

# Dan Colley

Creative Director/Dramaturg/Producer  
[dan@dancoolley.com](mailto:dan@dancoolley.com)

BA (hons): English and Philosophy, NUI Galway  
FETAC 5: Youth Theatre Facilitation, YTI

---

I am a creative director and producer specialising in ensemble-devised theatre, theatre for young audiences, comedy, community participation, puppetry, and outdoor spectacle. I am an experienced dramaturg, script editor and facilitator. I trained as a Youth Theatre Facilitator with Youth Theatre Ireland and hold a BA (hons) in English and Philosophy from NUI Galway. I am a Member of the Project Arts Centre and I am Theatre Artist in Residence with the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

## Director

<b><i>14 Voices From A Bloodied Field</i></b>	<b>Director</b>
The Voice of William (Perry) Robinson By Lynda Radley	A series of monologues commemorating each of the 14 people killed in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 1920. In association with the GAA. Filmed in Croke Park and streamed online.
The Abbey Theatre	November 2020
<b><i>TWENTY FIFTY</i></b>	<b>Director &amp; Co-Creator</b>
Dan Colley & Fionnuala Gygax DUETS 2020	DUETS, an initiative of Dublin Fringe Festival, Irish Theatre Institute and Fishamble New Play Company.
	Dublin Fringe: Pilot Light Edition: 2020
<b><i>Danse Macabre</i></b>	<b>Creative Director</b>
Macnas	Galway, Oct 2019
<b><i>A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings</i></b>	<b>Director/Co-Writer for Stage</b>
By Gabriel Garcia Marquez Collapsing Horse	Riverbank Arts Centre, July 2019 Dublin Fringe Festival, September 2019 Abbey Theatre, December 2019
<b><i>Requiem for the Truth</i></b>	<b>Co-Director</b>
Text ed. by Robert Grant and Dan Colley Music by James O'Leary Collapsing Horse & Stomptown Brass	2017: Dublin Fringe Festival 2018 Tour: Bergen Norway Fringe, Waterford Imagine Arts Festival, Cork Jazz Festival, Pepper Canister in Dublin.

<b><i>The Water Orchard</i></b> By Eoghan Quinn Collapsing Horse & Project Arts Centre	<b>Co-Director</b>  Project Arts Centre Upstairs, July 2017
<b><i>The Aeneid</i></b> By Dan Colley and cast Collapsing Horse	<b>Director &amp; Co-Writer</b>  Dublin Fringe Festival, Sept 2016
<b><i>Conor: at the end of the Universe</i></b> By Dan Colley Collapsing Horse	<b>Director &amp; Writer</b> Draíocht Arts Centre, Riverbank Art Centre, Linenhall Arts Centre, The Ark. November 2016
<b><i>Me, Michael</i></b> By Tara McKeivitt Abbey Theatre	<b>Director</b>  National tour of primary and secondary schools, 2015
<b><i>Bears in Space</i></b> By Eoghan Quinn Collapsing Horse	<b>Director</b> Project Arts Centre, July 2014 Civic Theatre, July 2014 Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe, Aug 2014 Soho Theatre, London, Aug 2015, Dec 2015 59e59, New York, October 2016
<b><i>Distance From the Event</i></b> By Eoghan Quinn Collapsing Horse	<b>Director</b> Dublin Fringe 2013 Samuel Beckett Theatre
<b><i>Human Child</i></b> By Dan Colley and the cast Collapsing Horse	<b>Director/Writer</b> Smock Alley Boys School, June/July 2013 Baboro Children's Arts Festival, October 2013 Red Line Book Festival, Oct 2013 Mermaid Arts Centre, May 2014 Project Arts Centre, Jul 2014 Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe, Aug 2014 Moscow Irish Festival, March 2015 National Tour, April 2015
<b><i>Black Wednesday</i></b> By Gavin Kostick Show in a Bag	<b>Director</b>  Dublin Fringe, 2012
<b><i>Monster/Clock</i></b>	<b>Director</b>

By Eoghan Quinn  
Collapsing Horse

Smock Alley Boys School, 2012  
The Lir Academy, Axis Arts Centre, Civic Theatre, Mermaid  
Art Centre, Draiocht, The Pavilion, The Riverbank Arts  
Centre, Smock Alley Theatre, 2013

## Creative Producer

<b>The Kilkenny Cat Laughs Festival</b>	<b>Co-Artistic Director</b>
Ireland's premiere comedy festival. I was Co-Artistic director with Matthew Smyth for three editions.	2017 - 2019
<b>The Collapsing Horse Science Fiction Radio Hour</b>	<b>Artistic Director</b>
A series of seven science fiction radio plays, commissioned by Collapsing Horse and performed live in front of an audience in venues and festivals around Ireland, and released as a podcast.	2017-2018
<b>The Rights Museum</b>	<b>Facilitator/Artistic Director</b>
A group of second-year students in Larkin Community College, following a series of workshops and creative encounters, contributed objects of personal significance and relevance to the UN Charter of Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to an exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland. The project was supported by the Ombudsman's for Children's Office and the National Museum, and produced by Collapsing Horse	2018
<b>TWENTY FIRST</b>	<b>Facilitator/Artistic Director</b>
A takeover project, by a group of self-selecting twenty-one year old people living in Dublin, to mark the twenty first birthday of the Dublin Fringe Festival. The project manifested as a week-long performance / installation piece in which the twenty-one year old artists lived in a life sized "lab rat cage" and conducted a series of experiments aimed at creating and testing their vision for a utopian society.	2015
<b>Yer Only mBan</b>	<b>Co-Producer</b>
A night of storytelling, song, comedy and cake in Smock Alley Banquet Hall on Nollaig na mBan, celebrating the work of women, in response to the #WakingTheFeminists movement of 2015. Co-Produced by Dan Colley and Maeve Stone.	2016

