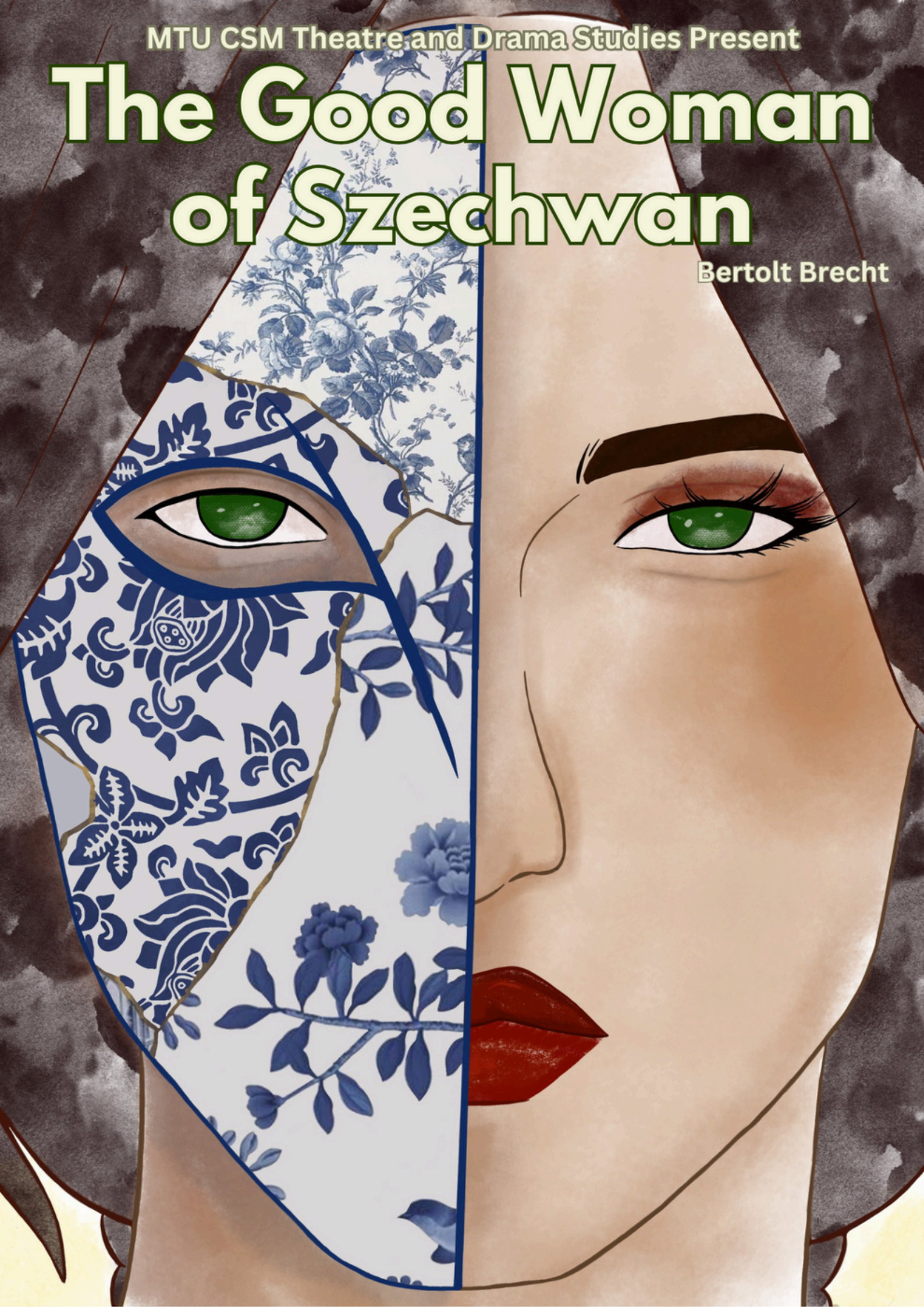


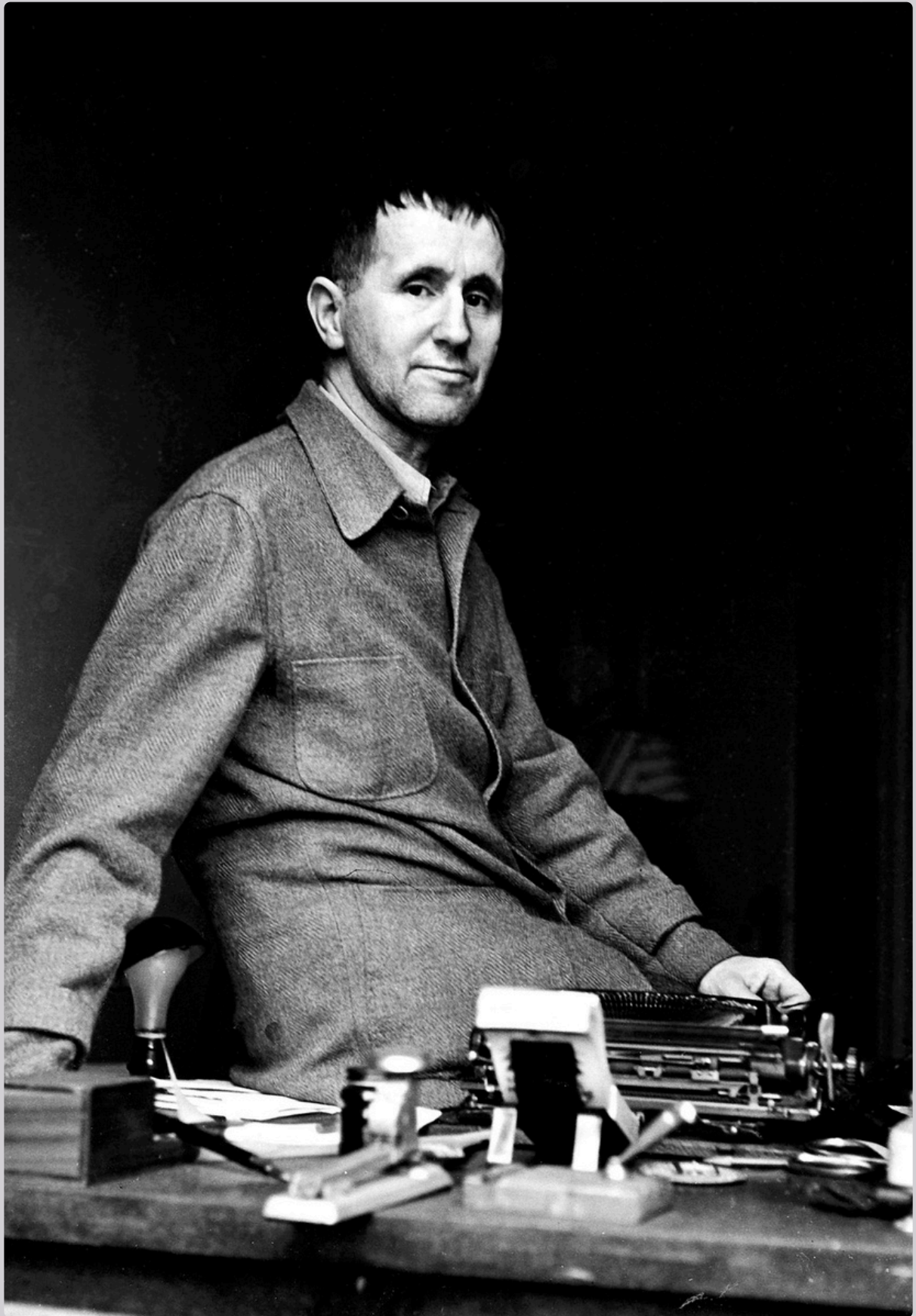
MTU CSM Theatre and Drama Studies Present

The Good Woman of Szechwan

Bertolt Brecht



Bertolt Brecht



Bertolt Brecht was one of the most influential playwrights and directors of the twentieth century. His most important work was produced in Berlin, initially in the 1920s, when he presented the legendary Threepenny Opera in collaboration with composer Kurt Weill and subsequently, after his enforced exile during the Nazi era, with his famous Berliner Ensemble company.

