

Jackie O'Halloran, LLAM, ALAM, ALCM.



Jackie O'Halloran is a Licentiate and an Associate member of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. She also holds a gold medal in mime and movement with LAMDA as well as being an Associate member of the London College of Music.

Jackie has worked in several schools in Cork over many years teaching speech, drama, choral verse, mime, improvisation, debating and public speaking. Her successful productions of plays, variety shows, showcases have been enjoyed by Cork audiences. Direction of various school musicals have left many pupils with wonderful memories including a production of the Sound of Music which was performed at the Bord Gais Energy Theatre.

The Philosophical Society in UCC have welcomed Jackie as an adjudicator for debating and public speaking competitions and she has examined in-house exams for various speech and drama teachers in cork.

Jackie was director of the Mercier School of Speech and Drama for 30 years. Some of her pupils have gone on to appear on stage, film and television.

She is looking forward to experience the wonderful talent that awaits to be enjoyed on the stage of Fr. Mathew Hall.

Marian McCarthy, PhD, MEd, BA, HDE, LTCL, ALAM, DETE.



Marian McCarthy was born in Cork and educated at St. Vincent's Convent, where her early interest in Verse-Speaking and Drama were nurtured, both in Irish and English. She then completed her Speech and Drama training with Mrs. Judy Eades at the Cork School of Music. Meanwhile, she continued her academic studies at UCC. In 1980, she founded the Crosshaven School of Speech and Drama and directed its work for over a decade. She has extensive acting, directing and teaching experience and taught English and Drama for many years in an all-Irish environment in Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire. She then taught at UCC for the remainder of her career, where she also served as a governor, and recently retired as vice president for teaching and learning. She continues to pursue her academic research and has a keen interest in diversity and inclusion in education and the role of the arts in furthering an education for all. Marian is a member of the advisory board of Feis Maitiú, the board of management of the North Monastery, Cork, and a member of the senate of the National University of Ireland.

Mary Mulcahy MA, BA, HDAM, HDE, FLCM, LTCL, LLCM, ALAM



Mary is a Lecturer in Singing, Drama & Theatre Studies at MTU CSM.

Mary has been a professional performer, director & teacher for more than 25 years. She is a full Member of Actors Equity, IFTA, (Irish Film and Television Academy), and the Teaching Council of Ireland. Mary has been a member of the Advisory Board of Feis Maitiu Corcaigh since 2007 and was a member of the Board of Examiners at LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) from January 2008 – 2019, pausing for the Covid 19 pandemic. She brings a wealth of experience to her teaching practice. Mary has worked as a Music examiner for the State Examinations Commission.

She has most recently participated online in The Cat O' Nine Tales presentation, (in tribute to the Cork Arts Theatre), in which she performed poetry by William Butler Yeats & Emily Dickinson. Mary also delivered a Lecture Recital: Gilbert & Sullivan – Satire and Parody, at AFR, UCC and Racial & Cultural Stereotyping in Musical Theatre and Film, 1905 – 1958, (Lehar, Kern, Rodgers & Hammerstein) at O' Riada Hall, UCC.

As a singer, her repertoire has been diverse, spanning Operetta & Oratorio, Early Music & Spanish Canciones to Musical Theatre & Pop! One of Mary's first forays into professional performance, as a teenager, was as a singer/harpist/actor/dancer at Knappogue Castle, Co. Clare, under the guidance of renowned Jazz musician, Jim Doherty (Musical Director), Pat Laffan (Director – Formerly of Abbey Theatre, Dublin) and Pat Conway (Choreographer RTE). As a UCC student, Mary was Musical Director of Fermoy Musical Society for 3 years and presented 5 productions, The Merry Widow, starring the late Cara O'Sullivan, Annie and The Student Prince and two revues. While still a student at UCC, Mary was part of the group which represented Ireland at the 1989 Eurovision Song Contest in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mary worked for RTE television and radio for 8 years as a presenter, reporter and actor. She worked in Young Peoples Programmes, presenting a Saturday morning show, Mary & The Professor in Scratch Saturday, The Fanta Roadshow with Andy Ruane, in Dublin and Our House, from Cork. She operated and voiced the rock chick puppet, Neptuna, in the popular & edgy weekly 'Pajo and the Salty Frog'. Other work for RTE included, music & magazine style programmes, Back to the Kingdom – Fleadh Ceol na hÉireann finals, with Pat de Buitléir, a weekly radio arts programme, 'Stage and Screen', and work as a theatre reviewer.

Mary has directed many plays and musicals. One of her favourite productions featured former student, now an internationally renowned actor, Michael Fassbender, in the titular role of Oedipus Rex, at the Firkin Crane Theatre, in 1996.

A highlight of her work was when she premiered a contemporary song cycle by the late John Gibson, based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

Mary has performed as a soloist at the NCH, Dublin and Internationally. Over a four year period, Mary and renowned guitarist & lecturer, Jerry Creedon, embarked on a very successful tour with a recital programme featuring Spanish repertoire, including the Sephardic Songs and canciones by Lorca, among others.