

THREE'S THEATRE
COMPANY

Rehearsed Reading

Join us for an evening of readings,
two new pieces in development
with Three's that delve into issues
not often explored

No Blueprint

by Adam Dougal

&

Fallopia Japonica

by Anna McGrath



About Three's

Three's Theatre Company is a young, dynamic company which creates 'choice theatre' putting you, the audience, at the heart of everything we do.

Three's Theatre Company was officially launched in July 2017. Founded by Artistic Director Anna Leckey, gaining charity status in 2022. The team now is made up of three core members; Anna Leckey, Conal Clapper and Colm G Doran with the continued support of six voluntary board members.

We are determined to provide Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole with a platform to showcase local talent and give audiences a chance to participate in something unique.



Directors Message

I am so excited that Three's have the chance to work with such incredibly talented writers, telling deeply personal stories about issues that have affected them and/or their loved ones. It's been a pleasure working with them both - I hope they have enjoyed it too!

Both Anna and Adam's work strike a careful balance of humour and heart whilst subtly educating their audience in a nuanced way about the impacts of endometriosis and new fatherhood respectively. Both writers are keen not to 'preach' to an audience but also do not wish to shy away from some of the harsh realities within their subject matter.

Three's has always been about telling unique stories in a different way and we very much hope that these pieces will go on to full site specific production with us and potentially tour far beyond Belfast to spread their message to new audiences.

For tonight, we hope you enjoy the rehearsed readings we have prepared with the help of some of our finest local acting talent and the support of ACNI. We would really value any and all of your feedback.



Colm G Doran “

Colm is the associate director of Three's - directing, providing writing and developing the work of new writers for most of our projects.

Recent directing credits include: Carson and The Lady (Lyric Theatre, Belfast) Fighting Words Young Playwrights Programme (Lyric Theatre, Belfast) NINOW100 (The MAC, Belfast)

He is looking forward to working with Three's on their next project 'Unsmart Home' and is also directing this years Christmas Show at Theatre at The Mill, Newtownabbey.

The plays -

- No Blueprint
by Adam Dougal

Who do men talk to when the very essence of their manhood is in question?

When Mark and Amy set out on a journey to try and conceive a child, Mark is forced to address all the parts of himself that he has learnt to live with. The fears, the doubts and all the opinions that have shaped him over the years. At times these voices can seem well intentioned, caring even but they can also be the obstacle that stops him from being fully present.

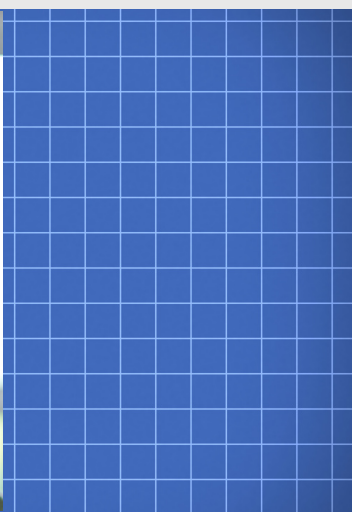
This is a story of self discovery and an explanation for why embracing true vulnerability is the only way forward.

- Fallopia Japonica
by Anna McGrath

Lourdes is waiting for her date, Simon to arrive. Her plant is on the table, green and unmissable. Simon, who she has met on Catholic Matchers.com, isn't who she expected, but Lourdes is willing to see it through.

Fallopia japonica is a dark comedy with a warm heart, that explores the debilitating reproductive disease of Endometriosis.

Inspired by the story of Laurene Agnew; Fallopia japonica wants to draw attention to this disease that impacts the lives of so many people.



The Writers

Anna McGrath



Anna completed her BA in Drama & Creative Writing (Royal Holloway, University of London) and initially began her creative career as an actor (Lyric Drama Studio Belfast and MA Acting Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). In recent years, she has worked as Director of Drama in schools in Dubai and Edinburgh, whilst honing her craft as a playwright, adapting and creating bespoke scripts for schools. She is now focused on working professionally as a playwright.

Credits include: Caisc'16 (funding through the Irish Government/ Birmingham Irish charity), Stories of the Sea script development and drama camp (East Lothian Council), Dancing in Digbeth Monologue (Green Curtain Theatre London).

Currently developing: The Wake Long Listed Script for David MacLennan Award (A Play, Pie and Pint, Oran Mor, Glasgow), Young Company script development (East Lothian Council/Brunton Theatre).

