

List of External Assessors for Sound & Vision Round 49, Coimisiún na Meán

1. Mike Beale

Mike has worked in television production and distribution for over 30 years producing shows all over the world. Currently at ITV Studios overseeing the non-scripted and format development pipeline as MD Global Creative Content. Mike started out in children's TV at TV-am then joined Planet 24 as they launched The Big Breakfast before joining various production companies including LWT, Bunim Murray, Hat Trick, BBC going on to co-found 12 Yard Productions and Alchemy Reality. Mike's global experience from this was also utilised to launch NBCU's move into global production before joining ITV Studios.

2. Peter Browne

Peter Browne worked as senior producer and presenter in RTÉ Radio for over 40 years – on all four stations: Radio One, 2FM, Raidió na Gaeltachta and Lyric FM. He also presented programmes on TG4 and has been a contributor on TG4, RTÉ TV and BBC TV. His work covered many programme areas with music being a central part of that – mainstream, pop, rock, MOR and specialist programmes of music – traditional, folk, world, country, jazz and classical including work with the RTÉ Orchestras. Also, he produced magazine, arts and speech programmes e.g., The Gay Byrne Show, sport and documentaries which won international radio prizes: Deutsche Welle World Music Prize and Celtic Media. Also he worked on larger scale events like Live Aid, Eurovision and many outside broadcasts like the Cork Jazz Festival, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann etc... He produced a series of commercial recordings (CD, online) of traditional music from the RTÉ Sound Archive and has been a juror on radio competitions like the Prix Italia and the Celtic Media Festival. His academic qualifications are BA, Diploma Irish Folklore and M MUS and he lectured in music at TU Dublin in the Conservatory of Music and Drama. He is a practicing professional musician and spent c. 10 years as Traditional Arts Advisor to the Arts Council.

3. Agnes Cogan

Agnes Cogan was a senior TV Producer with RTÉ (national & international award-winning) for fifteen years until she took early retirement in 2000, working on documentaries, Irish language programmes, Young People's, arts, music, current affairs, religious, agriculture and educational programmes. Subsequent to that Agnes worked as a free-lance TV producer and director on programming for RTÉ, TG4 and others, and also worked as originator, script-writer and presenter on radio programmes in Irish and English, principally for Lyric FM. Agnes started her career in RTÉ as a PA, subsequently becoming a film editor, then a TV director, a producer/director and finally a senior TV Producer. Agnes is currently Chair of the Royal Television Society, Republic of Ireland Centre.

4. Sheila De Courcy

Sheila is an independent consultant and producer with over four decades of involvement with media, arts and cultural organisations in Ireland, Europe, USA and India. Previous experience includes almost six years working on conservation and exhibitions in the National Museum of Ireland following which she spent over 30 years in RTÉ. There she produced, directed and commissioned programmes for RTÉ Television and Radio across all genres including Arts, Drama, Irish language, Current Affairs, Music, Documentary, Children's and Entertainment. Sheila also led the launch of RTÉjr, RTÉ's third TV channel, across all platforms. An experienced teacher, mentor, board member and facilitator Sheila is currently working on a broad range of creative and practical projects.

5. Margaret Bennett

Margaret is a senior television executive with a broad range of experience in both production and managerial roles across a career spanning over 25 years. She was Executive Producer of Special Events in the RTÉ News And Current Affairs division leading teams on large-scale event coverage such as 1916 Commemorations, the visit to Ireland by Pope Francis, Elections, Budgets, etc. Prior to that Margaret worked in RTÉ TV Sport for over 12 years. Working her way up the ranks to Executive Producer, Margaret produced and directed the likes of The Sunday Game, The Sports Awards and The Hook and Pope Roadshow along with leading the teams for World Cup and Olympics. Moving into management, Margaret was General Manager of Group Sport until her move over to Special Events. This role saw her working across all platforms with particular attention to managing the sports rights contracts process from negotiations to contract drafting and implementation. Margaret left RTÉ at the beginning of 2022 with a view to utilising her skills and experience to pursue a career in both the media and public sector spheres.

6. Simon Devilly

Simon Devilly is a former senior producer with RTÉ; during his 16 years there he was producer/series producer of a wide range of current affairs programmes, features series and documentaries. He is a former associate lecturer in journalism and radio production in The School of Communications at DCU. He also lectured and designed courses in Radio production at the Centre for Media Studies at NUIM and continues to teach post-graduate students at St. Patrick's Maynooth. He has served as a judge on the PPI / BCI annual radio awards for a number of years. He is a former member of the Irish Executive Council of the National Union of Journalists.

7. Maretta Dillon

Maretta Dillon is an independent film and arts consultant who has long and varied experience of working in the cultural sector in Ireland. Previous work experience includes: Co-Director of Light House Cinema, Director of access CINEMA, Programme Director of Dublin Film Festival. Maretta has knowledge and expertise in film curation, film programming as well as providing evaluation expertise on film and arts projects. She also works as a digital content and social media manager. Maretta is currently acting as Film Adviser to the Arts Council.

