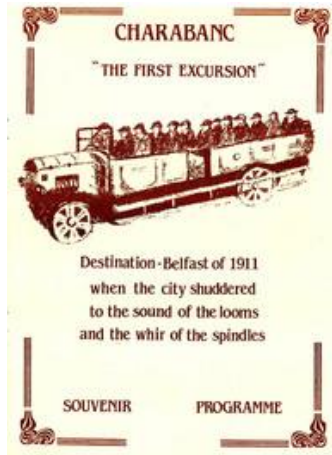


Lay Up Your Ends at 40

This year marks 40 years since the premiere of Charabanc Theatre Company's production, Lay Up Your Ends, which was written by the company and Martin Lynch.



25th – 28th October 2023

At The Linen Hall Library & Queen's University Belfast,
with Ulster University & The Belfast International Arts Festival

Programme of Events

Wednesday 25th October

Charabanc & its Legacies: Dr Brenda Winter in conversation with Dr Ali FitzGibbon

Brian Friel Theatre, QUB, 5pm

Booking:

<https://belfastinternationalartsfestival.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873650231>

Thursday 26th October

Workshop: Publishing and Performing 'Lost' Plays,

Dr Lisa Fitzpatrick & Dr Shonagh Hill

Lisa Fitzpatrick and Shonagh Hill published *Plays by Women in Ireland 1926-1933: Feminist Theatres of Freedom and Resistance* (Methuen, 2022), a collection of five plays by women writing in the first decade of the Irish Free State. This workshop shares the experience of researching, retrieving, and publishing unpublished or 'lost' playscripts from archival

sources. It also explores the process of staging Olga Fielden's 1948 play *Witches in Eden*, reflecting upon the dramaturgical choices made in reviving a play from 75 years ago.

The workshop will be discussion based, and is aimed at theatre professionals, academics, and students engaged with women's writing, and with the recovery of 'lost', out of print, or never-published plays in the archives.

The Linen Hall Library, 3-5.30pm

Booking: <https://belfastinternationalartsfestival.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873650229>

Thursday 26th October

Celebrating Jo Egan: Playwright, Producer, Writer, Director

The Linen Hall Library, 6-7pm

Booking:

<https://belfastinternationalartsfestival.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873650232>

Friday 27th October

***Lay Up Your Ends* at 40: A Celebration of Charabanc Theatre Company and Women's Theatre in Northern Ireland**

Through panels, discussions and talks with artists and academics and a staged reading of new work, as well as contributions from Charabanc members, this one-day symposium will discuss the significance of women's contribution to theatre-making in the north, the legacies of Charabanc Theatre Company, and the future of women's theatre-making in the region. The event will culminate in a performance lecture delivered by Carol Moore.

Brian Friel Theatre, QUB, 9.30-7pm

Booking:

<https://belfastinternationalartsfestival.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873650234>

**Friday & Saturday
27th-28th October**

***Witches in Eden* by Olga Fielden (Riverside Theatre,
Coleraine)**

Olga Fielden wrote *Witches in Eden* for the anthology *Four New One-Act Plays*, edited by Patricia O'Connor (Quota Press, 1948). This little-known play premiered in 1951 at the Larne Drama Festival, and was produced again in Larne in 1975. It was the first Irish play to be based on a real witch trial, taking the trials of 1711 as its material.

This multidisciplinary production, using script, animation, music and VFX, will allow audiences to experience the history of the trial while imagining the lives of the accused. The gender politics of Fielden's play, its approach to historical accuracy, and the positioning of the witches as victims prefigure Arthur Millar's *The Crucible* (1953). This is a story of murder, magic, the devil, and a community in crisis. It offers a unique glimpse into how the 'witch hunts' that claimed over 40,000 lives in Europe played out in Northern Ireland.

Riverside Theatre Coleraine

For information & booking, please contact Lisa Fitzpatrick at l.fitzpatrick@ulster.ac.uk

For more information contact the organisers of this event:

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Shonagh Hill (QUB) s.hill@qub.ac.uk,

Lisa Fitzpatrick (UU), l.fitzpatrick@ulster.ac.uk.

This event is run in collaboration with The Linen Hall Library and the Belfast International Arts Festival, and is supported by the Faculty Research Initiatives Fund and the Drama Department in the School of Arts, English & Languages at QUB, and the School of Arts & Humanities at Ulster University.



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