Adam Dougal



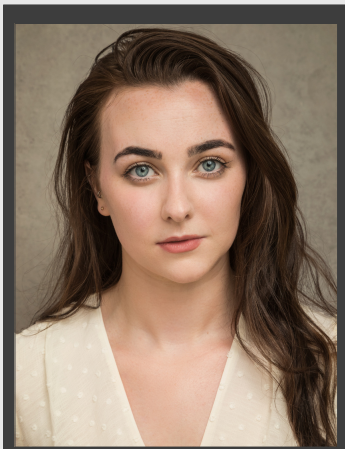
Adam is originally from Belfast and trained at the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Credits include: The Grimm Hotel (Cahoots NI), Plays Aloud at Home (Commedia of Errors), Right Up Your Street, Paddy's Weekend Kitchen (Big Telly), Repose (Tinderbox), The Showman is Coming (Peter Corry Productions), The Narrow Road (Riding Lights, UK Tour), Boy With a Suitcase, Barney Carey Gets His Wings (Barnstorm, The Watergate), Alice (Lyric Theatre), Under The Hawthorn Tree (Cahoots NI, The Mac/Irish Tour), Lessons in Love and Violence (Royal Opera House, London), Villages (The Other Palace, London), Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Bruiser, The Mac) and New Jersey Nights (UK/China Tour).

Adam also presents a podcast series called 'Like Minded'.

Introducing Our Team

Huge thank you to all of these lovely faces who have helped bring the words to life. Performers, Director / Script Development and Producer.



Debora Hill



Simon Sweeney



Conor Maguire



Jack Dawson



Colm G Doran



Anna Leckey

Our Team

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Debra
Hill

Debra is an Actor and Facilitator from Belfast. She has recently returned from London with The Playhouse Derry in a production *The Crack in Everything* and she has newly finished directing a production of *Matilda Jr* with New Lodge Arts in The Mac. Debra is currently starring in a production called *Runny Honey* with Spanner in The Works Theatre Company which just won Best Production 2022 at The Buxton Fringe Festival. This is her first opportunity to work with Three's Theatre Company and she can't wait.

Conor is from Belfast with bases in Belfast and Dublin. He is a graduate of Bow Street Academy 2017-18. He represented Bow Street in the 2018 Spotlight Graduate Showcase in London, having qualified out of seventy drama school entries across the United Kingdom and Ireland. His work in theatre began with the award winning 'Removed' at the Brian Friel Theatre in March 2019 and has since performed the piece in The Royal Theatre in Montenegro in May 2019, Dublin Theatre Festival 2019, IPay 2020 Showcase in Philadelphia and an online version for Traverse Online Festival 2020. He has worked with Cahoots NI on 'Under the Hawthorn Tree' which had an all-Ireland tour in early 2020. Just recently he worked on Theatre at the Mill's production 'Carson and the Lady'. He also appeared in Derry Girls season 3. Conor can currently be heard in 'The Northern Bank Job' for BBC Sounds.



Conor
O'Donnell

Our Team



Jack
Dawson

Jack Dawson is an actor who graduated in 2016 from QUB in Drama and has worked in theatre and on screen since then. Most recently he filmed for the Sky One Production *The Lovers*, and the short film *Ourselves Alone*. Over the last three years Jack has been developing his own play with Tinderbox theatre company, *Trauma Boy* which is set to premiere in 2023. This is Jack's first time working with Three's Theatre Company, though he has enthusiastically followed their work and is delighted to be working with them.

Simon completed his Masters at East 15 Acting School in 2021. He also trained with Lyric Drama Studio and Tinderbox on the Play Machine Programme. He has previously worked with Kabosh Theatre Company on *A Queer Céilí* at the Marty Forsythe (2019) and *Callings* (2022).



Simon
Sweeney

Fatherhood

This play started out as an act of self care, a way of documenting a unique experience, not just becoming a parent for the first time but becoming a parent during a pandemic. It became clear to me that I had many more fears around not being able to become a parent than parenting itself, ignorance is bliss in that regard. I wanted to explore the complexities around conceiving a child and the societal views around why people choose to be parents, or what happens when that choice is taken away from us.



A message from Laurene @far.from.mint.condition on Fallopia Japonica

I suffered overwhelmingly since my first period at 13. My periods were always heavy and incredibly painful. For one week a month, I was completely incapacitated by my own body. Over the years this would increase to two weeks a month, then three, to the point I am at today; I cannot remember the last time I had a pain free day.

Between the ages of 13 to 16 I saw my GP regularly. I was repeatedly told that what I was experiencing was 'just a normal period', it was recommended to me that I should toughen up. I was given every version of the pill in an attempt to manage my symptoms. Unsurprisingly, they never helped. The only thing they did achieve was to further deepen my sense of shame about my body's inability to cope with a normal menstrual cycle, as my mum warned me to tell no one I was taking the pill.