Brecht was a committed Marxist and he evolved a revolutionary approach to the writing and performance of plays based on Marxist theories of the dialectic. These theories can be quite complex on the page but the reality of his work was vibrant, fun-filled shows which combined the natural exuberance of theatre with serious social and political commentary.

Brecht saw theatre as a means of stimulating critical thinking about politics and society and *The Good Woman of Szechwan* is one of his political fables exploring the hard moral choices facing anyone who is not rich enough to buy their way out of trouble. Featuring a kindly prostitute, it grapples with the impossible choices facing the underclass.

Brecht was very keen to keep the audience alert to the themes of his plays and so discarded the machinery of illusion which dominated the theatre of his time. His radical innovations (simple sets, direct address to the audience, commentary songs and a generally stripped back aesthetic) are now such staples of contemporary theatre that many productions feature aspects of his style without even being fully aware of the fact.

This production is an attempt to apply Brecht's theories using the new technologies available to theatre makers now.

Cast - In Order of Appearance



Pierce Joseph

Wang

Pierce is an Actor/Writer/Director from Wicklow.

Pierce has performed in various theatrical productions including:

Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice": playing The Nasty Interesting Man/The Child (Dir. Mollie Savage and Ben Holman) in the Cork Arts Theatre (2024)

"Not for Sale" (Dir. James Treacy) in The Stack Theatre (2023)

With an avid appetite for storytelling from a young age, Pierce is also writing and directing for film, with a project to begin shooting in Spring 2025.

Aine Swan

God 3/Mrs. Yang

Aine is a Performer/Writer/Sean-nós singer from Wexford.

She is also a producer and has worked for theatre companies such as "Baby Wants Candy + Shamilton" (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 2024)

Aine has performed in various productions for stage and screen including-

"Depth Of Shadow" playing the lead role

"Person" (Dir. Lauren Morrissey) Stack Theatre (2024)

"Red Kettle" (Dir. Eli Greene), (2024)





Richie McDonnell

God 2/Mr. Shu Fu/Lin To

Richie is a theatre actor from Cork.

He is currently in 3rd year of the BA in Theatre and Drama studies at MTU's Cork School of Music. Richie got involved in youth theatre in his teens with Activate youth theatre, coordinated by Julie O'Leary

Recent performances include the role of "Big Stone" in Eurydice (Dir. Mollie Savage and Ben Holeman, Stack Theatre MTU CSM, 2024), "Ethan" in Like We Were Born to Move (Dir. Niall Cleary, Abbey Theatre, 2023), and "CJ" in Not for Sale (Dir. James Treacy, Stack Theatre MTU CSM, 2023).

Nathan Sweeney

God I/Man Tobacconist/Policeman

Nathan is a 24 year old actor from Cork.

His first taste of acting came in 4th year of school where he played Eugene in 'Grease'. He has since received credits for theatre and screen roles including, 'Ginger' in 'A Dogs Life', 'Donnagh' in 'The Whiteheaded Boy' and 'Tom' in 'There's Good in Goodbye'. He has loved every year of the degree and looks forward every day to continuing his training and expanding his knowledge of theatre.





Stella Gilligan

Shen Teh/Shui Ta

Stella is a stage and screen actor from Galway. Performing from an early age, she developed an interest in acting and writing, and has worked on a wide variety of productions. Recent credits include: "Mallory" in *Eternal Return* (GAKA Kerry, 2023), "Gráinne" in *Weight of Happiness* (dir. Labhras Hession, 2024), and her voice acting features in various productions by Cartoon Network.

She is currently working on her newest project, "King Rot," which will be written and directed by herself.

