



Dr Michael Finneran

Michael Finneran is a senior lecturer in drama at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland. He is Director of the Centre for Contemporary & Applied Theatre Studies at the College, which is home to the new BA in Contemporary & Applied Theatre Studies. Prior to that, he held the post of Head of the Department of Arts Education & Physical Education. He holds a PhD from the University of Warwick, completed under the supervision of Prof. Jonathan Neelands. He is reviews editor and a member of the editorial board of *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre & Performance*, and he also serves on the international advisory board of *Applied Theatre Research*. Michael was academic director for the 7th IDiERI (International Drama in Education Research Institute), held in Limerick in July 2012.

Michael's research interests lie in drama education, applied theatre, critical theory, social justice and teacher education in drama. He was guest editor of a recent edition of *RiDE* (19:1) on the theme of 'Borders & Translations', co-edited *Drama and Social Justice: Theory, research and practice in international contexts* (Routledge, 2015), and is currently editing a book on theatres and education, to be published by Springer in 2016. Michael gave an invited *Sydney Ideas* lecture at the University of Sydney in October 2013, and was keynote speaker at the *Critical Journeys in Applied Theatre: International Symposium*, at the University of Auckland also in October 2013.

Michael was a member of the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA) Board for Early Childhood & Primary Education in the Rep. of Ireland from 2009-2015, and was recently nominated by the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan, to the *High Level Implementation Group* which has responsibility for overseeing work on the Arts in Education Charter in Ireland.

Michael is a practicing theatre artist, with over one hundred direction and design credits to his name in professional and community theatre, having most recently directed *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* by Jim Cartwright in the Lime Tree Theatre in November 2014, and Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer* in the Belltable Arts Centre in 2012. He is also a founder member of *Bare Space Theatre Co.* in Limerick and with them has directed *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet St.* (Belltable Arts Centre, 2006), *The Threepenny Opera* (former Franciscan Church, 2009) and most recently *Lily* (Belltable Arts Centre, 2011). Other directorial work includes *The Raven King* (Wexford Festival Opera, 2001), *Jason & Hanna* (Kidsop Edmonton, 2002) and numerous productions over fifteen years

with MIDAS (MIC Drama Society) as both director and producer. He is a board member of the *Lime Tree Theatre*; Limerick's newest professional venue, which he helped to establish in 2012.