

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BRIAN FRIEL LECTURE

5pm, Wednesday 17 April, Brian Friel Theatre

All welcome

Exhausting the Form: The Spectre of Realism in Irish Drama

Professor Shaun Richards (St Mary's University College London)

In his essay 'A Generation of Playwrights', Tom Kilroy identifies Brian Friel's *Translations* and Tom Murphy's *Bailegangaire* as elegies for a theatrical form 'at the end of its tether'. The lecture will outline the origins, development and cultural centrality of this form (the realist play set in the cottage kitchen) and examine its 'disaggregation' in the plays of Friel; its parodic presence in Martin MacDonagh; its spectral afterlife in *The Weir*; and its demise in *Terminus*.

QUB Drama is delighted to host Professor Shaun Richards who will deliver the Fourth Annual Brian Friel Lecture. Shaun Richards is a recognised authority on Irish drama and has published on the subject in major journals and edited collections. His latest book is on Space, Place and Time in Irish drama which is being co-authored with Professor Chris Morash for publication by Cambridge University Press in 2013.

He has lectured on Irish drama at a number of European and international universities, including the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Waseda University, Tokyo. In 2012-2013 he held visiting research fellowships at NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin.

He is on the editorial board of Irish Studies Review, the editorial advisory board of Irish University Review and a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and the IRCHSS Postgraduate International Panel. He is also an elected member of the council of the British Association for Irish Studies and the executive of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

His publications include:

The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century Irish Drama which he edited in 2004 and Writing Ireland: Literature, Nationalism and Colonialism (1988) which he co-authored with David Cairns