

Jean Butler, dancer, choreographer and Artistic Director of Our Steps, is a leading figure in the world of contemporary Irish dance performance. Her work has been supported and presented by the Abbey Theatre, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Dance Cork Firkin Crane, Gibney Dance, Danspace Project, the Dublin Dance Festival, Irish Arts Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center, Project Arts Centre and Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Butler has taught at Princeton University, University Of Limerick Irish World Academy, University of Notre Dame Global Center and is an Adjunct Professor of Irish Studies at Glucksman Ireland House, New York University. Butler choreographed and starred in

the original Irish dance productions Riverdance (1994) and Dancing on Dangerous Ground (1999). She is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honours. www.our-steps.com

Marion Cronin is a contemporary dance artist based in Dublin. Since finishing her training at The Scottish School Of Contemporary Dance in 2014, she has worked and toured internationally and nationally with many dance companies and artists. Among them are Laura Murphy, Jessie Keenan, Lucia kickham, Theatre Lovett, Oonagh Kearny, Mary Wycherley, Junk Ensemble and Michael keegan-Dolan and Hélène Cathala through Step Up Dance Project. While dancing for choreographers, she continues to develop her own artistic practice through collaborating with other dance, visual, sound and film artists. These collaborations strongly inform and drive her creative enthusiasm for multidisciplinary performance. She is currently developing a new piece of work for 2023.

Katie is a theatre designer, currently in residence at The Dean Arts Studio Dublin. She has an Irish Times Theatre Award for costume design and has been nominated twice.

Katie has designed for many major theatre, opera and dance companies in Ireland, including The Abbey, The Gate, Irish National Opera, Landmark, United Fall, Liz Roche Company, Coiscéim, Northern Ireland Opera, Theatre Lovett, thisispopbaby and Rough Magic. She recently created the installation "Pegeen's" at The Abbey Theatre - a pop up theatre café.

Katie is vice chair of the Irish Society of Stage & Screen Designers and was Designer in Residence at The Gate Theatre Dublin in 2017. She represented Ireland in Beijing NCPA at Evolving Design for Performance in 2016 and again at The Prague Quadrennial 2019, a world exhibition of theatre design.

Kristyn Fontanella resides in County Galway where she continues her choreographic process exploring the two worlds of Traditional and Contemporary. Having toured world-wide with Riverdance, Lord of the Dance & as lead soloist in Gaelforce Dance, her current mission is to show another side of the complex world of Irish Step dancing to future generations.

She has created, directed and produced large ensemble works including a 7-venue national tour of 'IN LIMBO' (2020) and an online interactive experience with 'The Competition' (2021) supported by multiple Traditional Arts awards through the Irish Arts Council. Her work has shown internationally at DRFI in NYC, Dublin Dance Festival, Marseille New Danse Festival & Tanzmesse Germany.

Kristyn is currently developing a new solo work, which is supported by the Town Hall Theatre Galway Patron's Donation Award, Galway International Arts Festival Elevate Bursary and a Traditional Arts Bursary through the Irish Arts Council.

Laura Murphy is a choreographer and dance artist based in Ireland. Taking an expansive approach to dance, her work includes staged work, dance film, video installations, site-specific performances, solo and ensemble pieces and large scale, socially engaged dance projects. Laura has presented her work nationally and internationally at festivals and galleries.

Recent works include 'Abacus' at Tanzmesse 2022; 'The Shake' at at Dublin Dance Festival 2022 and 'It's All up in the Air on Bogland' in dance film collaboration with Rhona Byrne, an RTÉ commission for Culture Night 2022.

Maren Shanks

Fourteen-year-old Maren has been Irish dancing with the Mary Grimes School in Dublin for 10 years. She loves the two contrasting styles in Irish dance - in her heavy shoes, she feels powerful, and in her light shoes, she feels as if she can fly. Maren regularly competes in feiseanna and has performed at many charity events. What We Hold is her first professional production.

