits:**

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#### **Findings Report Compilation:**

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Founded in 1994, Irish Theatre Institute's key strands of activity fall into three distinct yet complementary areas.

- i. RESEARCH (focussing on web-based resources)
- ii. INFORMATION & SUPPORT SERVICES
- iii. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING, PROMOTION & SHOWCASING

Operating from its premises at 17 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Irish Theatre Institute is an established national resource for the Irish theatre sector. ITI receives grant aid from the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Dublin City Council and project funding from Foras na Gaeilge and Culture Ireland

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