

Fighting Words and the  
Abbey Theatre present



ABBey THEATRE  
AMHARC LANN NA MAINSTREACH

# WINDOWS 21

**WRITTEN BY**  
**MICHAEL LAVERY, RAY MCHALLEM**  
**LOUÍ MONTAGUE, AISLING MURPHY**  
**EMILY MURRAY NELSON,**  
**ÉADAIOIN O'NEILL, JOE REIDY**  
**AND SELINA XU**  
**DIRECTED BY**  
**JEDA DE BRÍ**

abbeytheatre.ie  
#WINDOWS21

**PREMIERING ON TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021**

**WATCH ON ABBEYTHEATRE.IE**



Principal Partner:

**Bank of America**



Clár Fíre Eilínach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



2021

# COMPANY

## Cast

Juliette Crosbie  
Holly Hannaway  
Esther Ayo James  
Clinton Liberty  
Matthew Malone  
Katie McCann

## Writers

Michael Lavery  
Ray McHallem  
Louí Montague  
Aisling Murphy  
Emily Murray Nelson  
Éadaoin O'Neill  
Joe Reidy  
Selina Xu

## Fighting Words Mentors

Hilary Fannin  
Úna Kavanagh

## Fighting Words Programme

### Coordinator

Mark Davidson

### Director

Jeda de Brí

### Lighting Design

Dara Hoban

### Sound Designer

Danny Forde

### Voice Director

Andrea Ainsworth

### Casting

Sarah Jones

### Producer

Phil Kingston

### Production Manager

Sally Withnell

### Company Manager

Danny Erskine

### Company Stage Manager

Tara Furlong

### Video Production

Areaman

### Marketing

Fergus Hannigan

Jack O'Dea

### Graphic Design

Maeve Keane

### Irish Sign Language Interpreter

Vanessa O'Connell

## Special Thanks To:

Rosa Devine, the original coordinator at the beginning of the project.

Colm Quearney who provided background support and assistance.

Emily Dedakis and all at Fighting Words NI.

We would also like to acknowledge our partner theatres who worked with these young playwrights to get them to this stage.

Mermaid Theatre, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Lyric Theatre, Belfast, Co. Antrim.

Everyman Theatre, Cork, Co. Cork.

Graffiti Theatre Company, Cork, Co. Cork.

Linenhall Theatre, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Riverside Theatre, Coleraine, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

Playhouse Theatre, Derry/Londonderry, Co. Derry/Londonderry.

Nun's Island Theatre, Galway, Co. Galway.

Finally, thanks to Creative Ireland.

**Running Time:** Approx. 90 minutes. There is no interval.



ISL interpreted performances feature a professional interpreter who translates the production into Irish Sign Language.

# EIGHT WRITERS' NOTE YOUNG WRITERS

The story so far . . .

For over ten years, Fighting Words and the Abbey Theatre have had a uniquely productive relationship. For a decade now, short plays, written and developed by teenage playwrights at Fighting Words, have been given professional readings on the Abbey stage in an annual one-day festival.

The growing strength of this uplifting collaboration led to talks about creating something more ambitious, a single piece of theatre that would attempt to capture a glimpse of young lives nationwide.

And then . . . the pandemic hit.

The Abbey went dark, in-house workshops at Fighting Words were suspended. However, over the course of a year a group of writers, along with two Fighting Words mentors and the organisation's programme coordinator, met regularly over Zoom, where the young writers continued to think, talk and write about their experiences of living in an altered world.

The result is **WINDOWS 21**, a glancing look at young lives fighting for breath in the face of a global crisis.

Written by eight young writers, aged between 15 and 18 (who sadly never had the joy of being in an actual room together eating biscuits and reading each other's work), the piece stands as a testament to their continued desire to write and communicate through these tough and sometimes lonely times.

From not going clubbing because you're living with your vulnerable nan, to the dark inner world of a Deliveroo cyclist, via the Gods debating the meaning of love, this is theatre at its purest, most honest and joyous.