8. Deirdre Donnelly

Deirdre Donnelly has been working in the media sector for more than twenty years and has extensive experience in print, radio and television. Starting in RTÉ as a TV announcer, she later moved to radio where she was an announcer on RTÉ-Radio One and later worked as a researcher / reporter on some of the station's arts and features programmes. Deirdre also worked for a number of years with RTÉ-Raidió na Gaeltachta where she presented and produced a wide range of series and reported regularly on news, current affairs arts and features topics. She has been an independent radio producer since 2008 and has received nominations for Gradam Cumarsáide an Oireachtais and PPI awards. Over the last number of years Deirdre has contributed as a reporter, panellist, columnist and reviewer on a wide range of programmes across a number of radio stations, including RTÉ-Raidió na Gaeltachta, Newstalk, Raidió na Life and Dublin South FM. Deirdre holds an M.A. in European Studies, and completed her thesis on the TV industry in the EU.

9. Niamh Farren

Niamh has over twenty years experience working in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. Her background is in the community media sector where she worked as a volunteer, programme producer, manager and community outreach co-ordinator. She is a former member of the Board of Management of Dublin Community Television and a former Chair of Craol, the Community Radio Forum of Ireland. She holds a Masters degree in Communications and Cultural Studies from Dublin City University. Over the past fifteen years she has worked as a communications specialist in the non-profit sector where her work has involved awareness campaigns, training and capacity building, digital content development, stakeholder engagement and advocacy.

10. Audrey Galvin

Audrey Galvin currently works as a lecturer in Radio at the University of Limerick where she lectures on the pre-production, production, and postproduction elements of radio. A final year PhD researcher, her work examines media production practices of cases of murder-suicide in Ireland. Prior to this Audrey worked with Radio Kerry as a researcher, presenter, and producer of numerous programmes including the current affairs programme, the business programme, and a number of documentaries, as well as working as a journalist and serving as the Deputy News Editor.

11. Sean Geogahan

Sean Geogahan trained in radio production (journalism), worked as a sound recordist for pop promos and broadcast video offline editor. Sean scripted, directed and produced via an independent video production company. He is a NFTS graduate of direction. He worked with BBC/HBO/TG4 and ITV as a director of television drama. He also worked as a BBC commissioned script writer and for Channel Four Films and independents as a script reader. He is an independent Film maker and prize winning short film maker of drama which has been broadcast Europe and US networks.

12. Brendan Gormley

Brendan has a degree in Communication Studies from Dublin City University where he majored in radio production. For over two decades he has worked in public service radio broadcasting as a sound recorder and editor as well as in studio production on a wide range of genres including features, documentaries and drama.

13. Lawrie Hallett

Lawrie Hallett has a long-established background in professional broadcast radio production and presentation, creating both music and speech based programmes for local and international broadcasters. Trained as a radio journalist, he spent part of the 1980s working in Ireland and has since worked for both the UK's Community Media Association and Office of Communications, in various policy areas including community broadcasting and digital radio. Now a Senior Lecturer in Radio at the University of Bedfordshire, he teaches radio production and researches broadcast radio policy issues. Based in Norwich, England, Lawrie is currently on the board of the local community based charity, Future Projects, which runs the city's community radio station, Future Radio.

14. Seamus Hanrahan

A graduate of Communication Studies from DCU, Seamus began his career as a researcher and scriptwriter before becoming a television producer/director. Specialising in education, training and instructional design, he directed many series of distance learning courses broadcast by satellite from UCD. He has over 10 years of experience in broadcast television programming and one of his programmes was RTÉ's entry for the prestigious Japan Prize. As an instructional designer, he has created multiple media education and training materials for home, school and business use, most designed for delivery over the internet and intranets.

15. Marina Hughes

Marina co-founded and ran the production company Venus Productions from 1996 through which she produced films with BBC Films, Canal +, Gota Films, Irish Film Board, Miramax Films and RTÉ. She is a former member of the Advisory Committee of Screen Training Ireland (STI) the Irish national screen industry training agency. Her feature film productions have been presented and won awards from festivals such as: Sundance Film Festival, Seattle Film Festival, BANFF Canada, Variety Critic's Choice, Karlovy Vary Film Festival, London Film Festival, International Television Award (Premiere Ondas) Barcelona, Spain, Best International Short – Venice International Short Film Festival, Jury Award, Giffoni Film Festival, Italy, Best Film Hayange Festival, France, Distributors' Award, Oulu Film Festival, Norway Jury Prize, Olympia Film Festival, Thessaloniki., and Jury Prize, Celtic Film and Television Festival, Special Commendation, Prix Europa Berlin. Feature Films she is currently developing as Executive Producer include the Romanian co-production Blindsight (writer/Dir Adrian Sitaru), Choice (Writer/Dir Gerard Stembridge and Easy Does It, Writer/Dir Marian Quinn. As well as Producing and developing productions, Marina also lectures in Media Management and the Film Industry at the Technological University, Dublin and is Visiting Professor at the faculty of Theatre and Cinema, University Babes Bolyai, Cluj, Romania where she teaches courses on Film Production and Marketing and also co-ordinates the Atelier Du Film, with the writer/directors Adrian Sitaru and Radu Jude at the Technological University, Dublin.

