

## Next Wave Participants 2025/26



**Carley Magee** is a screenwriter and theatremaker from Belfast. Her ethos is to make work that is challenging, intersectionally feminist, and resonates with the current zeitgeist.

She is the recipient of the inaugural Lady Gregory Bursary for Playwrights with the Abbey Theatre 2025, one of the BBC Belfast Voices for 2023, and selected for the INVEST Fellowship with Theatre & Dance NI 2024/2025.

Carley's play "Stuff & Things & Junk & Belonging", longlisted for the Women's Prize for Playwriting 2023, had a rehearsed reading at the Front & Centre Women of the North's Playwriting Symposium 2025.

She was also selected for Tinderbox's Incubate Programme for theatre making at the MAC, Belfast.

As a recipient of the George B. Millar Award; her play "Seaborne" was produced by Youth Theatre Ireland and performed by Shout Out Youth theatre in Kerry. She worked as a facilitator to hold workshops with Shout Out in theatre devising, art and activism, and environmentalism. Then was commissioned by the Lyric Theatre Belfast to write a play about mental health for young people which will tour schools.

**Iseult Deane** is a playwright from Dublin. Her recent credits include *Blue Heat* (Theatre for One, Landmark Productions, Cork Midsummer Festival 2024), *Women's Christmas* (Lyric Theatre Belfast, Rehearsed Reading, 2023), and *Light and Noise From the Sky* (Project Arts Centre as part of Rough Magic's Rough Weekend festival, 2022). She is a founding member of bluehouse theatre, and she has written *Glass Places* (Project Arts Centre, Dublin Fringe Festival 2025), *Two Hundred Deer to Every Lion* (co-written with Jack Delaney, DFF 2023), and *24/7 Bliss* (Smock Alley Theatre, DFF 2022 and First Fortnight Festival 2023) with bluehouse.



She was a participant in the Irish Theatre Institute's Six in the Attic program in 2024, and she was a Resident Artist with Dublin Fringe Festival in 2023. She was selected for Lyric Theatre's New Playwrights Program in 2022/23. Her writing has been supported by the Arts Council and the Pavilion Theatre's Pavilion Studios Residency.

In her work, Iseult is interested in themes of devotion, ritual (both religious and political), family and echoes of Irish mythology in the contemporary world.



**Jamie Sykes** is a writer, director and improviser based in Dublin. His most recent play “The Last Incel” had a sold out run at Smock Alley Theatre and played in Underbelly at the Edinburgh Fringe this past August. It was nominated for the Popcorn x BBC new writing award and received rave reviews, including 4 stars from The Scotsman, and was a Mervyn Stutter pick of the festival. The show completed a run at the Pleasance Theatre in London this past May where it received 5 stars from Broadway World and Sykes was singled out as “One to watch” by The Guardian.

“Coffee Kid”, which he co-wrote and directed, had a sold out run at Dublin Fringe Festival 2022 and was nominated for the Spirit of Wit award. It then played at Underbelly Edinburgh Fringe 2023 and was recommended as RTE's top pick of the festival. He is currently working on a new play Dead Monks which premiered at Scene + Heard 2025 and received the DLR county council Emerging Artist and Mountains to Sea new writing bursaries to develop the script.

He performs improv and sketch around Dublin City including at Mob Theatre Dublin, Mate and Club Valentine. The videos of his sketch group Kings of the Harpies have been featured in funnyordie and unilad.com. He is currently working on an hour long sketch show with his two man group Man Overboard.

**Matthew Sharpe** is an Actor & Writer from Belfast, with roles TV and Films such as MURDER MOST PUZZLING, The KNEECAP Movie, and BLOODLANDS. As a writer Matthew was selected for the Dublin Fringe WEFT programme (23/24), INVEST (24), Incubate (24).

These opportunities and support landed Matthew his first commission through the Arts Council & his debut solo show *I've Always liked the name Marcus* premiered at The MAC Belfast (24) and at Dublin Fringe Festival (24) featuring in the top 10 must see shows. The Rachel Baptiste Programme (24), supported Matthew in the development of his second play, *I don't identify with my nose*, which aims to push the capabilities of how audiences perceive theatre by combine physical performance with AR/VR spaces.

Matthew's writing centres around identity, belonging, and societal projections.





**Tommy Harris** is an actor and writer from Cork. His theatre work includes *The O'Casey Trilogy* with Druid, where he played Johnny Boyle in *Juno and the Paycock* on tour in Ireland and the US. Other credits include *Drama at Inish* and *Let the Right One In* at the Abbey Theatre, as well as *Theatre for One* with Landmark Productions at Cork Midsummer Festival.

As a writer, Tommy's debut play *Happy Capital* premiered at the Dublin Fringe Festival in 2024, earning three award nominations, including Fishamble's Best New Writing. *Happy Capital* also ran at The Everyman Theatre as part of the inaugural Cork Fringe Festival.