**WINDOWS 21 is proudly brought to you by Michael Lavery, Ray McHallem, Louí Montague, Aisling Murphy, Emily Murray Nelson, Éadaoin O'Neill, Joe Reidy and Selina Xu.**

# ABBNEY THEATRE STAFF

Andrea Ainsworth  
Donal Ayton  
Cliff Barragry  
Roxzan Bowes  
Aoife Brady  
Susan Bryan  
Nicola Burke  
Orla Burke  
Simon Burke  
Eoin Byrne  
Maura Campbell  
David Carpenter  
Daire Cavanagh  
Priyanka Chidgumpi  
Conall Coleman  
Derek Conaghy  
Evan Connolly  
Jeff Conway  
Jen Coppinger  
Richard Curwood  
Mairéad Delaney  
Sean Dennehy  
Pat Dillon  
Debbie Doak  
Bronagh Doherty  
Colin Doran  
Con Doyle  
David Doyle  
Laura Doyle  
Ken Dunne  
Morgan Dunne  
Danny Erskine  
Breege Fahy  
Eimear Farrell  
Lisa Farrelly  
John Finnegan  
Craig Flaherty  
David Fleming  
Ellen Fleming  
Robert Flynn  
Veronica Foo  
Tara Furlong  
Sophie Furlong Tighe  
Derek Garland  
Donna Geraghty  
Sandra Gibney  
Shane Gill

Catherine Griffin  
John Gunning  
Clíodhna Hallissey  
Fergus Hannigan  
Grace Healy  
Marie Hegarty  
Daniel Hickey  
William Hickey  
Dermot Hicks  
James Hickson  
Dara Hogan  
Laura Honan  
Narges Jahani  
Larry Jones  
Sarah Jones  
Maeve Keane  
Fergus Kelly  
Yvonne Kelly  
Ailbhe Kelly-Miller  
Tom Kennedy  
Shane Kenny  
Andy Keogh  
Phil Kingston  
Anne Kyle  
Michael Kyle  
Luke Lamont  
Marie Lawlor  
Adrian Leake  
Ciara Lynch  
Bridget Lynskey Faust  
Julia MacConville  
Darren Magnier  
Heather Maher  
Elaine Mannion  
Katie McCann  
Éadaoin McCarrick  
Davy McChrystal  
Dan McDermott  
Kevin McFadden  
Róisín McGann  
Ciaran McGlynn  
Terence McGoff  
Grace McKiernan  
Caitríona McLaughlin  
Gus McNamara  
Victoria Miller  
Nadine-Mary Moore

Conor Mullan  
Tara Mulvihill  
Donna Murphy  
Eimer Murphy  
Orlagh Murphy  
Agnieszka Myszk  
Emily Ní Bhroin  
Síofra Ní Chiardha  
Pawel Nieworaj  
Mark O'Brien  
Adam O'Connell  
Esther O'Connor  
Colin O'Connor  
Jack O'Dea  
Aoife O'Neill  
Tara O'Reilly  
Emma-Kate O'Reilly  
Selina O'Reilly  
Simon O'Reilly  
Valentina Quiroga  
Martin Reid  
Dean Reidy  
Fiona Reynolds  
David Roper Nolan  
Josh Roxby  
Audrey Rooney  
Pat Russell  
Barbara Ryan  
Joe Sanders  
Sarah Smith  
Fergal Styles  
Louise Stephens  
Cydney Thompson  
Seán Treacy  
Renée Van De Schoor  
Sean Walsh  
Jesse Weaver  
Sarah-Jane Williams  
Sally Withnell  
Monika Włodarczyk  
Bill Woodland  
Diarmuid Woods

## BOARD

Mairéad Delaney  
Loretta Dignam  
Bosco Hogan  
Peter Lowry  
Máire O'Higgins  
Breda O'Keeffe  
Michael Owens  
Dr. Frances Ruane (Chair)  
Michael Wall  
Michael West

# ABBHEY THEATRE SUPPORTERS



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meia  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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