16. Paula Mulroe

Paula Mulroe is a Lecturer, Development Consultant and Script Editor for feature films and television drama. Currently based at the South East Technological University at Carlow, teaching scriptwriting and media production. Previously, Development Manager with the then Irish Film Board (Screen Ireland) and a Script Editor at BBC Drama. Paula has also been a consultant, reader, and assessor across several schemes and funds in Ireland, the UK and Europe. Starting out as a Script Supervisor on a number of productions, Paula has over 20 years experience at various levels of the film and television industries in Ireland and the UK.

17. Francesca Lalor

As Commissioning Editor and Series Producer of the multiple award-winning Documentary & Drama On Newstalk 106-108fm Series, Executive Producer Francesca Lalor was responsible for the development and delivery of a wide range of feature-length radio documentary and drama projects for a national commercial radio station, and related financial/contractual/editorial management. With a background in live radio production, Francesca has overseen the commissioning, funding, production and broadcast of upwards of 250 feature-length documentaries and radio dramas on Irish radio in the past decade, managing a large team of Independent producers both in Ireland and abroad. As an Award-winning Independent Producer, Francesca Lalor has produced 21 documentary/drama features and executive-produced many more. She also works as a Consultant to Independent production companies and training organisations, delivering training in the area of radio features production, sourcing funding, and broadcast best-practice. She is an Associate Lecturer in Radio Features Production at Masters level at DLIADT and Griffith College. Educated in Brussels, Francesca speaks fluent French.

18. Máire Moriarty

Máire Moriarty is a barrister and broadcaster. She is a former series presenter with TG4. In tandem with practising at the bar, Máire is an independent researcher, and has worked with various production companies, including researching a factual entertainment TV series for TG4 (Gléasta Chun Féasta TX Oct 2017) and with TV3 (The Pat Kenny Show TX Sept 2017). Máire is currently working in live radio current affairs broadcasting research with Newstalk FM.

19. Jackie Neill

Jackie Neill is a radio consultant and producer based in Northern Ireland. As a former Station Manager and Content Editor at BBC Radio Ulster, Jackie worked with some of the UK and Ireland's best presenters and award-winning production teams in comedy, music, magazine & documentary production. Now she is bringing my 30+ years of radio production and management experience to the freelance and independents world through her company Headgirl Media Ltd.

20. Cóilín Ó Cearbhaill

Cóilín is a graduate of Dublin City University and in addition has a postgraduate higher diploma in Applied Communications from NUI Galway. He has over 20 years television experience on over 50 productions across the genres of drama, documentary and lifestyle. He has worked as an online finisher on Irish productions such as 'Kings', 'Raw' and 'Single Handed' and as colourist on 'The Savage Eye' 'Dirty Old Towns' and 'Celebrity Apprentice' amongst others. His work in recent years has been concentrated in the main on editing on productions such as 'Dúshlán', 'Ask Rhod Gilbert', 'Monumental' and 'Hector USA'.

21. Patrick O'Driscoll

A graduate of Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (National Film School), Patrick began his career as a screenwriter on shorts and features for independent producers supported by the Irish Film Board (Screen Ireland) and RTÉ. Since 2009, Patrick has worked as an independent development consultant and script editor, collaborating closely with writers and producers from Ireland, UK, US, Canada and Australia on high-quality fiction and non-fiction film and TV projects at the early, mid and final stages of development. Based on his creative and analytical experience, in recent years Patrick has designed and taught screenwriting courses for beginner and intermediate level writers and published craft articles in Irish and US trade magazines.

22. Stephen Plunkett

Stephen Plunkett is a graduate in Art History from Trinity College, Dublin. He began his 35-year broadcasting career as a newsreader with independent station Sunshine Radio whilst continuing to administer a national annual art exhibition, Exposure, which he and a friend had started together as undergraduates. Moving to RTÉ, he worked in a range of television roles, from script supervisor to production manager, before moving to the independent commissioning unit where he commissioned primetime programmes across several genres from comedy to current affairs. These included Ireland's first feature animation and its first Oscar-nominated animated short, 'Give Up Yer Aul Sins'. As a staff producer/director, he worked in documentary, arts, entertainment and children's programmes and he also directed Fair City for several years. Later, he was Executive Producer in Young People's Programmes, where he was responsible for a staff of over 60 people producing 300+ hours of programming annually. Since leaving RTÉ, he has continued to work as a broadcast consultant and in the voluntary sector.