Rachel Ellen

Rachel Ellen studied Stage Management and Technical Theatre at the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Arts. She has worked as a stage manager across theatre, opera and dance. Highlights include It's All The Same by Zoe Ní Riordáin for Dublin Fringe Festival 2022 and Irish National Opera's Carmen at Bord Gaís Energy Theatre.

She has worked with companies such as Irish National Opera, Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Opera Collective Ireland and CoisCéim. Rachel Ellen also has experience in Costume with INO's National tour of The Lighthouse and has worked as a Dresser for Disney's The Lion King UK & Ireland Tour.

Ryan C. Seaton

Ryan C. Seaton is a Bessie-nominated, New York based composer and multi-instrumentalist. Seaton has created sound design, horn arrangements, vocal works and electronic compositions for many acclaimed recording and performing artists including Joanna Kotze, Lingua Ignota, Grey Reverend, Zsuzsa Rozsavolgyi, Lance Gries, Zenon Dance Company, Ririe Woodbury, Dark Sky, Ictus, Beth Gill, Rachel Comey and Mara Hoffman. His work has been featured at BAM, New York Live Arts, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Kitchen and Danspace among many other venues. Seaton also composes for film and TV, most recently the score for David Peter Hansen's Militiaman. He was a finalist for a Student Academy Award. www.ryancseaton.com

Sinéad Cormack

Sinéad Cormack is a stage manager, performer and theatre maker. Sinéad trained in Performance and Scenographic Studies and holds an MA in Practicing Performance from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Sinéad has worked nationally and internationally, including with Teac Damsa stage managing MÁM and Loch na hEala/Swan lake. Work with United Fall includes, Birdboy and Night Dances. She is excited to work on this new project What We Hold.

Shane O'Reilly

Shane O'Reilly is an actor, writer and dramaturg. This is his first time to work with Jean Butler. He has worked as a dramaturg with Liz Roche, Emma Martin, Paul Curley and Emma O'Kane. Shane previously co-created NAHER...Closer, Nearer, Sooner with The Liz Roche Company, FOLLOW, FARM and CARE with WillFredd Theatre and his writing work includes The Matador, The Genealogy Project, The Waterboys, Windowpane, PAL, Gold in the Water and Swansong. Shane has performed with The Abbey Theatre, The Gate Theatre, Rough Magic and Landmark along with other Irish and international companies.

Stephen Dodd

Based between Dublin and Cork, he trained at The Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College.

He recently won Best Lighting at the 2022 Irish Times Theatre Awards.

Recent lighting designs include: For The Abbey: An Octoroon, The Long Christmas Dinner. For Dead Centre: Good Sex, To Be a Machine (Version 1.0), Beckett's Room, Hamnet, Chekhov's First Play, LIPPY. For Attic Projects: Volcano. For Louise White Performance: Animals. For John O'Brien: Morrigan, Heart of a Dog. For United Fall: Night Dances, Birdboy, Girl Song, Dancehall, Dogs, Listowel Syndrome. For Irish National Opera: A Thing I Cannot Name, Orfeo ed Euridice. For Liz Roche Company: The Here Trio, I/Thou, Wrongheaded. For Junk Ensemble: Crossing Skin, Dances Like a Bomb, The Misunderstanding of Myrrha. For Brokentalkers: The Examination, The Circus Animal's Desertion. For Company SJ: Company. For The Emergency Room: riverrun.

Lovano is the producing and general management entity for Pádraig Heneghan, who is one of Ireland's most experienced producers in the performing arts.

Since 2012, he has worked with some of Ireland's leading independent artists in creating new work. He is currently working with leading Irish artists United Fall/ Emma Martin and Shane O'Reilly and has general managed projects for Riverdream Productions and large-scale events for Tyrone Productions in Croke Park.

In February 2022, Lovano co-produced the world premiere of "Walking with Ghosts", with Landmark Productions and is a co-producer of its Broadway transfer in October 2022.

DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL 2022

29 SEPTEMBER
– 16 OCTOBER

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