

Press Release

April 2019



Megan O'Malley In *Constance and Her Friends* by Mary Moynihan, presented by Smashing Times Theatre and Film Company

Women's Voices Then and Now – Celebrating Women's Stories from 1916 to 1923 – featuring *Constance and Her Friends* and *Grace and Joe* by Mary Moynihan, presented by Smashing Times Theatre and Film Company

Smashing Times are delighted to announce a performance of *Constance and Her Friends* and *Grace and Joe* at the Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham, on 22 May 2019.

Where: The Pearse Museum, Saint Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

When: Wednesday 22 May 2019, 7.30pm

Book for this exciting event via Eventbrite.ie by clicking [here](#)

In *Constance and Her Friends*, by Mary Moynihan, Constance Markievicz and her friends, Helena Moloney, Margaret Skinnider and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, reflect on memories of the 1916 Rising, the Irish War of Independence and Civil War, their time in prison, and the suffrage movement. *Constance and Her Friends* is performed by Megan O'Malley and directed by Dr Eric Weitz, Associate Professor of Drama, TCD. This work is inspired by the writings of Constance Markievicz, with poetry excerpts by Eva Gore Booth and original testimony including an adaptation from *Doing My Bit for Ireland* by Margaret Skinnider.

Grace and Joe sees Grace Evelyn Gifford tell the story of her time with Joseph Mary Plunkett, one of the leaders executed after the 1916 Easter Rising and the youngest signatory to the Irish proclamation. It relates how they were married in Kilmainham Gaol chapel seven hours before his execution. Grace

reflects on her experiences as a woman in the new Irish state. Written and directed by Mary Moynihan, this piece is based on writings and witness statements from Joseph Mary Plunkett and Grace Gifford, and is performed by Carla Ryan.

The performances will be followed by a post-show discussion **Women's Voices: Then and Now** involving historians Dr Margaret Ward and Sinéad McCool. The lives of the women featured in the performances will be discussed and the relevance of such stories of pioneering women to today's political climate.

Come along to enjoy this exciting performance and post-show panel discussion celebrating the lives of women in Irish history from 1916 to 1923 and women's voices today.

For further information please visit the Smashing Times [website](http://www.smashingtimes.ie) or contact the Smashing Times office on info@smashingtimes.ie or call us on +353 (0)1 865 6613

See www.smashingtimes.ie

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'Fantastic performance which really brought the character to life and was a reminder of the significant role women have played in forming the Ireland of today'. Fidelma Keogh, audience member

'I absolutely adored the performance. Megan was wonderful and I loved hearing about the history of such incredible Irish women.' Margaret Toomey, audience and company member

"Thanks so much for joining us yesterday, I really enjoyed the panel discussion and Megan's performance and the audience did too, we had great feedback!" Aine Beamish, Leargas

'Excellent and so informative.' Betty Quirk, audience member

'Excellent acting and the research is superb.' K.G. Doyle, audience member

'Superb acting and singing, very powerful portrayal of women in history. Love to see more.' A. Dillon, audience member

'I have found their performances to be of a very high standard and well researched. Their performances have also always encouraged conversation and debate amongst our audiences and have played an important role in highlighting relevant issues and events from the past and present.'

Ronan O'Donnell, Senior Community Officer, Dublin City Council



Dr Margaret Ward

Dr Margaret Ward is Honorary Senior Lecturer in History at Queen’s University, Belfast. She is a former Director of the Women’s Resource and Development Agency. She is a feminist historian, with a particular interest in the contribution of Irish women to political movements in the 20th century. Her latest book is *Hanna Sheehy Skeffington: Suffragette and Sinn Feiner*, her memoirs and political writings, UCD Press, 2017. Her updated biography *Fearless Woman: Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Feminism and the Irish Revolution* is forthcoming from the UCD Press, 2019.



Sinéad McCoolle

Sinéad McCoolle has written extensively in the area of modern Irish History, with a focus on the role of women. Her books include *Hazel*, *A Life of Lady Lavery*, *Guns and Chiffon*, *No Ordinary Women* and *Easter Widows*. Her work has spanned domains of academic research and as practitioner in the area of Irish culture, arts and history. As a Museum Director, Curator, and Author she has brought academic research to life for the public through the selection and presentation of documents, artefacts and costumes.

Curator of exhibitions both in Ireland and the US, she has worked for museum designers, book publishers, multi-media companies, national cultural institutions as well as in the public and civil service. She was Curatorial and Historical Advisor to the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. She has contributed to wider deliberations on commemoration during the Decade of Centenaries as a member since its inception of the Government’s Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of

Commemorations 2012-2022. Currently she has curated an exhibition to commemorating the centenary of Irish women in politics and public life, a 'pop up women's museum' as part of the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which has been on show in Leinster and Munster, and is currently in Ulster. It will be heading to Connaught before returning to Leinster in 2020.



‘...the lives
we live’¹ **grangegorman
public art**

¹ EXTRACT FROM 'DREAMS OF A SUMMER NIGHT', NEW COLLECTED POEMS (2011),
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