23. Dusty Rhodes

Dusty Rhodes is an award-winning presenter/producer with 25 years national radio experience. After DJ'ing with the UK's Atlantic 252, and ten years with Irish national broadcaster RTÉ, Dusty established Ireland's most successful syndicated radio company, Digital Audio Productions, which won several PPI awards. These days he is behind dB Digital Broadcasting who operate DAB transmission networks, Global Irish Acts who tour manage Irish bands playing in Australia or the USA, and management company Reservoir MGT who consult radio stations in Spain, France, Cyprus, Scotland and Ireland.

24. Anne Roper

Anne Roper has a career spanning over 25 years as a writer, TV producer, director & documentary maker. As an Executive Producer, she created and was Head of the RTÉ TV Factual Documentary Unit. She has also produced radio, published fiction and journalism for The Irish Times, Irish Independent, various magazines and online. She troubleshoots documentary structure, story, script and editorial. She creates and facilitates training courses for the broadcast industry including a RTÉ Producer/Director curriculum, modules on journalism, visual storytelling, scripting, story-telling, directing and multi-platform content (with an emphasis of self-shooting). She created the successful RTÉ training day 'Bring on the Women' which offered media skills for women and 'Doc on the Box' an initiative for new directors. She has been a Reporter, Presenter and appears on both broadcast and public panels with a special interest in media, creativity, ethics, journalism, diversity and the importance of public service broadcasting as the lifeblood of democracy.

25. Mark Story

Mark Story is a graduate in Law from Trinity College Dublin. He is a graduate of Wharton College University of Pennsylvania's Executive Development programme and Manchester Business School's Programme for High Value Managers. Dubliner Mark's broadcasting career spans 40 years and he has worked in Ireland as a producer for RTÉ and Programme Director for Century Radio and in the UK as a senior producer at Capital Radio, BBC Radio One PD at Virgin Radio. More recently he was MD of Radio for Emap/Bauer where he managed both Magic 105.4 which he founded in 1998, and Kiss 100. Four years ago, he started his own Radio consultancy Radio Story and has in that time worked with clients in 18 countries including NRJ France, Radio City India, Newstalk, Today FM and 98FM in Ireland. Radio Zet in Poland, RTL Germany, Guardian Media Group and Bauer Radio in the UK, and Radio Miraya in South Sudan. In July 2013 Mark was named as one of the 40 people who had made the greatest contribution to UK Commercial Radio during its 40 years. Elected a fellow of the UK Radio Academy in 1998, the highest honour the UK radio industry can bestow, Mark was awarded the UK Radio Industry John Peel award in 2007 for his "outstanding contribution to UK music radio" He was awarded the only Special Sony Gold award ever for organising and chairing the UK Radio Aid response to the Tsunami in 2005. The day of programming, broadcast over 268 radio stations achieved the highest recorded listening for any UK programme and raised £3 million for victims of the Tsunami.

26. Julian Vignoles

Julian Vignoles worked at RTÉ in both radio and television for thirty-three years, as producer and commissioning executive, beginning his career on Radio 2 in 1979. He moved to Radio 1 in 1985, became series producer of several daytime programmes and won three Jacobs Awards for his documentary work. In TV, he was involved in both producing and later commissioning successful Entertainment and Factual programming. He oversaw Ireland's Eurovision Song Contest involvement for several years and also served on the Contest's governing body. Since leaving RTÉ, he has published three books, the most recent a biography of Rory Gallagher in 2018.

27. Miriam Judge

Dr Miriam Judge is a lecturer and researcher in the school of communications in Dublin City University, Ireland. Her research area of expertise is in the field of digital learning and she has managed both national and international research projects in this field including a recently Erasmus+ funded project on digital assessment for learning - the DALDIS Project. Before joining the academic staff at DCU Miriam previously worked in the audio visual industry as a Corporate Video Producer/Director, researcher and scriptwriter and in the computer industry in a training and instructional design capacity. During that time she also established the first training course in the Gaeltachta in conjunction with Udaras Na Gaeltachta to train the first cohort of Irish speakers in video and T.V. production in advance of the establishment of TG4.

28. Tracy Geraghty

Tracy Geraghty is currently head of Project Development at Dublin City Council Culture Company. She was a senior member of the cultural team for Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture and had responsibility for programme development and European relations during the bidding and transition phase. Previous experience as Manager of the Galway Film Centre, saw Tracy working with young filmmakers, community groups, primary and second-level schools and young and adult film-making workshops. Tracy was a Project Manager on feature and documentary films for Euroimages, the Council of Europe's pan European co-production fund.