At 16 a gynaecological consultant, after performing investigative surgery, gave me the all clear. I had been seen by a specialist in the field of dysmenorrhoea and she too verified my GPs previous diagnosis; there was nothing wrong with me aside from my attention seeking inability to cope with my period. This proved to be a significant blow to my sense of self and my sense of worth. Worse still it demolished my support structures. When multiple highly educated adults deem you to be an attention seeking teenager, your family and friends can adapt a tough love approach in a bid to coax you out of your feigned illness.



It wouldn't be until I was 23 that I would finally receive a diagnosis of Endometriosis. My previous decade was validated with the earth crushing confirmation that I had stage 4 Deep Infiltrating Endometriosis, an illness for which there is currently no cure.

The sad reality is that my 10 year wait for a diagnosis is not unique or different. It's pretty common actually. The average time in the UK is 7.5 years from the onset of symptoms to diagnosis.

What does make my experience unique is that two people in my life told me that I deserved better treatment than what I had previously experienced, that I was worth more and that I had the right to ask for answers and support.



continued...

@far.from.mint. condition

Those two people are my incredibly talented friend Anna McGrath who wrote this amazing play and the man who would eventually become my husband, Chris, namesake and inspiration behind Anna's character.

The persons responsible for my successful diagnosis are not simply the doctors, it is Anna and Chris who believed that I was worth seeking another doctor. It was their support and encouragement that changed my life.

An average of 7.5 years to receive a diagnosis is not simply one or two doctors getting it wrong, it is evidence of a deeply rooted systemic issue. Thankfully there are people and organisations working tirelessly to change this. However, these types of changes are slow to occur. That is why it is so important that you realise how impactful your role can be in improving the life of someone suffering from endometriosis.

When I sat with Anna in a Belfast pub 4 months ago discussing my passion for Endometriosis advocacy, I never could have dreamed that this is where we would be. Anna has held my hand in A&E, spent nights sat in with me and a hot water bottle, listened to my fears, celebrated my successes and been a figure of constant support in my life. And to see her weave some of my experiences and the nuances of chronic illness life through this world and these characters she has so skilfully crafted, has been an absolute joy. Having the opportunity to work on a project that brings my passion and Anna's together has been an incredible experience. I can only hope this is just the beginning.

So if you're reading this thinking that there is nothing that you can do to help the cause of those suffering with endometriosis, you could not be more wrong.

Your support and encouragement could:

- be the reason that someone believes they are worth advocating for.
- be the reason that someone actively seeks answers for something that has internally tortured them for years.
- ease the burden of shame felt by those who navigate undiagnosed Endometriosis in a society where periods and menstrual health are still shrouded in stigma and taboo.
- be the catalyst for someone to challenge what their doctor has told them.
- be the reason someone gets to keep their organs.
- be the reason someone successfully manages to have the family they always dreamed of.

You reading this could literally save someone's life.

Special Thanks from the writers

I'd like to thank **Hannah Coyle**, for being a creative inspiration and for making the introduction to Three's Theatre Company, which led to our Three Nations creative collaboration. This relationship, has paved way for the script development of Fallopia japonica. **Laurene Agnew**, for being brave with sharing her story, her pain and allowing me to use the vehicle of drama to shed light on this condition. Even though it is not strictly biographical, I hope that it sheds lights on this disease in a way that increases understanding, compassion and a willingness to do more to support sufferers. Thank you to **Seán** and **Ciarán** for making me think I can do anything and to **James** for helping me to find that time.



I'd like to thank my mentor Patrick J O'Reilly, who for listen to my stories and helped me find a place to start. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland for funding the initial development and this current stage. Rebecca Mairs for her guidance and support. Last but not least my wife who lived this experience with me and is the strongest woman I know.





We'd like to thank the **Arts Council of Northern Ireland** for making this possible through their **National Lottery Fund**.

Massive thank you to **Sarah Rose McCann** from **@mypelvic pain** for being part of our Q&A tonight.

Thank you to **Kabosh Theatre Company** for their rehearsal space The Barrak's.

Thank you to **The MAC** for hosting us.

Huge thank you to the team involved for all their effort, it wouldn't be possible without each and every one of them.

A message from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

"The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is delighted to support this evening of rehearsed readings from Three's Theatre Company at The MAC. Thanks to the National Lottery players, these exciting and dynamic voices in theatre will have the vital opportunity to showcase new work to a live audience. With terrific writing from Anna McGrath and Adam Dougal, brought to life by the talented team at Three's Theatre Company, this evening promises to be very special indeed. Congratulations to all involved."

- Caoileann Curry-Thompson, Arts Development Officer for Drama and Dance, Arts Council of Northern Ireland,,