## Dramaturg

<b><i>Out Of the Wild Sky</i></b>	<b>Associate Director / Dramaturg</b>
Macnas	Galway, Dublin. Oct, 2018

<b>CARE</b> WillFredd	<b>Dramaturg</b> Project Arts Centre, February, 2014
<b>To Space</b> By Niamh Shaw	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2014
<b>Always Alone Together</b> By Cathal Maguire Game Theory	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2014
<b>Way Back Home</b> By Louise White	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2013
<b>FARM</b> WillFredd	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2012
<b>All Hell Lay Beneath</b> Sugarglass Theatre	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2012
<b>Anna In Between</b> By James Hickson and Rosemary McKenna	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Fringe 2012
<b>Bang Shoot Blast</b> By Karl Watson	<b>Dramaturg</b> Dublin Gay Theatre Festival 2011

## Writing & Devising

**Adaptation:** ‘A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings’ by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Co-Adapted for the Stage with the cast, Produced by Collapsing Horse (2019)

**Paper:** ‘The Qatar of Creativity’, Creative Ireland’s forum on Health, Wellbeing and the Cultural Society (2017)

**Paper:** ‘The Gig Is Up’, Arts Council’s Future Retrospectives Symposium, (2017)

**Play:** *Conor: at the end of the Universe*, Produced by Collapsing Horse (2016)

**Play:** *The Aeneid*, Co-Written with the cast, Produced by Collapsing Horse (2016)

**Keynote:** ‘Forrest Fires’, All-Ireland Performing Arts Conference (2014)

**Play:** *Human Child*, Co-Written with the cast, Produced by Collapsing Horse (2013)

## Awards & Reviews

### *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*

★★★★★ – The Arts Review: “Theatre exists for shows like this...fifty minutes of near theatrical perfection”

★★★★★ – The Daily Mail

★★★★★ – The Irish Times: “A model of ingenuity through humble means”

**Nominated** “Best Production”, “Little Gem Award”, “Best Performer”, “Best Design” - Dublin Fringe Awards

**Winner** “Best Design” - Dublin Fringe Awards

**Nominated** “Best Set Design” “Best Lighting Design” – Irish Times Theatre Awards

### ***Bears in Space***

★★★★★(Critic’s Pick) - New York Times: “Goofiness is next to godliness....blissful”

★★★★★ – The Stage: “You get the sense that this is something really special for Collapsing Horse, whose clear love for their craft is a thrill to watch”

**Winner** ‘Best Playwright,’ ‘Best Design,’ and ‘Special Jury Award for Ensemble Performance’ – First Irish Festival, New York

**Nominated** “Best Director” for Dan Colley - First Irish Festival, New York

### ***MONSTER/CLOCK***

“This production is wise beyond its years. Brisk, smart and immersive, Monster Clock could travel as far as the adventures that lie within it.”– The Irish Times

“Excellent, suspensefully crafted, stuffed with dry wit, and performed with unflagging exuberance.....Invention abounds” – Irish Independent

“Monster Clock is a marvel” – Sunday Times

“ceaseless bundles of energy that combine the tricks of the comedic trade ...with heart and intelligence” – Irish Theatre Magazine

## **Selected Teaching & Facilitation**

Trinity College Dublin, BA in Drama and Theatre Studies, Performance Lab & Second Year Show, 2019/2020

The Lir Young Actors Programme, Acting Technique, 2019

The Lir, BA in Acting, Devising Theatre, 2018

Independent Theatre Workshop, Drama, 2011 - 2016

Drama, Puppetry and Theatre Skills workshops for:

The Abbey Theatre Community and Education Department, Los Angeles LGBT Center Youth Homelessness, Macra na Feirme, Dublin Youth Theatre, South Dublin Library, D15 Youth Theatre, Mount Temple Comprehensive School, Naas Daycare Centre and University of the Third Age Maynooth, among others.

## **Selected Funding Awards**

Arts Council	Theatre Bursary Award	(2020)
Culture Ireland	International Touring, Bergen Fringe (Norway)	(2018)
Arts Council	Theatre Project Award (Creation)	(2018)

Dublin City Council	Project Award	(2018)
Arts Council	Theatre Project Award (Presentation)	(2017)
Dublin City Council	Project Award	(2017)
Culture Ireland	International Touring, NYC 59E59 (USA)	(2016)
Arts Council	Next Generation Bursary Award	(2016)
Dublin City Council	Project Award	(2016)
Culture Ireland	International Touring, Soho Theatre (UK)	(2015)
Culture Ireland	International Touring, Gogol Centre (Russia)	(2015)
Arts Council	Touring and Dissemination Award	(2014)
Arts Council	Theatre Project Award (Creation)	(2014)
Culture Ireland	International Touring, Edinburgh Festivals (UK)	(2014)
Arts Council	Theatre Bursary Award	(2013)
Arts Council	YPCE Bursary Award	(2012)

## Residencies

Centre Cultural Irlandais, Paris, (Jan 2019)  
 Theatre Artist in Residence, Riverbank Arts Centre (2018 – 2021)  
 Fringe Lab Artist in Residence (2015 – 2017)  
 Theatre Artists in Residence, Draíocht Arts Centre (2015 – 2017)  
 MAKE Residency, Tyrone Guthrie Centre (2014)  
 Theatre Artist in Residence, Civic Theatre (2013 – 2014)