Sarah Whelan

Mrs. Shin/Young Prostitute

Sarah Whelan is an actor and dancer from Limerick.

She plays Mrs Shin, and Young Prostitute in *The Good Woman of Szechwan*.

Sarah has experience on many stage and screen productions, appearing in her first show at six years old.





Aoife Murphy

Woman Tobacconist/Mrs. Mi Tzu

Starting out in Youth Theatre in her home county of Kildare, Aoife discovered her passion for theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her secondary school's production of the musical Grease sparked her interest in acting. She also graduated from Youth Theatre Ireland's QQI Level 6 'Drama Facilitation Training' course in January of 2023 with Distinction.

TV credits include: 'Saoirse' in The Young Offenders (Young Offenders S4, Designated Activity Company, 2023, Dir. Jamie Jay Johnson)

Film credits include: 'Emma Star' in The Curious Case of Peadar O'Nultaigh (The People's Picturehouse 2024, Dir. Kyra Owers), 'Aisling' in Stupid August (Stupid Film Ltd 2024, Dir Pádraig Trehy) and 'Sophie' in What Makes Us Women (Youth Theatre Ireland 2021, Dir. Helen McCarthy)

Aisling Clinch

Woman Tobacconist/Mrs. Mi Tzu

Aisling is an actor originally from Kildare. Having a deep love and passion for performing from a young age, Aisling began her journey in the arts through local stage schools, youth theatre groups and school productions.

Although she started out as an actor first, she has a huge interest in delving into directing and writing and also into the technical side of theatre.





Jack O'Mahoney

Yang Sun/Wung

Jack O'Mahoney is a 21 year old actor from Cork. Jack has been doing after school drama classes since he was five years old. Passionate both about stage and screen, he continues to develop his skills through his training at MTUCSM and to gain experience in different theatre and film forms. His credits include feature film Perennial Light (2024), short films Torn (2024) and Better When You're Dancing (2025).

Ciara Quinn

Sister-In-Law/Carpet Woman
/Shabby Man/Priest

Ciara is an actor from Cork.

She has previously performed in theatrical productions such as 'Not For Sale' (Dir. James Tracey) in The Stack Theatre CSM in 2023.

She's also starred in the short film 'Red Kettle' (Dir. Eli Greene) in 2024.





Wike Schippers Composer

Wike Schippers is a Dutch composer, songwriter and singer based in Cork. She came to Ireland with a Bachelor's degree in Songwriting from Codarts in Rotterdam and she completed her Master's degree in Music Composition at Cork School of Music.

She has an intuitive approach to creating music for theatre and film, a skill she has lent to productions such as "The Tempest" (2022), "Fake News" (2023) and "The House of Bernarda Alba" (2024), directed by Johnny Hanrahan as well as several youth theatre productions and live improvised playback theatre shows.

She has scored short documentaries "Steeped In Sound" (2023) and "Centuries of Stone" (2023), Cyclone Rep's anti-bullying campaign "Bullying Prevention Circle" (2023) and award winning LGBTQ+ short film "Homofónia" (2023). She co-created immersive musical storytelling experience "The Call Of" (2023, 2024). As a singer-songwriter she released an album (Spring, 2020) and a single (Off The Hook, 2022) with her EP "Control" set to release in 2025.



Abbie O'Halloran Stage Manager

Abbie is a theatre-maker from Cork with a background in both Drama and Musical Theatre. She trained with Montforts and Centre Stage School Mallow, completing all of her LAMDA Acting exams. She is currently in her second year of the BA Theatre and Drama degree at MTU.

In recent years, she has expanded her creative pursuits to include directing, writing, and re-establishing a Drama Society at MTU, alongside working on several short films.

Sound Design

Cormac O'Connor

Lighting Design

Declan Leonard

Costume Design

Abby Campbell

Aoife Murphy

Graphic Design

Abby Campbell

Assistant Stage Manager

Sonny Yiannaki

Social Media Manager

Lea Talia Meic

Production Assistant

Michaela Fogarty

Director

Johnny Hanrahan